

Summer 2023

Volume 120, Issue 2

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

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



# topside

80 Years of Topside  
**1943 - 2023**



Inside this issue:

*Table of Contents* 2  
*5NR Leadership* 2  
*Commodore's Message* 3  
*DCAPT Messages* 4-6  
*DIRAX Message* 7  
*OTO Message* 8  
*Help Needed* 9-10  
*Information from Around the District* 11-29  
*History of the District* 30-39  
*5NR Obscura* 40-41  
*Photographs* 42-51  
*COMMS Center* 52-72  
*Message from the Editor* 73  
*Contact Information* 73  
*Parting Shot* 74

**Confidentiality Notice Privacy Act of 1974**

The disclosure of personal information contained in this publication is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. The subject Act with certain exceptions prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination or copying of any material containing home addresses, home telephone numbers, spouses' names, and social security numbers, except for official business. Violation may result in disciplinary action by the Coast Guard and/or civilian criminal sanction.

*Leadership of 5NR*

- Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)**  
 CDR M. Chad Morgan
- Operations Training Officer (OTO)**  
 CWO4 Mickey T. Price
- District Commodore (DCO)**  
 Kurt P. Sarac, Sr
- District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)**  
 Noreen Schifini
- District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)**  
 Timothy D. Precht
- District Captain East (DCAPT-E)**  
 Thomas Johnston Don
- District Captain West (DCAPT-W)**  
 Michael B. McElwee
- Immediate Past Commodore**  
 COMO Joseph J. Giannattasio
- President Past Captains Association**  
 Alfred O. Grimminger
- Division\ Commanders**
- DCDR 04** Andrew C. Crowley  
**DCDR 07** Thomas H. Brouillard  
**DCDR 08** Lorraine Bianco  
**DCDR 12** Stephen Paul Straneva  
**DCDR 15** Kimberly A. Weber  
**DCDR 16** Basil Iwanyk  
**DCDR 17** Jeffery A. Davis  
**DCDR 18** Armand F. Dauria  
**DCDR 19** Edwin W. Seda  
**DCDR 20** William R. Turner  
**DCDR 21** Walter Conway

- D-AD** Jason C. Flynn  
**D-AD** J. Douglas Willwerth  
**DSO-C** Jason C. Flynn  
**DSO-C** COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown  
**DSO-DV** Ruth A. Bearce  
**DSO-FN** Mark F. Letavish  
**DSO-LP** Francis P. Bigley  
**DSO-SL** Harry W. Otto  
**DFSO** Thomas Callahan III
- DDC-Logistics** Robert G. Vanderhook
- DSO-CS** Richard Taylor, II  
**DSO-CA** Noreen Schifini  
**DSO-HR** Steven G. Trojanov  
**DSO-IS** Harry F. Dyer  
**DSO-MA** Jeffery Wilt  
**DSO-PB** Timothy P Marks  
**DSO-SR** Donald W. Merrill
- DDC-Prevention** Alfred O. Grimminger
- DSO-AS** James Robert White  
**DSO-MS** Gregg R. Bollinger  
**DSO-MT** Terry F. Bearce  
**DSO-NS** Frank J. Williams  
**DSO-PA** COMO Kevin C. Murphy  
**DSO-PE** Pamela L. Thompson  
**DSO-PV** Russell M. Galson  
**DSO-VE** Edwin W. Seda
- DDC-Response** Vacant
- DSO-EM** Thomas V Roberson  
**DSO-CM** Richard B. Taylor II  
**DSO-AV** Steve Longnecker  
**DSO-OP** Donald W. Merrill

**Front Cover:** Auxiliarist Sandy Dalton (FL82) serving onboard the USCGC EAGLE as a culinary assistant. This photograph was taken while the Eagle was in Denmark. Ever wanted to serve on a Coast Guard Cutter? Are you interested in working side-by-side with our "gold-side" counterparts? Qualifying as a culinary assistant may be what you are looking for.

*US Coast Guard Photograph*

## *From the Desk of the Commodore*

### **A Heartfelt Thank You and Call for Continued Support**

Dear Members of the 5NR Coast Guard Auxiliary,

I hope this message finds you well and in high spirits. As we reflect on the accomplishments of this past year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to our mission and the incredible work you have done.

Your dedication has been truly remarkable. Together, we have played a vital role in augmenting the billet openings within Team Coast Guard, ensuring that essential positions are filled and operations run smoothly. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed, and I am proud to see the positive impact we've made in chartered role in the safety and security of our great nation.

In supporting RBS (Recreational Boating Safety), we have excelled in our mission to safeguard lives on the water. Our combined efforts have enhanced safety measures, educated the public, and provided invaluable assistance to those in need. This is a testament to the strength of our team and our shared commitment to making our waterways safer for all.

However, as we celebrate our achievements, it is essential to acknowledge that our work is not yet complete. The need for Aux-CA and direct unit support remains as crucial as ever. We must continue recruiting and training dedicated individuals who can join our ranks and help fulfill these vital roles. Our organization's success depends on the continued growth of our membership and capabilities.

I urge all of you to reach out to potential recruits and encourage them to join our cause. Together, we can ensure that our Coast Guard Auxiliary remains a beacon of support and service in the years to come.

Once again, thank you for your exceptional efforts and unwavering dedication. I am honored to serve alongside each one of you and look forward to the great things we will achieve together in the future.

Semper Paratus!

Sincerely,

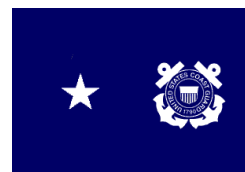
Kurt Sarac Sr

Commodore,

5NR Coast Guard Auxiliary



**Commodore Kurt P. Sarac Sr.**  
**District Commodore**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**



## *Michael B. McElwee, DCAPT-W*

Greetings Shipmates!

The Western Area has been engaged in many missions in the first half of the year! Throughout the summer season we have been on the local waterways conducting many patrols along with successfully executing many SAR cases. The divisions of the western area also held Division Training Days that were vital in training new boat crew members as well as assisting all surface operations members in completing the new Annual Currency Maintenance Task Tracker. In public affairs, many missions were conducted including WWII Weekend in Reading, PA, Kids Safety Day at Mauch Chunk Lake and Lake Hopatcong Block Party as well as participating in National Night Out events throughout our AOR.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Fall D-Train in its new location in Lancaster, PA. There are many excellent training opportunities being offered as well as the chance to meet fellow shipmates from across the district including active duty.

As RBS continues to be a big part of our mission in the Auxiliary, the biggest need currently is assisting the active duty with many important missions. There are so many opportunities available for members to work side by side with active duty at stations in our AOR. Please continue to review the D5NR website on a regular basis to see available opportunities.

Thank you for everything you do for the Coast Guard Auxiliary as well as Team Coast Guard! I am honored to serve as your District Captain-West and look forward to all the great things ahead

Very Respectfully,

Michael McElwee  
District Captain-Western Area  
Fifth Northern District  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



**Michael B. McElwee**  
**District Captain—West**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**

## *Timothy D. Precht, DCAPT-C*

As members of the Auxiliary we have been asked to do more to support our active duty brothers and sisters. Can you say what you did or do fulfills our commitment to the Coast Guard? For those of us that have stepped up, THANK YOU.

COVID knocked us down but now is the time to get back involved or get involved. Get out meetings, do VEs and PVs, get your patrol hours and teach boating safety. That has been the norm in the past, we really need to at least get back to that place. But there are other opportunities. You have heard it before, the active duty needs our help. Ever think about doing Watch Standing or helping in the galley as a CA? Back in June I had the opportunity to work the galley aboard a 154 foot Fast Response Cutter off the coast of New Jersey. An experience that I will not soon forget and am told I am 1 of 10 that have done that in the first 6 months of 2023. Then there are others that served aboard the Polar Star and on the Eagle. All of these are opportunities of a life time. What does it take? Getting involved, stepping up and volunteering. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Not up to serving aboard a boat, that's okay. There are other opportunities for you. Check out the Announcements section on the 5NR web site for job opportunities. If you live a good distance away from where the need the help, many times sleeping accommodations and maybe mileage can be arranged, ASK. You will not know if you do not ask. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you, find something that sounds interesting and go of it. Try it, you just might find that you enjoyed it. And then there is the sense of accomplishment.

Our programs are not the only thing that you can do. Consider a leadership role. Start with an FSO position and if it works out for you, move up. Leaders are always needed in the Auxiliary. Most positions are only a year long term but you can serve 2 one year terms back to back. From the Flotilla level up to the National level, leaders are needed. An organization can't function without them. We can not continue with the same people in the same roles year after year. We need "new blood", fresh thoughts and new ideas as we move forward. "New blood" also comes from new and younger members. Bring them in. Let's move this organization forward and be an active part of this meaningful organization.



**Timothy D. Precht**  
**District Captain—Central**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**

Timothy D. Precht  
District Captain—Central  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region

## *Thomas J. Don, DCAPT-E*

It was requested that District Captains provide a message for Topside. In leu of a message, I have submitted an article for TOPSIDE. VDCDR Marty Sannino wrote this article for me along with some pictures of the CG Festival event at TRACEN Cape May. The article can be read on page 23.

Thomas J. Don  
District Captain—East



Thomas J. Don  
District Captain—East  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region



## *Message from the DIRAUX, Commander Morgan*

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Director of Auxiliary for the past year. With a heavy heart I have requested and been approved for retirement on October 1st of this year. After twenty-four years of combined U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard service my family and I decided the time was right to plant roots in Pennsylvania. My short stint as DIRAUX is not a reflection on the way I feel about the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In fact, it is my intent to join the ranks of the Auxiliary after my retirement. So together with you, we can continue to serve the many needs of our nation.

I have enjoyed working with your auxiliary leadership team and can boldly say they are second to none. Your DIRAUX staff are some of the most professional Coasties I have ever worked with and have enjoyed getting to know each of them. They have truly assisted you with a servant leadership mindset. As my replacement, the Coast Guard was extremely lucky to locate the very capable and knowledgeable CDR Laura Moose.

CDR Moose has previously served as the District 1 South DIRAUX and is joining us from CG headquarters. I know you will welcome her as warmly as you received me. This will be my last time writing to you as DIRAUX, but I hope that I will continue to see many of the members that I have met again and meet more of the D5 auxiliary membership over the coming years. Thank-you for your dedicated service.

CDR M. Chad Morgan

U.S. Coast Guard

Director of Auxiliary

Fifth District - Northern Region



**CDR M. Chad Morgan  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Director of Auxiliary  
Fifth District - Northern Region**

## *From the OTO's Desk*

Greetings! What a difference a year makes – in the past 14 months I have been witness to many Auxiliary successes and I have a much better understanding of our organization's importance to the nation. Every day our members are sustaining CG missions (even more significant when the Auxiliary is the only CG presence in a community) and helping in so many different areas when and where the Coast Guard needs it most. This is made possible by our members unstopable desire to contribute to Coast Guard mission success. Those of you who have been actively involved know that the opportunities to contribute seem to be increasing daily. If we are going to meet those opportunities with the trademark Auxiliary enthusiasm and professionalism necessary for mission excellence, then we must ensure we maintain a strong organization. Please consider how your relationships and actions can contribute to our organizational successes. Be proud of the work you are doing *while also* inviting others to participate! Offer your time to leadership positions – there are so many people who can help you be successful. And always serve within the spirit of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.



**CWO4 Mickey Price, OTO**  
**U.S. Coast Guard**  
**Director of Auxiliary**  
**Fifth District - Northern Region**



I would also like to take this time to solicit for involvement with two specific programs: Auxiliary Paddle-craft (AUXPAD) and the D5NR Mascot program. The Paddle craft afloat outreach program seeks to increase boating safety among the growing population of paddle craft users. I intend to make funding available to facilitate the training necessary to gain qualifications so we can grow this important program, but it can't happen without interest and commitment from our membership (More info in the new AUXPAD safety program handbook). Likewise, we have made investments into our mascot program by adding a new "Coastie the safety boat" and also a 9' tall inflatable Auxiliarist named "Joe Coastie". The public feedback has been fantastic for these mascots, but without qualified operators, we won't be able to showcase them to the extent needed for recruitment and safety awareness.

I continue to look forward to seeing you at various training venues, meetings, or other events and evolutions as often as I can be there. Have fun and stay safe!

