

Stuck at home during this time?

Try some online trainings!!!

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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Official Newsletter of Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region



topside

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Leadership of 5NR

Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) LCDR Victoria Taylor	
Operations Training Officer (OTO) CWO4 Douglas Schubert	
District Commodore (DCO) COMO Thomas J. Dever	
District Chief Of Staff (DCOS) Joseph J. Giannattasio	
District Captain Central (DCAPT-C) Kurt P. Sarac, Sr	
District Captain East (DCAPT-E) Noreen Schifini	
District Captain West (DCAPT-W) Robert J. Kuhn	
Immediate Past Commodore COMO Barry M. Kyper	
President Past Captains Association Alfred O. Grimminger	
Division Commanders	
DCDR 01	David J. Clendening
DCDR 04	Peter A. Lacey
DCDR 07	Allan R. Cromheim Sr.
DCDR 08	James Edward Hans
DCDR 12	Peter C Branker
DCDR 15	Diego Herrera
DCDR 16	Terry F. Bearce
DCDR 17	Joseph R. Mathews
DCDR 18	Kathleen A. Kunyczka
DCDR 19	Richard B. Taylor, II
DCDR 20	Mark Eugene Lancaster
DCDR 21	Terry L. Hilbert

D-AD	Jason C. Flynn, Donald W. Merrill
D-AA	Phil Walmsley
DSO-C	Kevin L. Tyler, Vickie M. Tyler
DSO-C	COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown
DSO-DV	Ruth A. Bearce
DSO-FN	COMO Robert J. Perrone, Sr.
DSO-LP	Martin C. Mooney Sr.
DSO-SL	Harry W. Otto
DFSO	Thomas Callahan III
DDC-Logistics	Robert G. Vanderhook
DSO-CS	Richard Taylor, II
DSO-FS	Noreen Schifini
DSO-HR	Steven G. Trojanov
DSO-IS	COMO Jan Robert Munroe
DSO-MA	Armand F. D'Auria
DSO-PB	Timothy P Marks
DSO-SR	Celia A. Crowley
DSO-AS	William T. Skelly
DDC-Prevention	Alfred O. Grimminger
DSO-MS	Gregg R. Bollinger
DSO-MT	Theodore R. Hall
DSO-NS	Frank J. Williams
DSO-PA	COMO Kevin C. Murphy
DSO-PE	Pamela L. Thompson
DSO-PV	Russell M. Galson
DSO-VE	Edwin W. Seda
DDC-Response	Douglas L. Smith
DSO-IM	Gregory M. Stough
DSO-CM	Richard F. Lord
DSO-AV	William A. Fithian
DSO-OP	Kurt P. Sarac, Sr

Front Cover: If you have never, or rarely, studied and trained remotely or are about to, the Auxiliary's Training Directorate website offers help to facilitate your transition. Online Training includes all training provided in and by the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary for members. It spans Certification Courses, Public Education Courses, Mandatory Workshops, and Mandated Training. You can access the Auxiliary's Training Directorate website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=t-dept>

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio

From the Desk of the Commodore

I know I have said this before, but I want to say it again – it is a great honor to serve you as your Commodore. Thank you for choosing me for this position!

I have never felt this more than today as we all work together to stay safe while preparing for the future. I am constantly impressed by your resourcefulness and ability to innovate. It is clear to me that Auxiliarists are at their best when there is a crisis. The Coast Guard and the American public are, once again, benefitting greatly from your training, care, and the teams you have built through fellowship over many years.

As your district leadership, your Executive Committee and I have been working hard to provide you with training opportunities and to keep you informed. Even more important though are the ideas and work percolating up from all of you. Since the ban on face to face contact, you have developed a program for tutoring the children of our Coast Guard family members (Frank Bigley, Tom Kelmartin, Anthony Quaglia, Frederick Kettinger, Lorraine Bianco and Justin Abate), you have been making masks for TRACEN Cape May (Chris Burns and Auxiliarist John Burns, our POC for STA Cape May and the cutters homeported there, have made 110 total face masks for the Active Duty, Station Cape May and the USCGC Hammerhead crew and has finished 40 more adult masks and 25 more for kids to be distributed. You have been delivering Coast Guard coloring books to children's hospitals (Kurt Sarac and many others) and you have been both teaching and attending training online.



Commodore Thomas J. Dever
District Commodore
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

District Online Training has included:

- New Members Workshop, (19 attended) Presented by John Fisher, Assistant District Staff Officer-Member Training (East).
- Online Crew Class for Division 21 (6 attended) Presented by Walt Alsegg, FSO-OPS 21-04
- A four session AUXPATROL course, (52 attended) Presented by Frank Bigley, Flotilla Commander Flotilla 053-08-01.
- 2020 Operations Workshops (166, 105 and 40 attended each of the three sessions) Presented by Kurt Sarac, DCAPT-Central, District Staff Officer-Operations.
- National AUXSCOUT Training via GoToMeeting (47 attended) Presented by Bruce Johnson.
- AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS (AUXCOM) (27 and 32 attended the first two of the three sessions) Presented by Donna Ferron, TCO, Division 4 Staff Officer Communications, Flotilla 053-04-09.
- Aids to Navigation (ATON) Verifier Certification Course—4-hour Complete Classroom Session Presented by Frank Williams, District Staff Officer—Navigation Safety.
- Western Area—Divisions 15, 19, 20, 21, Awards Primer, Presented by William Turner, Special Programs Officer—Awards.
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Training, Presented by Gregg Bollinger, District Staff Officer—Marine Safety.
- 2020 Mandatory National Operations Risk Management / Team Coordination Training (ORM/TCT), Three four-hour sessions presented by Don Merrill, IPDCAPT, Phil Walmsley, Kurt Sarac, DCAPT-C, and Dave Clendening (Past DCAPT).

Many more programs are currently being planned – look for the next Notice of General Interest (NOGI).

I could not be prouder to be an Auxiliarist and to be your Commodore.

Message from the Chief of Staff

Always Resilient

Joseph Giannattasio, District Chief of Staff

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, like the rest of America and the global community, is facing an unprecedented challenge from the novel coronavirus. Being an Auxiliary leader at all levels is key to navigating this together, which means looking out for each other, looking out for each other's families, and looking out for yourselves.

As our response to COVID-19 continues, leaders at every level within the District are empowered and taking actions to adopt alternative meeting and training venues, identify other communication methods, and implement initiatives to look after our members. We are proving, once again, that we are resilient.

I have been apprised of many members taking online training courses; so take advantage of online classes and new qualifications. Also be aware of the social importance of holding online flotilla and division meetings, you may feel that they aren't worth it considering the lack of Auxiliary business being conducted, but be cognizant of your members who are living alone and can't get out. Your meetings can serve an important social fellowship function, so be sure to invite those members to your virtual meetings. Remember, member retention equates to mission readiness.

