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



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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** Donald W. Merrill
- 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** Paul R. Casalese
- DCDR 17** William E. Eisenhower
- DCDR 18** Kathleen A. Kunyczka
- DCDR 19** J. Douglas Willwerth
- DCDR 20** Mark Eugene Lancaster
- DCDR 21** Michael B. McElwee

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 Marilyn F. Hughes

DSO-FN COMO Robert J. Perrone, Sr.

DSO-LP Martin C. Mooney Sr.

DSO-SL Harry W. Otto

DSO-IM Gregory M. Stough

DFSO Thomas Callahan

DDC-Logistics Mark F. Letavish

DSO-CS Richard Taylor, III

DSO-FS Noreen Schifini

DSO-HR Steven G. Trojanov

DSO-IS COMO Jan Robert Munroe

DSO-MA Scott J. Supplee

DSO-PB Timothy P Marks

DSO-SR Marilyn F. Hughes

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 Marilyn F. Hughes

DSO-PV Russell M. Galson

DSO-VE Edwin W. Seda

DDC-Response Douglas L. Smith

DSO-CM Richard F. Lord

DSO-AV William A. Fithian

DSO-OP Kurt P. Sarac, Sr

From the Desk of the Commodore

The members of our district continue to amaze me with their resourcefulness and creativity in addition to their consistent hard work. It is an honor to serve you and to lead you as your Commodore. Here is what your district leadership has been doing in the first three months of this year:

The Government Shutdown

We worked with our Director of Auxiliary, LCDR Taylor to organize our members' efforts as you supported our Active Duty brothers and sisters during the recent government shut down. You took the initiative, found the needs and stepped in to meet them. All the district leadership had to do was to support you and remove the roadblocks that were slowing you down. Thank you! That will be remembered as one of the most inspiring times in US Coast Guard Auxiliary history! As the Commandant, Admiral Karl Schultz noted in his 12 March letter:

“To the Men and Women of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary,

Please accept my most sincere appreciation for the Auxiliary's outpouring of care and consideration extended to our entire Coast Guard family during the recent lapse in appropriations. I was humbled by the generosity and support you provided in the face of this unprecedented personal, financial, and emotional challenge imposed upon all segments of our mission ready total workforce. Your generous giving of time, effort, and personal resources in normal "day-to-day" circumstances is always notable; however, the extent to which the Auxiliary exceeded "normal ops" during the partial government shutdown went above and beyond all expectations. Across the Service, Auxiliarists availed themselves to lend active duty, reserve, and civilian team members tangible support, service, and a compassionate ear. The comfort and reassurance you provided Coast Guard women and men, particularly our junior personnel, were invaluable to bolstering their confidence that such daunting uncertainty would be fully resolved, and that no member of the Coast Guard family was ever alone.

Your unflagging resilience during this remarkably challenging period reflected your constant commitment to our Service. Such instrumental support helped ensure the Coast Guard stood ready to "stand the watch."

Thank you for your indelible support to Coast Guard personnel and for helping to cement our public trust. Semper Paratus!"

At the beginning of the shutdown your district leadership was able to work with our national leadership including Deputy National Commodore Gus Formato, Vice National Commodore Alex Malewski and National Commodore Larry King and through them, the highest levels of the Department of Homeland Security to ask "why?" Why did we have to stand down? Why couldn't we perform many of our normal activities? The answer which came back in mid-January surprised many – we actually could do much more than we had thought we could during previous shutdowns – and, once we allowed to, we sure did!

5NR Web Site

Please visit www.5NR.org to see our new District 5NR web site. Many thanks to the team that put this together including Rick Taylor, DSO-CS and COMO Kevin C. Murphy, DSO-PA. This is for your use and it is still a "work in progress" so please let us know via the COLM what we can do to make it as useful as possible for you.



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

Continued on the next page...

From the Desk of the Commodore, continued

Auxiliary-Sea Scout Youth Development (AUXSCOUT) Program

While District 5NR is not a part of the Sea Scout pilot program now underway in D5SR and D9E, we have been preparing for the day, which we now expect to come very soon, when we will be a part of the national roll-out. It was a pleasure to attend the recent Sea Scouts Northeast Region Bridge of Honor and Ball on 23 March in Swedesboro, NJ with Commodore Sopko (D9E) on your behalf. About 250 scouts and family members attended the event. The scouts will be bringing a level of courtesy, discipline and enthusiasm for the sea, boating and the Coast Guard that will transform our organization. What an impressive group of kids! Members interested in serving on a D5NR Sea Scout liaison committee, please send an email expressing your interest to Joe Giannattasio, DCOS. For your convenience, here is the SOP: http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/054/AUXSCOUT_AUX_SOP_002A_SIGNED.pdf



Sea Scouts Northeast Region Bridge of Honor and Ball

Recruiting Billboards

Catalyst Outdoor (www.CatalystOutdoor.com) has made a generous unsolicited gift of free advertising to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 5 Northern Region. This generous gift is due to their appreciation of the work our volunteers do and their desire to assist us in our advertising efforts to recruit new volunteer members.

Catalyst is displaying recruiting ads on their digital monuments from mid-March until mid-April. The ads are displayed for 8 seconds, every 2 minutes. Conservatively, they expect each ad to be displayed over 400 times a day. It could be much more.

The ads are currently playing on Units on US 202 just south of West Chester in Westtown Township, Chester County, PA; on Route 309 just south of the PA Turnpike in Springfield, Montgomery County, PA and on Route 1 just east of I-95 in Middletown, Bucks County, PA.



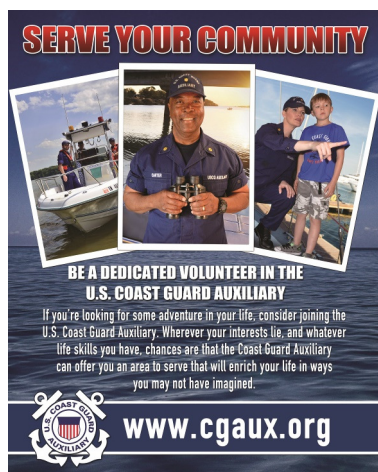
US 202 just south of West Chester in Westtown Township, Chester County, PA

Continued on the next page...

From the Desk of the Commodore, continued

Recruiting Posters

Under the direction of DSO-HR Steve Trojanov and with the assistance of DSO-PA COMO Murphy, the District will be providing recruiting posters and electronic files to allow the printing of new ones to each of our 12 divisions over the next two months.