Coastie the Safety Boat and Joe Coastie with Commodore Sarac.  
*Coast Guard Auxiliary Photograph*



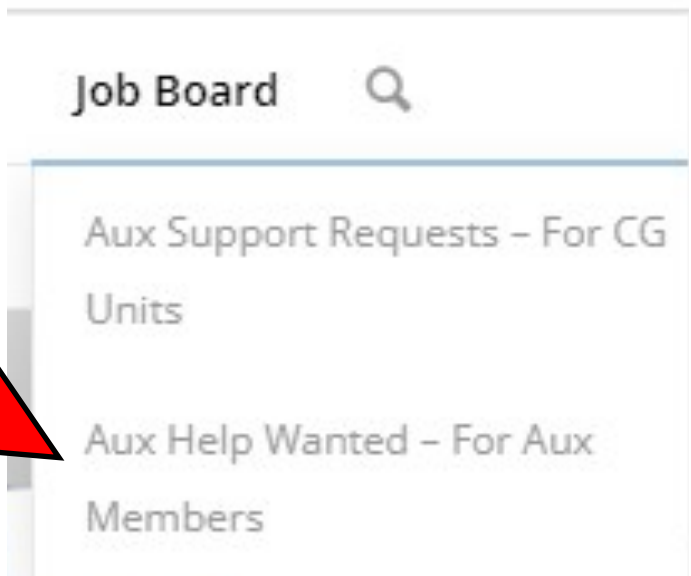
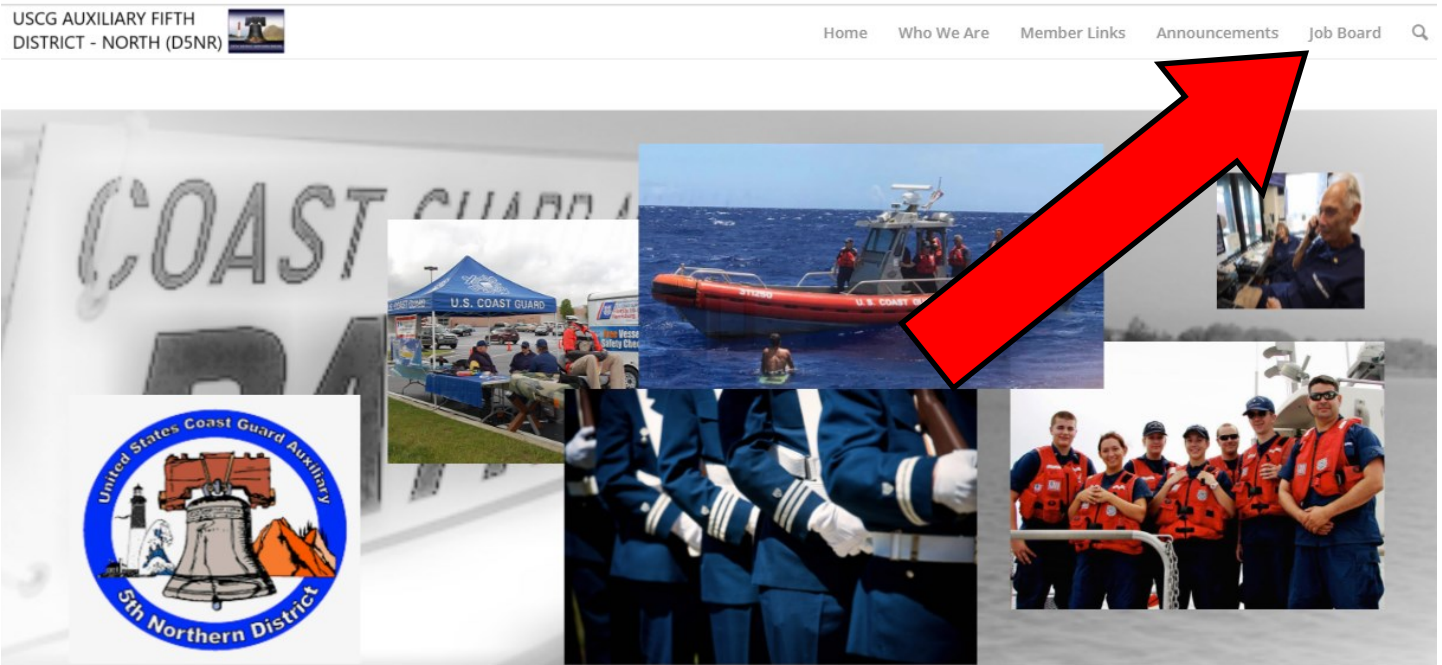
# 5NR Help Needed



# 5NR Job Board

To get to the 5NR job board (as CDR Morgan discussed in his message):

- First, get on the 5NR website: <https://5nr.org>
- Next, hover over “Job Board” on the top right (see below):
- Then, in the dropdown, click on “AUX Help Wanted - For AUX Member”



# Information from Around the District



## *Auxiliarist Spotlight - Catherine Betham*

Auxiliarist Catherine "Cathy" Betham (FL 08-06) became a member in 2019 with a strong commitment to actively assist the Coast Guard and support her sons, Joseph and Michael, who had recently joined the Coast Guard themselves. Since joining, Cathy has willingly stepped out of her comfort zone, engaging in rigorous training and actively participating in various activities within her flotilla and division.

In addition to attending her flotilla PA Booths, Cathy recently demonstrated her dedication by contributing her efforts at the CG Festival held at TRACEN. Furthermore, she has taken on the role of a presenter at recruit graduations.

Cathy Betham serves as an exemplary Auxiliarist, exemplifying the spirit of actively supporting the Coast Guard through her actions and her family's involvement.



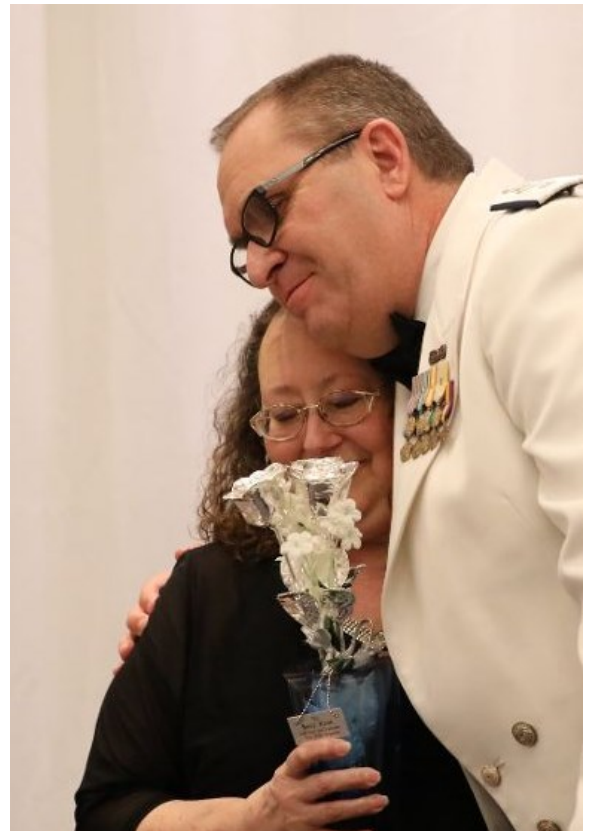
## *Auxiliarist Spotlight - Betty Kain*

We celebrated Betty Kain in the summer 2022 edition of Topside, but with her retirement, we felt it was fitting to celebrate her again.

This summer, Ms. Elizabeth “Betty” Kain celebrated her 25th anniversary serving as Auxiliary Affairs Specialist in the Director’s Office (DIRAUX), Auxiliary District Fifth Northern. With those years of service, Betty has retired from her position this summer.

Betty Kain has been an integral part of our district's mission for a quarter century. Immediate Past District Commodore Giannattasio stated in the 2022 edition of Topside that, “The diligence and extraordinary work ethic of Ms. Kain’s service to our members and the DIRAUX office greatly contributes to the accomplishments of D5NR’s mission readiness and execution.” "THANK YOU, Ms. Kain, you are an extraordinary Shipmate who has worked tirelessly with members and families to keep our district moving forward."

Betty, you will be missed. Enjoy your retirement and know that we have the watch.



**Above:** Betty Kain receiving a thank you gift from COMO Sarac at a recent D-Train.

**Below:** Betty Kain receiving a thank you gift from COMO Giannattasio at a recent D-Train.



**Above:** Betty Kain listening as COMO Sarac speaks of her years of service at a recent D-Train.



## *Lucky Bag - Hours*

### **New days and hours for Auxiliarists to access Lucky Bag:**

**Every Wednesday 0900-1100**

**Every Thursday 1000-1300**

**Every Friday by appointment**



## *Useful Resources*

### **HURRICANE RELATED**

National Hurricane Center <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Mike's Weather Page (one-stop shop with tons of information) <https://spaghettimodels.com/default.htm>

Tropical Tidbits <https://www.tropicaltidbits.com/storminfo/>

### **MEASURED RAINFALL**

Interactive Daily Measured Rainfall Amounts Map <https://cocorahs.org/>

### **CLICKABLE MAPS FOR WEATHER and MARINE FORECASTS**

NWS Weather Forecast Map (all US) <https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/wfos>

NOAA NWS Marine Weather Forecasts <https://www.weather.gov/marine/>

### **CLICKABLE MAPS AND HYDROGRAPHS FOR RIVER LEVELS AND FORECASTS**

NWS River Forecast Centers (Entire US) <https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/rfcs>

### **Mid-Atlantic RFC River Hydrographs – S. NY to VA**

[Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center Map](#)

### **Southeast RFC River Hydrographs - Wilmington NC to Key West, FL**

[Southeast River Forecast Center Map](#)

# *A Different Way of Thinking About the NACO 3-Star Award*

*Article by Richard R. Young, PA-1, Flotilla Commander, Lancaster, PA, District 5NR*

Some years ago when our flotilla first attempted to complete the application for the NACO 3-Star Award some of us approached it as “just one more thing that they are making us do.” Now that our flotilla has gotten the award for the fifth time it is no longer onerous and we now recognize that all of its tasks and activities have made for a more effective flotilla. It means that we have woven diversity and inclusion into the fabric of our activities—a statement, however, that requires some elaboration. Here is what we learned and these points are offered to other flotillas as collegial advice:

1. Appoint an FSO-DV. This is important and it should not be just another block to check on your annual Form 7007 but naming a person who is interested in diversity and inclusion as well as someone who can be an advisor to the flotilla commander.
2. Prepare goals and objectives including one stating that the flotilla will be pursuing the award. Goals and objectives should be developed by the flotilla, written, and routinely measured during the year. Such goals also include the number of vessel examinations, public education courses, and new recruits are quantitative.
3. Report progress. Some flotillas report results each month in their newsletter. Successful completion of the various elements of the NACO 3-Star Award tend to be more qualitative but are still worth reporting to your members.
4. Don't push everything off until the end of the year but work on the award's requirements during all 12 months.
5. Prepare a draft of the NACO 3-Star Award Application . Do this early in the fourth quarter because it will identify what remains to be done while there is time to close any gaps.
6. Prepare the final version. On 31 December all of the activity towards the award ends and everything should have been achieved. It is now down to wordsmithing.
7. Have multiple members proofread the application. Once everyone is satisfied, all that's left is sending it off.

Think about the NACO 3-Star Award as a template for effective flotilla management. Here are several points worth reiterating:

- Have clear measurable goals that include pursuing the award.
- Measure performance against those goals on a regular basis.
- Make certain that a majority of flotilla members are engaged in Auxiliary activities, whether these are vessel examinations, program visits, public education, operations, public affairs or marine safety.
- Take the time to recognize the performance of flotilla members with certificates, plaques, and/or ribbons.
- Have fellowship events such as picnics, cookouts, changes of watch, and informal pre-meeting meals. Be certain to include family and friends when appropriate.

As for the NACO 3-Star Award itself, the recognition is nice, but how it can transform your flotilla effectiveness is the real payoff.

# *Patrol on the Nanticoke River*

*Article and Photographs by Cindi Chaimowitz*

Float in started at 1100 and ended at 1230 on 8 July 2023 for a patrol on the Nanticoke River. On patrol work were Coxswain Al Grimminger and crewmembers Tim Precht and Cindi Chaimowitz.

With threatening thunderstorms scheduled for later in the afternoon, the Float in was a great success, and all involved had a wonderful time on and in the water. Many agencies were involved, including DNREC, fire boat companies from numerous surrounding areas and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.