Since we are also homebound, this is a great opportunity for leaders to write awards for deserving members. Also let us know about members who are community heroes — those who are 'essential workers,' actively helping others during this pandemic; our medical professionals, first responders, truck drivers, grocery workers, and those going out caring for neighbors. Highlight these dedicated members in your unit newsletters, the district's social media, and in the 5NR magazine TOPSIDE.

The District 5NR family is no stranger to adversity. And I am always impressed with how we continue to rise to meet any challenge. While adhering to Auxiliary stand-down guidance, our leaders and members throughout the district are empowered and taking initiative to assist the Coast Guard: Members with education backgrounds are being identified that can serve as online tutors for the children of Active Duty families. Several members and their spouses have been making facemasks for the active duty and their families. On behalf of the District's Executive Committee THANK YOU, and BRAVO ZULU for remaining vigilant and making a difference every day.

We will get through this, and we can cope with underlying social and economic uncertainty if we remain vigilant, stay positive, are smart, and work together. We will look back on these days and take pride in how we responded to this pandemic. Semper Paratus—stay safe.



Joseph Giannattasio
District Chief of Staff
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

Message from the DIRAUX, Lieutenant Commander Taylor

I have heard on the radio and television words such as “unprecedented” and “uncertain” times. Your Auxiliary leadership were sworn into their role with Hurricanes, then an “unprecedented” Government Shutdown, now with this horrible pandemic.

I am so proud to work with the leaders that you chose. They have told me of all the innovative ways that you still give back to the public and to the Coast Guard, such as making masks, giving Coast Guard coloring books to local hospitals, tutoring, and all the online training that you are taking to stay ready - in which I have shared with our Admiral.

You have not only assisted our public but more importantly, you are looking out for each other, especially those who live alone.

The Auxiliary have always shined but we can see you illuminate even brighter in times like these.

Stay well, Keep safe, and stay Semper Paratus.



LCDR Victoria L. Taylor
U.S. Coast Guard
Director of Auxiliary



A Focus on 5NR Departments



Public Affairs

The Digital Evolution of the USCGAUX

By ADSO-PA Christopher M. Orlando

In the last couple of months, the world has changed. COVID-19 has changed the way we do most things from grocery shopping to conducting business at a flotilla meeting. While some things have changed, some haven't. We are still one organization, with passionate individuals, that are committed to our mission of recreational boating safety. This pandemic may just be the start of the Digital Evolution for the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

As ADOS-PA Social, my work stretches from creating social content and graphics to making sure everything follows the Public Affairs Manual. Today, it is to make sure our message of recreational boating safety gets out to the public even as we are on shutdown and can only use digital means to do our work. There are plenty of ways to get involved on the social media side to continue spreading our message. One recommendation is to highlight your members. During National Safe Boating Week, I interviewed seven shipmates from my flotilla and asked them to submit a picture in proper uniform and shared it with our followers under the hashtag #IAMTheAUX. This was a way for people to recognize our members when we were out at vessel exams, patrols or public education classes. This brought a face to the organization and allowed us to engage the community in a new way. As we are on digital only, consider finding a way to highlight your work from past years with photos on #FlashBackFriday and explain all the different roles we play as Auxiliarists. Consider following our social channels below for other ideas!

Another way our digital-only orders have changed things is how we conduct our meetings. Most of us by now have used the free meeting programs offered by the District as a way to hold meetings or conference calls to discuss Auxiliary matters. Computer programs can often have a steep learning curve but this also allows our members to learn from their shipmates. As FSO-CS of Flotilla Manasquan Inlet, we were able to instruct members on how to use these programs for our meetings but now they use them to communicate with their families they cannot see because of COVID-19. This is one of the best secondary effects that our organization offers: the ability to learn from each other.

Today, we rely on our computers more than we ever have. It has changed the way we order goods, find information, and communicate with others. But this has offered the USCG Auxiliary a unique opportunity. It offers us a chance to get creative about how we spread our message. Members who may have skills in video or photo editing have the opportunity to serve their community in a different way. This shutdown, though frustrating, is a chance for an evolution within the Auxiliary. Dictionary.com defines evolution as: the process of growth and development. How will you join our evolution?



***Christopher M. Orlando AUXPA3
ADSO-PA Social***

Facebook: @USCGAux5DNR

Twitter: @USCGAux5DNR

Instagram: @USCGAux5NR

Marine Safety

The Mission of the U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center

The National Pollution Funds Center is the Coast Guard office for evaluating and approving claims related to oil pollution and spills. Its authority was established by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 which was passed subsequent to the Exxon Valdez spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska on 24 MAR 1989. The act was an amending of the earlier Clean Water Act.

This important Coast Guard office deals in quite large sums of money with regard to payment of claims for spills. From the most recent records available (10 OCT 2019) the office paid out a total of \$5,944,111.99 in claims. The largest amounted to \$1,004,001, the smallest: \$410.81. 12 out of 46 claims were denied. What is the "breakdown" with regard to claim type? The most frequent claim was in the category of "Removal Costs" which would be the costs associated with prevention, minimization, and/or mitigation of a clean-up after an oil spill. Costs of cleaning-up a property following an oil spill fall under "Property Damage" rather than "Removal Costs" as might be assumed. Clean-up contractors or Oil Spill Recovery Organizations (OSROs) may submit this type of claim. There were 40 such claims of Removal Costs, eight (8) of which were denied. "Loss of Property" mentioned heretofore, is the type of claim which people or legal entities who own or lease property damaged by an oil spill may file. By definition, "Property Loss" is injury to or economic loss resulting from destruction of real property (land or buildings) or other personal property. Records indicate two (2) such claims were made with both being denied. The next claim type is "Public Services" which would be the net costs of providing increased or additional public services during or after removal activities. This includes protection from fire, safety, or health hazards caused by an oil spill or directly attributable to the response to an oil spill. States and local governments may submit this type of claim. There were two (2) such claims. "Affirmative Defense" would be the third type of claim. This type asserts the responsible party is not the cause of the incident due to one of three things: 1) an act of God; 2) an act of war; or 3) the incident was the sole cause of a third party. This is also known as "Limit of Liability Defense" which asserts that the responsible party has exceeded their Limit of Liability as defined on their Certificate of Financial Responsibility or COFR. Owners or operators deemed responsible for the pollution may submit this type of claim. Two (2) claims were made with both being denied.

The Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center approaches this vital function of just compensation of damages due to oil spills assiduously, striving to maintain equity for all parties impacted by the unfortunate effects of oil pollution.

Semper Paratus,

Gregg R. Bollinger, Th.D., DSO-MS, D 5 NR, VFC, Flotilla 053-19-04, FSO-MS, Flotilla 19-04



Gregg Bollinger
DSO
Marine Safety

Marine Safety, continued

Using Stand Down Time for Aquatic Nuisance Training

Rick Young, FC and FSO-PA

Flotilla 053-19-04 (Lancaster)

“With the Auxiliary ordered to stand down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the time should not be wasted.” At least that was the thinking of Gregg Bollinger, DSO-MS for District 5 Northern Region who set to work creating an online course, *Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)*.