Sector Commander's Briefing

We become more integrated into “Team Coast Guard” every day. Under the direction of DSO-CS Rick Taylor, ASC Tom Roberson and DSO-OP Kurt Sarac we are working to develop presentations that can be included in the weekly brief to the Sector Commander. They will include the expected Auxiliary patrols and activities for the upcoming week. We have worked out the technical aspects and are now making sure that the information we present is the information Captain Anderson needs.

Area Training with Awards Lunches

Due to the government shutdown and the cancellation of our D-Train, your District Captains have been developing plans for one-day training in each of our three Areas. You won't want to miss the event near you. These will be free events - no matter how far you live from the event, even if it is closer than 50 miles, you will be reimbursed for your mileage. Lunch will be provided at no cost to you. Best of all, you will be able to get some great training! Keep a weather eye out for announcement of the details!

District Leadership

I want to thank the District Board for electing a great group of District Officers. You are being very well served by your hard working District Chief of Staff Joe Giannattasio, your District Captains – Jeff Kuhn, DCAPT West, Kurt Sarac, DCAPT Central, Noreen Schifini, DCAPT East, your IPDCO COMO Barry Kyper and the President of the Past Commanders Association, Al Grimminger. Together with your Director, LCDR Taylor, this is your District Executive Committee or EXCOM.

Thank you for your support, fellowship and everything you are doing for the boating public, the US Coast Guard and your fellow Auxiliaries!

Message from the Chief of Staff

Do your friends know you're an Auxiliarist?

It started innocently enough with a text message from Michelle, a college classmate. Her 17-year-old daughter Reena recently joined the Sea Scouts and really took to the idea of boating. Sea Scouts is a specialized program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women ages 14 to 20 organized to address a youth members' boating skills and promote knowledge of our maritime heritage. In September, the BSA and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary announced a new agreement to make Sea Scouts the official youth program of the Auxiliary.

Michelle, knowing that I've been a boater since high school and a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, asked if I could take her and her daughter boating next time they visited the Jersey Cape.

Are you kidding? Auxiliarists rarely need an excuse to get underway, but taking someone on their first boat trip is a real treat.

On the agreed upon day, we all met at the Cape May (FL 08-02) Flotilla's docks. Before we walked to the boat, I asked Reena about her experience in the Sea Scouts. She said they took the New Jersey Boating Safety Course, created a float plan and sailed a boating simulator, among other tasks. That was the part of the training she seemed to enjoy the most.

Together we performed a vessel safety check allowing Reena to become familiar with the boat, its systems, location of gear and safety equipment, and to provide a practical reinforcement of what she already learned in her boating safety course.

Before we started making way, I reassured Reena — and her mom — that this would be a very smooth and gentle voyage. The goal is to enjoy the experience, but if at any time anyone feels uneasy to let me know — no questions or judgment — and we'll return to port.

That briefing was hardly needed. Once making way, I turned the helm over to Reena. With a few prompts from me, Reena drove for the next 90 minutes and did a wonderful job. While the voyage was less than ideal due to the many vacationing recreational boaters, it certainly wasn't congested and afforded a nice first experience for Reena.

A few turns into the reach leading to the docks brought Reena's first voyage to a close. She played it pretty cool on the outside, but she was fully engaged and happy to be involved as we tied up to the dock.

Success. Another positive first boating experience for the next generation.

That voyage wouldn't have happened if Michelle hadn't known — or remembered — I was an Auxiliarist. So that begs the question...do your non-Auxiliary friends know you're an Auxiliarist?



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

A Focus on 5NR Departments



Marine Safety

The Coast Guard and MARPOL Annex VI

We normally think of water pollution prevention/abatement as the primary concern of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary when it comes to the Environmental Protection component of Marine Safety and rightly so, yet a significant piece of international legislation, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships or MARPOL, contains one whole "annex" or series of provisions called Annex VI dealing with air pollution from ocean-going ships. In U.S. law, this is the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, 33 U.S.C. 1901-1905, a.k.a. "APPS."

Without going into great detail, Annex VI is the international air pollution requirements that limit emission of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and regulations requiring usage of low sulfur content fuel in ocean-going vessels. Ocean-transiting vessels also emit fine particulate matter, sulfur oxides (SO_x), hydrocarbons (HC), and carbon monoxide (CO). The aforementioned provisions are applicable to all U.S. waters and the North American Emission Control Area or ECA which is an area 200 nautical miles off the coast of North America.

U.S.-flagged vessels with a regulated diesel engine(s) are required to have an Engine International Air Pollution Prevention or EIAPP certificate issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Some vessels must have an International Air Pollution Certificate or IAPP which is USCG-issued. Either the Coast Guard or EPA may bring legal action for violations noted during inspections of U.S. flagged vessels and non-U.S. flagged vessels subject to Port State Control inspections while in U.S. waters.

The EPA and USCG entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 27 JUN 2011 which ensures joint effort to oversee marine fueling facilities, on-board inspections, and review of records which includes EIAPP certificates, a file for each diesel engine containing engine specs to be used for compliance with NO_x limits and a record book of engine parameters for recording all changes made relative to an engine's components and settings. Additionally, fuel suppliers must provide bunker delivery notes and fuel samples which are kept on board for three years and 12 months respectively, <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/jointletter062711.pdf>.

USCG diligence in carrying out this mission of monitoring air pollution by ships helps to ensure that ships do not harm the environment by contributing unnecessary air pollution.

Gregg Bollinger, Th.D

ADSO-MS (W), SO-MS Div. 19, FSO-MS Flotilla 19-04



Gregg Bollinger
DSO
Marine Safety

A Focus on 5NR Divisions



Division 8

DIVISION 8 CONDUCTS SCHOOL FOR BOAT CREW TRAINEES

Article and Photographs by Joseph Giannattasio, QE

The Spring is the best time of year to prepare your vessel, your equipment, and your PPE for the start of Auxiliary Patrol season. It is also a perfect time to prepare members with Boat Crew training.

In the beginning of the year Division 8 members interesting in pursuing Boat Crew qualifications attending a six-weekend Crew School organized and coordinated by John Tredinnick and Ralph Atwell (FL82). Joseph Giannattasio QE and a cadre of instructors included Glenna Tredinnick, Tony Kupstas, James Carey, and Jim McCarty AUX-TCT provided the trainees a well-rounded curriculum of training to prepare them for task completions and qualifications. A bonus for the Boat Crew candidates was receiving instruction and demonstrations from the Active Duty from USCG STATION CAPE MAY.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat Crew school provides trainees with theoretical and practical knowledge in safety, first aid, seamanship, navigation, boat operations, vessel construction, basic principles of marine engines and minor repairs, vessel handling, distress situations, and other topics related to Auxiliary vessel operations. Working with experienced Trainers and active duty personnel, Boat Crew Schools organized within Flotilla or Division units provides members wishing to obtain their Boat Crew qualification a wonderful venue to learn and work as a team.