# *USCG Auxiliary District Fifth Northern is Booked for a Spaceflight to Europa!*

*by Tim Marks, DSO-PB*

NASA is gathering names to be engraved on NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft as it travels 1.8 billion miles to explore Europa, an ocean world that may support life. Commodore Joe Giannatasio has placed the name of "USCG Auxiliary 5NR" on the space-bound craft.

NASA has announced the launch of the Message in a Bottle initiative. Within its framework, anyone can send their name to Jupiter and its moons. Names will be accepted until December 31, 2023.

In order to send your name to Europa, you need to fill out a short form at the following link: <https://Europa.nasa.gov/message-in-a-bottle/sign-on/>

In doing so, each signee reserves a free, guaranteed spot for their name to be laser etched into a microchip mounted aboard the solar powered Europa Clipper robotic spacecraft.

Following its October 2024 scheduled launch, participants' names will then travel the approximately 6-year, 1.8-billion-mile voyage alongside Poet Laureate of the United States, Ada Limón's new, moon-inspired ode, "In Praise of Mystery" also to be engraved onto Europa Clipper.



# *District Auxiliarists Support Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City in Celebrating 25 Years of Service*

*Article by COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

Atlantic City, N.J. – Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City marked a significant milestone as it celebrated 25 years of dedicated operations with an inspiring 5-K run and commemorative ceremony on Friday, May 12th. The event was made even more memorable by the presence of a dozen esteemed District 5 Auxiliarists who graciously offered their support.

Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City has been a beacon of strength and commitment, tirelessly providing invaluable assistance across a wide spectrum of Coast Guard operations. From search and rescue missions to law enforcement efforts, port security, and marine environmental protection, the air station's sentinels have played a vital role in safeguarding both the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions.

The anniversary event served as a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and unwavering spirit exhibited by the men and women of Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City over the past quarter-century. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a 5-K run, symbolizing the air station's endurance and commitment to serving the community. The race was followed by a moving ceremony that reflected on the station's significant accomplishments and recognized the outstanding efforts of the dedicated personnel who have served there throughout the years.

District 5NR Auxiliarists, renowned for their unwavering support and commitment to the Coast Guard's mission, were proud to stand alongside their Coast Guard counterparts during this special celebration. These esteemed volunteers offered their assistance and expertise, further reinforcing the strong partnership between the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. Their presence demonstrated the collaborative effort to ensure the safety and security of the maritime community.



(Left to right) Auxiliary Air Observer Joe Sheehan, CAPT Jeff Graham (ACY C.O.) and CWO-3 Mike Mauro (Original Plankholder from AIRSTA-ACY 25 enjoying camaraderie and fellowship.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joe Sheehan, 5SR*

*Continued on the next page...*

## *Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City*

### *Continued*

Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City's 25th anniversary celebration was a remarkable tribute to the station's remarkable achievements and the indomitable spirit of those who have served there. The event not only highlighted the commitment and dedication of the station's personnel but also underscored the invaluable contributions of District 5NR Auxiliaries. Their support and solidarity emphasize the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to protect and serve the public.



Fifth District Auxiliaries and CDR Chad Morgan - 5NR DIRAUX (2nd from left) are 'Always Ready' to support active duty Coast Guard units.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joe Sheehan, 5SR*

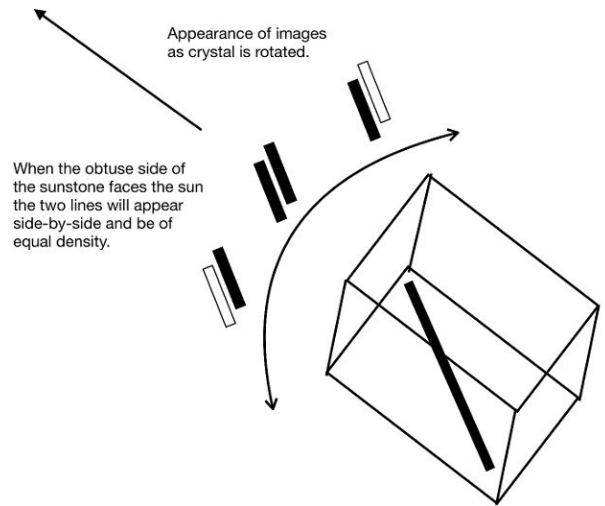
# An Auxiliarist Explores Sunstone Navigation

by *Tim Marks*

photos and graphic by *COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

In the annals of seafaring history, the Vikings stand out as legendary navigators, capable of sailing across the vast, treacherous expanses of the North Atlantic a millennium ago. But what made them such skilled mariners? It was not simply their prowess in boatbuilding, though that was undoubtedly impressive. Rather, it was their ability to navigate the open seas without the benefit of modern tools, such as maps, charts, sextants or compasses.

In those days, navigation was a hazardous enterprise. The sun, which was essential for determining direction and time, was often obscured by clouds or hidden below the horizon. Yet the Vikings had a secret weapon: a mysterious sunstone, or *sólarstein*, that enabled them to locate the sun even in the most challenging conditions. This crystal, it was said, possessed magical properties that could reveal the position of the sun, even when it was invisible to the naked eye.



Graphic of sunstone use.



From the experiment, the sunstone indicated the civil twilight sun at approximately 260°, compared to its actual setting at 262°.

Recently, researchers discovered that the sunstone was not a myth, but a real object made of a common calcite crystal, also known as Icelandic spar. This crystal, with its unique property of birefringence, was capable of splitting a beam of light into two paths, creating a double image that could be used to detect the concentric rings of polarization and thus the location of the sun. But could this ancient technology really work in practice, or was it just a fanciful legend?

Continued on the next page...

# *An Auxiliarist Explores Sunstone Navigation*

*by Tim Marks*

*photos and graphic by COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

Theory is one thing, practice is another. To find out, Commodore Joe Giannattasio, an experienced Auxiliary coxswain and pilot, decided to put the sunstone to the test. “When you are looking through a sunstone you are not only looking for light, but also for images.” Joe explains it this way, “If you make a single mark on the top of the crystal and look through it from below, then two marks will appear. You then hold the crystal up to the sky and rotate the crystal until the two marks have exactly the same intensity or darkness. At that angle, the obtuse surface indicates the direction of the sun.” Using a chunk of calcite from Iceland spar and a thin strip of electrical tape, he created a simple device that projected a double-lined image onto the opposite side of the crystal. By rotating the crystal until the two lines had the same intensity, he was able to determine the direction of the sun, even when it was below the horizon. The results were impressive: he was able to locate the sun within two degrees, even in dark or cloudy conditions. Giannattasio, who is also a member of The Explorers Club in NYC, proposes that Viking sailors could have used the crystal to keep track



Auxiliarist Explores Sunstone Navigation



COMO Joe Giannattasio displaying an Icelandic spar Sunstone.

of the sun’s position in dark twilight or cloudy conditions, and then turn the ship in the relative direction they wanted to go.

But could the Vikings have used this technology on their ships, which were prone to rolling and pitching in the rough seas? It would have been a demanding task, requiring skill and concentration, but it is not beyond the realm of possibility. After all, the Vikings were masterful seafarers who knew how to use the natural world to their advantage. They turned simple materials into powerful tools, and in doing so, they conquered the seas.

*Continued on the next page...*

# An Auxiliarist Explores Sunstone Navigation

by *Tim Marks*

photos and graphic by *COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

In the end, the real magic of the sunstone is not in its mystical properties, but in the ingenuity of the Vikings themselves. They were able to adapt and innovate in ways that are still inspiring today. As Commodore Giannattasio notes, "Using a sunstone to navigate for Auxiliary surface patrols is not likely to be authorized by district Operations Training Officers." Nonetheless, the legacy of the Vikings lives on, and their achievements continue to inspire and amaze us.

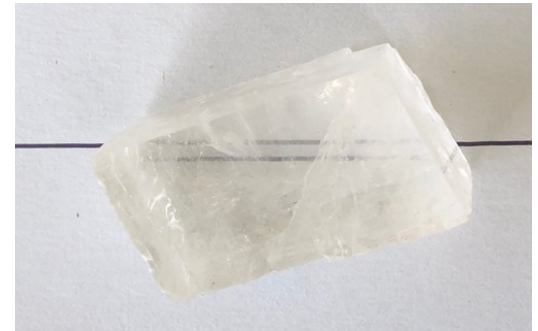
*References:*

Voyages To Vinland - The First American Saga Newly Translated And Interpreted - Einar Haugen

Success of sky-polarimetric Viking navigation: revealing the chance Viking sailors could reach Greenland from Norway - research article by Dénes Száz and Gábor Horváth



Icelandic spar, also called optical calcite, from Iceland is used in demonstrating the polarization of light with a strip of tape on one side.



Birefringence is the double refraction of light in a transparent material. Iceland spar's birefringence is so large that a calcite crystal placed over a printed line on a page projects two distinct images of the line. .



The sunstone directed away from the sun during civil twilight (the moment the sun slips below the horizon) - the projected images are different shades.



The sunstone pointed in the direction the sun during civil twilight - the projected images are the same shade..

# *The Coast Guard Community Festival Has Returned to Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) After a Three-Year Stand-Down*

*Article and Photos by Marty Sannino, Auxiliary Unit Coordinator - TRACEN-Cape May*



Festival Entrance

On May 20th 2023, the Cape May County Coast Guard Community Foundation and the Command staff of Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) welcomed the public onto the base for the first time in three years to participate in the community festival. The role of the Coast Guard Community Foundation, a non-profit organization, is to maintain a strong bond between the U.S. Coast Guard and the community. Sponsoring the annual festival is just one of the Foundation’s ongoing programs to bring Coast Guard and community together.

The community festival was highly successful despite intermittent rain and overcast skies. Over 3,000 visitors participated in the festival at TRACEN. The annual festival was initiated in 2015 through a collaborative effort between the Foundation and TRACEN Command to celebrate the Coast Guard’s presence in the Cape May, the birthplace of the Coast Guard Enlisted Corp. Moreover, it serves as an opportunity to educate the public about the Coast Guard’s role in protecting our nation.

**Delayed return** - Regrettably, the festival couldn't take place in 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic restrictions. Despite extensive planning, the festival was scheduled to make a comeback in May 2022. However, a Nor'Easter struck the area that day, bringing with it heavy rain and strong winds, leading to its cancellation for the third consecutive year.

Continued on the next page...

# *Coast Guard Community Festival*

## *Continued*

Fortunately, this year's festival managed to proceed successfully, even amidst the rain and gray skies, almost erasing the memory of the three-year hiatus. Coinciding with the 75th Anniversary of Training Center Cape May, the festival's return held a special significance as it marked the moment when the Department of the Navy officially handed over the base for permanent full-time use by the Coast Guard as a recruit receiving and training center.



Coastie Boat and Joe Coastie

TRACEN Cape May is the Coast Guard's 5th largest base with 450 acres, 258 buildings, eleven individual tenant commands and graduates over 3,000 recruits per year. As you'd imagine it takes many hands-on-deck to ensure a successful festival in such a large facility. Festival volunteers included 34 Auxiliarists representing multiple flotillas from District 5NR. Auxiliarists served in a variety of duties including: parking/traffic control, gate security, vendor support, cutter guides, tour guides and public affairs kiosk attendants. It was all done with a big emphasis on Coast Guard and community support.

**Things to see and do** – From the moment the visitors came through the gate at TRACEN they were met with an array of local vendors, local non-profit agencies sharing information about their services, Coast Guard asset displays and demonstrations, various food truck cuisines and a Beer Garden with offerings by several local microbreweries. The

Kids Zone kept kids busy with face-painting, balloon animals, games & inflatables and several children story readings by children's book author Scott McBride, a Navy Veteran and current USCG Public Affairs Officer. There were K-9 demonstrations throughout the day and live music by Kenny Curcio, a national touring, contemporary country rock singer / songwriter from Medford, NJ. Walking tours of Coast Guard Cutters were aided by Auxiliarists who oversaw the safe and orderly onboarding and disembarkation of the vessel by visitors. The only disappointment of the day was the cancelation of the helo visit from Air Station - Atlantic City due to the overcast and limited visibility, but there is always next year.

*Continued on the next page...*



# *Coast Guard Community Festival*

## *Continued*

Auxiliarists who are trained tour guides led scheduled bus tours of the base. These tours were extremely popular. Every seat of every tour was filled. The drive-by tours covered many of the buildings named for high profile members of the Coast Guard and its predecessor agencies whose contributions and sacrifices are notable in our nation's history, such as Ida Lewis, Douglas Munro, and Bernie Weber. Also highlighted was the eye-catching, beautiful monument dedicated to Coast Guard enlisted personnel who lost their lives in service to our country. Did you know there is also a monument honoring the Coast Guard Auxiliary directly across from the Coast Guard enlisted memorial?