With the realization that ANS is now more of a problem than ever before, Auxiliarists would likely be encountering the topic whether they were out on safety patrols, teaching public education courses, or conducting courtesy vessel examinations. Gregg approached Rick Young, his flotilla commander, who immediately supported offering the course online using Zoom. Garnering only five flotilla members as participants, the first running of the course was well received. Days later it also became a discussion topic at the next Division meeting where instead of offering it again at the Division level, it was proposed to be offered to the entire District—(Scheduled for 06 May at 1930 hours). With the support of DCDR Rick Taylor, GoToTraining became the communications platform and FC Rick Young put together the PowerPoint slides that would accompany Gregg’s voiceover.



Zebra mussels are a major infestation in many eastern U.S. waters (Photo: WAMU, American University)

The course, intended as a primer, describes what nuisance species are, what is their impact, and what Auxiliarists can do to help. Using photographs of both nuisance plants and animals, the course points out that some species have been brought here purposely, often to solve some other problem such as erosion, or unintentionally by hitch hiking on commercial vessels and recreational boats. If there is a single message that participants end up with it is that as Auxiliarists or recreational boaters it is up to them to be certain that their vessels are properly cleaned when removed from a body of water. *Properly cleaned* means including the boat, motor, trailer, lifejackets, fenders, sporting equipment such as water skis, and fishing gear.

In using stand down time productively, Gregg sought to raise everyone’s awareness of a growing problem, but along the way he just might have peaked others’ interest in Marine Safety. Could it prompt others to seek a Marine Safety Administration and Management or a Marine Environmental Educator Specialist qualification? Only time will tell.

COVID-19 Guidance

Please see the latest workforce guidance on COVID-19 at www.uscg.mil/CoronaVirus/

Information from Around the District



Birthday Celebration

Join Us in Celebrating



The Coast Guard Auxiliary's 81st Birthday

**10:00am-11:30am
Tuesday, 23 June
Sector Delaware Bay Galley**

**There will be Cake!
All are Welcome**

Lunch Available in the Galley

**RSVP by 9 June
*rsvp@5nr.org***

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



Crossword Puzzle

Who's Who in 5NR

Across

- 4. DCAPT-C
- 5. DCAPT-W
- 7. DDCR
- 8. DSO-AV
- 10. DDC-P
- 11. DCAPT-E
- 14. DSO-PV
- 16. DSO-IM
- 17. DSO-VE
- 19. DSO-SR
- 20. DSO-AS
- 21. DSO-CM
- 22. DDC-L
- 23. DSO-IS
- 25. DSO-FS

Down

- 1. District Photographer
- 2. District Commodore
- 3. DSO-MS
- 6. DSO-PB
- 9. DIRAUV
- 10. DSO-MA
- 12. District Chief of staff
- 13. DSO-MS
- 15. DSO-MT
- 18. DSO-PA
- 24. DSO-AS

Quiz (to ease our boredom during this time)

Created by Peter Jensen

1. A Coast Guardsman must already be a coxswain before qualifying as a s _____.



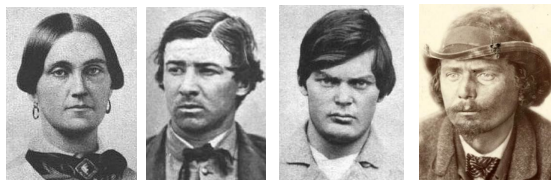
2. The small white b _____ whale is found in Arctic waters.



3. West Point plebes. At the Coast Guard Academy, their counterparts are called _____.



4. These four co-conspirators were hanged. What happened to the gunman? _____



5. In 1921, President Harding (center) nominated William Howard Taft (left) to the _____.



6. Five brews. Write their countries of origin.



Continued on the Next page...

Quiz Continued

7. The _____ Hall of Fame is here in Cleveland.




8. In the human body, the coccyx is more commonly known as the _____



9. Welcome to _____ This sovereign grand duchy borders Germany, Belgium, and France.



10. Controversially,  is now controlled by the government of _____



11. Every year, New York's Finest battle it out with New York's _____.



12. The cane toad was introduced in _____ to combat beetles. Bad idea, as it turned out.



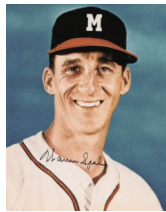
Continued on the Next page...

Quiz Continued

13. Here's Johnny Cash and _____ Cash.



14. Here's Braves pitching ace Warren Spahn when the team was in _____, and later in _____.



15. Name these two Korean War adversary aircraft... _____



Tiebreakers

Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, rose to prominence during the _____ War.



In *Moby Dick*, the chief mate of the Pequod was Mr. _____



In what 1980 film do we meet these characters? _____

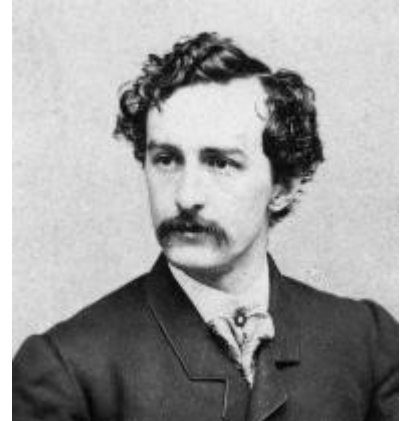


Answers on the Next page...

Quiz *continued*

ANSWERS

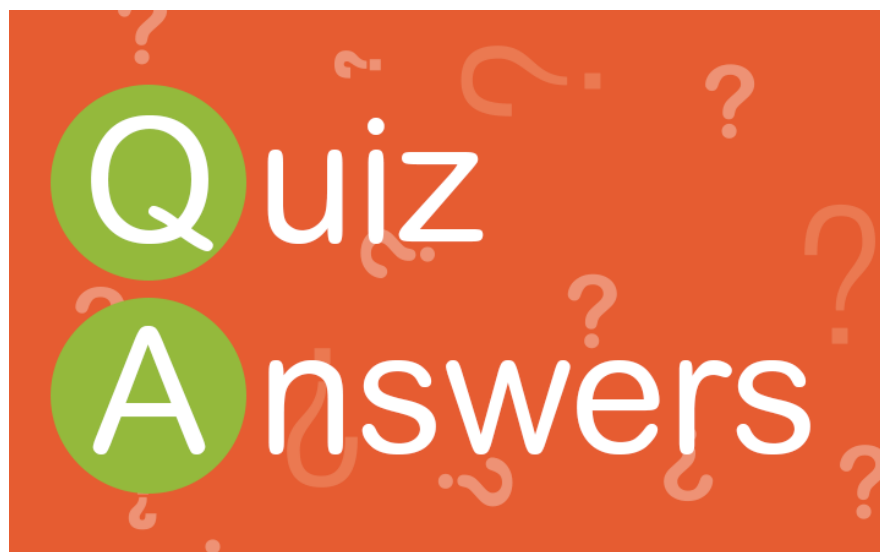
1. Surfman
2. Beluga
3. Swabs
4. John Wilkes Booth was shot (while barricaded in a burning barn) →
5. Supreme Court (Chief Justice, no less)
6. Netherlands Belgium Mexico Germany Philippines
7. Rock and Roll
8. Tailbone
9. Luxembourg
10. Venezuela
11. Bravest
12. Australia
13. June Carter
14. Boston Milwaukee
15. F-86 MiG-15



Tiebreaker: Crimean War.