Once qualified, Members can patrol area waters assisting the Coast Guard in recreational boater safety.



Water swim and test was conducted at the pool at TRACEN.

Boat Crew trainees receive practical Radio Communications guidance from the “pros” at the Radio Room at USCG STATION



Division 8, continued

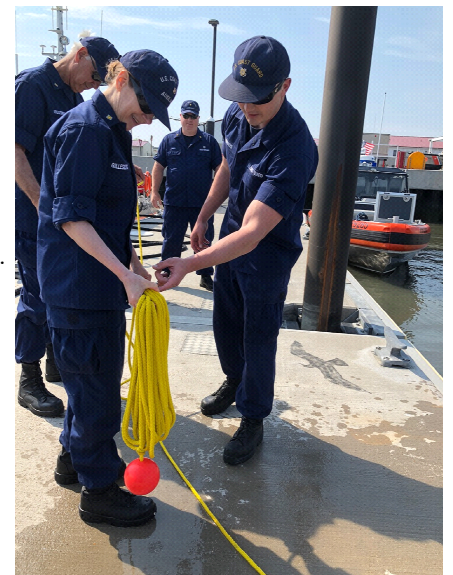
DIVISION 8 CONDUCTS SCHOOL FOR BOAT CREW TRAINEES, continued.



Line and Marlinspike skills training at SEAMANSHIP SCHOOL at



Personnel from USCG STATION CAPE MAY provide practical line handling tips for trainees.



Active Duty member presents Boat Crew School completion certificates to trainees.

Division 8, continued

Members Demonstrate Vessel Safety Inspection on Recreational Vessel

BY Joseph Giannattasio, AUXPA1

Atlantic City, N.J. — The Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 8 (5NR) invited media members to attend a vessel safety inspection at Coast Guard Station Atlantic City in Atlantic City on April 27th. Before video crews from three regional news television stations, Auxiliarists simulated a vessel safety inspection, talked about required marine equipment and provided recommendations to boat owners operating in local waters as boating season begins. Vessel safety inspections are important because it gives recreational boaters peace of mind that their boat meets federal safety standards and that in an emergency they will have the necessary equipment to save lives and summon help.

Auxiliarist Jack Kelly and Stan Friedman also talked about “If Found” stickers, which are recommended for owners of kayaks, canoes, windsurfing boards and paddleboards. "If Found" stickers are meant to readily identify the owner of a found paddle craft, enabling emergency services to confirm the whereabouts of the owner. The idea is to make certain that no one is missing or in need of assistance, saving search and rescue efforts and resources while reuniting the craft with its owner.

Viewers were also informed that boat owners interested in getting a free safety check can download the United States Coast Guard mobile app or visit their website.



Division 12

Articles and pictures by Cindi Chaimowitz DCDR Div. 12

As in all the Flotillas across the United States we offer Boat Safety classes, vessel exams etc. I wanted to share some of the 'fun' events that happen south of the Canal in the First State, Delaware.

Safety and Fun on the Nanticoke River

Article and pictures by Cindi Chaimowitz DCDR Div. 12

Providing a safety patrol is one of the goals for the members of 12-02, 12-05, 12-08. For the past several years we have provided safety on the water to the residents of Seaford and their guests at the annual Riverfest. The weather in the past ranges from foggy to super-hot and humid! This fun filled event includes a festival with vendors, music, food, a kayak race, "float in" and so much more. The folks float in tubes of all shapes and sizes and homemade rafts complete with hammocks, grills and slides. We have handed out PFD panda awards to the kids wearing life jackets while swimming with their families and provided relief for divers as they take a break from floating by offering them a line to hold onto and drinking water. We stay on the water until the "float in" is finished and then invite our radio comms. to join us for lunch as we peruse the festival for a bite to eat. We also stop in to visit our public affairs booth located in the festival area. We were "thanked" numerous times for providing a safety patrol by the floaters.



Top Left: Diver Mike Moore



Top Right: Auxiliarist Denny Neild



Bottom: Riverfest Float in 2018



Division 12, Continued

Safety Patrol Polar Bear Plunge

Article by Cindi Chaimowitz DCDR Div. 12

On the first Sunday in February every year (same day as the Super Bowl) the Polar Bear Plunge is held at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Auxiliarists from each of the Flotillas in Division 12 at one time or another have joined in watching the fun and providing safety as over 3,000 plungers charge straight for us as we keep a watchful eye on the shoreline. We guard the water's edge from 11:30 until after the plunge starts at 1300 to make sure no one enters the water before the initial start time and the plungers exit the water safely. We socialize, drink hot chocolate and take pictures with the plungers, divers and DSP cadets while waiting for the big event to start. We discuss what we do as Auxiliarists when we are not standing on the beach in freezing temperatures and chilling winds. When the event is over, we thank each other for sharing part of their busy lives with the Auxiliary and bid each other a good day.



Right: Auxiliarist Cindi Chaimowitz DCDR Div. 12

Left: Donna Doyle, SO-SR Div. 12

Public Affairs Booth Delaware Electric Cooperative

Article by Cindi Chaimowitz DCDR Div. 12

Delaware Electric Cooperative holds their annual meeting and chicken dinner at the Delaware State Fairgrounds. Members of 12-05 and 12-08 provide a public affairs booth, offer boating materials and demonstrate the different knots the auxiliary uses. This event draws over 5,000 people in which we have acquired new membership as well as students for our safe boating classes.

Division 16

Article by Noreen Schifini, IPDCDR Division 16

Division 16 is celebrating our 60th Anniversary in 2018, officially activated on January 1, 1958. We cover an area in New Jersey that it is spread across multiple counties, from Toms River to the south and Eatontown to the north. It is a somewhat diverse area in that the most eastern portion of the AOR is filled with very active boating communities where there is access to the Atlantic Ocean, Barnegat Bay, several rivers as well as lakes as you head west. We are called “Jersey Shore North” as we cover approximately 27 miles on the Atlantic Ocean and the corresponding beaches as well as numerous rivers, creeks and coves.

Our Division membership has remained consistent and is comprised of 179 members divided amongst 6 Flotilla’s. Our members provide direct support for the Coast Guard in the following areas: 6 members Helo Ops qualified; 3 watch standers and 1 trainee for the Atlantic Strike Team; 4 qualified AUXFS; 3 Watch standers at Station Manasquan; 1 – Ombudsman and 1 member that is USCG Boat Crew qualified who also assists with general maintenance.

Our Division is very active in operations as we have 17 Operational Facilities helmed by 22 Coxswains and manned by 32 Boat Crew members. We also have 3 Qualification Examiners. We support Station Manasquan and Station Small Shark River performing MOM Patrols promoting boating safety and respond to situations as directed by Station Manasquan.



Here's our boat crew providing a security zone for the Firework Displays at Windward Beach as well as the Offshore Powerboat races. We assist Station Manasquan with two boat OPs Training weekly.

*Photo by Auxiliarist
Noreen Schifini,
PA3 Specialist*

Division 16, Continued



Our qualified watch standers at the recent Change of Command for the Atlantic Strike Team.

Photo by Auxiliariist Noreen Schifini, PA3 Specialist

Division 16 currently has 3 qualified Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners (CFVE). CFVE's conduct these safety exams year round with a minimum of 2 examiners at each exam. They also assist with exams in other major fishing ports such as Barnegat Light and Cape May. There is an extensive hands-on qualification process to become a CFVE. It includes attendance at exams, two day F/V Drill Instructor's Course and culminates in a Qualls Board held at District/Phila. We are active in Public Affair, with 1 member recently certified as a PA3 Specialist. We have 49 Instructors, 50 VE's and 20 PV's. As with all other units in the Auxiliary, one of our primary objectives is growth through recruiting and Public Affair events. We may be small, but we are very proud of our accomplishments and of our support to the United States Coast Guard.



Station Manasquan

Photo by Auxiliariist Noreen Schifini, PA3 Specialist



PA table at the Wooden Boat Festival

Photo by Auxiliariist Noreen Schifini, PA3 Specialist

Division 19

Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award

Article and Photo by Division Commander Doug Willwerth

Flotilla 19-01 has received the annual distinguished Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award, with the Director and Commodore recognizing them for making the most significant contributions to the Auxiliary program during 2017. Their Public Affairs representation at the annual Kipona Festival in Harrisburg, PA, was a 3-day event that involved boating safety, interest in public education classes, and recruitment to the public. They have and continue to represent the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary at this annual event for the past 4 years. Congratulations to Flotilla 19-01!



Division 21

Making Strides in Diversity, Recruiting, and Retention

Compiled by Victoria A. Remo, 21-04

United States Coast Guard's Fifth Northern Region, commanded by LCDR Victoria L. Taylor, includes Division 21, East Piedmont, so named because it encompasses the Lehigh and Schuylkill River Valleys in the East Piedmont Region of Pennsylvania. The four flotillas in Division 21, diligently commanded by Michael B. McElwee, Division Commander, and Joseph M. Shambo, Division Vice Commander, are mission-oriented and continue to build excellent relationships in their Area of Responsibility at Lake Nockamixon and Blue Marsh Lake, with their stakeholder partners: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Flotilla 21-01, led by Joseph Angelo Deleva, Flotilla Commander, and Carl H. Wischner, Vice Flotilla Commander, met this year in Lansdale on the third Tuesday of each month and focused on Public Affairs Missions with the idea that all members always participate in public affairs missions. Specifically, these members emphasize the wearing of proper uniforms, wearing proper ribbons, attending to personal appearance, and following regulations. Some of the Public Affairs Missions included parades, community festivals, meeting with a large local boat club and fishermen's organizations, National Night Out at Macungie Memorial Park and Lehigh Park. Tables were also manned at Jacobsburg Environmental Center. Public affairs events include educating the public on the missions of the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary and encouraging recruiting. Two members are working toward their PA qualifications. To precipitate public interest and member retention, Flotilla 21-04 expanded its Program Visitor mission to include community centers, libraries, insurance agents, first responder groups, and other civic groups. Member Training and retention are evident in the Operations Program with a newly certified coxswain, Joseph Shambo. Another flotilla member is working toward qualification in the Trident Program, and two members are interested in becoming boat crew qualified. The members of Flotilla 21-01 had a very active and rewarding year.

Patrick M. Morroney, Flotilla Commander, and Cloyd-James G. Scott, Vice Flotilla Commander, steered Flotilla 21-02 in the direction of recruitment and retention. Their newly recruited member is now in AP status, and there are three prospects for new members. Current members are retained through active participation in Program Visitation, Vessel Examination, and Public Affairs missions which also double as recruiting events. Member Training events are planned to keep members active and interested. Flotilla 21-02 is growing in service to the Pottstown area.

Edward H. Wandall, Flotilla Commander of 21-03, and Christopher K. Ricco, Vice Flotilla Commander, in an effort to improve member participation this year, increased activities to create more opportunities for members with the idea of putting the "Right People, In the Right Position, Making the Right Decisions." In addition to working on member retention, Flotilla 21-03 increased Public Affairs efforts to bring public awareness to the Auxiliary and to recruit new members. This flotilla will continue to improve recruitment and retention efforts.

Continued on the next page...

Division 21, continued

Flotilla 21-04, piloted by Barron M. Batchelder, Flotilla Commander, and Bonnie L. Duffin, Vice Commander, was a very active flotilla with over 20 members present at each meeting. Morale was excellent, and members enjoyed fellowship at the meetings. Member retention was evidenced by enthusiastic participation in meetings, activities, and monthly Member Training, usually conducted by Peter Overcast. Recruiting is an integral part of 21-04's missions (first three quarters of 2018): 216 Marine Dealer Visits, 98 Vessel Exams, 15 MOM Patrols (68 hours) with 4 SARs and 16 people assisted, Public Education courses, Member Training (48 hours), Public Affairs (87 hours) with some new venues. In addition to thriving missions, this flotilla demonstrated fruitful recruiting and congratulated Ken Brennan, Devin Keith, and Ashley, Ogle, on becoming new members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 21-04.

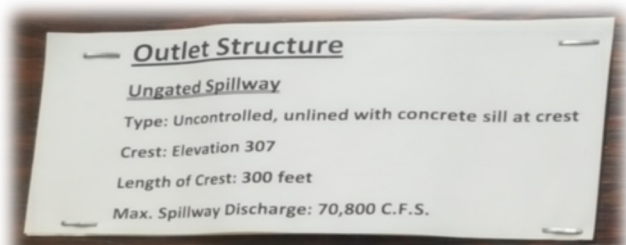
The superb morale and participation of the group is reflected by the earning of new qualifications and awards throughout the year. The Surface Operations Program was improved by Michael McElwee who earned his Coxswain Qualifications and by Walter Alsegg who added another Operational Facility to our flotilla. Telecommunications Officer Qualifications were warranted for James White. Jessica Matern, James White, and Chris Schretzenmaier merited Program Visitor Qualifications. Bonnie Duffin earned the Recreational Boating Safety Device Award. Jacob Trombley earned his Instructor Qualifications. James White merited Vessel Examiner Qualifications and passed his Auxiliary Leadership and Management course. Flotilla 21-04 exhibits outstanding motivation.



At D-Train in March, Barron Batchelder and Mike McElwee were awarded the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medals and Commendations for Superior Service.



Before the September Flotilla 21-04 monthly meeting, members were invited to tour the Dam Tower at Blue Marsh Lake. Brianna Treichler, Park Ranger at Blue Marsh, presented an excellent tour of the dam interior by providing a wealth of information concerning the operation of the dam.



Division 21, continued

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary values, diversity, teamwork, and responsiveness. The mission of valuing diversity is to build a positive work environment for all personnel, regardless of their similarities or differences, and a climate of mutual respect for all.



Michael McElwee and Walter Conway reported up the Chain of Leadership Flotilla 21-04's emphasis on diversity, and at the September flotilla meeting, Barron Batchelder had the honor of presenting to his flotilla the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Diversity Management Three Star Award of Excellence. Recipients of this award are members of flotillas whose leaders create a positive environment. Integral in this leadership, besides the commanders, is the Diversity Staff Officer, Mike McElwee. In this positive environment, leaders value all members, promote individual success, and carry out diverse outreach activities in the community.

Division 21 had a dynamic year in Public Affairs with at least fifteen venues for activities which promote the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary and Recreational Boating Safety. The Program Visitor agenda was expanded with new venues and two new program visitors. By September, Division 21 completed 284 visits. Three recently qualified Telecommunications Operators expanded the Telecommunications Operations which is a vital component of the Surface Missions in Operations. By September, 199.65 mission hours were logged with 479.3 man hours in combined mission. Public Education is always a priority in Division 21, and four new venues were acquired this year. Also a major focus within the division is Member Training. In the spring, Division Day provides training for Operations and Vessel Exams. Recently, in October, a workshop provided members with the opportunity to take their AuxCT courses with the help of mentors. Member Training continues to take precedence at most of division and flotilla monthly meetings as well. Division 21 had a vibrant year of missions, motivation, and memorable awards as well as honor, respect, and devotion to duty.

Information from Around the District



Fellowship

As the summer gets into full swing, the members of District 5NR are out on the water, in the air, at marinas and boat ramps and in front of classes helping and educating the boating public all in an effort to improve boating safety. These things would not happen without motivated members willing to volunteer their time and energy.

We're motivated by many things but we should always keep in mind that fellowship can be both a powerful motivation and a "glue" that can hold us together as many of these efforts require groups of us working together to be successful. The friendships we develop and assistance we give one another are great reasons to join and to remain active!

Please include fellowship events in your activities whenever possible – and be sure to invite potential members too!

COMO Thomas J. Dever



Saturday 14 July, 2018 Fellowship Picnic Lunch

Andy Crowley, SARDET Marcus Hook Coordinator organized a very successful QE day. Twenty six members from several divisions participated - including about a dozen who were tested for their original or three-year Coxswain and Crew qualifications. There were four qualification examiners on the five participating boats. The event was held at the Ridley Township Marina on Darby Creek and the nearby Delaware River with morning and afternoon sessions and a fellowship picnic lunch attended by all.

Continued on the next page...

Fellowship, Continued



Tuesday 7 August 2018 Congressional Mission Day

Auxiliary members from several divisions participated in a demonstration for 17 members of Congress and representatives from PA, NJ and DE. After the demonstration, Auxiliarists joined the Active Duty from Station Philadelphia and Sector Delaware Bay for fellowship and lunch at the Galley.

Photo by BM1 Knorr.



Flotilla 08-02 members and friends at a recent Memorial Day picnic. This is one of many such events held throughout the district every year.

Photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

Auxiliary Aircraft Support Coast Guard Surface Units

By Joseph Giannattasio

Coast Guard Auxiliary District Fifth Northern aircrews conduct flyovers to assess the inlets and waterways for Coast Guard Small Boat Stations in New Jersey. These waterway assessments are conducted in order to identify and photo-document shoaling and navigational obstructions around major inlets and the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW).

Initiated in 2012, the Auxiliary overflights specifically focused on increasing the Coast Guard's maritime domain awareness. Another key benefit of the missions have resulted in better situational awareness - Coast Guard surface units gaining observations of local waterway conditions following the winter season, after major storms, and providing marine mammal observation data.

LCDR Noel Johnson, Commanding Officer USCG Station Atlantic City describes the benefits of these missions, "The overflight photographs were invaluable to our crew. We conducted all hands training viewing the pictures and discussing current shoaling and best ways to travel through certain areas. In fact, based on the pictures we added additional restrictions to transiting through Corson Inlet. Following the winter storms we had identified that there was increased shoaling in the inlet, but we did not know the severity until seeing the aerial shots." LCDR Johnson included, "The photographs possibly prevent our crews from grounding. This mission was another example of how well the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary work together to achieve common goals."

BMC Kristopher Knowles, Executive Officer USCG Station Cape May states, "The overflights benefit the surface units in determining the location of shifting shoals and or sand bars. This enables us show coxswains and break-in coxswains where the best water would be when transiting. This also benefits us in having a real picture of the AOR so the communications watch standers get a real picture of the AOR rather than just a plain chart."

According to Auxiliarist Bill Fithian, ADSO-AV-Training, "The information gathered from area overflights informs the district air program's future requirements by, for example, improving pilot familiarity with the region, providing information on the individual capabilities of aircraft, and allowing air crews to develop and experience new skillsets."

BMC Knowles sums it up succinctly, "The saying that 'pictures are worth a thousand words' is completely fitting for this."



Aerial view of Corson's Inlet, NJ.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

Auxiliary Aircraft Support Coast Guard Surface Units

Continued



Hereford Inlet, NJ from the air.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Bill Fithian



(L to R) Auxilairists Bill Fithian, Air Crew and Howard Davis, Aircraft Commander plan the route for an aerial waterway photo mission.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio



(L to R) Auxilairists Bill Fithian, Air Crew and Howard Davis, Aircraft Commander .

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio

Operation: HikeAIR

By Linda Skvarla ADSO-PB - District Fifth Northern

He was scared, but the young hiker still knew what to do when he got lost during a wilderness outing in the New Jersey Pine Barrens: He remembered the three priorities: shelter, fire, and ... signal. The hiker was prepared and had packed an orange distress flag and a roll of orange surveyor's ribbon before venturing out. In a clearing he constructed a visual distress signal to attract help. Later in the day he heard the sound of an airplane in the sky. He craned his neck up toward the direction of the sound and sighted a Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft circling overhead, dipping its wings right & left several times to let the hiker know "Gotcha, don't worry, I see where you are located."