**CG Mascots on the Go** – Two of the newest additions to the festival was the presence of Coastie the Safety Boat and “Joe Coastie”. A cadre of active-duty members from the DIRAUX office and Division 8 leadership teamed up to bring some joy to festival go’ers. Coastie the Safety Boat was operating at full-speed showing off its emergency functions and Joe Coastie made the rounds on the festival grounds to greet everyone, young and old. Even Captain Judge, TRACEN’S Commanding Officer got in on the mascot action, taking a shift in the “Joe Coastie” suit in relief of CWO Mickey Price, Operations Training Officer.

One heartening aspect of this year's festival return is the presence of Captain Kathy Felger, who served as TRACEN’S commanding officer during the years when the festival had to be canceled for health and safety reasons. It was a delightful sight to see her in attendance, enjoying this year's festivities. Much of the groundwork planning for this year’s festival was carried over from Captain Felger’s time in command.

Though the variety of attractions made for an enjoyable event for visitors, perhaps the greatest success of the festival was in how well the U.S. Coast Guard, Auxiliary, Coast Guard Community Foundation and the many volunteers came together to show what it means to be designated a Coast Guard Community. Members of the Auxiliary, once again, played an important part as a Coast Guard force-multiplier.

**Semper Paratus!**



# Cape May Flotilla Celebrates Ruby Anniversary

By Commodore Joseph Giannattasio,  
National Branch Assistant, Museums Curator (A-DIR)

Article also appears in the Q2 2023 edition of Navigator Express

On December 16, 1943, a group of residents braved a chilly Thursday evening to gather for a dinner meeting at a local eatery in Cape May, New Jersey. After some friendly socializing and a modest supper, the attendees got down to the important business at hand. Four years earlier the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was created by an Act of Congress to assist the Coast Guard and help promote safety on the water. Four other communities in the southern New Jersey area had already formed Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas. By the end of the evening, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Cape May was officially inducted.

Current Flotilla Commander David Sedlak highlighted the



The commemorative plaque for presentation in the building where the Cape May flotilla was officially inducted into the Coast Guard Auxiliary in December 1943.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by  
COMO Joseph Giannattasio



The original building of Arnold's Café, where the induction of the Cape May flotilla into the Coast Guard Auxiliary was conducted in 1943.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by  
COMO Joseph Giannattasio

historical events witnessed by the building's occupants, "The new Flotilla, composed of

27 men from the vicinity, took over tower watch duty as its first assignment on January 5, 1944, crewing the tower of Cape May Point Lifeboat Station 24 hours a day. Other duties in those early days included patrols of the Cape May Fish Dock and crewing the area's Coast Guard Communication Station." According to archived reports, raining then included Signaling, First Aid, and Boat Handling.

On July 20, 1944, the Flotilla acquired its first Operational Facility, a two-masted schooner named Apache, which also served as a meeting place for members. On September 1, 1947, the Flotilla was assigned a vintage Coast Guard boathouse as their headquarters. Affectionately referred to as 'The Shack' by members over the years, the history-rich building was acquired in 1890 by the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment, the forerunner of the Coast Guard.

Continued on the next page...

# Cape May Flotilla Celebrates Ruby Anniversary

*Continued*



A photo taken of the boat race competition during the district's first Rendezvous held in Cape May in August 1947.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo from Flotilla 82 5NR archives.*

The young Flotilla's members were given a "baptism by fire" or, rather, "by storm" when the area was struck by "The Great Atlantic Hurricane" on September 15, 1944. The hurricane was one of the most powerful to traverse the Eastern Seaboard, maintaining its strength somewhat at its New Jersey landfall hit as an 85-mph hurricane.

The new Flotilla also pioneered a number of prominent Auxiliary events. On March 14, 1944, the Cape May Flotilla was the first in the Coast Guard District to teach Boating Safety Classes to the public; thirty-two students from the surrounding area completed the Piloting and Seamanship class taught by Flotilla members. It also hosted the district's first annual gathering, then known as "Rendezvous," during the first week of August 1947. In later years, the Flotilla coordinated many local dedications and memorial events. Today, the 117 men and women of the Cape May Flotilla still maintain the proud tradition of actively assisting the Coast Guard, including missions never contemplated in 1939. John Burns is the longest - serving member of Flotilla 82, and he notes, "The Mission hasn't

changed through the years in that we continue to support the Active Duty. The first members of Flotilla Cape May had a spirit of adventure and patriotism that motivated them. The members of today maintain those same attributes."

Since the first meeting held on that winter evening 80 years ago, supporting the United States Coast Guard and the recreational boating community has been the Flotilla's priority. They are proud of their success over the years, and plans to continue and grow stronger every year are always foremost in their minds.



Local men who completed the "Boating Education" the Cape May Flotilla offered received their certificate of completion in December 1949.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo from Flotilla 82 5NR archives.*



# Division 19 Recognizes Two Centenarian Coasties

Article by Mel Collins

Photographs by Joy Yingst

## Raymond Gene Carter USCG 526-119

- Birth Date: December 31 1922
- Fire Control man, Third Class (Reserve)
- Honorably Discharged San Francisco, California November 9th 1945
- Also Anti-aircraft gunner aboard LST

Served aboard U.S.S LST 793 during WWII

- Lieut. George A. Miller USCG Officer in Charge
- Held Shake down cruise to Florida and Mississippi
- Voyage to Panama Canal - November 21 1944
- Pearl Harbor - December 13 1945
- San Pedro Bay, Leyte P.I. - February 25 1945 Anchored
  - Objective: Disembark 93rd AA Gun Battery and took on 280 men from 77 Infantry, 305th Battalion, AUS
- April 27 1945 departed for Invasion of Okinawa
- Voyage to Tokyo, Japan - September 7 1945
  - Objective: Ferrying occupation forces from Luzon, P.I. to Tokyo, Japan loading at Batangas Bay and unloading at Yokohams
- Voyage to Saipan - November 3 1945
- Departed Saipan bound for Pearl Harborr - November 11 1945
- Proceed to Stateside port - November 26 1945 - Decommissioning

Up to and including October 31 1945 LST 793 had participated in Kerama, Okinawa and Iwa-shima invasions, had transported 1,722 AUS combat personnel, 5,757 tons of combat material, operating in Philippine Islands, southwest Pacific to Japan mainland.

LST 793 earned the following awards:

- 1Star ASIATIC-PACIFIC AREA
- Okinawa Guto operation
- NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE (ASIA)

Ray also served two years in the US Army in the 1950's.



Ray Carter (Left) with Flotilla Commander Mel Collins (right).



Ray Carter (right) with Flotilla Commander Mel Collins (left).

# Centenarian Coasties

Continued

## Thomas Taylor

Auxiliarist and Coast Guard and WW II veteran Thomas Taylor turned 100. Thomas served on the USS Falgout.

USS Falgout (DER-/DER-324 was an Edsall-class destroyer escort built for the United States Navy during World War II. She served in the Atlantic Ocean and provided destroyer escort protection against submarine and air attack for Navy vessels and convoys. Post-war, she was borrowed by the United States Coast Guard and also served as a radar picket ship on the Distant Early Warning Line. She was reclassified DER-324 on 28 October 1954.

The Falgout was on loan to the United States Coast Guard between 24 August 1951 and 21 May 1954, in commission, as WDE 424, and commanded by CDR G. L. Rollins, USCG for duty as an ocean station vessel out of Tacoma, Washington.

On 20 April 1944, in the Mediterranean, her convoy UGS 38 came under heavy attack by German aircraft. Before the concentrated anti-aircraft fire of Falgout and the other escorts could drive them off, they blew up the transport SS Paul Hamilton, sank the destroyer USS Lansdale destroyer, and damaged several of the merchantmen. With the other escorts picking up survivors or escorting the damaged ships into the nearest port, Algiers, Falgout screened the convoy on to its original destination, Bizerte

The homeward bound passage of this same voyage was also a difficult one; on 3 May, one of the escorts was torpedoed and had to put into Algiers for repairs. Two of the other escorts sank the submarine which had crippled their sister, but on 5 May, another of the escort (USS Fechteler) was torpedoed, and sank. Falgout and the remaining escorts brought the convoy safely home, not a merchantman lost. On her third convoy voyage, while Gibraltar-bound in the Mediterranean, Falgout took prisoner from the sea four downed German aviators.

### U.S. Coast Guard awarded Thomas Taylor:

- American Area Campaign Medal
- Navy Combat Action Ribbon
- Honorable Service Lapel Pin (Ruptured Duck)
- Honorable Discharge Pin

*Information obtained by interviews with Thomas Taylor and Wikipedia.*



Thomas Taylor (right) with Flotilla Commander Mel Collins (left)

# History of the District and Auxiliary



# *What Are You Interested in Learning?*

*By Tim Marks, DSO-PB*

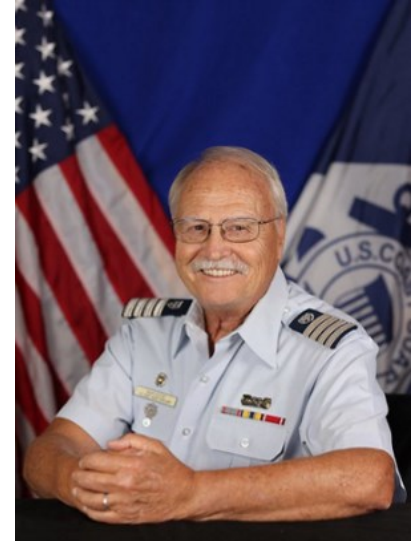
In talking with Steve Marthouse, our 5NR Historian, he thought it would be interesting and more valuable to you, the members, if he would have your input as to what you might like him to write about, cover, or explain rather than him trying to write something that he thinks you would be interested in.

The idea is that Steve would create a column in each newsletter such as "Ask the Auxiliary Historian" or "Ever wonder why the Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_?"

So, here is your chance! The Coast Guard Auxiliary and 5NR have a long and storied history, with the Coast Guard having a history as old as the country. Is there something you were wondering about? Is there a topic you wanted to learn more about? Is there a piece of Coast Guard or Auxiliary history that you wish you knew more about?

Feel free to ask your questions directly to Historian Marthouse. He will then address them in future issues of Topside.

**Email: [sjmarthouse@gmail.com](mailto:sjmarthouse@gmail.com)**



*Steve Marthouse  
5NR Historian  
ADSO-PB History*



# *A History of the Coast Guard Corsair Fleet*

*by COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

During the first desperate months of 1942, German submarines were wreaking havoc on American ships with little opposition, leaving the Navy with a shortage of small craft to protect coastal shipping. In the summer of 1941, Alfred Stanford, the commodore of the Cruising Club of America, began convincing the Navy that private boats and their owners could help meet this need. On March 5, 1942, the cruising club offered the Navy's Eastern Sea Frontier Command the loan of 30 auxiliary sailing yachts, between 50 and 90 feet long, with skippers and skeleton crews. The vessels had sails and gasoline or diesel engines for auxiliary propulsion.

By April, the offer had grown to 70 seagoing yachts and 100 smaller craft, but the Navy initially refused. However, a large flow of letters and editorials to those in command caused the Navy to change its policy. On May 4, 1942, ADM Ernest J. King, chief of naval operations and commander in chief of the US Fleet, requested that the Coast Guard Reserve organize the Coastal Picket Patrol.

In 1939, the Coast Guard reported that over 300,000 boats were operating in federal waters, but the boaters needed better training in seamanship and federal law. Civilian yachtsmen also pressed the Coast Guard to establish a volunteer arm of the service, leading to the establishment of the Coast Guard Reserve on June 23, 1939. Members initially conducted safety and security patrols and helped enforce the provisions of the 1940 Federal Boating and Espionage Acts. By 1941, the Reserve had 7,000-8,000 members and 2,000-3,000 boats, most of which were unsuitable for offshore work.



The Coastal Picket Force's sailing ships, known as the Corsair Fleet.

*USCG Auxiliary Archive/ East Carolina University*



A 1941 Coast Guard Reserve class in Signaling Instruction. 3rd. Coast Guard District, USCG Auxiliary flotilla 308, New Brunswick, NJ.