Tiebreaker: Starbuck

Tiebreaker: Caddyshack



Atlantic City Boat Show

(NOTE - All Sea Scouts pictured are 18+ years old)



ATLANTIC CITY, NJ - Some recreational boaters ask Jim Carey about boating safety at the 2020 Atlantic City Boat Show. Coast Guard Auxiliarists from throughout the tristate area participate in this annual five-day event held at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio..



ATLANTIC CITY, NJ - Coast Guard Auxiliarist Malenie Piscetelli hands out water safety coloring and activity books to children and families at the 2020 Atlantic City Boat Show. These books may be used to instruct children in some of the basics of boat and water safety and can help protect America's most precious resource...our children!

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.



ATLANTIC CITY, NJ - Auxiliarist Mary-Beth Roadarmel shares a boating safety presentation to a Sea Scout at the Coast Guard Auxiliary's public affairs booth at the 2020 Atlantic City Boat Show. Since 2018 an agreement between United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Boy Scouts of America made Sea Scouts the official youth program of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This partnership gives Sea Scouts an opportunity to benefit from Coast Guard seamanship and vocational training, while introducing Sea Scouts to the Coast Guard. There are many opportunities for collaboration between the Auxiliary and Sea Scouts in all parts of the country.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

Atlantic City Boat Show, continued

(NOTE - All Sea Scouts pictured are 18+ years old)



ATLANTIC CITY, NJ - Sea Scouts from Sea Scout Ship 117 shares their boating safety information to Coast Guard Auxiliarist Del Campbell at the 2020 Atlantic City Boat Show. Since 2018 an agreement between United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Boy Scouts of America made Sea Scouts the official youth program of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This partnership gives Sea Scouts an opportunity to benefit from Coast Guard seamanship and vocational training, while introducing Sea Scouts to the Coast Guard. There are many opportunities for collaboration between the Auxiliary and Sea Scouts in all parts of the country.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by
Joseph Giannattasio.



ATLANTIC CITY, NJ - Coast Guard Auxiliarists Lorraine Bianco and John Percey share boating safety education ideas with Sea Scouts at the 2020 Atlantic City Boat Show. Since 2018 an agreement between United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Boy Scouts of America made Sea Scouts the official youth program of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This partnership gives Sea Scouts an opportunity to benefit from Coast Guard seamanship and vocational training, while introducing Sea Scouts to the Coast Guard. There are many opportunities for collaboration between the Auxiliary and Sea Scouts in all parts of the country.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

Atlantic City Boat Show, continued

(NOTE - All Sea Scouts pictured are 18+ years old)

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ - "A Boating Safety Hat Trick" (Left to Right) Power Squadron member Bobby Jean Sooy, Sea Scout Erin Murphey and Coast Guard Auxiliarists Mike Piscetelli share boating safety promotion ideas during the 2020 Atlantic City Boat Show. Though they may be separate organizations, they are united in the mission to improve maritime safety and enjoyability through nautical classes and related subjects.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by
Joseph Giannattasio..



Boating is fun for the whole family — even your four-legged family members!

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.



5NR Auxiliarists Locate a WWI Ammo Bunker

Article written by Linda Skvarla

It was an ammo bunker from a Naval Reserve training camp built in 1917 to prepare sailors entering World War I. For decades folklore of a long-lost ammo bunker would sporadically be mentioned among the old-time locals of Cape May, NJ. Occasionally a photo of the bunker would show up in a newspaper or on social media, but a definitive location was never divulged. A true local legend.

It was a legend that Auxiliarists Joseph Giannattasio and Howard Davis took as a challenge to explore and uncover. Both were experienced relic hunters, for years Davis had been locating and digging up ancient Native American artifacts and revolutionary era curios in his farm in Cumberland County, NJ. When he lived in the Virgin Islands, Giannattasio recovered various finds from ancient sunken shipwrecks on the bottom Caribbean.

During downtimes from patrols and training workshops the two amateur archeologists would share their respective stories of digging up a cache of Neolithic stone tools and weapons, or stumbling across a Spanish reale while metal detecting in the Leeward Islands. Last year Giannattasio mentioned to Davis that he had researched old maps and records and thought he had narrowed down the possible area where the old ammo bunker might be and asked Davis if he would be interested in exploring.



(Left to Right) Joe Giannattasio and Howard Davis in the entryway of the WWI ammo bunker.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio

America Prepares for War

During the run up to the United States entering World War I in 1917, the Cape May, NJ area was a beehive of military activity, the same as it was in World War II. Navy Section Base 9 was established by the United States Navy at Sewell's Point, which is now the location of Coast Guard Training Center (TRACEN) Cape May. The Section Base was built prior to the construction of the Cape May Canal.

A nearby farm was selected for the construction of a second base, called Wissahickon Barracks Training Center, for the United States Naval Reserve Force located between Spicer Creek and Lafayette Street (Near Exit 0 of the Garden State Parkway). The land was leased to the government from Henry Ford for \$1 for the duration of the war. The purpose of the training center broadened by the necessities of the Navy during the war; there were schools for coxswains, gunners' mates, quartermasters, yeoman, medical corpsmen, and shore patrol guards. The camp's 40 structures and buildings included barracks for the enlisted, officers' quarters, a Naval Aviation School, mess halls, a chapel, a YMCA building, storage sheds and ammo bunkers. There were also recreation fields and a parade ground. The one-story-high buildings were of wooden frame construction. A fence around its perimeter

5NR Auxiliarists Locate a WWI Ammo Bunker

Continued

with guard patrols secured the complex. The camp also had a railroad branch line, built by the reservists, connecting with the nearby main track of the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad. In all, over 8,000 troops were trained at Camp Wissahickon.

After the war ended by 1919 most of the buildings at Camp Wissahickon were torn down because the government owed the land to Ford. Ford wanted to build an automobile manufacturing plant on the site of the camp because of the accessibility to the railroad and Cape May harbor, but those plans never materialized.

Now, 100 years later, secluded within the wetlands and forest at the end of the parkway the abandoned bunker is the only remaining structure from Camp Wissahickon.