That was the scenario members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 08 (5NR) and the district's Air Program (AUXAIR) participated in training exercises in July that could help save a life. Auxiliarists Joseph Giannattasio DSO-AV, Aircraft Commander Howard Davis, Bill Fithian ADSO-AV-Training, and Joe Lee IPFC 08-07 developed the exercise, assigned the mission name Operation HikeAir, to practice ways to handle emergency search situations in the woods. This is the first documented operation of this type in District Fifth Northern. "Most of the time, getting 'lost' on land is a matter of becoming temporarily disoriented. Some people become so disoriented that they need to be rescued," explained Lee. "Having multiple effective ways to signal for help can make all the difference in a survival situation where outside help is warranted. Signaling is one of the most under-practiced and under-emphasized survival skill sets that most outdoor enthusiasts consider."

Their proposal to the district's operations training officer (OTO) and the Order Issuing Authority (OIA) USCG Air Station Atlantic City included the following mission overview: Auxiliarist Joe Lee deploys an orange distress signal flag surrounded by a triangle of orange surveyor's tape in a clearing within his wooded farmland in Cumberland County, NJ. After a mission pre-brief among the air crew, an Auxiliary aircraft is dispatched to the general area of the farm and conducts a Victor-Sierra search pattern attempting to establish a visual of the distress signal until sighting is confirmed. Secondary evolutions involve monitoring the effectiveness of various Visual Distress Signals.

The primary goal of the mission was to determine and photo-document the practical challenges of locating a distress signal in a wilderness environment and determining location coordinates for rescue units. The findings may also prove useful in focusing practical survival information to hikers, hunters and outdoors enthusiasts, and develop practical wilderness SAR exercises for Auxiliary Air Program personnel.

"We strive to incorporate realistic challenges and scenarios in our search and rescue exercises," said Giannattasio. "Plus offer practical experiences for air crews to learn, broaden their skillsets, and share their knowledge with others."

Operation HikeAir creates a realistic training scenario for District 5NR's air program which demonstrates their operational abilities and also highlights how to expand proficiency for actual wilderness search and rescue missions.

Aerial view of Corson's Inlet, NJ.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

Operation: HikeAIR, *continued*



Deployed distress signal with marker tape.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Lee



First visual of distress signal from distance.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio

View of distress signal from above.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio



Distress signal viewed off tip of wing.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio



Reflections Upon a Coast Guard Funeral

By Gregg Bollinger, Th D., DSO-MS

On 16 AUG 2018, I was privileged to attend the funeral for past Fifth Northern Commodore and retired USCG Commander, Lionel "Lee" Crossman held at Arlington National Cemetery. Also in attendance as mourners were Past Commodores Robert Perrone, Richard Raudabaugh, and Kevin Murphy along with Commander Glenna Tredinnick, USCG (ret.).

Upon entering the cemetery, we proceeded by vehicle to the "staging" area which is a building with gathering areas for family and friends of the deceased to comfortably await the short vehicular trip to "Chaplains' Hill" where we were met with what I can only describe as the sad but beautiful sight of the Coast Guard Honor Guard, resplendent in crisp, dress blue uniforms, replete with polished rifles capped by bayonets, gleaming in the sun and full complement of flags unfurled in the gentle breeze. A truly moving sight played-out as the disciplined pall bearers respectfully lifted Commander Crossman's casket onto the horse-drawn caisson with exacting precision.

After witnessing this segment of the ceremony, we proceeded to the cemetery section that was to be Commander Crossman's final resting place. The graveside service was conducted by a Navy chaplain, attired in crisp summer white dress uniform who spoke wonderful words of praise for Commander Crossman and comfort to his bereaved family. Particularly poignant was the unfolding of the national ensign that had covered the casket and the taut holding of it by the pall bearers over the casket. It was as if they were providing a shade or shield from the sun one final time for Commander Crossman before he was interred. I was reminded of Psalms 121:5-6: "The LORD watches over you--the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night," (NIV).

The relative quiet of the service was then punctuated by the playing of "Taps" and the firing of a "Twenty-one Gun" salute by the Coast Guard riflemen. The service concluded with a benedictory prayer and dismissal of the mourners but the honor guard remained in traditional fashion, standing guard over their fallen shipmate until his comital to the sacred soil of Arlington.

My condolences are extended to the Crossman family and to all those who mourn Commander Crossman's "passing the bar." He was a fine officer and gentleman who will be missed.

Semper Paratus,

Gregg Bollinger, Th D., DSO-MS

Seven Flotillas Receive the Three-Star NACON Diversity Award

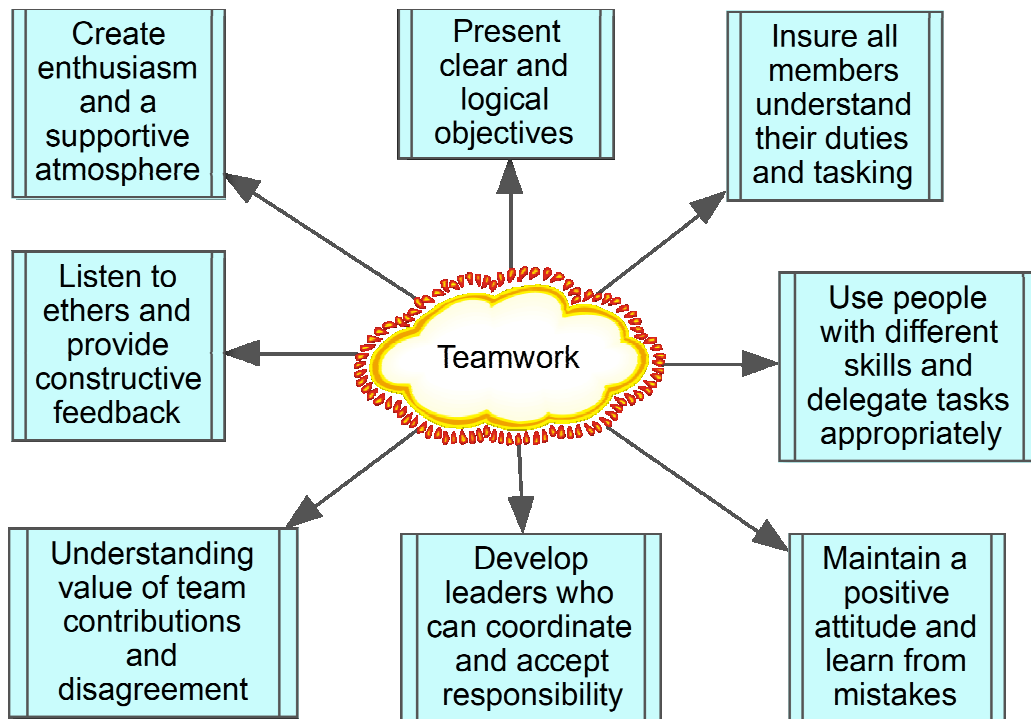
Marilyn F. Hughes, DSO-DV/CR

Congratulations to the following seven Fifth Northern Flotillas for receiving the Three-Star Diversity Award for 2017: 07-09 Lacey Township NJ (third award), 08-01 Ocean City NJ, 12-09 USCG Station Indian River Inlet, 15-11 Easton PA, 16-10 Metedeconk River NJ, 20-01 Rayston PA, and 21-04 Reading PA. The Coast Guard and the Auxiliary take diversity seriously and understanding what diversity is and is not is paramount to running our flotillas.

First of all, diversity is NOT quotas, sensitivity training, Affirmative Action or total assimilation. Diversity is about the people and their unique talents of our members and the members of our teams. It is how we value one another and think which translates into how we act.

Diversity is a matter of readiness when we train for mission excellence. It is about how our leaders understand the value of building these diverse and inclusive teams. It is also about developing the individual differences to help all members achieve their individual goals while supporting our missions.

If you look at the seven principles of TCT (Mission Analysis, Leadership, Adaptability/Flexibility, Communication, Assertiveness, Situational Awareness, and Decision Making) you will see that the underlying idea is diversity. Working together, a team accomplishes more. Mother Theresa once said, "I can do things you cannot do, and you can do things I cannot do. However, together we can do great things."



Recruiting and retention are priorities for the Coast Guard and the Axillary as well as diversity. If we recruit a diverse membership we support our future growth. Promoting inclusion supports member retention and leadership development which in turn, helps to build effective teams.

When we appreciate diversity, we enrich our organization and the world.

5NR Efforts During the Government Shutdown

During the Government shutdown from Dec 22, 2018 to January 25, 2019, the Coast Guard Auxiliary was still active. On the next 2 pages are such events:

Coast Guard Auxiliary food distribution



In the two years Flotilla 1805 has participated in the Feds Feeds Families Program, members donated over 2,305 lbs. of non perishable food items to the Food Bank of South Jersey. It was through FFF Program that 1805 developed a rapport with Kristen DeJesus and Staff at FBSJ.

During the JAN 2019 government shut down, Division 18:

Flotilla Commander 1805 Mark DiSeveria placed a call to FBSJ, Ms. DeJesus for a possible donation of 500 lbs non perishable items to the Coast Guard at Sector DEL BAY. Her reply was 'can you take more?'

After numerous phone calls and planning, during the early morning of Thursday 31 JAN 2019 FBSJ delivered ten pallets of non perishable food items to Fort Dix. The final plan of action, would be the Strike Team to distribute the needed non perishable items between the bases at Fort Dix and Sector DEL BAY.

This is a true testament of what you give, you get back ten fold

Kathleen A Kunyczka
 Division Commander
 D5NR- Division 18

5NR Efforts During the Government Shutdown, Continued

Recognition of Auxiliarist Pantry/Support at Sector Delaware Bay



On Wednesday, February 27th Active Duty members of Sector Delaware Bay organized a very special “Thank You” lunch to the Auxiliarists that actively helped and supported area Coast Guard families during the government shutdown.

CAPT Scott Anderson and LCDR Victoria Taylor presented awards to the deserving Auxiliarists before the Sector’s compliment and the galley prepared a wonderful “You Are AUXsome!” cake for the occasion.



Photographs from 5NR





WHY DID YOU JOIN THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY?

The teaser image for “Top Gun: Maverick,” and a tribute photo with 5NR Aircraft Commander Howard Davis is a reference to how the original 1986 film planted the idea early in life for many young men and women to experience flying and pursue careers in military and general aviation. Wherever your interests lie, and whatever skill-sets you possess, the Coast Guard Auxiliary can offer you a way to serve that will enrich your life in ways you may not have imagined.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo-illustration by Joseph Giannattasio.



USCG Auxiliary District 5 Northern Region USCG Auxiliary District 5 Northern Region Receives a



US 202 just south of West Chester in Westtown Township, Chester County, PA

Catalyst Outdoor (www.CatalystOutdoor.com) has made a generous and unsolicited gift of free advertising to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 5 Northern Region. This generous gift is due to their appreciation of the work our volunteers do and their desire to assist us in our advertising efforts to recruit new volunteer members.

Catalyst will be displaying recruiting ads on their digital monuments from mid-March until mid-April. The ads will be displayed for 8 seconds, every 2 minutes. Conservatively, they expect each ad to be displayed over 400 times a day. It could be much more.

The ads are currently playing on Units on US 202 just south of West Chester in Westtown Township, Chester County, PA; on Route 309 just south of the PA Turnpike in Springfield, Montgomery County, PA and on Route 1 just east of I-95 in Middletown, Bucks County, PA.

Tom Dever
District Commodore
District 5NR

Continued on the next page...

USCG Auxiliary District 5 Northern Region Receives a Gift of Free Recruiting Advertising, continued



Route 309 just south of the PA Turnpike in Springfield, Montgomery County, PA



Route 1 and Oxford Valley Road just east of I-95 in Middletown, Bucks County, PA

USCG Auxiliary's 79th Birthday Celebration



Sector Delaware Bay: Pictures from the cake cutting ceremony at Sector Delaware bay on 19 June 2018 to celebrate the Auxiliary's 79th birthday.

Photographs taken by LCDR Victoria L. Taylor



James Sheridan, Division Commander of Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division 15-Northern Lakes, conducts a Vessel Safety Check at Harveys Lake.

Photo taken by John Marks



William Durdon (R) a member of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 15-11 Easton, mentors the Flotilla's newest member, Leon Regis (L), in how to conduct a Vessel Safety Check at Harveys Lake.

Photo taken by John Marks



A photo from the Flotilla 16-7 meeting and goodbye ceremony for Jack Witmeyer.



Contributors

I thought it would be a nice touch to highlight some of the contributors to TOPSIDE. My hope is that this section can grow as more people contribute. In that light, I would like to encourage you to contribute to this newsletter. Not only would you be contributing to the Auxiliary in a valuable way, also you can see your name and picture featured across the district. Who wouldn't like that?!

For this issue I was able to track down one of the major contributors to TOPSIDE over the years. He agreed to be the first featured in an issue. He has been a mentor and advisor to me as I took the reigns of this publication department and he is currently the District Chief of Staff. I am happy to present Joe Giannattasio.

There's scarcely an aspect of the Coast Guard Auxiliary that Joe Giannattasio hasn't accomplished as an author, photographer, elected officer, appointed officer, or among his many mission qualifications. He has accumulated over 34,000 hours of service and last year Joe was selected as the Coast Guard's National Auxiliarist of the Year for 2017.



A Message from the Editor

Happy April 5NR,

Summer patrol season is just about upon us. This time of year is a great opportunity for pictures and stories. So, please take a couple of extra minutes while out on patrol and snap a couple of pictures. I will be happy to include them in TOPSIDE.

Just as a reminder, make sure that the correct uniforms are being used and worn properly. Believe it or not, two of the biggest errors I see are the Tropical Blues being worn with an incorrect cover and lack of life jackets when required. I cannot use pictures if I see errors in uniforms (sometimes I do miss things too!).

Also, if you have an interesting event or activity, you are very welcome to send me a write-up and I will also include it in the

newsletter. Remember, the newsletter is only as good as the submissions that I receive.

Finally, this issue of TOPSIDE is way overdue. This was to be the September 2018 edition, but for various reasons was very delayed. It has been updated and new articles were added. If, by chance, you sent me an article and it did not appear in this issue, it possibly will next issue. Feel free to resend me the article or pictures and I will use them in another issue.

Take care and continue to be safe.

Semper Paratus,
Tim Marks
DSO-PB



Timothy Marks
District Staff Officer -
Publications

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY 5NR
FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
1 WASHINGTON AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147-4393

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Newsletter Editor

Timothy Marks
District Staff Officer for Publications
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District, Northern Region

tpmarks@comcast.net

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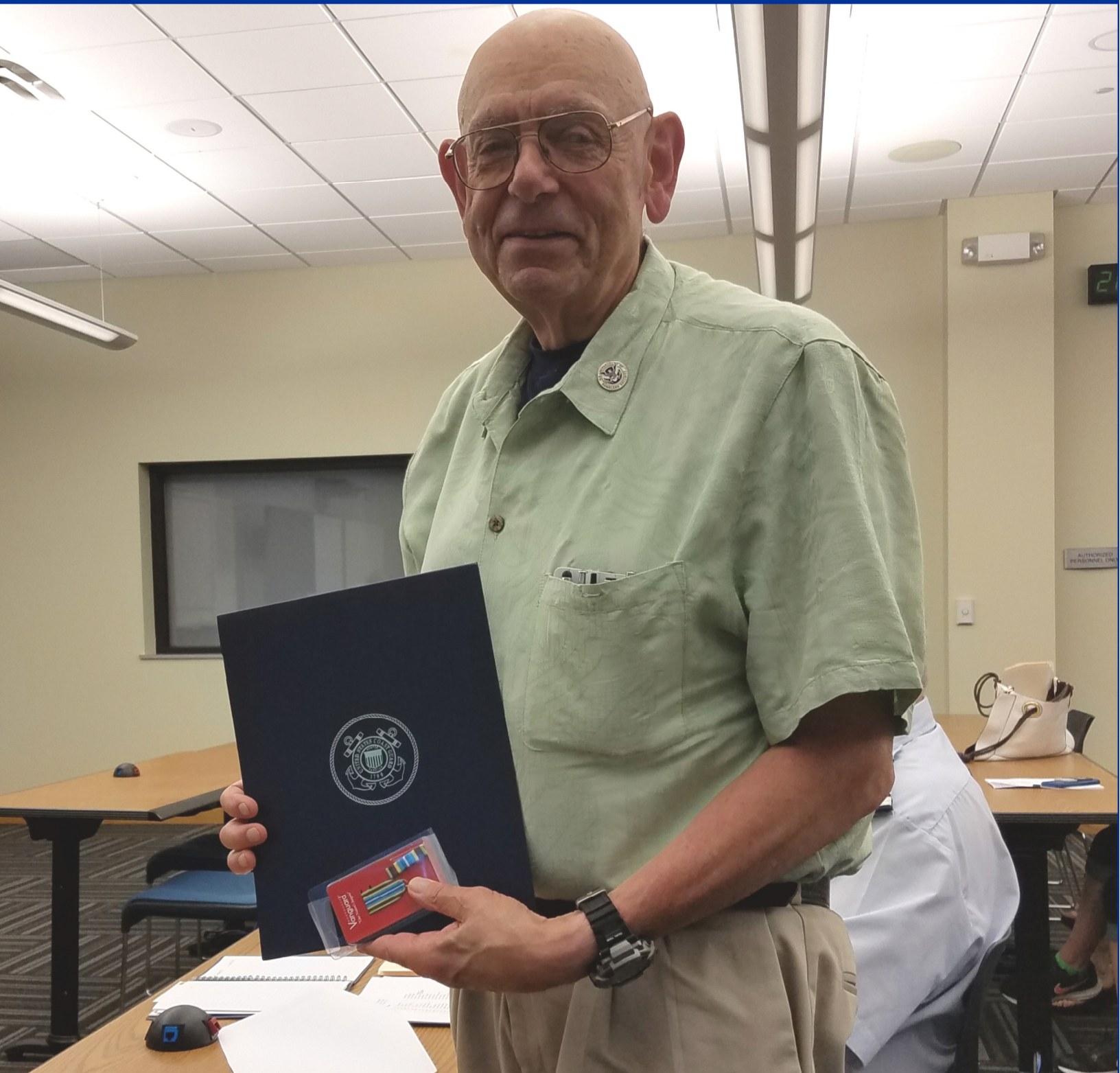
<http://www.cgaux.org/>

5NR Website:

<http://www.5nr.org/index.php>



Parting Shot



Stephen A. Brickman, Vice Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 15-11 Easton was presented with a “United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Letter of Commendation” on 11 June 2018, for his exemplary dedication to duty during the period of January 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2017, having performed 202 accumulated hours of assistance to the U.S. Coast Guard in that Mr. Brickman performed Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examinations and Port Facilities Safety and Security Inspections, alleviating time consuming demands upon the limited Marine Safety staff at Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay, Philadelphia, PA. Steve has been a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary since September 2006. Over his voluntary career with the Coast Guard he has assisted with numerous Hurricane Relief efforts both in the United States, Haiti and other Caribbean Nations. His dedication and hard work are a shining example of selfless devotion to duty.

Photo taken by John Marks