*USCG Auxiliary Archive/ East Carolina University*

To establish a new reserve that could be called to active duty, legislation was passed, and in February 1941, a military reserve was created, and the volunteer Reserve was renamed the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Congress amended the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Act by authorizing suitable men to serve for as short a period as 30 days, even if regularly disqualified for service in the Navy or Coast Guard because of age or minor physical problems.



# *A History of the Coast Guard Corsair Fleet*

## *Continued*



Cutter-rigged sailboats on anti-submarine patrol in the Atlantic during World War II.

*USCG Auxiliary Archive/ East Carolina University*

any sightings to shore by radio, maintain contact with potential targets for as long as possible, and attack enemy submarines when armament permitted.

The owner of the yacht usually remained onboard with the rating of Chief Boatswain's Mate. Initially, the crews were composed of college boys, undraftable Reservists, adventurers, ex-bootleggers, and rum-runners. Almost everyone who claimed they could reef and steer, and many who couldn't, were accepted. Even famous author Ernest Hemingway and actor Humphrey Bogart participated in patrol duties.

The Coast Guard gave these small boats the gallant name the Corsair Fleet. The fleet's members knew their chances. With such an eclectic group of people under one organization, the Corsair Fleet was often referred to as the Hooligan Navy.

On May 23, 1942, King ordered all sea frontier commanders to expedite the selection of small craft for the picket patrol, also called the Corsair Fleet, which was originally established under the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The orders stated that the vessels had to be "capable of going to sea in good weather for a period of at least 48 hours at cruising speeds." The vessels could be auxiliary sailing or motor yachts, fisherman, or other privately-owned craft, and they would be accepted as loans, purchases, or requisitions. This task proved too ambitious for the Auxiliary, so King ordered the Coast Guard to establish the Coastal Picket Patrol. And the Coast Guard was no stranger to the call of duty.

The force was organized into six task groups: Northern, Narragansett, New York, Delaware, Chesapeake, and Southern. Their duty was to supplement forces employed in anti-submarine, rescue, and patrol duties. The sleek wooden yachts were repainted military gray and outfitted with antique machine guns dating back to the Spanish-American War, four three-hundred-pound depth charges that could be deployed manually over the side, a radio, and listening equipment. Their primary job was to watch and listen for U-boats (with crude sonar equipment), report



During World War II, Disney Studios produced hundreds of logos for the U.S. Armed forces. The nickname "Corsair Fleet" was given to the thousands of CG and CGR craft that patrolled the coast watching for U-boats and saboteurs.

*Courtesy of the National Archives.*

## *A History of the Coast Guard Corsair Fleet*

*continued*



A sailor in the North Atlantic in the Coastal Picket Force

*USCG Auxiliary Archive/ East Carolina University*

By early fall 1942, the Coastal Picket organization was operating with full effect along the Atlantic seaboard and the Gulf coast. More and more men enrolled for three months or more duty, at full time and with military pay. By September 18th, there were 480 craft actively engaged in Picket Patrol in the Atlantic and Gulf, working out of more than 30 bases.

The Coast Guard also assigned Auxiliarists and some recruits to the patrol, and by mid-1943, most of the crews were made up of Coast Guard enlisted men and were officered by former yacht owners.

Normal patrol areas were along the 50-fathom contour line about 100 miles offshore from the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. The craft patrolled in designated squares of about 15 nautical miles. This could be pleasant in summer weather, but in winter or stormy weather, crews needed a good knowledge of seamanship and intestinal fortitude to endure the patrols.

The U-boat threat had lessened by the time the patrol reached a sizable force, never giving the Coastal Picket Patrol force a chance to really test its worth. But a few instances did demonstrate the Hooligan Navy may have helped the war effort if it had been formed in sufficient time. On August 13th, 1942, a flight of 10 airplanes from a base at Westover, Massachusetts tested the air defense network along the Massachusetts coast. No Navy ship or shore station made visual or radar sightings of the flight. The only units to accurately report the aircraft were four Coastal Picket Patrol vessels.

The Corsair Fleet, a band of ragtag sailors, Reservists, Auxiliarists and adventurers, had proven themselves as formidable foes to the Nazi threat along the Atlantic coast during World War II. From humble beginnings, these small vessels and crews evolved into a force to be reckoned with. Armed with machine guns and steely determination, the Corsairs were not afraid to take on any enemy, even the notorious U-boats that lurked in the depths of the ocean.

# *A History of the Coast Guard Corsair Fleet*

## *continued*

The yachts of the Corsair Fleet also played a vital role in rescuing survivors of ships sunk by German U-boats. On August 17th, 1942, the USS Buck sunk off the coast of Cape May, New Jersey, with a loss of 66 crew members. Within minutes of the Buck sinking, the yachts Alert, Daphne II, and Lady had arrived on the scene to begin rescue operations. They picked up 54 survivors and brought them safely to shore.

Despite their contributions, the Corsair Fleet was not without its share of dangers and tragedies. On August 21st, 1942, the yacht Carolinian was on patrol off the coast of Florida when it was attacked and sunk by the German submarine U-157. The crew managed to abandon ship before it sank and were picked up by the U.S. Navy. The loss of the Carolinian was a sobering reminder of the risks involved in the Coastal Picket Patrol.

By late 1943, the threat of enemy U-boats had significantly diminished, and the Picket Patrol was downsized by 35 percent, with many of the original civilians being replaced by Coast Guard recruits. As fast as 83-foot patrol boats could be launched and manned, civilian yachts were released from service. In October 1943, the Coastal Picket Patrol was disbanded, although a few of the larger yachts were retained for service until the end of the war. Despite not achieving any confirmed kills, the Corsairs' mindset and labor on the home front helped contribute to winning the war and the contributions of the Corsair Fleet and the Coastal Picket Patrol were not forgotten. In recognition of their service, the Coast Guard awarded the Coast Guard Auxiliary its first-ever Presidential Unit Citation and serving "Hooligan Navy" members received commendations and medals for their wartime service, a testament to their dedication to protecting their country and the seas they sailed.

### SOURCES:

"On the Edge: The History of America's First Naval Force" - Malcolm F. Willoughby

"The Hooligan Navy: The Forgotten Coast Guard Mission of World War II" - David F. Winkler

## *Topside Archives*

To view TOPSIDE's online archive, please click this link on the D5NR website at <https://5nr.org/topside-archives/>. The TOPSIDE online bibliotheca contains the most complete collection of TOPSIDE from March 1943 to present.



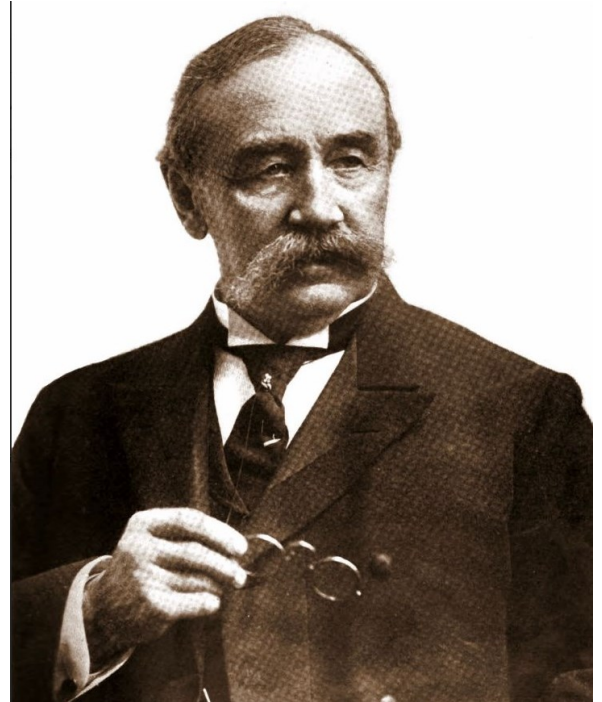
# *Sumner Kimball and His Impact on Maritime Safety*

by Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3

Throughout human history maritime safety has been a crucial concern; The need to safeguard lives, cargo, and vessels from the perils of the sea prompted the establishment of various organizations to improve maritime safety. A prominent figure that significantly impacted this field was Sumner Kimball.

Sumner Increase Kimball was born on September 2, 1834, in Lebanon, Maine. Raised in Sanford, Maine, he graduated from Bowdoin College in 1855. Kimball was later elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 1859. He became a clerk in the United States Treasury Department in 1862 and was placed in charge of the Revenue Marine Bureau in 1871. The U.S. Revenue Marine later became the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service which eventually merged into the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1871, Sumner Kimball assumed command of the U.S. Life-Saving Service (USLSS), a vital organization responsible for rescuing shipwrecked mariners and preventing loss of life and property along the U.S. coastline. Under Kimball's leadership, the USLSS underwent significant reforms, transforming it into an effective and organized institution. Kimball was only 27 years old when he was appointed head of the USLSS and served in this position until the establishment of the Coast Guard in 1915.

Kimball's key initiative was the standardization of life-saving equipment and procedures. Kimball recognized that uncoordinated rescue methods and inconsistent equipment hindered rescue operations. Kimball addressed this issue by introducing standardized life-saving equipment such as life vests, lifeboats, and breeches buoys to enable rescuers to perform their duties more efficiently. His leadership led to the establishment of life-saving stations along the U.S. coastline. These stations were equipped with the necessary tools and were manned by well-trained crews. Kimball's contributions to the USLSS and his commitment to maritime safety principles became deeply ingrained in the culture of the newly formed Coast Guard. His emphasis on professionalism, standardized protocols, and training influenced the way the Coast Guard operated. With the formation of the Coast Guard, the organization's responsibilities extended beyond life-saving operations. The Coast Guard took on various additional tasks, including search and rescue missions, law enforcement, icebreaking operations, and environmental protection. Kimball was the author of two books; *Organization and Methods of the United States Life-Saving Service*



Sumner Increase Kimball  
Source: Public Domain

# *Sumner Kimball*

## Continued

(1889) and Joshua James: Lifesaver (1909). Kimball died at his home in Washington, D.C. on June 20, 1923. The U.S. Coast Guard named the USCGC Kimball (WMSL-756) in Kimball's honor. She is a Legend-class cutter, also known as a National Security Cutter.

### Sources:

USCG.mil; Sumner Increase Kimball-U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office; *The United States Life-Saving Service* contemporary article printed in *The Bay State Monthly*, 1890.



USCGC Kimball (WMSL-756)

*Source: U.S. Coast Guard*

# The First Coast Guard Auxiliary Aviator

by **COMO Joseph Giannattasio**

The first aviator to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary's fledgling air program was none other than Jesse F. England, a man of remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication. On a crisp autumn day, November 3, 1945, he was formally inducted into the Auxiliary in a brief ceremony held at Glenrock Airport, a stone's throw from the bustling port city of Norfolk. Present on this auspicious occasion were James Albano, commanding officer of the Norfolk Flotilla, and Albert Krise Jr., a liaison officer serving under the District Commanding Officer of the Fifth Naval District.



Photo of a Fairchild PT-19 aircraft.  
*Photograph courtesy of the Smithsonian Institute.*

Jesse England was a man cut from a different cloth, one that was woven with a rich tapestry of experiences and skills. Born in Bourbon, Missouri in June 1911, he joined the United States Navy in 1927 and quickly rose through the ranks, earning a fire controlman's rating before being honorably discharged in 1934. Seeking new horizons, he embarked on a career with Sears and Roebuck, where he served as the service manager of their Norfolk store for eight years. But it was his love of flying that truly captured his heart, and he soon became a skilled aviator, earning his commercial pilot's license and becoming a flight instructor of great renown.

With the onset of World War II, Jesse England once again answered his nation's call, joining the Army reserve as a flight instructor and serving with distinction for two years. Upon his discharge, he and his business partner acquired the present site of Glenrock Airport, which they opened for business just three weeks before the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific theater. Though he owned eight planes that were available for the Auxiliary's use, only one, a venerable Fairchild PT-19, was deemed suitable for service and was thus pressed into duty.