Howard Davis at the west side of the WWI ammo bunker.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio

Auxiliary Explorers

In early March, Giannattasio and Davis waded through the thick woods and bogs in search of the lost ammo bunker. As they pushed through the final clump of bushes they fell into a clearing and found an eight-foot-tall, concrete ammo bunker. They were entranced by the abandoned world around them, and the duo stayed silent for a few moments and admired the forgotten treasure. Then they went about exploring the structure. It was rectangular with two entryways on either end. Each entrance led into a separate chamber, four chambers in all. It was entirely made of concrete with a rounded top, dirt partially covering the sides of the structure. The chambers were empty except for several inches of brackish water on the floors.

While Davis determined location coordinates, Giannattasio took various measurements of the bunker. Afterward they did a quick reconnoiter of the area, they plan to go back and try to establish the layout of the base and the locations of other structures.

Continued on the next page...

5NR Auxiliaries Locate a WWI Ammo Bunker

Continued

When asked what's next for these amateur archeology Auxiliaries - Giannattasio smiled, his eyes focusing somewhere far away and said, "For over twenty years I've been researching the tale of a WWII airplane ditching and sinking somewhere in the Delaware Bay, and I now believe I have an idea where it might be!"

Resources:

Article "Constructing a New Navy Base" The Philadelphia Inquirer, July 27, 1917.

Article "A Victorian Dream Fulfilled, A History of Cape May Harbor" R.E Heinley - On the Rip Magazine, 2008

Article "Sailors, Subs and Blimps, Cape May during World War I" Bob Heinley - On the Rip Magazine, 2010

Article "Cape Curiosity" Ben Miller - Exit Zero magazine, July, 2010



Sailors march in Camp Wissahickon.

*Photos by the Mid-Atlantic
Center for the Arts & Humanities*

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Cape May Flotilla elects new Bridge

Press Release written by Sandy Dalton, March 6, 2020

CAPE MAY NJ – Members of U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 82 Cape May elected new Flotilla Commander Martin Sannino Sr. and Vice Flotilla Commander Robert Lamendola on March 5, 2020. Auxiliary Division Commander Jim Hans swore them in during a ceremony at the USCG Training Center in Cape May. The new officers begin their duty to the Auxiliary immediately. The Flotilla Commander duties include primary leadership and supervision of the flotilla. The Flotilla Commander responsibility is to assure that the overall Flotilla program conforms to the Coast Guard and Auxiliary Policies and procedures, as well as provide the communications link with Division elected officers and local USCG leadership. The Vice Flotilla Commander has the primary responsibility for administration and coordination of the flotilla staff and is essentially the Chief of Staff for the flotilla. Together with a team of appointed staff officers they execute a full program of recreational boating safety and educational services for the public and support services for active duty Coast Guard.

Comprised of nearly 24,000 men and women, the Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the Coast Guard. It works within the Coast Guard in carrying out its noncombatant and non-law enforcement missions. Flotilla Cape May was founded on Dec 16, 1943 and is headquartered at 1519 Yacht Avenue in an historic boathouse building acquired in 1890 by the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment, prior to its merger into the U.S. Coast Guard. For over 77 years the flotilla's members have maintained many traditions of maritime service, the foremost being of service to the U.S. Coast Guard and the boating public in the Cape May coastal community.



CAPE MAY, NJ - New Bridge Sworn In - In March, Marty Sannino was sworn in as Flotilla Commander and Bob Lamendola was sworn in as Vice Flotilla Commander. The new bridge has selected their Flotilla Staff Officers.

Like any multi-product business, the Cape May flotilla requires a team of leaders to deliver desired results. We are fortunate to have a group of people who are enthusiastic about doing that. Each of them affirmed that they will do their best. Congratulations Shipmates for your leadership and stewardship in the Auxiliary.

Local U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Member Named Auxiliarist of the Year for 2019

Press Release written by Sandy Dalton, March 27, 2020

CAPE MAY NJ – USCG Auxiliarist Bernadette M. Hofer was named Auxiliarist of the Year. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a uniformed, non-military volunteer unit that provides service to the active duty coast guard and the community.

Bernadette, known as Bernie by her shipmates joined the coast Guard Auxiliary in 2013. Since that time she has completed many training courses which included a 5 day training C school held in San Antonio, Texas. These courses gave her the education and training required to hold Staff officer positions such as SFO-IS (Staff Officer of Informational Systems) from 2015 to Present, and Aux Chef from 2015-present.

Last year when the VFC position unexpectedly opened, she was elected as Vice Flotilla Commander for a six month term. She became the Vice Flotilla Officer of Cape May Flotilla 82 In addition to her duties as SFO-IS and Aux Chef while working a full time job.

Along with the duties she held for the flotilla, she also held The SO-IS position for the division which consists of seven flotillas composed of 550 members. She alone was responsible for assisting all Auxiliarists' ability to remain current with hours, qualifications, training and test completion.

During this time Auxiliarist Bernadette Hofer logged 229 hours of administrative support, 123 hours of Operational support and member training, and 381 hours of recreational boating safety for a total of 733 hours.

The award was presented at the Change of Watch dinner which was held at the Marquis de Lafayette hotel in Cape May, N.J..

Her current positions include FSO-IS to Cape May flotilla 82 and SO-IS to the entire division, and Aux Chef. As an Aux Chef she helps prepare meals for the coast guard graduates and their parents on Thursday nights and Friday mornings.

Mrs. Hofer's diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Congratulations to Cape May Flotilla 82's shipmate Bernadette M. Hofer, 2019 United States Coast Guard Auxiliarist of the Year!!!!



CAPE MAY, NJ - From left to right, James Hans, USCG Auxiliary Division 8 Commander, Tony Kupstas, Commander Flotilla 82 - Cape May, Bernie Hofer, recipient 2019 Auxiliarist of the Year Award and Captain Kathy Felger, Commanding Officer USCG Training Center Cape May.

Then and Now

Article Joseph Giannattasio

Many things remain consistent even as times change, and looking through Coast Guard Auxiliary District 5NR—photos from 75 years ago—proves how true that really is. Analyzing then-and-now contrasts is not only a fun game but also a way to become intimately familiar with the long-gone roots of the Coast Guard Auxiliary that continues to evolve with the times.

Here, a vintage Coast Guard Auxiliary photo juxtaposed against the same view today. Many things have changed; some have not. Its nostalgia time!

Pictured is the Cape May Flotilla 08-02's (then Flotilla 03-02) communication truck at the Cape May County Tuna Club in April of 1945. Auxiliarists with electronic backgrounds were being trained by the Coast Guard in a seven-week communications course for operational use during natural disasters. The course was given in Philadelphia.

A communications truck, equipped with radiotelephone equipment, was furnished to the Auxiliary by the Coast Guard. Weekly drills allowed others on the New Jersey coast to gain experience in the use of the equipment.

