

EAST WIND

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CG Auxiliary supports multiple missions

Message from the Commodore

This being my last article for the Eastwind as the Commodore, I would like to reflect on 9ER's accomplishments over the past two years and thank those who have made them possible.

First let me thank those Auxiliarists who have been extremely instrumental in the accomplishments of the past two years: Jackie Scofield, my aide; Dr. Joseph Sopko, DCOS; Dr. Clark Godshall, DSO-MT; Commander Shawn McMillian, DIRAUX; and Commodore Douglas Cream, DSO-LP. Also, congratulations to the new Administration who will do a great job of leading 9ER in the next two years.

Two years ago, we were asked by the active duty component to help find solutions to the ever-increasing injury and death associated with paddle craft in our District. Three people were asked to come up with a plan to help this situation – Glen Harman, Gene Little and CWO John Henderson, OTO. Not only did they accept the task and establish a program for 9ER, but the program became a model for other districts to follow and adopt. In the first year, 9ER Auxiliarists engaged 7,500 boaters, checked 340 paddle craft and volunteered 950 hours. These statistics were captured by the new Kobo Tool Box data site established by Mr. Henderson and by doing so, gave us the ability to quantify our efforts in this area. Bravo Zulu

Two years ago, Rich Evans came to me with a program he had heard about from California – called Dockwalking (which we have now renamed 9ER Dockside Advising). The program sounded like a win-win situation. We could get Auxiliarists who had boating knowledge to share that knowledge with the boating public. Our people would have a new mission and the boating public would have a better understanding of safety. The Dockside Advisors could interact with many different boaters, paddle crafters, PWC drivers, paddle boarders, etc. An off-shoot of this program is the collection of valuable information that is available nowhere else. This information is gathered by adding this program to Kobo Tool Box and through the surveys completed by the boaters interviewed. This program has much potential for the Auxiliary in completing its primary mission – RBS. In the first year, we trained 86 Dockside Advisors, logged 335 hours and engaged 1,605 operators. Bravo Zulu

Two years ago, it was decided that 9ER's ability to survive meant we needed better leadership training. Over the last two years, we held AUXLAMs A and B classes and District Leadership classes led by COMO Nancy Rudiger and COMO Robert Laurer to develop new leaders to take over from us when the time arises. If we do not prep members to take our place, there may not be Flotillas to lead. We are seeing a better prepared cadre of leaders and more members who see the need for this training. Bravo Zulu



Two years ago, it became clear that the way to solve some of our problems was to develop new Public Affairs (PA) Officers. We held a PA "C" School for 25 students and charged them with being "the tip of the spear" for recruitment, public education, diversity, VE, AUP and Dockside Advising. Due to the work and management by Baird Pfahl, DSO-PA, we increased our PA hours from 3,800 in 2017 to over 5,500 this year. One result of this effort has been a 30 percent increase in applications to join the 9ER Auxiliary. Bravo Zulu

While these programs took the limelight during the past two years, 9ER still provided our historic programs that supported the Coast Guard and our primary mission. Some of them are: food service with major support from Betsy Macintyre, DSO-FS, Gail Sutton, Lou Cummings, Bill Cummings, Cathy Trenton and Steve Trenton; social media headed by Kathy Montgomery, ADSO-PA; communications headed by John Carpenter, DSO-CM; diversity awareness headed by Al Knish, DSO-DV; aviation headed by Robert Fratangelo, DSO-AV, and many more too numerous to mention. Bravo Zulu

Finally, one of the first lessons I learned in the Auxiliary was that every member is a leader, and no leader can lead without the support of the members. All of the areas I mentioned above are the members' work – your work, your successes, your accomplishments, your commitments, and your volunteer hours. Thank you for your belief in, and support of the Ninth Eastern Region and what you do to keep America's waterways safe. For all that, I thank you for letting me be your Commodore. It has been a great experience. Semper Paratus.

Robert Scofield

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Cover Photo

State Trooper Holden and K-9 partner Kyro leap from a Coast Guard 45-foot Response Boat onto a suspected "drug smuggler's boat" -- a Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel --- during a joint training exercise in the pitching waters of Lake Erie. The response boat was from from Station Marblehead. Page 4.

*U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
photo by Mark Galan*

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AUXILIARY
SUPPORTS
MULTIPLE
MISSIONS

**Drug search
exercise**

**Administrative
support**

And more



DRUG SEARCH EXERCISE

Ohio Highway Patrol K-9 unit searches a Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel for “illegal drugs” as part of a joint exercise.. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Mark Galan..

DOGS PRACTICE SNIFFING OUT DRUGS ON AUX BOATS

By MARK GALAN

Three Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels served as drug smugglers in a joint agency exercise in June where Coast Guardsmen and Highway Patrol K-9 units boarded them in search of the contraband.

Hosted by Coast Guard Station Marblehead in Ohio, the exercise involved seven K-9 units from the Ohio State Highway Patrol in Columbus.

The Auxiliary vessels were tasked as recreational boats with possible illicit drugs aboard. Confiscated drug material was hidden aboard each vessel by Highway Patrol officers who remained on board as monitors.

“The purpose of the exercise was to acclimate the K-9 units and their troopers with civilian boats at the dock and while underway,” said High-

way Patrol Staff Lieutenant Bill Stidham.

All seven K-9’s took turns searching for contraband drugs. One Auxiliary vessel stayed dockside at Station Marblehead while the other two made a number of trips into Lake Erie approximately one mile from the Station.

A Coast Guard 45-foot Response Boat intercepted the “suspect vessels” and boarded them with an officer and K-9 partner to investigate the presence of any illicit materials.

Transferring one of these 50-pound-plus dogs from one vessel to another in 3-foot pitching seas was challenging although there was a contingency plan to abort should anyone feel the situation was too dangerous.

The K-9’s went to work as soon as they hit the deck on

the Auxiliary boats. In 100% of the cases, the location of the drugs was detected in under a minute. The dogs would notify their partner with a benign gesture such as laying down or sitting and eyes oriented toward their find. The officer would reward his “charge” with excited vocalizations and play with its toy, which is actually a short length of rubber or plastic hose-like material.

The cost of a K-9 unit can range from \$20,000 to \$30,000, not including future incurred costs of maintenance and currency training. They may only be in service for about seven to eight years.

The breeds in this exercise were Belgian Shepherds and their related Malinois with varied levels of experience.

They work and live with their human officers 24/7.

// *The goal is to have the ability to place K-9 units aboard the Coast Guard boats to be used in drug mitigation missions during times and places where drug transfers on the water are most likely.* //

-- Lt. Scott Wyckhouse, Ohio Highway Patrol, who monitored the exercise aboard an Auxiliary vessel.