*Continued on the next page...*

# The First Coast Guard Auxiliary Aviator

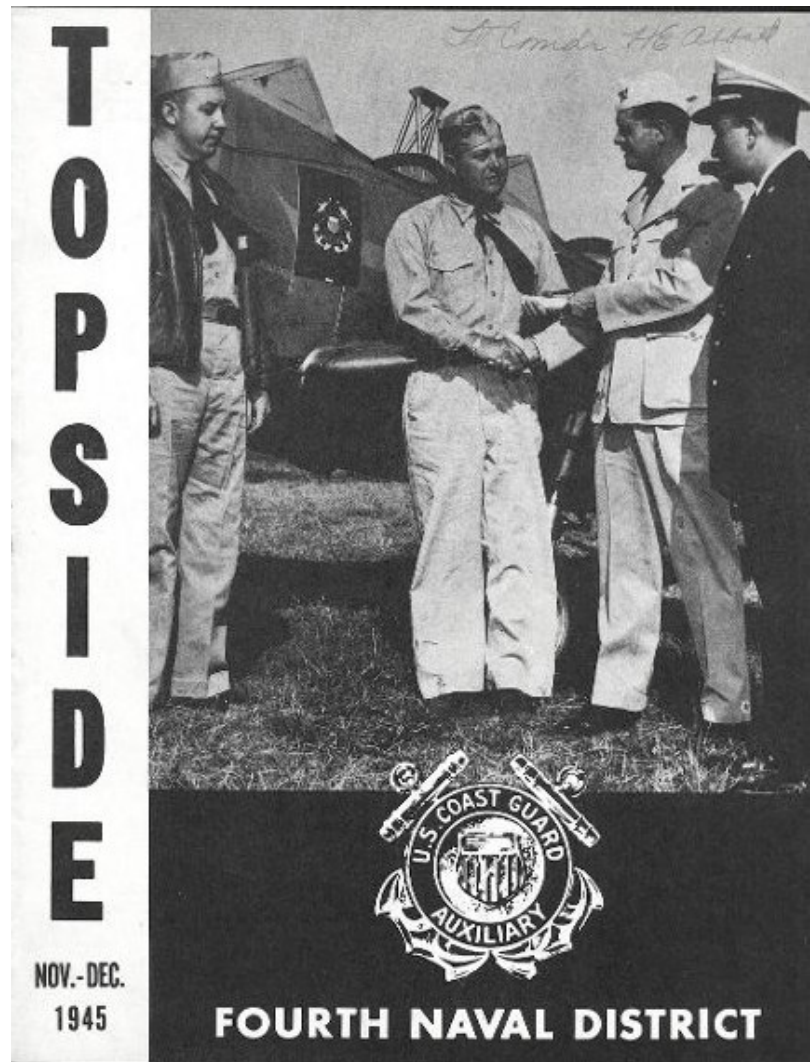
Continued

Jesse England's induction into the Coast Guard Auxiliary's air program was a momentous occasion, one that marked the beginning of a new era of Coast Guard aviation excellence and valor. His unwavering commitment to his country and his craft serves as an inspiration to all who aspire to greatness, and his legacy will endure for generations to come.

## References:

TOPSIDE, Nov.- Dec. 1945

Coast Guard Bulletin, Feb. 1946



TOPSIDE 1945 November-December

The cover photo of the November-December 1945 issue of the then Auxiliary, Fourth Naval District newsletter TOPSIDE (now D5NR) shows Mr. Jesse F. England before his Fairchild PT-19 being presented with his certificate of enrollment as the first aviation member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Fifth Naval District and in the United States by Chief Boatswain H. Dawson Sanders, USCGR, Field Coordinator. From left to right: Albert Kris Jr., Jesse England, BMC Sanders, James Albano.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo from*

*District 5NR archives.*

# 5NR Obscura





## *Drive-In Movie Theaters*

**\*\*TOPSIDE** offers this forum, District 5NR Obscura, to share some of the Cool, Hidden, and Unusual things to see In Auxiliary District Fifth Northern.

If you know of an interesting, curious or obscure place within your part of the district, send the Editor a couple photos with a brief description so other members can enjoy and maybe witness during a road trip.

### **Drive-In Movie Theaters**

It's the 90th birthday of the drive-in theater — a classic form of American entertainment born in Pennsauken, NJ, and District Fifth Northern is home to 30 nostalgic and cultural iconic drive-in movie theaters still in operation. On June 6, 1933, the first drive-in movie theatre was opened by Richard Hollingshead Jr. in Pennsauken, New Jersey. The admission cost was 25 cents per car and 25 cents per person. The success of Hollingshead's drive-in caused more and more drive-ins to appear in every state in the country and spread internationally as well. Drive-ins gained immense popularity during the 1950s and '60s with the Baby Boomer generation. There were over 4,000 drive-ins throughout the U.S.

New Jersey's only drive-in movie theatre, located in Vineland, is the Delsea Drive-In that was built in 1949, closed in 1987, and reopened in 2004.

During the 1950's, Delaware had as many as 9 drive-ins in operation in this tiny state. That may not sound like a lot, but considering Delaware only has three counties, that was 3 drive-ins per county! However, they have all gone dark now. The last of Delaware's drive-in theaters was closed in 2008.

Pennsylvania has 29 remaining Drive-in Movie Theaters making it the state with the second most operating drive-ins (second only to New York which has 30 drive-in theaters). Pennsylvania was an early riser among the drive-in movie theater states. It was host to America's second drive-in, Shankweiler's Drive-in (opened in April of 1934) which is still open today which gives Pennsylvania the added distinction of being home to the oldest operating drive-in in the United States.



---

# Photos from Across the District



Mike Slepian, an Auxiliary Public Affairs Staff Officer, diligently captures the essence of the Coast Guard Community Festival, which took place last weekend at the USCG Training Center Cape May. As an essential part of the team, Auxiliary Public Affairs Officers play a vital role in promoting the missions and achievements of both the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the active-duty Coast Guard.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Michael Hamilton.*



**Happy Birthday USCG!**

This photograph was taken in Times Square, NYC on August 8, 2023.

*USCG Auxiliary Photograph taken by Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3*



This graphic (provided by COMO Joseph Giannattasio) effectively portrays an important safety method for recreational boaters and boat crew members. COMO Giannattasio states that having hoisted many people out of the water on recreational boats without boarding ladders, this a valuable technique to use, practice and share.

Bill Turner, Division 20 Commander and Steve Bugaj VCDR (pictured) prepared a PA table for Bedford's National Night Out. We had the opportunity to speak with members of the community on boating safety, legal requirements, as well as the roll of both the United States Coast Guard and it's Auxiliary. Steve was interviewed by a staff member for Cessna Radio. His interview included topics about RBS and the opportunities for service in the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. That interview was aired locally on six local radio stations.

*Photograph by Bill Turner*





**CAPE MAY MARINA, NJ** - A cadre of Cape May Flotilla Vessel Safety Examiners (VSE) have a lot of fun conducting Vessel Safety Check (VSC) events, meeting in groups at marinas, boat access and dealerships to sponsor a VSC event where boaters actually sign up for the free check ahead of time.

One of the roles of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is to offer vessel safety checks (VSC) to boaters who wish to be sure that their boats meet all federal and state safety requirements. The Auxiliarists who do these examinations, VSEs, are specially trained and knowledgeable in the field who are kept informed on the latest legal requirements for boaters.

When a boat passes the examination, the owner receives a sticker for the year and a copy of the examination form.

Pictured (L to R): Martin Sannino, Ray Kreszwick, Lorraine Bianco, Vincent Ricevuto, James Stokes.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by COMO Joseph Giannattasio.*

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle  
docked at Pier 17 in the East River,  
New York City.

*U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by  
Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3*

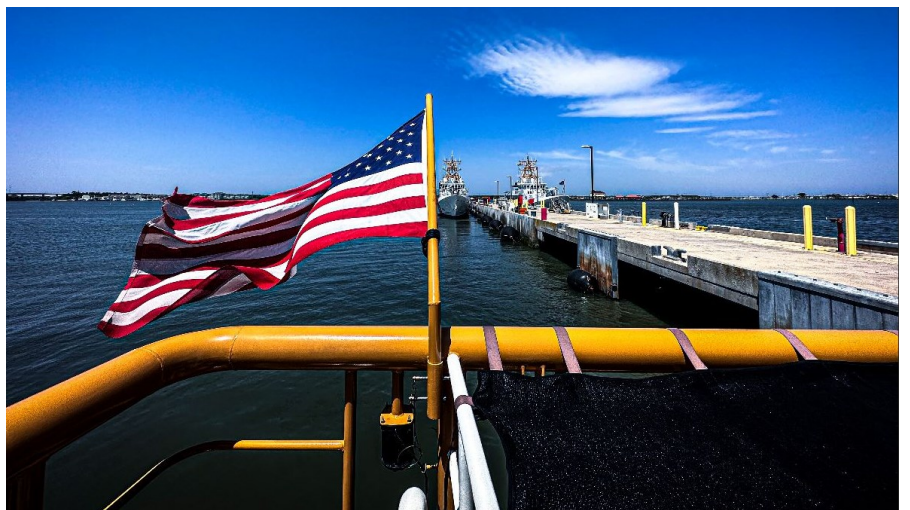


Photograph of the National Badge that is worn when Auxiliarists hold offices in the national staff. Have you ever considered applying and serving in the national staff?

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by  
Barbara Sama AUXPA1, ADSO-PB*

# USCGC Mako

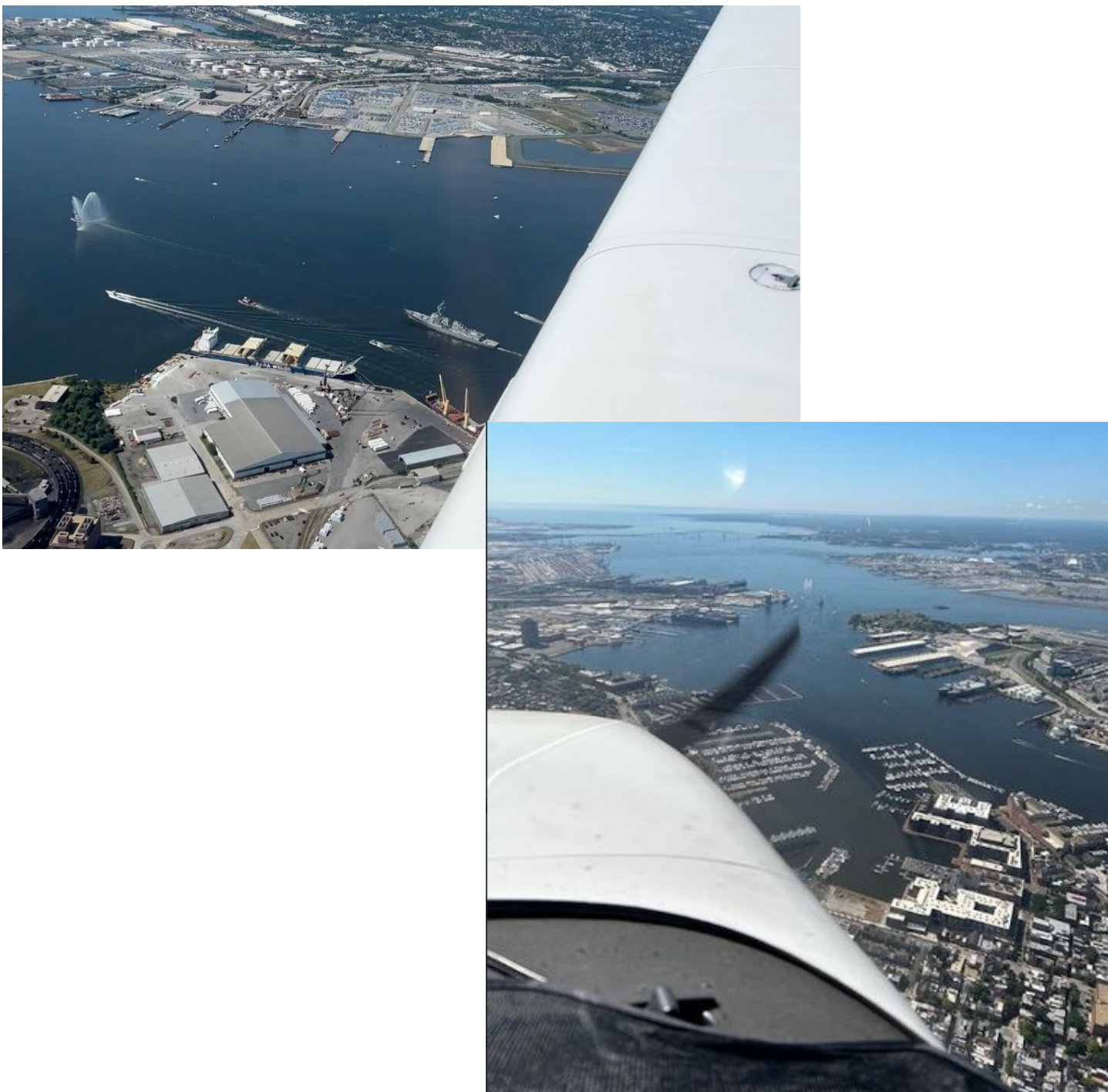
Photographs by Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3



# AUXAir

The Navy commissioning ceremony of its newest Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, USS Carl M. Levin (DDG 120) was observed by a Fifth District Auxiliary Air overflight of Baltimore Harbor on June 24. The USS Carl M. Levin is 509.5 feet long and 59 feet wide, with a displacement of 9,496 tons. It will be homeported in San Diego.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Ron Kripas.*





# *Atlantic City Air Show*

*Photographs taken by John Loreaux Photography*



# Seaford Riverfest Float-Down, 8 July 2023

*Photographs taken by Alfred Grimminger*



# *Change of Command - Captain Theel's retirement onboard the USS New Jersey*

*Photographs taken by Barbara Sama, ADSO-PB*



5NR's own AUXCA Specialists on board the USS New Jersey, ready to serve at the Captain Theel's Change of Command Ceremony. Auxiliarist Paul Casalese is seen on the left. Sadly, Paul recently passed away. Fair Winds and Following Seas, Paul. You will be missed.