Contrasted with the more recent photo of Cape May Flotilla member Joseph Giannattasio's Auxiliary Land-Mobile Radio (LMR) facility in front of the same Georgian revival mansion now known as the Peter Shields Inn and restaurant photographed in April, 2020. To be involved in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Telecommunications program, members must become certified as Telecommunications Operators (TCO). All operators of fixed-land and land-mobile radios must be certified as TCO.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Land-Mobile Radio facility is radio equipment which can be operational while in motion and may be installed in an Auxiliarist's personal vehicle. All Auxiliary Land-Mobile Radio facilities must be inspected and approved for use by the Coast Guard.



Top: Vintage image from Cape May flotilla archives.

Bottom: Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Donald Dobson.

Securing Intermodal Maritime Shipping

*Rick Young, Ph.D. §
Flotilla Commander, 19-04 (Lancaster),
ADSO-IM, District D5NR*

“So how safe is commercial shipping?”

Those who do their recreational boating on the Delaware River, Chesapeake Bay, or New York Harbor no doubt have asked this on at least one occasion when encountering a containership. What runs through everyone’s mind is “That thing has thousands of containers, what if just one of them was compromised?”

At this point a little bit of history is in order. First, the intermodal maritime container has only been around since the late 1950s. It was invented by a trucker, Malcolm McLean, who observed that the conventional way of loading and unloading ships took too long with the result that maritime freight had long transit times and the ships had poor asset utilization factors. Second, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 was a huge instant gamechanger as all modes of transportation were likely seen as terrorist targets. The volume of cargo arriving by sea demanded that we know more about what each of those containers were carrying. Moreover, 100% physical inspection was not going to be a practical solution because of the volumes.

Shortly thereafter the U.S. began two important initiatives: 1) the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, or C-TPAT for short, and 2) the Container Security Initiative, or CSI. C-TPAT was just that, a partnership between importers and Customs where the quid pro quo was that importers who could have their supply chains documented and certified could receive expeditious processing of their shipments. It was an expensive undertaking since only the largest importers had enough volume to warrant making the investment in being able to vouch for each participating entity from foreign origin to final U.S. destination. Included were the supplier of the goods, foreign freight forwarder, land-based transporter to the port, port operator, stevedoring firm, and container vessel operator.



Photo courtesy of PhilaPort

CSI was founded as a government to government partnership where U.S. agents were located in key foreign ports tasked with inspecting cargo being loaded destined to the U.S. In short, it established a layered defense where the first checkpoint was thousands of miles away. There are other layers, too, including a careful scrutinizing of containers at the U.S. port of entry. Yes, there are ways to potentially circumvent some of the layers, such as when more than a \$1 billion of cocaine was intercepted in Philadelphia in June 2019.

Will we ever know everything about every container arriving on U.S. shores annually--that number approximates 20 million? Probably not, but barring 100% physical inspection, maritime transportation has changed and there is likely no going back. So then next time you are out on the bay or the river and see a huge containership, there is a substantial amount known about what its carrying.

§ Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Supply Chain Management, The Pennsylvania State University; practitioner, U.S. Federal Maritime Commission

The History of the Coast Guard Challenge Coin

Article and photos by Joseph Giannattasio

Traditionally, Coast Guard unit commanders present challenge coins in recognition of special achievement by a member. They are also exchanged in recognition of visits to a unit. It is almost impossible to know definitely why and where the Coast Guard challenge coin tradition began, probably because the challenge coin tradition didn't start as an officially sanctioned activity. One thing is for sure: coins and military service go back far beyond our modern era.

There is very little documentation available on the topic but among the most common folklore that coins minted with a unique mark of the legion were handed out in ancient Rome to a soldier whom performed well in battle. They were replaced by other symbols until World War I where supposedly a rich lieutenant made them for his own unit. Allegedly during that war, a soldier rescued by American allies was alleged to be German or a spy. The only identification he had was the bronze coin his lieutenant had offered him. When presenting his currency, he was supposedly freed from death at the hands of the allies of his own country. This is what gave them the name "challenge coins" and bolstered the legend.

According to another fable, challenge coins date back to World War II and were first used by Office of Strategic Service (OSS) agents that were deployed in Nazi held France. Similarly, Jim Harrington whom, if any one, was probably the acknowledged father of the challenge coin in the Special Forces proposed a Jolly sixpence club [coin] among junior officers of the 107th Infantry. The coins were simply a local currency which was uniquely modified and used as "good faith" during a personal meeting to help verify a person's identity.

While several legends place the advent of challenge coins in the era of post-Korean conflict (some as late as the Vietnam War), or even later, the first documented challenge coins are when Colonel William "Buffalo Bill" Quinn made coins specifically minted for those who served in his 17th Infantry Regiment during 1950 and 1951. Colonel Verne Green, commander of the 10th Special Forces Group A, embraced the idea. He had a special coin struck with the insignia and the motto of the unit in 1969. Until the 1980s his unit was the only unit with an active tradition of challenge coins, afterwards is when the mass popularity and minting of coins took place.

A common theme among the various narratives is what is known as the "coin check" where challenge coins earn service members their share of alcohol. Generally, military members often tap their challenge coins upon meeting in a bar — shouting, "Coin check!" — and anyone who either cannot produce one or is the last to show it buys the first round of drinks. Putting your coin in someone else's hand during a coin check, or challenge, means that you're giving it to them. Instead, showcase the coin on a table, hold it in the palm of your hand, or hold it up. Anyone who wants to take a closer look at the coin is obligated to bring it back to its spot.

Continued on the next page...

The History of the Coast Guard Challenge Coin

continued

It's unclear when Navy or Coast Guard leaders began bestowing coins. The Naval History and Heritage Command archives do not contain any written records how this tradition started, but Retired Adm. Scott Swift, former Pacific Fleet commander, once stated he noticed it catching on in the Navy in the early 1990s around the time of Desert Storm.

Although their history is unnoted, Coast Guard and Auxiliary challenge coins enforce solidarity and hold members to certain standards. Besides using coins for challenging, they are also used as rewards or awards for outstanding service or performance of duty. As such, they are used as a tool to build morale. Coins given as awards for accomplishments are normally given to the recipient during a inconspicuous handshake, passing from the right hand of the giver to the right hand of the awardee. It is also normal for the giver to offer a brief explanation of the reason for awarding the coin.

Challenge coins are honorable symbols that deserve to be taken care of. Challenge coin 'etiquette' dictates you shouldn't wear your coin like a bracelet or belt buckle. Definitely, do not drill a hole in it to make a necklace. If you want to carry it around your neck, put it in a pouch that doubles as a necklace. Try to keep your coin as clean as possible, dirty coins are a sign of disrespect.

Today, the use of challenge coins in the Coast Guard is much more nuanced. While many coins are still given as a token of appreciation for a job well done, there are also coins that a member can use as an identification badge to show that she or he was crew onboard a certain ship or served with a particular unit. A challenge coin is unique, is limited in production, and tells a story: a story not only about the Coast Guard, but also about the person who received it and the person who presented it.