Auxiliary Patrol assists distressed diver in St. Lawrence River

Submitted by THOMAS H. NEELY, Alexandria Bay Flotilla

ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY – Members of Alexandria Bay Flotilla were spending a quiet day patrolling the St. Lawrence River when they responded to an emergency call to assist a distressed diver at the site of Keystorm, a popular wreck site near Singer Castle.

Being the closest vessel, the Coast Guard authorized the Auxiliary patrol boat to respond. A member of the boat crew and a member of the dive team who were emergen-

cy medical technicians (EMTs) provided necessary first aid. They transferred the patient from the dive boat to the Auxiliary vessel.

Upon communicating with Coast Guard Station Alexandria Bay, an ambulance was called to meet the patrol boat at Schermerhorn Landing, the nearest place to transfer the patient to shore. Hammond, NY Volunteer Rescue Squad transported the diver to the nearest hospital for care.

Auxiliarists assist multi-agency tabletop exercise

COAST GUARD WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON MORE AUXILIARY MEMBERS

The Western New York Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) held a five-hour “tabletop” exercise in June at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Participants included over 60 people from a multitude of agencies from the United States and Canada as well as private industry stakeholders. Auxiliary members David Evans and Mary Jean Evenick from Hamburg, NY Flotilla were there, too, having been called upon to provide administrative support.

The exercise participants were given several security/emergency scenarios and were asked to interactively share their ideas regarding protocols they would follow, who the “lead” agency might be, and what people or organizations they might contact first. Representatives from several agencies shared what worked well for them in the past, and suggested what might work better in the future. Shawn Larrabee, Port Security Specialist, was the Exercise Planning Team



Auxiliarists David Evans and Mary Jean Evenick provided administrative assistance at a recent Western New York Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) Tabletop Exercise. Photo by Mr. Michael Messina, US Coast Guard Sector Buffalo.

//

There are opportunities available to be of help to the Coast Guard, other than the obvious on-the-water missions. In addition to the work I do as the Administrative Assistant to our OTO, our flotilla also provides six Quarterdeck Watchstanders, one Radio Watchstander, and one Command Center SAR Coordinator. //

-- Mary Jean Evenick, FSO-IS, Hamburg, NY Flotilla

Lead. The exercise was facilitated by U.S. Coast Guard Exercise Support Team 1. At the close of the exercise, Mr. Larrabee told the group that the interactive sharing of ideas among the agencies and private industry stakeholders

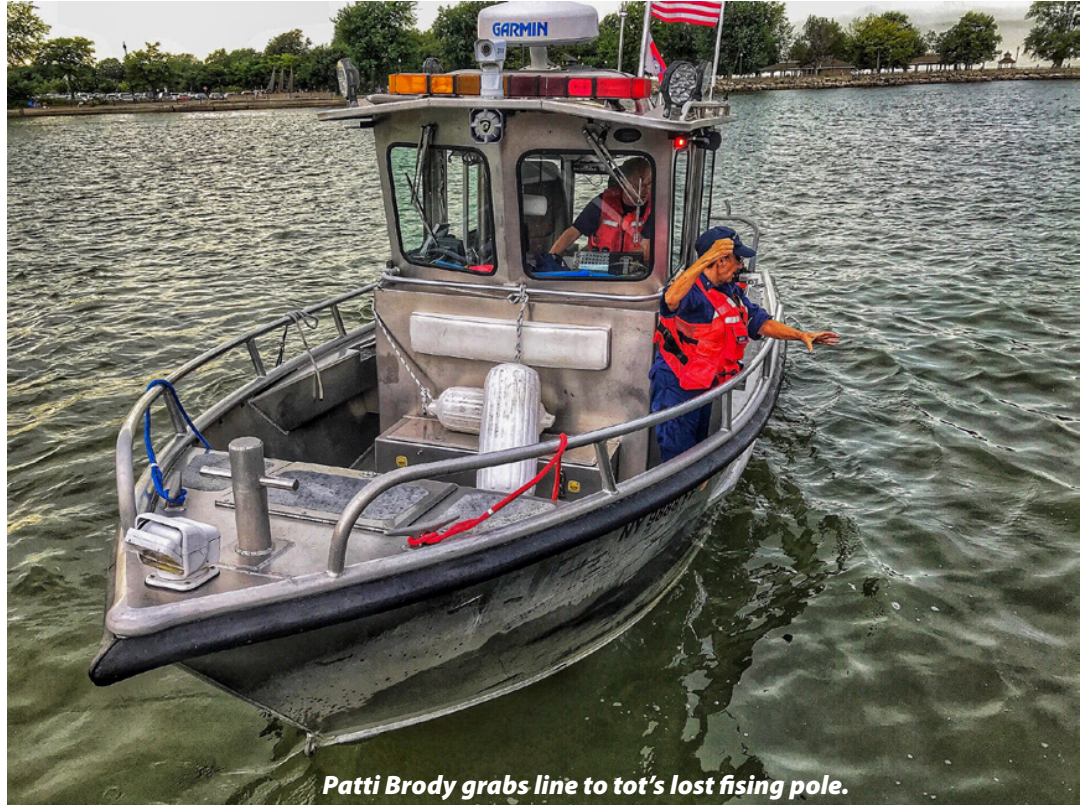
resulted in some very good suggestions. These ideas/suggestions would be analyzed and possibly incorporated into existing security/emergency protocols. Auxiliarists Evans and Evenick provided an orderly sign-in process,

made sure all necessary materials were handed out, and that the required security forms were completed by all participants. Mr. Larrabee noted he would like to utilize Auxiliary personnel at similar future events.

P.I.W. rescue has new meaning

PATROL SAVES FAMILY'S LABOR DAY OUTING

Photo by
J. Thompson.



Patti Brody grabs line to tot's lost fishing pole.

by Jim Termotto Sr.
ADSO-PA
and Patti Brody
Rochester Flotilla

SUMMERVILLE, NY -- It was a DISTRESS call. Not by phone or radio.

It was a group standing on the pier, yelling with arms waiving. Someone was pointing to a P.I.W., just off the pier.

The Rochester Flotilla patrol boat moved in closer. There it was, the P.I.W. Not a person in the water, but a pole in the water.

There too was a little girl, merely big enough to be seen from mid-channel, crying the biggest tears. Her fishing pole had dropped in and no one could get it.

Ready to save the family's Labor Day outing, and a little girl's distress, Coxswain Bob Brody with Crew Patti Brody maneuvered the 25-ft vessel into place. No search pattern was needed. The fishing bobber was floating just as it should.

Finding the pole was easy. Retrieving the pole was another story. Auxiliarist Patti Brody moved to the port bow with boat hook in hand. Problem solved. Not really. By pulling on the bobber, the fishline kept

unravelling. The pole was not coming up. Using the boat hook, Brody passed the line to the family. They were able to save the P.I.W. -- a two-foot pink toy fishing pole, adorned not only with the bobber but a worm intact.