# COMMS Center

Communications to the  
membership compiled together  
(November 2021-January 2022)



# COMMS CENTER

## NEWS FROM FIFTH DISTRICT-NORTHERN SECTION

03 July 23—Commodore's Independence Day Message



D5NR Shipmates,

Happy 4th of July to my fellow shipmates of the of the 5th District-Northern Region and active-duty partners! Today, as we celebrate the birth of our great nation, we also honor the unwavering dedication and service you provide to protect our shores and ensure the safety of all who enjoy our coastal waters.

In times of calm and in the face of adversity, you stand as a beacon of strength and resilience in an ever-complex time. Your commitment to safeguarding our maritime borders, conducting life-saving operations, and promoting boating safety is truly commendable. Every day, we embody the spirit of patriotism, selflessness and sacrifice that defines our nation. As once said, "there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer!"

You have carried my charter for us to be "One Team, One Fight as TEAM COAST GUARD!"

As we gather with family and friends to cherish the freedoms we hold dear, let us not forget the sacrifices made by those who serve with us and are doing their jobs today away from their families. Your vigilance and expertise are vital to safeguarding our maritime heritage and securing our nation's interests. Your dedication to the core values of *honor, respect* and *devotion to duty* inspires us all.

On this special day, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Your tireless efforts, both seen and unseen, do not go unnoticed. Your courage and commitment make us proud to be Americans.

May your 4th of July be filled with joy, laughter, and the company of loved ones. As we come together to celebrate the freedoms we cherish, let us also remember those who continue to protect and defend our great nation. Today, and every day, we salute you, the brave men and women of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Happy 4th of July!

*Semper Paratus,*



COMO Kurt P. Sarac, Sr.  
District Commodore  
Fifth District-Northern Region  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

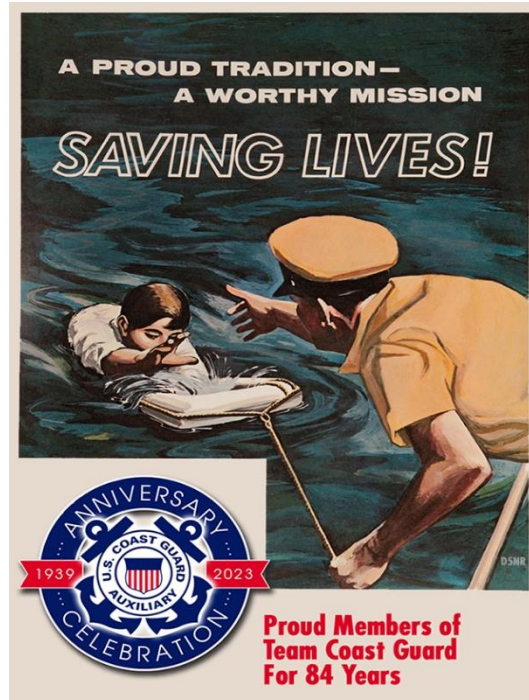


---

###

End of Message

---

**23 June 23—Commodore's 84th Auxiliary Anniversary Message**

**D5NR Shipmates,**

Happy 84th Birthday to you, the ever-serving men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary! For over eight decades, we have served as an invaluable partner to the U.S. Coast Guard, providing vital support in times of peace and war. Your commitment to safety, security, and protection of our coasts and waterways is unwavering, and your dedication to serving our nation is truly inspiring. I thank you for your service and sacrifice. I am humbled to serve alongside you!

*Semper Paratus,*



Kurt P. Sarac, Sr.  
District Commodore  
Fifth District-Northern Region  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary



###  
End of Message



## AUXILIARISTS HELP WANTED

From: **Price, Mickey T CWO-4 USCG D5 (USA)** <[Mickey.T.Price@uscg.mil](mailto:Mickey.T.Price@uscg.mil)>

Date: Wed, May 10, 2023, 2:22 PM

Subject: DCDR & FC - Please share with your members

To: Division 7-5NR

Greetings D5NR Leaders!

I am Emailing directly to ask for your assistance to ensure our members know about the available opportunities to assist CG Units as listed on the D5NR Help wanted page: [Auxiliarists Help Wanted – USCG AUXILIARY FIFTH DISTRICT NORTH \(5nr.org\)](#)

I would encourage you to review the list, and if you know any members that would be a good match, see if they might be interested. Otherwise, if you would **please share these opportunities at your next meeting**, I think that will be the most effective way to get the word out.

For anyone interested in supporting the DIRAUX office, that is still an open solicitation! Applicants can respond to our shared mailbox at: [d05-smb-nrdiraux@uscg.mil](mailto:d05-smb-nrdiraux@uscg.mil).

Lastly, because I don't often email you all directly, I'll take this opportunity to say: THANK YOU! The leadership you provide to the auxiliary will impact our service for years to come, and it is very appreciated.

Stay safe out there,

-Mickey

V/R,

Mickey Price, CWO4  
USCG D5 NR  
CG Auxiliary OTO  
215-218-1035 (desk)

**AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP LINK**



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

13 July 2023 Edition

To: All Auxiliarists



The new Auxiliary National Help Desk will go live on July 20, 2023.

Users will be taken to the new Help Desk from the existing "National Help Desk" click function on the National website (cgaux.org) and all WOW-based unit websites.

Users will have access to searchable knowledge base articles to review common questions and answers without having to submit a ticket. When submitting a ticket, there will be guided forms to help route questions to the appropriate Help Desk support staff.

Auxiliarists are reminded to first consult their local unit mentors and chain of leadership and management for answers about standard policy and procedures before submitting a ticket.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The National Help Desk is separate from AUXDATA support. For questions about AUXDATA including member information, activity logs, facilities and patrols, submit a service request to [auxdata@acumensolutions.com](mailto:auxdata@acumensolutions.com)



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity  
12 July 2023 Edition

To: All Auxiliarists



"RBS Job One - Volume 9, Issue 1" is now available online. It contains valuable information for all involved in promoting Recreational Boating Safety. This issue features news of a variety of Recreational Boating Safety topics, including these articles:

- Reboarding a Flipped Kayak
- Getting Creative in Promoting Boating Safety
- COMO Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education
- A Vessel Safety Check is Not About the Boat
- Flotilla Manasquan Inlet kicks off Water and Kids Program for 2023
- Operation Dry Water
- U.S. Recreational Boating Deaths 2010–2019: Trends and Suggestions
- Auxiliary Paddlecraft Ashore with Sea Scouts
- Cold Water Immersion Safety, Knowing the Basics of Cold-Water Immersion

We encourage all members to read this issue. Email us at [rbs-job1-publication-team@cgauxnet.us](mailto:rbs-job1-publication-team@cgauxnet.us) if you have an article or photograph to submit. Send us questions or comments you want addressed in the following publication.

Click here to view this edition: [RBS Job 1 July 2023](#)



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

11 July 2023 Edition

To: All Auxiliarists

## Effective 1 September 2023 Meeting Minutes Form #7000

After three years of planning, development, testing and training, the time has come. Effective 1 September 2023 form # 7000 - Meeting Minutes will become the official form to be used by all Secretary of Records designees to document flotilla, division and district meeting minutes.

Just as there are standardized forms for vessel examinations, finance reports, program visitations, aids to navigation, etc., it's time for a standardized Meeting Minutes report form. This form ensures meeting minutes are:

- Accurate - all meeting minutes requirements are documented
- Consistent - It provides consistency in content and location of the required meeting minutes elements. This is particularly important when your COLM and active duty are reviewing multiple reports from different flotillas, divisions and districts.
- Easy to use - If the Secretary of Records is not available, it is simple to use, intuitive, and systematically directs whoever is taking the minutes to include all that is required
- Easy to review – The form provides standardized locations for the required meeting minute elements.
- Searchable - Meeting minutes are legal documents and need to be maintained for 10 years. To ensure the retention, safety, security and ability to search and obtain these legal documents, the Auxiliary will be introducing a digital management system. Later this year, all meeting minutes, as well as some other documents, will be entered into and maintained in this data repository. A standardized form makes it easier to input the documents making these archived documents easily searchable and accessible.

You should find the form easy to use. Take the time to read the instructions (last 2 pages of the form) to familiarize yourself with its use. This is a PDF form, so you must download the form and then open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer (not in your browser). If you don't already have it, Adobe Acrobat Reader has a free download at:

[Adobe - Adobe Acrobat Reader DC Download | Free PDF viewer for Windows, Mac OS, Android](#)

Though there are Adobe plans you can purchase, the free version is all you need.

If you have any questions or difficulties, contact your DSO-SR for assistance. There are video recordings, training guides and resources available in the W-Directorate website located at [Welcome to the Document and Administrative Web Site \(uscgaux.info\)](#).

Very respectfully,

Gus Formato, National Commodore



From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

22 May 2023 Edition

To: All Auxiliarists



## FIRST QUARTER 2023 NAVIGATOR EXPRESS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

The First Quarter Edition of the Navigator Express is available online now!  
Just click on the link below to read stories titled:

- How We Make a Difference in the Auxiliary
- The Auxiliary's National Article Submission Portal
- From The Commandant
- Our Numbers in Action: 2022
- Standing The Watch: 2023 Frogman Swim
- Canines on the Water: Keeping Dogs Safe
- Warm Coats for Kids
- The Auxiliary's First Female VNACO
- Post-Hurricane Ian: The Galley Gang
- Standing The Watch: Gangway Gatekeepers
- Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
- The Power of Social Media in the Auxiliary
- The Auxiliary's Emergency Management Dashboard
- The Recruit, Train, and Mentor Cycle
- How the Sea Scouts Benefit the Auxiliary
- The Auxiliary Integration Award Program
- Building a Culture of Diversity & Inclusion
- Ready, Set, Go! NSBW Is Around the Corner
- Boating Tips for Paddlecraft Safety
- Photo of the Month is Back
- NAVEX Editorial Access to PDF Magazin

[NAVEX-Q1-2023-\(REV6\).pdf - Google Drive](#)



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

The Digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

29 July 2023

### Introducing the New Personal Watercraft (PWC) Seminar Course from the Public Education Directorate!

We are pleased to announce the launch of an exciting and comprehensive Personal Watercraft (PWC) seminar course designed to enhance safety, skills, and knowledge for PWC enthusiasts. Developed by the Public Education Directorate in consultation with PWC experts, this seminar course is designed for instructors who want to expand their flotilla's course offerings.

This course is designed to teach participants the basics of safe PWC operation, including:

- How to operate a PWC in a variety of conditions
- How to avoid accidents and injuries
- How to be a courteous and responsible PWC operator

What's new about this seminar course?

- Emphasis on safety, ensuring a safe and enjoyable PWC experience.
- Expertly crafted comprehensive curriculum with updated and enhanced graphics and videos.
- Environmental awareness that emphasizes the importance of environmental conservation and educates participants about the potential impact of PWCs on marine ecosystems.
- Updated legal and regulatory information to keep students informed and compliant.
- Certification: Upon successfully completing the course, the student will take a short exam to determine proficiency in the material and receive a completion certificate

Please go to the E-Directorate website and download this refreshed presentation to help educate a safe PWC community. The URL is <https://wow.uscgaux.info/?unit=E-DEPT&category=pwc>.

# NATIONAL NOTICES



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

**26 JUL 2023**  
FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 029/23

**Subj: 2022 AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR**

---

Auxiliarist Chester L. Williams of the Seventeenth District, Flotilla 24 in Whittier, AK, is the 2022 Auxiliarist of the Year. The attached ALCOAST recently announced his selection. Congratulations to Mr. Williams! Bravo Zulu!

Respectfully,  
Captain Troy P. Glendye  
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

---





**13 JUL 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 028/23

Subj: **FY23 AUXDATA II PATROL ORDER CLOSEOUT UPDATE**

---

1. Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget will be ending at 2359 hours on 30 September 2023.
2. Any Patrol Order being conducted on or after 0000 hours on 01 October 2023 will fall under the FY24 budget.
3. Auxiliary members and/or Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) must “CANCEL” any Patrol Order in an “APPROVED” status if there are no “Activities” and the patrol was never conducted. This must be completed immediately. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be “CANCELLED”, please use the following link [Patrol Orders \(crmforce.mil\)](#).
4. OIA’s must have all FY23 Patrol Requests that are currently in a “REQUESTED” status, either “APPROVED or DENIED”, no later than 11 September 2023. Patrol Requests not already in AUXDATA II, for patrol dates between 11 September and 30 September 2023, must be “APPROVED” prior to 11 September 2023. Any Patrol Requests received by the OIA after 11 September 2023 may be “APPROVED” on a case-by-case basis. This case-by-case basis will be determined by available funding. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be reviewed, signed and “APPROVED”, please use the following link [Patrol Orders \(crmforce.mil\)](#).
5. Auxiliary members who have Patrol Orders in an “APPROVED” status, except those meeting requirements of paragraph #3 above, must move Patrol Orders to “COMPLETED” status so OIA’s can review and submit to Financial System Modernization System (FSMS), no later than 11 September 2023. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be reviewed, signed and “APPROVED”, please use the following link [Patrol Orders \(crmforce.mil\)](#).
6. OIA’s shall ensure all “COMPLETED” Patrol Orders are in a “SUBMITTED” status in AUXDATA II prior to 30 September 2023. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be reviewed, signed and “SUBMITTED” to FSMS, please use the following link [Patrol Orders \(crmforce.mil\)](#).
7. The above dates are subject to change based on Office of Resource Management (CG-83) guidance.
8. Auxiliarists who have a Patrol Order reimbursement issue, or who do not agree with the amount of the Patrol Order claim reimbursement, shall work with their OIA in correcting and/or resolving claim issues. FINCEN customer service is only available to check the status of an existing claim or to obtain detailed information on claims paid by the Coast Guard Finance Center.
9. Internet release is authorized.





**29 JUN 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 027/23

**Subj: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS 2023 UNIFORMED, CIVILIAN, AND AUXILIARY MEMBER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS**

---

1. In the attached ALCOAST 238/23, the Coast Guard recently solicited for nominations for the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) 2023 Uniformed, Civilian, and Auxiliary Member Emergency Management awards. Nominations must be for the award period of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, and must be received by the designated point-of-contact (POC) by July 14, 2023.

2. Please submit nominations in accordance with ALCOAST 238/23. Notably, “Squadron Commander” in paragraph 3.b. is meant to apply to Coast Guard Auxiliary District Captains and Division Commanders.

Respectfully,  
Captain Troy P. Glendye  
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

• [238-23\\_ALCOAST.pdf](#)







**29 JUN 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 026/23

**Subj: AUXILIARY CEREMONIAL COLOR GUARD (AUXCCG) PROGRAM – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND PERSONAL QUALIFICATION STANDARDS**

---

1. The Auxiliary Ceremonial Color Guard (AUXCCG) Standard Operating Procedures, AUX-SOP-010(B), is posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX) web site: [SOPs \(uscgaux.info\)](https://uscgaux.info). Developed by the Auxiliary Public Affairs Directorate in consultation with the Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1) and the Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard, it provides guidance to standardize and enhance the appearance and performance of Auxiliary Color Guards at all organizational levels. The Auxiliary Director of Public Affairs (DIR-A) serves as the AUXCCG national program manager.
2. To ensure awareness of this SOP and standardization of Auxiliary Color Guard operations, all Auxiliarists performing Color Guard activities were initially required to successfully complete the AUXCCG Personal Qualification Standards (PQS), including the 25-question online open book AUXCCG exam, by 30 June 2023. The AUXCCG exam was recently made available through the Auxiliary Online Classroom. Accordingly, the deadline for completion of the AUXCCG PQS has been extended to 31 December 2023. Auxiliarists are not authorized to participate in Color Guard events after that date without having completed the AUXCCG PQS.
3. Current AUXCCG leaders continue to be granted a one-time authorization through 31 December 2023 to sign off tasks in the AUXCCG PQS for members of their respective Color Guards as well as themselves. However, they may only do so after successful completion of the AUXCCG exam. The AUXCCG exam can be found in the Auxiliary Online Classroom, under the “T-Training and Leadership Development” section: [USCG Auxiliary Classroom: All courses](#). An AUXCCG competency has also been added to AUXDATA II.
4. Internet release is authorized.





**23 JUN 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 025/23

Subj: **84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

- 
1. To all Coast Guard Auxiliarists, today marks the 84th anniversary of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Your spirit of volunteerism, concerted teamwork, and commitment to service are truly inspirational to all Americans. Please continue to serve with pride in the years to come and as you forge ahead into the future. Congratulations for another year well done and thank you for everything that you do for the Coast Guard, for the Nation, and especially for recreational boaters and professional mariners around the world!
  2. Please read the attached ALCOAST 230/23, 84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, conveying the Commandant of the Coast Guard's gratitude and appreciation for the Coast Guard Auxiliary on this special day.
  3. Happy Anniversary, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary!
  4. Internet release is authorized.

Respectfully,  
Captain Troy P. Glendye  
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

- 
- [230-23\\_ALCOAST-84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY.pdf](#)





**07 JUN 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 024/23

**Subj: WARNING - MALICIOUS EMAIL / ATTEMPTED PHISHING INVOLVING SF-86 COLLECTION FOR BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS**

---

1. The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) has been made aware of a sophisticated malicious phishing email circulating which references the collection of an "SF-86\_F" form or an SF-86 addendum (an example of the email is attached). Please do not engage with this email and advise others not to engage with it. You should delete it immediately if received and report that to your Flotilla Communications Services Staff Officer (FSO-CS) and Flotilla Commander (FC) for collation and relay to your District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). This email is NOT coming from DCSA, or any other vetting or Personnel Security entity in the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. IT professionals have confirmed that the email is malicious in nature.
2. Although the language in the email targets DoD employees, it has been sent to non-DoD associated individuals as well. This ALAUX is meant to ensure awareness among Coast Guard Auxiliarists.
3. The message from DCSA containing the malicious email example is attached to this message for your convenience.
4. Internet release is authorized.

- [Phishing attempt - SF86.pdf](#)





**02 JUN 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 023/23

Subj: **2022 AUXILIARY INTEGRATION AWARD PROGRAM RESULTS**

---

1. Please read ALCOAST 207/23, 2022 AUXILIARY INTEGRATION AWARD PROGRAM RESULTS, for the announcement of the award recipients. Congratulations to the following award winners!

a. Commodore Viggo C. Bertelsen, Jr. and Vice Admiral John P. Currier Awards:

(1) Enhanced Mission Support Award: U.S. Coast Guard Academy

(2) Enhanced Operations Award: U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound

(3) Applied Innovation Award: U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center

b. District Director of Auxiliary of the Year: Commander Christina Sullivan (D1-NR)

2. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience.

3. Internet release is authorized.





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

**25 MAY 2023**  
FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 022/23

Subj: **2023 INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS**

---

1. Please read ALCOAST 204/23, 2023 INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS, for the announcement of the award recipients. Congratulations to District 8 Eastern Region Auxiliarist Buford Ridgeway for his selection as the Commodore Charles S. Greanoff Award winner. Bravo Zulu!
2. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience. In addition, the link to the MyCG news article is provided: [2023 Inspirational Award Winners > United States Coast Guard > My Coast Guard News \(uscg.mil\)](#)
3. Internet release is authorized.



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

**22 MAY 2023**  
FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 021/23

Subj: **OPERATION DRY WATER**

---

1. The purpose of this ALAUX is to provide notice of the 2023 Operation Dry Water (ODW) heightened awareness and enforcement weekend and to encourage maximum participation from Coast Guard units. This year, ODW will take place Saturday, July 1, 2023, through Monday, July 3, 2023.
2. Alcohol use continues to be the leading known contributing factor in recreational boating-related deaths. ODW directly supports the National Recreational Boating Safety Program's efforts to eliminate alcohol and drug-related

marine accidents and casualties. The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety's Boating Safety Division, (CG-BSX-2), in partnership with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and many other members of the boating safety community, will help coordinate this nationwide event.

3. Please read ALCOAST 138/23, OPERATION DRY WATER, for more information about ODW and what you can do to help your local Coast Guard units. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience. "Please boat safely."

4. Internet release is authorized.



**22 MAY 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 020/23

Subj: **NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

---

1. Since 1958, the President has proclaimed the week prior to Memorial Day weekend as National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). Boating remains a highly popular, relatively safe, and memory-creating form of outdoor recreation. Preventing loss of life and damage is nonetheless a goal we all share, and we ask you to take precautions and encourage others to do so to make boating as safe as possible. The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) and the CG Auxiliary work extensively with the States and the recreational boating safety community on efforts to encourage model boating behavior. This year NSBW is from Saturday, May 20, 2023, through Friday May 26, 2023.

2. Please read ALCOAST 198/23, NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK, for more information about NSBW and what you can do to help. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience. "Please boat safely."

3. Internet release is authorized.





**18 MAY 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 019/23

Subj: **2022 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

---

1. On May 17, 2023, the Coast Guard announced the winners of the 2022 Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Award. Congratulations to everyone, especially to the Auxiliaries, listed in ALCOAST 196/23, 2022 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience. Congratulations and Bravo Zulu to all!
2. Internet release is authorized.



**16 MAY 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 018/23

Subj: **AUXILIARY COXSWAIN AND BOAT CREW INITIAL QUALIFICATION WAIVABLE TASK BY DIRECTOR (DIRAUX) POLICY LETTER RELEASED**

---

1. The Chief Director of Auxiliary signed CG-BSX Policy Letter 001-23, AUXILIARY COXSWAIN AND BOAT CREW INITIAL QUALIFICATION WAIVABLE TASK BY DIRECTOR (DIRAUX).
2. The purpose of this policy letter is to update the process of waiving tasks by the DIRAUX in the Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Handbook, ABQH 16794.52 (series).

3. All District Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Operations Training Officers (OTO), and Auxiliarists must comply with the provisions in the Policy Letter.
4. The policy letter can be found on the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX) website at: [CG-BSX Policy Letters](#).
5. Internet release is authorized.



\*All ALAUXs are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX ALAUX](#)

**To access all ALAUX Memoranda and all things Auxiliary: <http://agroup-bx.wow.uscqaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP>**



# A Message from the Editor

Good day 5NR,

Thank you to all who have been contributing to Topside over the years. Just a reminder that you can send me any pictures, articles, and the like for consideration to be included in a future edition.

If you send pictures, just remember that any Auxiliarists in uniform need to be in proper uniform and wearing them correctly. Also, photographs that include minors should include the signed form from parents/guardians allowing them to be used in publications.

I hope everyone had a good summer and trust you will all have a good fall. Stay 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



## Come Visit us on the Web

Coast Guard Auxiliary homepage:

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

5NR Website:

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



## Newsletter Staff

### Editor

**Timothy Marks**

District Staff Officer for Publications

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

5th District, Northern Region

[tpmarks@comcast.net](mailto:tpmarks@comcast.net)

Communications **Ellen Voorhees**

Historian **Steven Marthouse**

Media **Christopher Orlando**

Photography **Barbara Sama**





# Parting Shot

**Mike Slepian, an Auxiliary Public Affairs Staff Officer, diligently captures the essence of the Coast Guard Community Festival, which took place last weekend at the USCG Training Center Cape May. As an essential part of the team, Auxiliary Public Affairs Officers play a vital role in promoting the missions and achievements of both the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the active-duty Coast Guard.**

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Michael Hamilton.*