References:

- "Coining a Tradition" - Soldiers Magazine (1994)
- Chief Petty Officer forum - <http://www.goatlocker.org> (2020)
- Stars and Stripes (September 9, 2019)



Challenge coins from author's collection.

Cape May's Long-time Lifeguard Volunteers with The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Article submitted to, and obtained from, The Press of Atlantic City on May 7, 2020

by Sandy Dalton, FSO-PA 08-02

Walter "Ralph" Atwell is a well-known person to many in the Cape May community. Ralph began summering in Cape May in 1965 while working as a lifeguard. It is a job, which he still has today. He became a full-time resident of Cape May in 2012.

Ralph is married to his wife Bernadette of 48 years. Together they have four children and three grandchildren. He was an educator for 40 years. He spent 20 years as a history teacher followed by 20 years as a guidance counselor at Shawnee High School in Medford, New Jersey. He also served as a communications specialist in the United States Navy during the Vietnam war.

Ralph joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2012. When asked why he joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary Ralph's response was that he wanted an opportunity to volunteer stating "I have always loved water-related activities like swimming, surfing, fishing, and boating. I just liked the idea of joining a water-related organization and I still enjoy having the military aspect in my life".

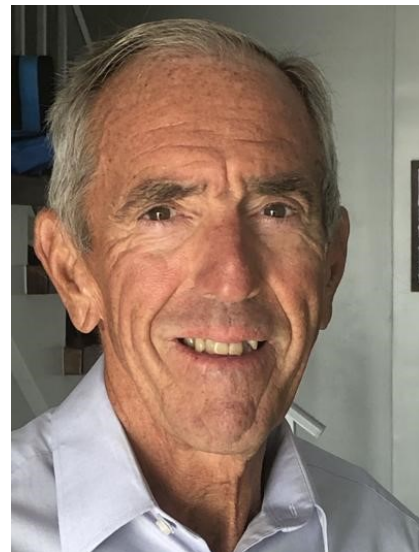
Ralph's teaching and military experience have made him a valuable asset to the Cape May Coast Guard Community. He began volunteering by first training and becoming a qualified crew member which allows him to participate in patrolling local waters and assisting the United States Coast Guard (USCG) with Search and Rescue (SAR) training missions. Being a boat crew member extends the eyes and ears of the Coast Guard by being a force multiplier. By educating the boating public he helps prevent accidents which saves lives. Another one of the unique opportunities of being located close to Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) is that trained members of the Auxiliary can provide tours of the base to various groups. Ralph began giving tours for local groups at TRACEN which he says "brings out the old teacher in me".

Certainly, the lifeguard in him is still active as he still works as a lifeguard in the summers for Cape May and volunteers as a lifeguard at TRACEN's pool. Ralph says it gives him joy meet so many great men and women who are training to become rescue swimmers. He states that the sad part is when the cadets move on to "A" school, he always hates to see them go.

In addition to all of those activities, Ralph is an appointed Flotilla Staff Officer of Operations (FSO-OP) for Flotilla 82 in Cape May. These duties include augmenting the local US Coast Guard unit by performing on-water patrols in the Cape May area of operations. As the FSO-OP, Ralph reports to the flotilla commander and is accountable for a staff of six coxswains and ten boat crew members including himself. His responsibilities include supervision of all flotilla operations programs, including search and rescue (SAR), regatta, safety patrols, and keeping flotilla members informed of all developments in the program. He also ensures ongoing boat crew training and certification and acquisition of personal protection equipment for boat crew members.

As a lifeguard, Navy sailor, Coast Guard Auxiliarist, teacher, husband, father, grandfather and neighbor, Ralph Atwell has consistently provided for the safety and security of those around him at work or home. It seems to be in his DNA. Ralph's Auxiliary shipmates appreciate those qualities in him. It's probably not a coincidence that Ralph joined an organization with the motto of "Always Ready".

Comprised of nearly 24,000 men and women, the USCG Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the Coast Guard. It works within the Coast Guard in carrying out its noncombatant and non-law enforcement missions. Flotilla 82 Cape May was founded on Dec 16, 1943 and is headquartered at 1519 Yacht Avenue in an historic boathouse building acquired in 1890 by the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment, prior to its merger into the U.S. Coast Guard. For over 77 years the flotilla's members have maintained many traditions of maritime service, the foremost being of service to the U.S. Coast Guard and the boating public in the Cape May coastal community. For more information, please visit: www.cgaux.org.



Walter "Ralph" Atwell.

Crossing the Bar

Auxiliarist Crossing the Bar - Fall 2019 DTRAIN until Jan 26, 2020

David Baues (04-04) (retired status)
Claude Benner (12-02)
Howard Friedman (08-03)
John Ghougasian (12-09)
Douglas Glantz (17-02)
George A. Greeby (04-04)
George W. Hallowich (12-02) (retired status)
Marilyn Hughes (08-01)
Victor Libetti (18-08)
Maureen Lucas (04-02)
Donald F. McGahn (05-05)
Dennis McGeehan (04-11)
Harry (David) Ritchie, Jr (12-02)
Raymond Ruffini (16-01)
Francis L. Smith (16-07)
Lloyd (Jack) Smith, Jr. (19-01)
Richard B. Stevenson (12-09)
Carol Teufel (19-01)
Frank Verichia (08-02) (retired status)
Lawrence Volz (07-09)
Kenneth Yackly (19-05)



Photos for Encouragement During this Time of Quarantine





Even though Auxiliary flotilla and division gatherings have shut down, or changed meeting and training models, don't stop posting on your social media channels. This will reduce your pages within the algorithm when the Coast Guard Auxiliary returns back to business as usual.

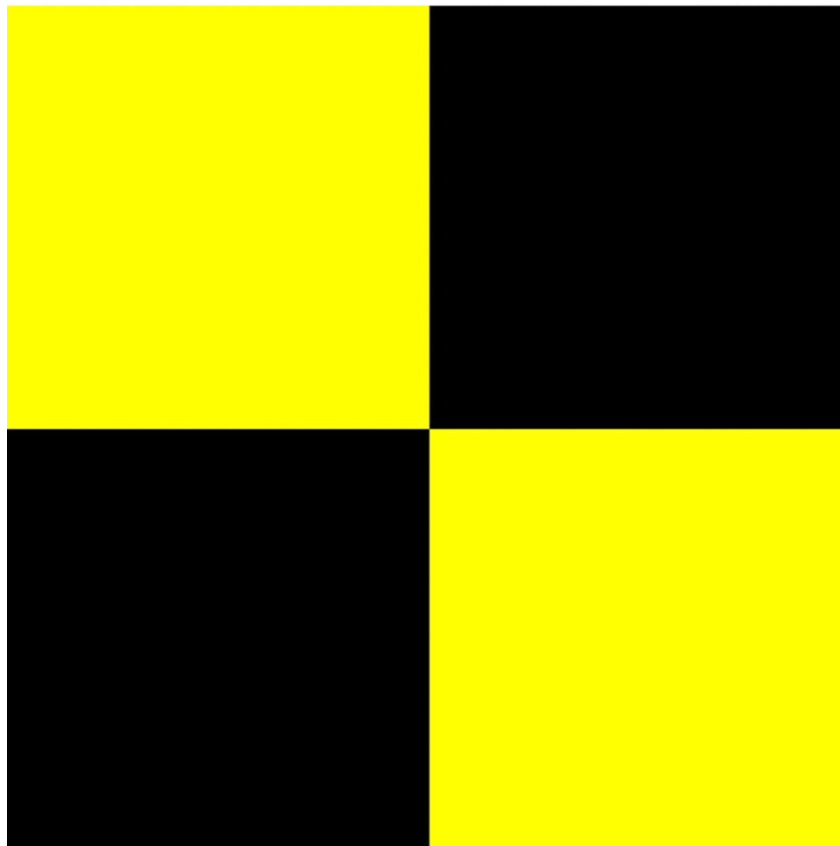
Keep your members and audience informed, share personal experiences and ideas, or share interesting articles or images that relate to your unit. Remember, social media isn't just about selling - it's about creating that connection, so keep connecting!