Now, this story is not over.

Watching all this was a family friend. When the tears stopped, he called out thanking the Coast Guard for its help. Immediately, Patti Brody -- the tireless recruiter -- explained who and what the Auxiliary was all about, and gave him the phone number for the flotilla HR staff officer.

Result: the friend, Jemeul Thompson, went online to cgaux.org, and then contacted the flotilla. He showed up at the next flotilla meeting to learn more. A great save and happy ending of many kinds.



Bob and Patti Brody pose with Jemeul Thompson at the Rochester Flotilla following their "P.I.W" encounter.
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Karen Wright.

**Fireworks
shine on
safety
patrol**

HURON, OH -- Members of two Ohio flotillas provided a safety patrol during July's Huron River Fest, which featured a fireworks display. They were aboard Coxswain Baird Pfahl's vessel from Goodyear Flotilla. The crew included Jack Benton, Ed Gordon, William Ferry, Tom Cole, David McCollum and Peter Baillie, all of Lorain Flotilla. Also on board was trainee Patti Hand of Goodyear Flotilla.
Photo by Peggy Hassinger.



**STEINBARGE
NAMED
NORTHEAST
BOATING
EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR**

SYRACUSE, NY-- Auxiliarist John Steinbarga is the 2018 Boating Educator of the Year for the Northern Region, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) announced. He is one of three regional educators of the year in the U.S.

ing safety. His dedication can be seen through the number of safety events in which he participates and/or organizes to foster engagement in boating safety for the recreational boating public. John became a New York Safe Boating Instructor with New York State Parks in 2015.”

A member of Syracuse Flotilla, Steinbarga is a past commander of Central New York's Division 2, and is certified as a coxswain, instructor, qualification examiner, and team coordination facilitator. He also serves as a watchstander at Coast Guard Station Oswego.

“John began his volunteer boating safety educator career at age 63 and continues as strong and committed and inspirational as ever at age 80,” the announcement said.

“He joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2001 and received their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. John’s passion is evident through the time he spends teaching, mentoring, networking, actively patrolling, and thinking of new and innovative ideas to teach boat-



John Steinbarga as watchstander at Station Oswego.
U.S. Coast Guard photo.



John Steinbarga
Photo by R. Stronach

Oil boom drills on Oneida Lake

AUXILIARY ASSISTS CG IN EXERCISE WITH FIRE DEPTS.

*Photos by
Melaine Paatz
Sylvan Beach Flotilla*



Brewerton Fire Department's marine vessel deploys oil boom in Oneida Lake exercise.

BREWERTON, NY -- New York's Division 2 and Division 4 joined the U.S. Coast Guard in an oil boom deployment exercise with volunteer fire departments on the west side of Oneida Lake in June.

An Auxiliary patrol boat and two personal water craft (PWC) from Sylvan Beach Flotilla were involved in the exercise along with fire department marine vessels. A morning classroom session took place at Brewerton Fire Department, with the

boom deployment occurring in the afternoon.

PWCs were included in the training because "they can be useful in hard to reach areas," noted Mike Kennedy, who coordinated the Auxiliary's participation. Kennedy is past Division 2 commander and Sylvan Beach Flotilla's training officer. The exercise focused on "doing simple boom drills, such as towing and anchoring, so as to get used to the basics." The Auxiliary vessel, with Ken-

nedy as coxswain, served as an observation platform for a Sector Buffalo safety officer and helped to tow the boom back to shore.

Other Auxiliarists involved were: Division 2 Commander Gene Little; Sylvan Beach Flotilla members John Conroy (flotilla commander who operated a PWC), Bonnie Stilwell, Melaine Paatz, Tom Paatz; and past Division 4 Commander Doug Rigerman, who operated the other PWC.



Coast Guard Station Oswego personnel retrieve oil boom after Auxiliarists tow it ashore. RIGHT: Sylvan Beach Flotilla Commander John Conroy.

U.S., Canadian Auxiliarists train together

'SABOT' PREPPED 5 FLOTILLAS FOR SUMMER PATROLS

*By Stephen Trenton
Ogdensburg Flotilla*



Auxiliary members retrieve an abandoned kayak during SABOT training near Ogdensburg. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Cathy Trenton.

OGDENSBURG – The Dobisky Center in Ogdensburg, NY was the location for two days of classroom and on-water-training in June for Division 1 Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas (Sackets Harbor, Alexandria Bay, Ogdensburg, Massena) as well as the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary from Ontario, Canada.

The annual SABOT (Standardized Auxiliary Boat Op-

erations Training) is designed to enhance operational proficiency and was used by Auxiliarists patrolling Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River over the summer.

Classroom sessions reviewed practices and techniques for on-water operations that included towing disabled vessels, recovery of persons in the water, search and rescue patterns, and treating hypo-

thermia victims. Personnel from Coast Guard Station Alexandria Bay and Sector Buffalo discussed operational limits, radio protocol, and navigation and piloting.

Auxiliary members were assigned positions on six U.S. and Canadian Auxiliary boats for surface operations where the standards required for each task learned in the classroom were put into practice.

Flotilla assists sheriff's dive team

*By Melaine Paatz
Sylvan Beach Flotilla*



Oneida County Sheriff's diver surfaces with a curious find -- an Auxiliarist's power tool lost while repairing the dock. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Melaine Paatz.

The Sylvan Beach, NY Flotilla has a relationship with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, providing and maintaining a dock for the Sheriff's Marine Patrol on the Coast Guard Auxiliary base.

In June Flotilla members performed a safety patrol for

the Sheriff's Dive Team while the divers practiced search & rescue techniques and underwater radio communications.

Auxiliarists Ralph Moore, Bonnie Stilwell, Tom Paatz and Melaine Paatz kept boats away from the divers – who

surfaced with some interesting finds.

The divers “rescued” an old bike and lawn chair, but their biggest find was Auxiliarist John Parish's new impact driver that fell in the water while repairing the sheriff's dock a month earlier.

Flotilla at W.O.W. paddle fest

Youngstown, NY Flotilla from Division 3 participated in a Wear-It-on-the-Water (W.O.W.) Paddle Fest, sponsored by New York State Parks at Wilson Tuscarora

State Park in August.

The event featured Smart Start Kayaking Classes, wet exit and recovery demos, plus life jacket and boating safety information.

Flotilla members were on hand with a PA booth and vessel exams, handing out safety information and inspecting 25 kayaks, 6 PWCs and 2 boats.

Clark Godshall checks out kayaks at W.O.W. Paddle Fest. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Bob Hasse.



Flotilla hosts kayak safety training

SYLVAN BEACH, NY -- With injuries and deaths occurring among the rapidly growing number of paddle-sports enthusiasts, Sylvan Beach Flotilla sponsored kayak safety training for members last May at its Coast Guard Auxiliary base.

The purpose of the training

was to enable more Auxiliarists to reach out to the boating public to help ensure the safe and enjoyable use of kayaks and other paddlecraft.

This is "important information to keep us updated on the Auxiliary's focus on this emerging area of concern," noted Flotilla Com-

mander John Conroy.

Division Staff Officer Patrick Christopher, a kayaker and paddlecraft vessel examiner, conducted the training. It included a safety checklist, such as checking for slow leaks, properly fitting hull caps, life jacket, and emergency alert device such as a whistle.



RIGHT: Helen "Lou" Cummings and John Conroy get hands-on kayak safety training, along with other flotilla members, thanks to kayaker and paddlesport vessel examiner Patrick Christopher (above). U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Robert Stronach.



Burial at sea

Final honors for Auxiliarist's son-in-law

by Ken Stroebel
Fairport Harbor Flotilla
FSO-PA



Petty Officer First Class (BM1) Brock Taylor of Coast Guard Station Fairport honors the memory of Navy vet Joe Brunkula by saluting the flag which was used for his funeral. Returning the salute is his widow, Karen Brunkula, while Kristan Kish looks on. Both Karen and Kristan are daughters of Fairport Harbor Flotilla member Roger Kish. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Ron Baker.

Most people think a burial at sea is something that happens only in the movies, but the crew from Station Fairport in June had the honor of conducting the service for Joe Brunkala, the son-in-law of Auxiliarist Roger Kish.

Mr. Brunkula served in the U.S. Navy for three years, and passed away in March 2018. Prior to his honorable discharge, Mr. Brunkula had made a grade of E4. The service was performed by Deacon Ron Rollins on 22

June 2018 at 1200 hrs. The duty crew of USCG Station Fairport and Fairport Harbor Flotilla members Roger Kish and Ron Baker escorted the ashes of Joe Brunkula on his last voyage and burial at sea.

Safety day at Walmart

Auxiliary members from Brewerton, Massena and Sylvan Beach flotillas took advantage of a June public affairs opportunity by participating in a safety day at the Walmart in Central Square near Syracuse. The effort was coordinated by Brewerton's Bob Shanahan (shown chatting with a first responder along with Karene Phillips, also from Brewerton Flotilla). Also there were representatives from the New York State Police, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Central Square Fire Department, Mercy Flight, Oswego County Ambulance Service, and other organizations. "We are grateful for the opportunity to share this special day with so many other groups dedicated to public safety in our area," noted Austen Givens, public affairs officer from Sylvan Beach Flotilla. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Austen Givens.



University program

Flotilla seeks future leaders at Hobart & Smith

by Anthony Validzic
Canandaigua Flotilla

“How will you distinguish yourself from other college graduates when you compete for employment or graduate school?”

This question was asked by Canandaigua Flotilla members Robert Miller, James Curtis Watson and Anthony Validzic to students at Hobart and William Smith (HWS) Colleges at the first-year student club event.

Students learned about the USCG Auxiliary University Program (AUP) and how it prepares the “best, brightest, and most talented college students for success in ser-

vice to their community and country” and about potential internship opportunities.

Furthermore, students were shown the diverse programs of study (e.g., aviation, boat operations, marine safety, public affairs, etc.). Yet, the most important aspect of the AUP is that the “student is at the helm.” Each decides the program of study, in addition to required coursework available online, which can be taken at the student’s convenience.

Operational qualifications (e.g., air observer, boat crew, etc.) is conducted in part-

nership with local flotillas, giving students hands-on experience. With no obligation after graduation, students have everything to gain and their experiences will allow them to become effective leaders.

Thirteen students expressed their interest with several of them inquiring about USCG Officer Candidate School (OCS) after their graduation.

The flotilla is following up, in hope that they will help establish a Semper Paratus Club as well as a detachment.



Canandaigua Flotilla’s Robert Miller and Anthony Validzic (l-r) with college students in Geneva, NY. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by J. Curtis Watson.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT FOR VESSEL EXAMINERS AND INSTRUCTORS



The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) have extended reciprocity for members who have qualified as vessel examiners and instructors.

What that means is that Power Squadron vessel examiners and instructors can join the Coast Guard Auxiliary and be

automatically certified in those roles. The same is true for qualified Auxiliarists who join the Power Squadron.

The reciprocity was announced earlier in 2018 after an agreement between U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Commodore Richard Washburn and U.S. Power Squadrons Chief Commander Louie Ojeda.

BEYOND THE WORDS a teachable moment

'FLOAT OR SINK' ACTIVITY FOR KIDS A SHOW STOPPER

by James A Termotto, Sr.
ADSO-PA



Patti Brody with her "float or sink" dolls to teach the value of wearing a life jacket to kids and their parents. Photo by S. Brody.

Public Affairs is often thought to be only about words: Written words. Spoken words. Visual words. Sure it uses words, but Public Affairs, or Public Information, is also about Public Relations. Using both the writing and telling sides of public affairs can produce great results. This is where creativity comes in, where the fun is, and where all Auxiliarists can participate.

Whether PA, PI, or PR, an Auxiliarist engaging one or more persons face-to-face is a question-and answer-opportunity, a learning opportunity, a telling opportunity. And, it is a selling opportunity -- a "selling" of the Coast Guard Auxiliary message.

Take standing in a boat show booth. For some this is an ungodly time-consuming duty. Others find it a way to tell stories about their experiences, both in the telling and the hearing. In a conversation, an opportunity can arise to explain, instruct, or even learn new techniques, as well as relate actual boating adventures. In some quarters, this is called a "teachable moment." A public relations moment not to be lost.

The same is true when doing Vessel Safety Checks, Program Visitations, and of course, Dockside Advising and Public Education. Those moments are not only about the function being performed, they are about telling

the Auxiliary story, and the boating-paddling safety story.

Then there are the special occasions where public relations efforts shine. For example, an invitation to be present at a social function, a festival, or a ceremony. All perfect opportunities to tell the Auxiliary story. Here is one that took place with Rochester, NY Flotilla.

Discovery Charter School held a science fair for students and parents. The invitation offered at least one hundred families. Flotilla member Patti Brody, a retired school teacher, developed a "Float or Sink" activity for kids to see how a doll with a life jacket and one without would act when placed in a fish tank. Obvious results. That was the show stopper. As children played, parents were taught the proper fit of a life jacket by other flotilla members. Each child was given a life jacket to try on. The Auxiliarists demonstrated how to check the fit, as well as describe the different types of life jackets and their specific uses. A true public relations experience.

it is all about interacting with people in our communities and telling the story. Regardless of the method -- news releases, news stories, interviews, pamphlets, special occasions, or flotilla missions -- relating to the public is the basis of Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs. We all can take part. We are all proud members of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Tell our story.



Private aids to navigation

SOME 47,000 REASONS TO ASSIST COAST GUARD

by Virginia Suda
ADSO-NS



WHAT IS WRONG?

Red #4 is leaning more than 15 degrees (actually about 25 degrees) which makes it difficult for boaters to easily see. It marks the entrance way to a public launch ramp, marina, and yacht club. #2 is a triangle with a red light flashing every 4 seconds. The light is working; however, the day board has excessive deterioration, peeling paint, daymark delaminated, and is missing retroreflective material. Photos by Virginia Suda.

BELOW: Fairport Harbor Flotilla members Ron Baker and Ric Smith check their notes while on a mission to verify aids to navigation. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo.

Private Aids to Navigation (PATONs) -- such as channel markers and lighted buoys or markers -- are authorized by the Coast Guard; however, they are established and maintained by anyone other than the Coast Guard.

A major responsibility of the Auxiliary is the VERIFICATION of the STATUS of the characteristics of PATONs.

The total number of PATONs is about the same as the total number of ATONs

(Aids to Navigation). It is beyond the capability of the Coast Guard to inspect some 49,000 ATONs and 47,000 PATONs. It therefore falls to the members of the Auxiliary to assist the Coast Guard in the verification of the majority of PATONs.

As Mark Twain stated in "Life on the Mississippi", Chapter 28:

As we approached famous and formidable Plum Point, darkness fell, but

that was nothing to shudder about – in modern times. For now the national government has turned the Mississippi into a sort of two-thousand mile torchlight procession. In the head of every crossing, and in the foot of every crossing, the government has set up a clear-burning lamp. You are never entirely in the dark, now, there is always a beacon in sight, either before you, or behind you, or abreast. Continued on next page.



Chaplain O'Dell welcomes Auxiliary assist

by Edward Morris
ADSO-PA

As our nation is under assault from multiple dangers, the need for spiritual support and counseling remains a high priority. The office of the Coast Guard Chaplaincy is meeting this need through its regular Chaplaincy ministration and also with the use of the new Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) program.

I recently had an opportunity to speak with Chaplain Ron O'Dell at the U.S. Coast

Guard Ninth District offices, Cleveland. He is one of 40 chaplains billeted to the Coast Guard from the Navy Department.

These chaplains provide a range of pastoral duties, such marriage ceremonies, baptisms, funerals, memorial services, Bible studies and burials at sea. They also provide suicide prevention counseling and arrange for a host of various religious programs.

Chaplains are rotated among the Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. They are officially ranked by the Navy. As non-combatants, chaplains do not carry weapons in combat and must rely on fellow service members for protection.

The care that chaplains provide must extend to all faiths, no matter which collar

device they wear (Christian cross, Jewish tablet of commandments, Muslim crescent moon or Buddha wheel).

With the limited resources that Coast Guard chaplains have to work with, Chaplain O'Dell says he is most appreciative of the new Auxiliary Chaplain Support program. He and other chaplains look forward to working with the Auxiliary as they strive to continue meeting the spiritual demands of our sailors and their families.

Chaplain O'Dell is a native of South Carolina and first enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving as a paralegal. He entered the chaplaincy service in 2003 after completing his studies and training at Erskine Seminary.

He and his wife have been married for 26 years and have two children.



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Ed Morris

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Continued from previous page.

PATONs designate private channels such as marinas, industrial sites, wrecks, etc. Day beacons, ranges, lights, and buoys are all included. PATONs have the same shape, color, numbering and light characteristics as ATONs but they do not need to be the same size.

As stated in *Light List Vol. VII Great Lakes 2018 COM-DTPUB P16502.7*, p. ix.:

Aids to navigation are developed, established, oper-

ated, and maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard to assist navigators in determining their position and a safe course, to warn of dangers and obstructions, to promote the safe and economic movement of commercial vessel traffic, and promote the safe and efficient movement of military vessel traffic, and cargo of strategic military importance.

The three types of aids to navigation:

CLASS I -- on marine structures, to include bridges or other works which the owners are legally obligated to establish, maintain and operate as prescribed by the Coast Guard.

CLASS II -- Aids to navigation exclusive of Class I, located in waters used by general navigation.

CLASS III -- Aids to navigation exclusive of Class I and Class II, located in waters not ordinarily used by

general navigation.

National is moving towards requiring all Aid Verifiers to complete the PQS so that everyone has both training and sufficient practice to best execute aid-to-navigation verifier missions.

More info can be found under the Auxiliary Prevention Directorate webpage. Once there click on Navigation Systems, then Aids Verifier PQS.

9ER to help evaluate new partnership

Auxiliary adopts Sea Scouts as official youth program

Boy Scouts of America's Sea Scouts is now the Coast Guard Auxiliary's official youth program. A new memorandum of agreement allows Auxiliary flotillas to become Sea Scout ship-chartered organizations.

Rick Washburn, National Coast Guard Auxiliary Commodore, and VADM Charles Wurster, USCG (ret.), Sea Scout National Commodore, announced the signing of the agreement Sept. 4, 2018.

"Working with the Coast Guard Auxiliary will give Sea Scouts an opportunity to benefit from Coast Guard seamanship and vocational training, while giving Sea Scouts a

unique introduction to the Coast Guard," said Admiral Wurster.

"With this cooperative effort we will reach out to the emerging population of young adults who share the Auxiliary's commitment to safe boating, service to the nation, and Coast Guard and maritime careers," said Commodore Washburn.

This stronger relationship will also provide the Sea Scouts with a broader pool of adult leaders with seamanship skills and training and access to vessels. In addition, Auxiliary programs will facilitate advanced science, technology,

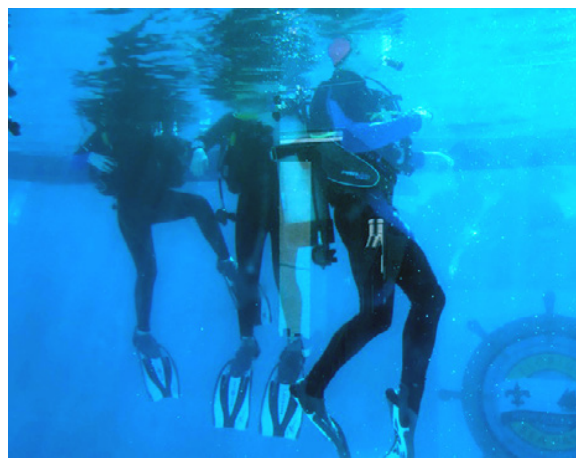
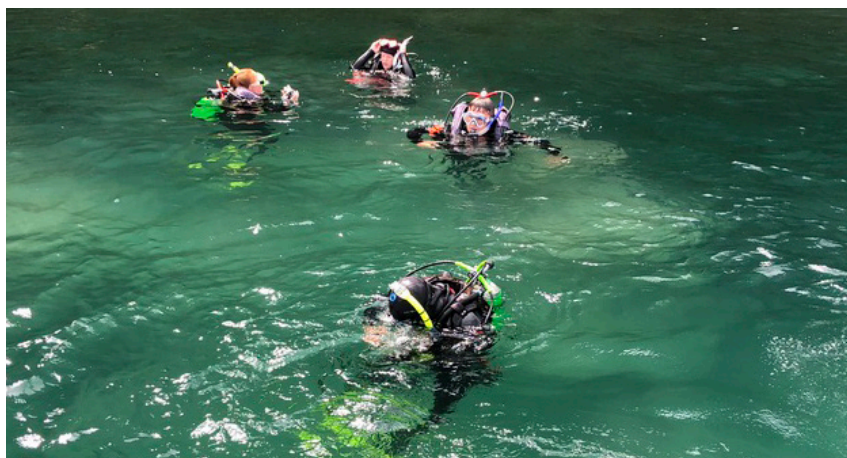
engineering and mathematics (STEM)-oriented training.

Sea Scout youth and adults may become members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary by following the normal requirements for membership. The Coast Guard Auxiliary entry age will be lowered from 17 to 14 for Sea Scouts.

This new partnership will undergo initial development and evaluation between Auxiliary and Sea Scout units in Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia (D-5SR) as well as portions of New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania (D-9ER) before it is ultimately implemented nationwide.

Sea Scout Ship 25 in Ithaca, NY is based at Ithaca Flotilla

Ithaca Sea Scouts in action.
Photos by Jim Graney.





Dr. Joseph Sopko, DCOS

Inspiring pride in uniform

Grand Haven, Michigan is a sleepy, quaint little town of 10,000 on the west coast of Michigan situated in District 9WR. Every summer, like the legendary Brigadoon, it comes alive for a week when about 350,000 people descend upon it to celebrate its status as “Coast Guard City USA”.

This year I was privileged to represent our district at the festival which was attended by the other Auxiliary Ninth District leaders, our district commander and the Atlantic Region commander.

The high point of the event for me was the ceremony honoring the 101 crew members of the USCG Cutter

Escanaba (WPG 77) who died in the North Atlantic on June 13, 1943.

Only two men survived when the ship mysteriously exploded. Before the war, the Escanaba had been based in Grand Haven and was manned with local Coast Guardsmen. The impact on the community, which touched almost every family, was devastating. But the community quickly rallied and raised over \$1.2 million to build a second cutter Escanaba.

At the memorial service a bell tolled 101 times for our lost heroes. Also honored were the crew of the third

Escanaba (WMEC 907), which had traveled from its base in Boston.

In that vast audience of tropical blue there was no distinction between active duty, reserve and auxiliary. We all felt proud to be part of our Coast Guard and felt honored to wear the same uniform as our current Coast Guard heroes.

Please wear the uniform with pride and every day strive to live up to our core values. And if you ever have the opportunity to visit Grand Haven during Coast Guard Festival week, please do so. You will be inspired.

DR. SOPKO TAKING HELM OF EASTERN REGION

Joseph Sopko, MD, MBA, of Shaker Heights, OH, is the 2019 commodore of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary’s Ninth District Eastern Region (which stretches from Vermilion, Ohio, east to the St. Lawrence Seaway).

Dr. Sopko succeeds Robert Scofield of Hammond, NY, at the district helm and serves a two-year term.

Joining him on the senior leadership team as district chief of staff is **Clark J. Godshall**, Ed D, of Barker, NY.

They were installed Sept. 15 during a Change of Watch ceremony at the District Fall Conference, along with District Captains **F. Robert**

Hasse of Cheektowaga, NY; **Ronald S. Baker** of Painesville, OH, and **Richard Evans** of Massena, NY.

Dr. Sopko is active with North Cleveland Flotilla 16 in a number of roles; among them, boat coxswain, qualification examiner, vessel examiner, instructor, food service specialist, and physician.

He has served as district chief of staff, district captain and has held leadership roles on the flotilla and division levels.

A specialist in pulmonary and critical care, Sopko attended medical school at Tufts University and did both his internal medicine residen-

cy and pulmonary fellowship at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Dr. Godshall, district superintendent for Orleans/Niagara Board of Cooperative Educational Services, is active with Youngstown, NY, Flotilla as boat crew member, personal watercraft operator, CPR/First Aid provider, instructor, and vessel examiner.

He also has served as a district captain, division commander, and district training officer, and is national deputy director for the public education directorate.

Hasse is active with Youngstown Flotilla as a boat crew member, vessel exam-

iner, public affairs and finance officer, and watchstander.

He has served in leadership positions on the flotilla and division levels, including being the immediate past division commander. He also manages the district store.

Baker is active with Fairport Harbor, OH, Flotilla as a certified CPR/first aid provider, vessel examiner, fingerprint technician, instructor, and food service specialist. He is the 2018 Division 7 commander.

Evans serves with Massena, NY Flotilla as a coxswain, vessel examiner, air observer, telecommunications operator and instructor. He is the 2018 Division 1 commander.

Fall D-Train emphasizes close working relationship with the Coast Guard



Paddlesports are the fastest growing segment of recreational boating, and the injuries and deaths concern the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. District Commodore Robert Scofield (left) put it this way: *“They walk into a store, buy a kayak, but no PFD, and go out into the water. It scares the hell out of me.”*

Referring to the ‘3 Rs’ – the national leadership’s emphasis on being “ready, relevant, responsive” – Coast Guard Commander Shawn McMillan (right) noted: *“Training is relevant; it makes you ready to respond... Please take training to heart.”*



Capt. Joseph DuFresne

‘HUMBLED’ BY HOW AUXILIARISTS SERVE

DUNKIRK, NY – Sector Buffalo Commander, Capt. Joseph DuFresne, expressed his gratitude during the D-Train banquet, held Sept. 15.

“I can’t say enough about the Coast Guard Auxiliary... I continue to be humbled and proud to serve with all of you.”

He referred to a “difficult

summer” for Sector Buffalo, particularly with search-and-rescue cases.

“We did save a number of lives,” but the ones lost have impact, leaving “tragic holes in families.”

He pointed to a successful year for 9ER Auxiliary, with members racking up 54,000 vol-

unteer hours, completing 1400 patrols, assisting 164 people, focusing on paddlecraft safety, introducing dockside advising, and engaging 7,000 people.

But the significance of the Auxiliary’s impact transcends the numbers, he said.

“I challenge you to see the significance in what you do.”



Members interested in being tapped for disaster response or other Coast Guard deployment packed a day-long workshop at September’s District Training Conference in Dunkirk, NY. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Robert Stronach, editor, Sylvan Beach, NY Flotilla.

New leaders take helm effective Jan. 1, 2019

Dr. Joseph Sopko, district chief of staff, was elected district commodore, effective Jan. 1, 2019. Joining him on the 9th Eastern Region bridge as the new chief of staff is **Dr. Clark Godshall**, who was serving as a district captain and training officer. For 2019 **F. Robert Hasse** continues as a district captain. The two new district captains are **Ronald S. Baker** and **Richard Evans**, who were serving as Division 7 and Division 1 commanders, respectively.



Dr. Joseph Sopko receives his commodore's one-star boards from his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Macintyre, and outgoing District Commodore Robert Scofield. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Robert Stronach.

Awards galore put spotlight on members

The Coast Guard and the Auxiliary honored members and teams during the 9th District Eastern Region's Fall District Training (D-Train) Conference, held in September in Dunkirk, NY.

Award presentations sprinkled the main conference day, beginning with the opening general session, continuing at the luncheon and concluding at the "Change of Watch" banquet, which saw the installation of the new Eastern Region leadership, which assumes the helm on Jan. 1, 2019.

District Commodore Robert L. Scofield received the *Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal*, and Dr. Joseph Sopko,

District Chief of Staff who was elected district commodore effective Jan. 1, received the *Auxiliary Commendation Medal*.

Several division commanders were awarded the *Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation*. They include: Richard C. Evans of Division 1, Gene Little of Division 2, George N. Feschenko of Division 5, and Ronald S. Baker of Division 7.

Two district captains – Clark J. Godshall (Logistics) and Michael E. McGrath (Response) – were awarded the *Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation*.

Lennis McFadden of Rochester Flotilla received a

special recognition – a *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Commodore Douglas Cream of Buffalo Flotilla 33 received the *Gold Hourglass Award* for working 18,232 volunteer hours, and Bruce Berwald of North Cleveland, OH Flotilla 7-16 received the *Bronze Hourglass Award* for his 7,504 hours of volunteer service.

Awards recognizing years of service went to George Taylor of Rochester Flotilla for 30 years, and Commodore Nancy Rudiger and Jim McNally of Ogdensburg Flotilla for 25 years.

A *Big Certificate Award* went to Bob Hasse of Youngstown, NY Flotilla for his work on the

continued on next page

Awards put spotlight on member activity

continued from previous page
online District Store.

The *Commodore's Certificate of Appreciation* went to Gary Kocher of Alexandria Bay Flotilla for doing 25 Uninspected Passenger Vessel Exams and to John Slife of Goodyear, OH Flotilla for doing 29 UPV Exams.

The *Diversity Three-Star Award of Excellence* went to the following units: Rochester, NY Flotilla; Canandaigua, NY

Flotilla; Roaming Shores, OH Flotilla; Division 6; Akron, OH Flotilla; Medina County, OH Flotilla; Lorain, OH Flotilla; Division 7; North Cleveland, OH Flotilla 75, and Fairport, OH Flotilla.

Six members were recognized for jumping into the new Dockside Advisor role and completing 25 or more Dockside Advising surveys: George Taylor of Rochester Flotilla, 55 surveys; George Feschenko of Roaming Shores,

OH Flotilla, 60 surveys; Gary Lawrence of Akron, OH Flotilla, 56 surveys; Angela Packard of Akron, OH Flotilla, 61 surveys; Elizabeth Macintyre of North Cleveland, OH Flotilla 7-16, 37 surveys, and Paul Markovic of North Cleveland Flotilla 7-16, 34 surveys.

A couple of members who earned new certifications were recognized – Virginia Suda of N. Cleveland Flotilla 75 as AUXOP certified, and



ABOVE The Coast Guard awarded its Meritorious Team Commendation to an Auxiliary Food Service team. **FROM LEFT:** Commander Shawn McMillan, DIRAUX; Division 2 Commander Gene Little (accepting on behalf of Bill & Lou Cummings), Cathy Trenton, Dr. Elizabeth Macintyre, Gale Sutton, Stephen Trenton, Sector Buffalo Commander Captain Joseph DuFresne,, and District Commodore Robert Scofield. Not shown is Craig Arcuri. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Robert Stronach.

The *Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation* went to the Auxiliary food service (AUX-FS) team of Dr. Elizabeth Macintyre, Gale Sutton, Craig Arcuri, Stephen Trenton, Cathy Trenton, William Cummings and Helen “Lou”

Held-Cummings. They were cited for staffing the galley at Station Erie, PA from March to July 2018, while the station’s sole culinary specialist was recovering from a debilitating medical ailment. The Auxiliary galley support team fed the 27-person crew and visitors

a total of approximately 700 meals, and “saved the Coast Guard \$12,000 in personnel costs.” The team also maintained and repaired galley equipment, “saving the unit \$5,000 in procurement costs and vital personnel hours.”

A number of “Quiet Worker Awards” spotlighted members who work behind the scenes without thought of recognition. They went to:

- Stephen Trenton, Ogdensburg, NY Flotilla.
- Mark Erway, Ithaca, NY Flotilla.
- Thomas Lacey, Ithaca Flotilla.
- Ralph Moore, Sylvan Beach, NY Flotilla.
- Robert Newton, Sylvan Beach Flotilla.
- John Parish, Sylvan Beach Flotilla.
- David Troutman, Sylvan Beach Flotilla.
- Eileen Reiner, Hamburg, NY Flotilla.
- Robert Reiner, Hamburg Flotilla.
- Robert Brody, Rochester, NY Flotilla.
- George Taylor, Rochester Flotilla.
- James Watson, Canandaigua, NY Flotilla.
- Glen Harman, Akron, OH Flotilla.
- Joseph Sheehan Sr., Akron Flotilla.
- Joseph Weatherby III, Akron Flotilla.

Spring D-Train

COAST GUARD EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

Coast Guard leaders helped kick off March's Spring D-Train by expressing their appreciation for the abilities and skills that Auxiliary volunteers bring to Team Coast Guard.

"I want to emphasize how much of a team (the Auxiliary and Coast Guard are)," noted Michael Baron, a retired chief petty officer who directs the Ninth District's Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) program.

"A lot of good things are coming out of this region" – from paddlecraft and boating safety outreach to dockside advising – which "are going to make a difference."

The new assistant director of the auxiliary, retired Chief

Warrant Officer Ralph Kugel, noted he was able to get a sense of what was going on in 9ER by reviewing a proof of EASTWIND as it was about to go to press.

"It's amazing what you guys do."

Chief Warrant Officer Chris Henderson, the operations training officer, challenged Auxiliaries with his mantra of three key words – Safety, Standardization and Partnership.

Commander Shawn McMillan, director of the auxiliary, referred to a new acronym coined by Dr. Baird Pfahl – S.I.R., which stands for Safety, Image and Recruiting and which the district training

conference touched on through multiple workshops.

"You are the first line of defense in saving lives and in saving mishaps across the water... You truly are trying to be 'semper paratus.'"

Sector Buffalo Commander Captain Joseph DuFresne said he was looking for Auxiliary volunteers to augment active duty needs, such as AuxFS at stations shorthanded in the galleys and documentation specialists to help with a huge Sector case load. He also spoke of creating SOP partnerships with local agencies to cover inland waterways.

"I'm incredibly proud to call you shipmates."

AUXILIARY ACTIVITY 'INCREDIBLE'

Rear Admiral Joanna Nunan, who took command of the Ninth Coast Guard District in August 2017, said it "has been so incredible to see what has been happening in the Auxiliary."

The featured banquet speaker at the Spring D-Train, the admiral lauded the number of Ninth Eastern Region programs and volunteer performance – from paddlesports safety to being the second district in the nation to introduce dockside advising to AUX food specialists supporting active duty stations.

It's not unrelated to her watchwords to:

"Take care of the mission."

"Take care of each other."

"Take care of yourselves."

She noted: "Taking care of the mission... That's what you do so well... (with) your day-to-day interaction with the boating public."

Regarding paddlesports, she said: "It really hits home when we get these SAR cases... and people don't come home." But 9ER's new paddlecraft safety program, which "reached over 20,000 people," is making a difference, she said.

She also cited: 324 public education sessions, 2,702 vessel exams, 1,803 marine dealer visits, 73 surface



Rear Admiral Joanna Nunan

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by R. Stronach

facilities, 11 air assets. "You assisted 45 vessels in distress."

She added: "Thank you for your dedication to the Coast Guard and for your service to the nation. You are truly the premier volunteer organization."

Logistics staff: who are we and what do we do?

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo



Dr. Clark J. Godshall
District Captain for Logistics
and District Training Officer

As the 9ER D-CAPT-L for the past two years, I had the opportunity to work with an outstanding logistics staff. Who are we and what do we do? Our primary responsibility is to help provide support for YOU to accomplish your goals in the Auxiliary. Our areas of responsibility include Communications Services, Food Services, Human Resources, Training, Material Supplies, Publications, Conference Planner and Auxiliary Build (AUXBUILD). It is a rewarding experience to work alongside fellow members who unselfishly give their time to help accomplish Auxiliary missions. I am amazed how our members balance

Auxiliary duties with life challenges. I am truly thankful for the wonderful support of our members.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES: Bob Stronach helps maintain our systems to keep you informed. He exercises staff responsibility and supervision over electronic communication services throughout the District. Keeps the Division Board informed of all developments in these areas. He maintains our website keeping it in full compliance with Auxiliary Web policies and fosters interest in electronic communication among the members.

FOOD SERVICES: The Coast Guard is in need of Auxiliarists performing food service duties. The Auxiliary Food Service (AUXFS) program enhances Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary mission readiness, effectiveness, and execution by providing food services support to Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary units by:

- Promoting and maintaining food service on floating and land based facilities.
- Supporting the Coast Guard National Strategic Plan.
- Staffing a skilled staff to support Coast Guard operations.

Dr. Betsy Macintyre, MD, heads up our program by training AUXFS members using the Coast Guard Approved Auxiliary Food Services Guides and instructors. Training includes both classroom lectures and culinary skills work, followed by completing a standardized performance qualification within one year of the initial class. Also included: medical screenings and Hepatitis A vaccines along with a yearly sanitation and team coordination training. She is a great leader who has been recognized by the active duty having the

Continued on next page.



DISTRICT CAPTAIN

Continued from previous page.
Cleveland Galley named in her honor.

TRAINING: My team works with all the Divisions to help insure that we are providing for a well-trained member ready to assist where needed. C-school updates, BQC II, Core Training mandates, AUXOP, along with the two major D-Train events, annually challenge us.

Members demand relevant and updated training materials along with on-line and deliverable courses. Newly released courses will be Weather and the Flotilla Commander's Guide. Our members donate thousands of hours annually to their training preparation in support of the Auxiliary and active duty.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Judy Stobinski and her team work diligently to review and approve New Member Applications received from the Divisions and Flotillas prior to being submitted to DIRAUX. They are also responsible for

approving dis-enrollments and transfers while providing diverse reports designed to enhance our membership recruitment and retainage efforts. They make many phone calls and send emails to help keep the processes flowing. This can help avoid member frustration when waiting for the entire process to be completed, including PSI security clearance and issuance of the member ID card.

MATERIALS: F. Robert Hasse and his team help Material Officers insure there is sufficient material for events. Bob also manages the District store at D-trains and on-line where you can purchase supplies and other related items at reasonable prices. The store is a major revenue generator for the District.

The District 9ER website section for Materials includes information, order forms, and links for uniform and supply websites. He has modernized the Auxiliary purchasing process with the ability to charge purchases.

PUBLICATIONS: Again we see Bob Stronach and his team at the helm working on our publications and electronic D-train brochures. Thank you to him for all the years of hard work and dedication.

DSO-PB is responsible for editing and publishing the EASTWIND and our brochures. Officers and other members are responsible for submitting information and articles to be a successful publication.

Our District magazine is an important tool for a myriad of reasons: through it, we collectively reach out to the membership and help to maintain relationships while telling our story. We may highlight individuals, special events, training ideas and a plethora of other information.

Suggestions to streamline the publication process include sending articles in their entirety instead of tidbits sent piecemeal; providing photos with complete captions, per-

tinent information and photographer's name (per Coast Guard/Auxiliary policy); if sending photos with minor children, a signed photo release from a parent/LEGAL guardian must be included.

CONFERENCE PLANNING: it's a year-round effort seeking topics and speakers germane to our missions while maintaining member's interest to motivate them to attend our events. Keeping a reasonable cost along with geographic accessibility and high quality is paramount for the planners. Suggestions for continuous improvement are always welcomed!

AUXBUILD and EMERGING MISSIONS: Highly qualified Auxiliarists may be called upon to assist the active duty in construction and architectural design needs. Emerging missions include the newly introduced Auxiliary Clergy Support.

When you see our 9ER DSOs and their teams, give them a "shout-out" for their efforts on your behalf!

Part of Dr. Betsy Macintyre's Auxiliary Food Service team, Auxiliarist Helen "Lou" Cummings won the hearts of the Coast Guard Station Erie crew through her culinary touches. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Gail Sutton, commander of North Cleveland Flotilla 7-16.



**Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**

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**READY,
SET,
WEAR IT!**

Lorelei Gratto demonstrates her understanding of "safety first" while boating. She is pictured here with her father, Ben Gratto (left), and brother Reece Schroeder, at a "Ready, Set, Wear It!" event hosted in August by Ogdensburg (NY) Flotilla.

Photo submitted by Steve Trenton, Ogdensburg Flotilla. Used with parental consent.