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

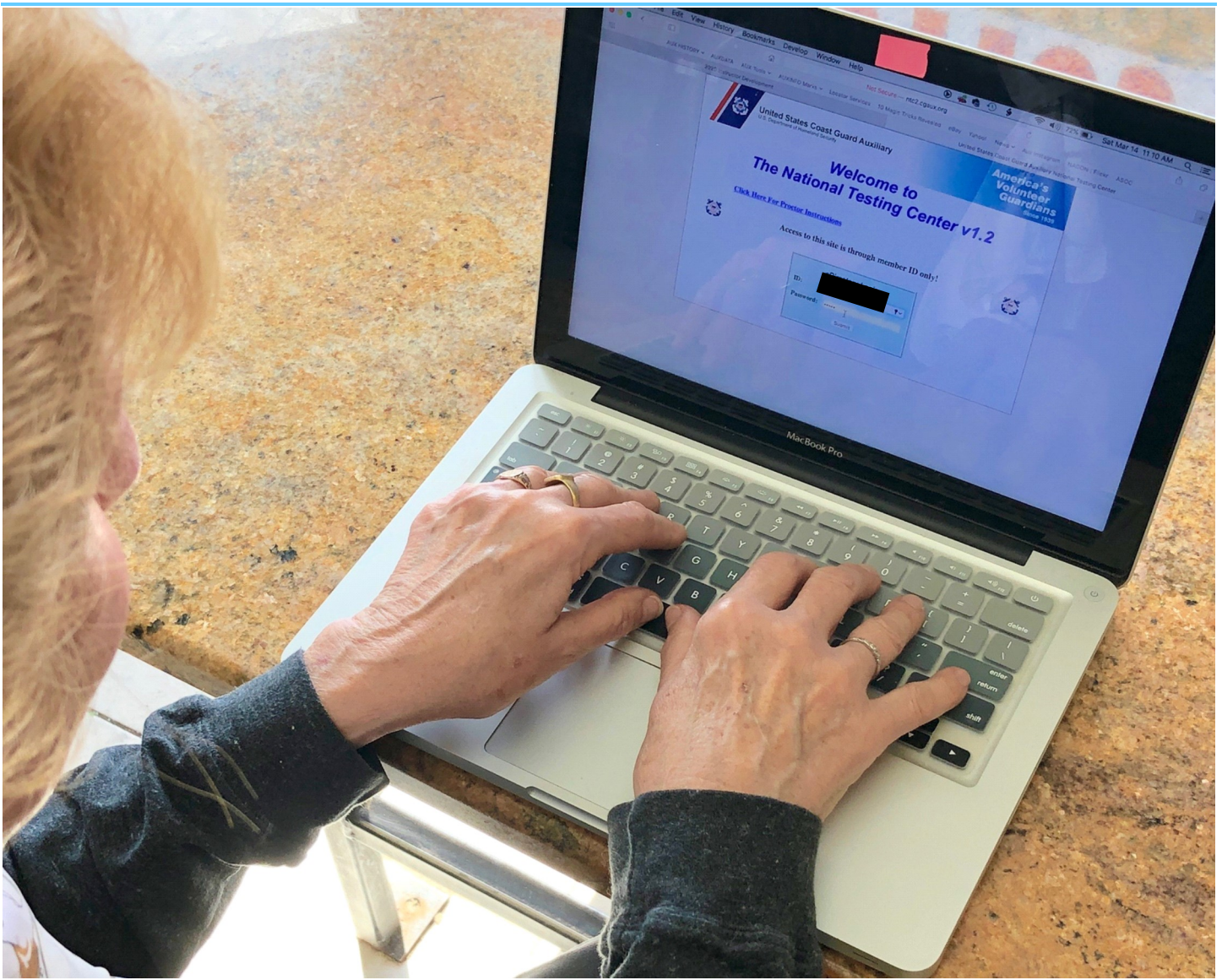


“Why Isn't This Darn iPad Working?” - Does your flotilla or division offer technology assistance to members? Do you teach online classes for member training? New technologies can be difficult to learn, and all Auxiliarists may not understand the benefits of using technology. But flotilla meetings can also help members adopt technology in meaningful ways for communication, lifelong learning, and entertainment.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by
Joseph Giannattasio.*



Perhaps we should all fly these at our homes! This is the 'LIMA' signal flag = Ship Under Quarantine.



Due to the NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Disease most Auxiliary face-to-face activities are suspended until further notice for Auxiliarists. This includes meetings, PA, MT and PE events, and missions, check your District's policy for guidance.

However, this stand-down is a tremendous opportunity for members to take online training courses and certifications. Online Training includes all training provided in and by the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary for Auxiliary members. It spans the following directorates: Response, Prevention, Vessel Examination, Public Education, RBS Outreach, Public Affairs, and Training. It includes AUXOP courses, Certification Courses, Public Education Courses, Mandatory Workshops, and Mandated Training.

One gains a lot by learning new skills; sometimes it just hones the previous skills, other times it introduces you to new colors of Auxiliary membership.

You can access the Auxiliary's Training Directorate website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=t-dept>

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

A Message from the Editor

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition. Even during this unprecedented time it is good to see we are still engaged. Please continue to send me articles and pictures of your activities and points of interest. Every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.

It appears like we will be in the same situation for the foreseeable future that we find ourselves currently. As others have said, take the time and engage in online trainings.

I hope everyone is managing to cope with the stay-at-home orders. I also hope that everyone is staying healthy.

Please remember to stay safe when you are out and about. We will get through this.

I thank everyone for your devotion to duty.

Semper Paratus,
Tim Marks
DSO-PB

Timothy Marks
District Staff Officer -
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<http://www.cgaux.org/>

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Parting Shot



"Memories of being underway."

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama