

BUOY 13

Volume XL Issue 1

US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 13 Newsmagazine

Autumn, 2016

AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 52 AND THE CITY OF FLORENCE, OREGON HONOR COAST GUARD STATION SIUSLAW RIVER - PAGE 17



**SECTOR
PUGET SOUND
DIRECTS MASS
RESCUE
EXERCISE
- PAGES 23 & 27**

BUOY 13

U S Coast Guard Auxiliary District 13, the Pacific Northwest



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

As editor and publisher of BUOY 13, I alone am entirely responsible for all errors, of any kind. That said, I need to express my grateful thanks to Auxiliary District 13 Chief of Staff, acting Commodore and Commodore elect, Kathy Goodwin for her indispensable guidance and vetting to insure compliance with Coast Guard regulations, policies, protocol, and propriety.

-Gary Bell, editor

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...with all photos in *.jpg and text in a
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BUOY 13

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Here I will note a convention that is used throughout my publication work, namely that when additional descriptive text comes from me, as the editor, rather than the noted contributor it will be in Italics and followed by either "- Gary Bell, editor" or most often simply "- ed"

Cover Images: BELOW AT LEFT is a photo from page 18 showing a Station Siuslaw RBS training with a Flotilla 52 OPFAC, photo supplied by the article's author, Deborah Cordone of Flotilla 52.



AT RIGHT is a CG immersion suit simulating an injured Auxiliarist with a triage tag in the Mass Casualty Disaster Drill. This photo, seen on page 24, supplied by the article's author, Dave Larkin, of Flotilla 44



Commodore's Comments

Richard Coons, DCO

Greetings, Shipmates!

Yes I'm still around, although I feel as though I am in a very different world. I'm on strong antibiotics and go to the hospital daily for two infusions. I'm scheduled for another surgery in November. I thank you for your continuing support and caring throughout this ordeal. I would like to especially like to thank Rear Admiral Butt and his staff for the visit while I was in the rehab center. He really cares about his people. Also I must thank DCOS, Kathy Goodwin for filling in as acting DCO for such a long time. What a huge job!

Congratulations to those who were elected at our recent Board Meeting. We will be in good hands with Kathy Goodwin as your Commodore elect and David Larkin as your Chief of Staff elect. Returning as our District Captain North is Art West with newly elected Paul Otey as District Captain East and Dennis Wood as District Captain South. I'm confident they will serve us well. As we enter the season of voting for Division and Flotilla Commanders, please keep in mind that we need good leaders, this is not a

popularity contest.

This year has brought on several mandates, both from Headquarters and the Active Duty;

but sadly we have lost way too many members as a result. Mandatory training, RSS, and the new QE requirements are what I've been hearing. We are slowly conquering these hurdles and more and more of us are accepting these changes.

The AP status situation is slowing being resolved. The gap analysis is showing us where we need to concentrate on specific support issues. We are seeing new life for the PWC program, thanks to OTO Wall. And our audio equipment has been acquired.

As we enter a new era of 2017, I look forward to working with your most capable DCO and her staff. Challenges will arise, but as always Auxiliarists in District 13 will rise and overcome.

Semper Paratus



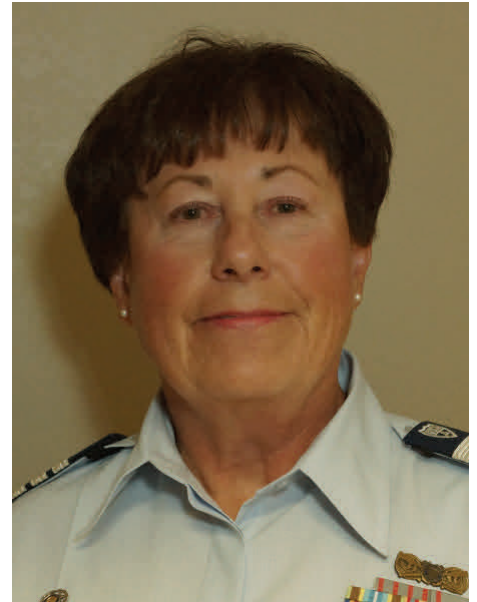
Chief Of Staff's Comments

Kathleen Goodwin, serving DCOS, acting DCO and DCO elect

It is the evening before the BUOY 13 articles are to be submitted and I am just beginning the project. It has been quite a challenge to take care of the responsibilities of both the DCO and the DCOS duties last year, when Richard was deployed to FEMA, as well as beginning in March of this year when his health was compromised with several severe medical issues. It has been demanding, but when I think about everything that Richard has gone through during his illnesses, it makes me feel very humble. I want to thank all of you who have reached out to COMO Coons by sending cards and contacting him by phone. He is traveling a long, hard road, and his Auxiliary family is very important to him. We cannot execute our missions without great people. I want every Auxiliarist to know that you are valued and have the power to positively influence those around you and the work that you do. We joined the Auxiliary because we believed in its missions. The public counts on us, and only through your dedication can we deliver exceptional results in every mission area. A brief summary of our missions during 2016

follows.

District 13 Auxiliarists staffed 16 boat and sportsman shows across Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, reaching out



to recreational boaters who look to us for knowledge, educational outreach, and meaningful partnerships in our mission of Recreational Boating Safety.

We held two District Meetings that included training for State Liaison Officers, Public Affairs Specialists, and Division Commanders. We explored partnerships with the Navy League, Power Squadron, Army Corps of Engineers and Boating Law Administrators. I also had the opportunity to join our outstanding AuxAir crew on a mission that began at the Hillsboro Airport, covered the Willamette and Columbia Rivers as well as the Multnomah Channel checking for

Chief Of Staff's Comments

Kathleen Goodwin, serving DCOS, acting DCO and DCO elect

derelict and suspect vessels. Member trainers have provided a variety of opportunities for continued education and mandatory training. We have led, and currently still lead, the Pacific Area with a 53% Mandatory Training completion rate. We held a test emergency accountability drill which was communicated in several paths—home phone, cell phone, computer, etc., with a 70% confirmation rate. Several members participated in the Honor Flight events in Seattle and Spokane, Washington, saluting Korean, World War II and Vietnam veterans on their way to and from Washington, DC. We have increased our Life Jacket Loaner Stations to 174 in Washington, 50 in Montana, 93 in Idaho and 50 in Oregon. Our surface facilities were kept busy during major holidays, training and QE sessions, special events, and regular patrols, saving lives, assisting recreational boaters and saving countless dollars in property value. National Safe Boating Week contained many local proclamations, boating safety/life jacket presentations, vessel safety checks, parades, fairs, and some local boat ramps were painted with "Life Jacket Zone" stencils. Vessel

Examiners made a special effort to increase communications with the boating public. Program Visits have shown an increase with new partners as well as our regular customers. Our Publication officers are creating and distributing outstanding newsletters. The Communication Services staff is continuing their updates on our websites and Easy Reports. Public Affairs activities reach out daily to share who we are and what we do. Public Education instructors taught a variety of boating safety classes to adults and conducted many "Water 'n Kids" sessions reaching hundreds of children. Members are also involved as Watchstanders and the Ombudsman Program at many active duty stations. Our Color/Honor Guards have participated in parades, funeral ceremonies, and special events. Auxiliary Food Service personnel have continued their augmentation with stations, cutters, etc. Our Information Systems officers are busy inputting members' numerous activities. Telecommunications Operator qualification sessions have been held, and we are continuing with the installation of distributed HF transceivers. Auxiliary Sector and Unit Coordinators

Chief Of Staff's Comments

Kathleen Goodwin, serving DCOS, acting DCO and DCO elect

have facilitated administrative and operational support by the Auxiliary to associated Coast Guard units. Finance, Material and Secretary/Recorder Officers, Planning and Readiness personnel, Response teams and other Auxiliarists involved in Logistics and Prevention round out our amazing District 13 staff. Our Auxiliarists have teamed up to build an incredible District that we are very proud of. Thank you!

At our recent September Board Meeting, I had the privilege of being elected as your District Commodore for 2017-2018. I intend to lead our District by adhering to our Core Values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. Congratulations go to the following newly elected District officers: David Larkin, District Chief of Staff; Paul Otey, District Captain-East; Dennis Wood, District Captain-South; and Art West, who was re-elected as District Captain-North.

As their term ends, I want to thank the following District Captains for their outstanding dedication and professionalism: Jerry Bishop, District Captain-East and Wil Lampa, District Captain-South. I also send my

appreciation to the following appointed District Directorate Chiefs who I have had the privilege of working with during the past two years: Art Cummings, DDC-Logistics; David Tribolet, DDC-Prevention; Dick Halsaver, DDC-Planning and Readiness; and Larry Graves, DDC-Response.

And, to each Division and Vice Division Commander, to every Flotilla and Vice Flotilla Commander, and to all Auxiliarists, a sincere and heartfelt "Thank you!" for everything you accomplish each and every day for the betterment of the District 13 Coast Guard Auxiliary. You are all remarkable people and I am honored to work alongside of you. I wish you all the very best that life has to offer!

Kathy Goodwin, DCOS



Chief Of Staff elect's Comments

David Larkin, serving DSO-IM, DCOS elect

Ahoy District 13! I am honored to have been elected by the District Board to serve as your next Chief of Staff. I'll be honest, I am still trying to wrap my head around how big that job may be but I am ready for the challenge. Thankfully I still have just under 2 months before the flood gates open. Fortunately, I have a fantastic mentor and role model in our newly elected Commodore Kathy Goodwin.

2016 has marked my 30th year serving in the US Coast Guard wearing both gold and silver insignia. I thought it would be a big change joining the Auxiliary but the only real change is that my paycheck got a little smaller. If you step back and look at the process you will see much is the same. Whether we are active duty, reserve, civilian or Auxiliary, we all volunteered for our positions. The active duty and civilians volunteered to work every day for consideration (pay and benefits), the reservists volunteered to serve on a part time basis for consideration and, we Auxiliarists volunteered to serve on an individually scheduled basis. We don't get paid, but we also have the option to say "no" to a particular mission where the others

don't.

The Auxiliary is a full member of the Coast Guard team and not a separate organization. We are established under Title 14 of the United



States Code, the same section that authorizes the Coast Guard. When we accept orders we are considered by law to be "Coast Guard Personnel" and our facilities are "Coast Guard Vessels, Aircraft or Radios." We all work for the same Commandant and are overseen by active duty officers who are tasked with facilitating our members' efforts in completing USCG assigned missions.

The Commandant, in his published Auxiliary Policy Statement, specifies the three missions he wants us to focus on (note that these can change with each Commandant);

To promote and improve Recreational Boating Safety;

Chief Of Staff elect's Comments

David Larkin, serving DSO-IM, DCOS elect

To provide a diverse array of specialized skills, trained crews, and capable facilities to augment the Coast Guard and enhance safety and security of our ports, waterways and coastal regions;

To support Coast Guard operational, administrative and logistical requirements.

It is incumbent upon our elected and appointed leaders to keep those missions in mind and not to focus on any one to the exclusion of the others. Not every member needs to be involved in every mission, but as a whole we need to support each one.

I see the DCOS position as that of a facilitator. The District Directorate Chiefs and District Staff Officers are the subject matter experts in their fields and are there to assist and advise the Division and Flotilla leadership in the performance of those mission areas. My job is to make sure they have the tools to get that done. As we look higher on the organization chart we move farther from doing the missions and closer to making sure the missions get done.

We have some interesting challenges

coming in the next few years. We have recently completed a District wide gap analysis which allowed the Commanding Officers/Officers in Charge at every unit to tell us directly what they needed from the Auxiliary. Some of the requests were surprising but not unreasonable. There will be a period of review as the Board works to get those requests organized and then they will come down the line for us all to try to fulfill. I can assure you the Coast Guard is indeed asking us to become more involved in day to day Coast Guard operations. It is up to all of us to support Commodore Coons and Commodore Elect Goodwin in answering that call for service.



District Captains' Reports

Gerald Bishop , serving DCAPT—East

Well, my time as District Captain East is coming to an end; as are the Division Commanders' in our Area, a total changeover of leadership. The Eastern Area has accomplished excellent things. HF radios are now being installed in our emergency communications facilities. We have formed productive relationships with several local sheriff departments. We provide on-site security for National Guard helicopter unit exercises on the water by providing safety zones - you know those civilians, they want to get up close and personal. We actively participate in parades and Honor Guard events giving final respects to our fallen brethren. We work closely with Sea Cadets. We invest lots of training hours to qualify Boatcrew members and Coxswains. One of our Flotillas works with the only Coast Guard unit in the Eastern Area. Our members take a great deal of pride in doing all these things, and much more, but there is one area in which we are not doing well - GROWTH!!

We have Flotillas that are growing, Flotillas that are shrinking and Flotillas that appear to be failing. In Montana we are looking to establish Detachments on the Fort Peck Reservoir and down at Yellowstone. Please recognize that these folks drive 200+ miles to interview and complete applications.

My own Flotilla did well this year, three new members, one new [to us] member who

returned to the Auxiliary and one member who just retired and now wants to be an active member. They have been actively "employed" in training and leadership advancement. The sad part is we'll probably lose four to five members this year.

As I look around the Auxiliary as a whole, the growth issue continues to bug us. What's the secret? I wish someone would let us know. We've had experts tell us to do this and do that, but just hasn't seemed to work. The one thing I've found is - once the person has joined, GET THEM BUSY!! Get them excited about being in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

FELLOWSHIP plays a big part; it is one of the four cornerstones. Have fun at your meetings.

THANK YOU to the Eastern Area Coast Guard Auxiliary members who support our GREAT organization. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the communities in which you serve.

BZ



You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

-Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)

District Captains' Reports

Paul Otey, DCAPT - East elect

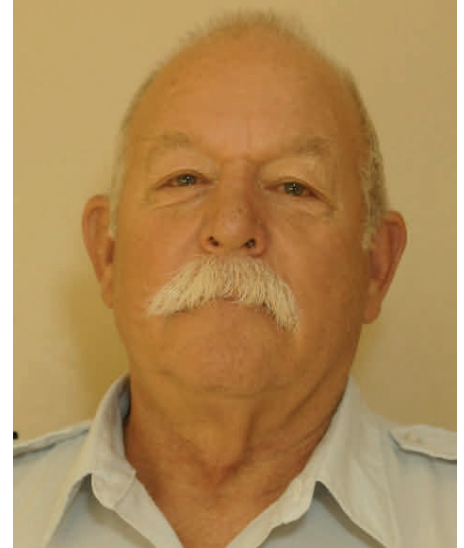
I will not be giving a progress report this time as it has been covered by the outgoing DCAPT-East.

I look forward to my new challenge as your DCAPT in 2017 and will be there to serve you. As I see it my job will be to obtain for you, the flotillas, the reasonable tools necessary for you to accomplish your tasks as given to us by the Commandant.

I believe that recruiting should be at the top of the list of tasks for the foreseeable future - our existence as a force multiplier depends on it. All of our units have unfilled staff positions and we are the only ones that can locate, recruit and train younger people to fill those positions. Operations is not the

only field within the Auxiliary. We need data input (IS) and now more than ever, members that are savvy in Social Media to get our word out to the millennials.

To the members of the Frozen Inland Northwest, winter is the time to retrain ourselves and to recruit and train new members. To quote Commander Hofferber, "The train is on the track and is on the way. We can get on, step aside and let it pass us by, or get run over by it." Which do you choose?



*People who change after changes - SURVIVE,
People who change with the changes - SUCCEED
And people who cause the changes - LEAD.*

District Captains' Reports

Wil Lampa, serving DCAPT - South

I have been the DCAPT-S for the last two years and this is my swan song.

I have heard it said that we do what we do to serve the Coast Guard. This is evident at Station Siuslaw River in Florence Oregon where three Auxiliarists are supplementing the stations duties.

In Division 5, Tony Rebello, AUX-FS, can be found in the galley 40 hours a week. Brad Hooper is standing radio watches 40 hours a week and is in training to stand Station OOD watches. Deb Cordone, FSO-PA, is working as the PA for the station at about 30 hours a week.

In Division 6, Tillamook's Flotilla 63 greeted a SAR crew with a hot meal as they returned to base after midnight from an exceptionally challenging 13 hour open ocean

rescue tow.

In Division 7 Auxiliary facilities have responded to three separate incidents

while on patrol that have resulted in the active duty requesting Auxiliary Medals of Operational Merit for the coxswains and boat crews.

I would like to thank Divisions 5, 6 and 7 for all the work they put forth in the area of RBS over the last two years. The Southern Area leads D13 in 7 out of the 11 areas tracked for AUXDATA driven awards.

I will be spending a couple of months in the Arizona sun this winter and will then return to my work in RBS.



Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal,

Nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong attitude.

—Thomas Jefferson

District Directorate Chiefs' Reports

Art Cummings - DDC-Logistics

The Easy Report System

Regular and informative reports from staff officers directly contribute to the success of flotillas and divisions. Without these communications, appointed and elected leaders often lack the information necessary to make good decisions. This is most evident in those flotillas and divisions struggling with member retention; hence it is essential that staff officers support their elected leaders by providing clear and comprehensive monthly reports.

In District 13, there were 794 staff officers listed at the flotilla, division and district levels as of 1 June 2016. This doesn't mean there are that many Auxiliarists occupying offices, many members in flotillas and divisions occupy more than one position. As you can imagine, if every staff officer reported with a paper report, the number would be unmanageable. Fortunately, the Communications Services (CS) team, lead by DSO-CS Chris Kuehner, created the paperless reporting system called "Easy Reports" and installed it on the District 13 website. Although there may be commercially available systems available that would do the same job, Easy Reports was produced at no cost and the only expense is the annual subscription for the server to house the program.

Despite its convenience, less than half of District 13's flotilla and division staff officers reported through Easy Reports on a regular basis during the first six months of 2016. Unfortunately, the record of elected officer reporting is only slightly higher than the staff officers. Is it possible that some elected officers do not take reporting seriously and it is being

reflected in the program areas? Some Easy Report comments at the flotilla level indicate a possible lack of communication from division or district elected and appointed officers.

It is essential that each elected and appointed officer subscribe to regular monthly reporting through the Easy Reports. If any officer is having difficulty accessing or using the system, they should read the instructions at <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=130&category=easy-reports> or contact their CS officer for assistance. Once familiar with the system, it takes just a few minutes to type or upload a report. In addition, Easy Reports is available to all Auxiliarists, including members in other districts, who can review and download all reports up to and including the district captain (DCAPT) and district directorate chief (DDC) levels.

The Easy Reports system is an effective and efficient means of reporting. If you are a staff or elected officer, please do your part by submitting your reports on a regular basis. If you are not an officer, the reports dating back to March 2015 are available to you and can be accessed through the District 13 website. Working together, we can improve monthly reporting and information sharing to all members of the Auxiliary in District 13.



District Directorate Chiefs' Reports

David Tribolet - DDC-Prevention

Of Life Jackets and Seat Belts, Recreational Boating Safety

Life jackets and seat belts...

Prevention is a mind-set. Prevention accounts for risk. Drowning, hypothermia, and trauma are risks. Failures to apply counter measures for risks prevent you from being safe. In this brief article, you will see an abbreviated history of two important safety measures.

Drownings and cold water:

Inflated animal skins were used by the Assyrians in 870 BC as flotation devices; but, it was not until 1757 AD that an unknown Frenchman made a flotation device from cork. In 1851, Captain John Ross Ward (an arctic explorer) used cork in the first life jacket.

Herodotus of Greece (450 BC) wrote, "Those who could not swim perished from that cause, others from the cold."

Need for restraint:

On 10 February 1885, Edward Claghorn was granted US Patent #312,085 for a safety belt for tourists which was "designed to be applied to the person, and provided with hooks and other attachments for securing the person to a

fixed object."

Carriage requirements: The need to have these safety items (life jackets and seat belts) for vessels/vehicles has been around

for a very long time. Our awareness of that cause and effect relationship has not. Even today, the leading causes of death on vessels/vehicles involve the failure to use life jackets/seat belts (as appropriate). And, it is only within the last 50 years that these have become incrementally mandated requirements.

Given the USCG Auxiliary's primary mission of Recreational Boating Safety, our vessel safety checks, public education, program visitation, and public affairs messaging demand that we discuss prevention as a mind-set.

Be safe!



District Directorate Chiefs' Reports

David Tribolet - DDC-Prevention

Recreational Boating Safety, Island Detachment Style

Fall is here...

You can feel it in the air. It is cooler. The trees are shedding their leaves. Smoke and the smell of burning wood signal the new season.

Now, is a great opportunity to look back on all that we achieved and all that we can improve on... in all of our new seasons. How did we do in achieving our primary USCG Auxiliary mission of Recreational Boating Safety (RBS)? Our focus for this brief review will be on the program areas within the Prevention Directorate. Those program areas include marine safety, member training, navigation systems, public affairs, public education, program visitation, vessel exams, and state liaison functions. Each of those programs delivered vital messages/information to our communities of recreational boaters operating in freshwater or saltwater. The frequency or volume of that messaging depended largely on the communities and the Auxiliary units supporting them. The value of all of the Prevention programs was further amplified through our partners in Recreational Boating

Safety (to wit: other federal agencies, state parks, county sheriff's offices, harbor masters/marina managers, local responders, marine dealers, boating clubs/organizations, et al).

Some who read this will wonder about the value of something coming from the District level. Let me assure you that we employ all of these program elements at the San Juan Islands Detachment level. The Detachment is comprised of Bellingham Flotilla members who live on 3 of the 4 ferry served islands of the San Juan Archipelago in the Salish Sea. It takes an hour or more to reach the mainland (USA) and then you have a ground transportation need. Given all that it takes to move around on the islands, Detachment members need to become fairly resourceful. In the absence of a robust membership on the islands, we created the San Juan Islands RBS Group which includes representatives from all of the partners identified in the previous paragraph. What we have in common is an abiding interest in helping boaters to understand their vessels, the marine environment,

District Directorate Chiefs' Reports

David Tribolet - DDC-Prevention

Recreational Boating Safety, Island Detachment Style

and the best ways to safely enjoy and protect our waters.

During the course of each year, we provide boater education programs, boating safety fairs (with numerous safety demonstrations), vessel safety checks for power & sail boats/paddle craft, uninspected passenger vessel exams/outreach, distribution of pump-out and oil spill kits, verification of private aids to navigation, assistance to boaters at docks/ramps/underway, outreach to Salish Sea visitors about our ecosystems, press releases/public service announcements to local online/print/social media, assistance with community based life jacket loaner programs, and constant availability to our partners as the local contingent of the USCG Auxiliary and as neighbors. We would not be able to achieve the RBS needs of our local communities without the other RBS stakeholders... our PARTNERS!

The San Juan County community has seen our value and has provided us with a "no cost" lease on a dock house for our

public education, vessel safety check, program visitation, and life jacket loaner program materials. They also provide us with meeting and class room presentation space.

In all that we do, we enjoy training, operating, and having fun as Auxiliary shipmates on the beautiful Salish Sea.

So, how can we improve? We need to channel that interest that you had when you chose to become a uniformed volunteer in the USCG Auxiliary. We need you... the instructor... the vessel examiner... the program visitor... the crew member/coxswain... the navigational aid verifier... the steward of the marine environment... the public affairs officer... the member who wants a challenge. Tell your elected and appointed officers what you want to do. If you have the time, we have the positions. We would enjoy your assistance in meeting the RBS challenges!

Take care... and stay safe on the waters,

News You Can Use - first Cover Story

Auxiliary Flotilla 52 and The City of Florence, Oregon honor Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River

by Deborah Heldt Cordone, FL52 FSO-PA, Div. 5 SO-PB

USCG Station Siuslaw River has a proud 99 year history in the central Oregon coastal city of Florence. A number of local Coast Guard Auxiliaries from Flotilla 52's Florence Detachment also take particularly active roles augmenting and serving alongside the active duty.

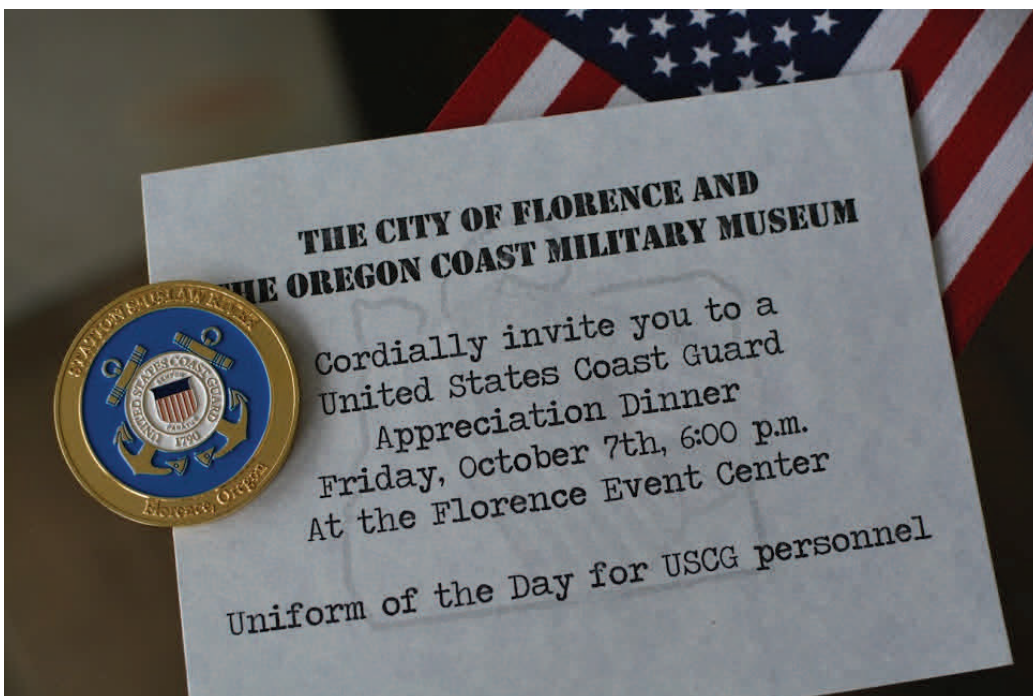
Earlier this year, Flotilla 52 Auxiliarist and Florence resident Deborah Cordone proposed to city officials that the community apply to be designated a Coast Guard City and they have come to call this 'The Year of the Coast Guard.' She also suggested an annual appreciation dinner to celebrate the relationship. The Mayor volunteered to spearhead the effort and the Oregon Coast Military Museum agreed to host

Florence's first annual Florence Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner. Over several months, leaders from the City of Florence, Port of Siuslaw, veterans groups, the DAR, Station Siuslaw River and the CG Auxiliary met to plan the event.

Station Siuslaw River active-duty members and their families, Flotilla 52 members and Sector North Bend officials received invitations and on the evening of October 7th, all those plans came to fruition in a semi-formal dinner affair held at the Florence Event Center. Over 250 guests arrived in evening attire or uniform. Active-duty members, command staff from Sector North Bend and Auxiliaries all received a specially designed challenge coin upon

arrival. The colorful newly minted coin has the Coast Guard logo and "Station Siuslaw River, Florence, Oregon" on one side, with the date and City of Florence logos on the other. The local Band of Brothers veteran's group sponsored the coins. A retired Marine and local photographer provided photos of guests when they arrived.

The program included the station's color guard team,



Unless otherwise noted, all photos are by the author

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News You Can Use - first Cover Story

Auxiliary Flotilla 52 and The City of Florence, Oregon, Honor Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River

an impressive banquet, live music, several speakers and dancing. During the entire evening a video played on large screens on either side of the podium showing photos and video clips of this year's activities by Station Siuslaw River and Flotilla 52 (*you can view the extended video shown there at:*

<https://youtu.be/TrRUgWsUhHc>

Wayne Sharp, local radio personality and President of the Oregon Coast Military Museum was Master of Ceremonies. Speakers for the event included Florence Mayor Joe Henry; CDR Charles Guerrero, Deputy Commander of Sector North Bend; Station Siuslaw River Officer In

Charge Senior Chief Petty Officer Tim Tregoning; as well as Auxiliary Flotilla 52 Commander Norm Hoffman. They each paid tribute to the Coast Guard's active duty members who serve at Station Siuslaw River with their families, as well as the Auxiliarists augmenting full time or nearly so in the areas of radio watch standing, food services, public affairs, mechanics and boat crew. There were several standing ovations.

The first speaker, Florence Mayor Joe Henry, recognized the critical importance of Station Siuslaw River's daily operations to the community. He stressed that the community



Auxiliarists and active duty training and requalifying together

ABOVE: Flotilla 52 Auxiliarist Bill Ebert's OPFAC *No Name* setting up for a towing exercise with Station Siuslaw's 25 foot RBS 25536. Seen aboard the Station boat, from left to right, SN Samantha Hughes, BM2 Justin Lindquist, BM3 Brooke Crosley, and not seen inside, BM3 Joshua Bromund. Seen aboard *No Name*, from left to right out in the cockpit, Flotilla 52 Auxiliarists Ken Cates and Christy Cates, and partly concealed inside are John Marconi with Coxswain Bill Ebert.

News You Can Use - first Cover Story

Auxiliary Flotilla 52 and The City of Florence, Oregon honor Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River

gratefully supports them both in their heroic service and as neighbors and friends in the community.

Flotilla Commander Norm Hoffman, who gave an inspiring and patriotic speech, stated: "Our Florence station crew are exemplary in carrying out the Coast Guard mission of being *"Semper*

Paratus" ... always ready! The Coast Guard has great technology, but make no mistake; it is the people that truly make the Coast Guard what it is today...Station Siuslaw River has some great members and great citizens volunteering as Auxiliarists to help carry out the Team Coast Guard mission."

Active duty and Auxiliary members stood alongside their grateful community members in the celebration; everybody had a good time and the event will be remembered in the community for years to come.



ABOVE: Florence mayor Joe Henry

RIGHT: Flotilla Commander of Auxiliary Flotilla 52, Norm Hoffman



News You Can Use - first Cover Story

Auxiliary Flotilla 52 and The City of Florence, Oregon honor Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River



However, the Year of the Coast Guard doesn't stop with this dinner. The Coast Guard will be the celebrated Grand Marshal of the Florence Veteran's Day Parade in November. And just this month, the Chamber of Commerce announced that in 2017, the Coast Guard will be the Grand Marshal of the Rhododendron Parade, the second largest parade in the State of Oregon. The theme of the 2017 parade will be 'Always Ready to Rhody' as homage to the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus*.



BOTH IMAGES ABOVE: United States Coast Guard Senior Chief Petty Officer Tim Tregoning is currently the Officer in Charge at Station Siuslaw River and is largely responsible for the exceptionally close ties with the community. Lower photo by Auxiliarist Jonathan Yoder.

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News You Can Use - first Cover Story

Auxiliary Flotilla 52 and The City of Florence, Oregon honor Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River

Sector North Bend Command Staff



ABOVE: Command Staff from Sector North Bend, left to right: CDR Charles Guerrero, CDR Robert Workman, LCDR Ben Crowell, Master Chief Jeanne Cato, LCDR Ezri Manuel. Photo by Richard Lewis.

LEFT: Coast Guard District 13, Sector North Bend Deputy Commander Charles M. Guerrero speaking at the dinner.

News You Can Use

Gap Analysis

by David Larkin, serving DSO-IM, DCOS elect

We have recently completed a USCG directed Gap Analysis project across District 13. What that means is that every Commanding Officer/ Officer in Charge of every unit in District 13 was contacted and asked to brainstorm on what the Auxiliary could do for them. The question was very open ended and not limited to our historical mission set. The answers we got back were interesting, some expected and some not. I will not go into the entire list but here is a snapshot of some of the highlights and some of the outliers. *(table below)*

In all we had 37 different missions requested from 24 different commands. Of course not all commands requested all missions and they vary geographically.

The complete Gap Analysis, with specific requesting units, has been delivered to the District Board for consideration. The end result

of this should be targeted training to meet these mission requests and targeted recruiting to meet the manning levels required.

It is important to always remember the reason the USCG Auxiliary was chartered by Congress. 14 USC 822 states "The purpose of the Auxiliary is to assist the Coast Guard as authorized by the Commandant, in performing any Coast Guard function, power, duty, role, mission or operation authorized by law". That means that we are here to do whatever they need us to do to help them perform their missions. As the volunteer component of the Coast Guard we have the individual right to participate (or not) in specific missions but as a whole we are here to serve.

We should expect our leadership to guide us toward fulfilling these new and old mission sets soon.

Position	Number Desired
Communications Watchstanders	45
AUX Food Service Specialists	33
Pollution Responders	17
Shore Facility Inspectors	11
Ombudsman	13
36' MLB Keepers	10
PPE Inspectors	13
Range Safety Officers	2
LE Patrol Platforms (boats/crews)	7

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Sector Puget Sound Mass Rescue Exercise

by **David Larkin, serving DSO-IM, DCOS elect**

At 0800 on Tuesday September 27th the watchstander at USCG Station Port Angeles received a call: "Ferry Juan de Fuca is taking on water with 1,000 souls on board." The OOD was immediately notified, the SAR alarm sounded and the duty boat crew sprang into action.

This was the start of Sector Puget



All photos in this article were supplied by David Larkin of Flotilla 44.

Sound's Mass Rescue Operations drill which had been in the planning stages for over 9 months. The drill involved numerous agencies, including 13th Coast Guard District Sector Puget Sound JHOC, AIRSTA/SFO Port Angeles, USCG Station Port Angeles, USCGC Wahoo, Canadian Coast Guard, Canadian Air Force, US Customs and Border Protection, JRCC Victoria, Clallam County Emergency

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Sector Puget Sound Mass Rescue Exercise

Management, Clallam County Sheriff, Port Angeles Fire Department, Clallam County Fire Districts 2 and 3, Olympic Ambulance, Olympic Medical Center, Arrow Marine Group, Puget Sound Pilots, Black Ball Ferry Vessel *COHO* and others.

The Auxiliary was specifically asked to provide members to play victims that would exercise and stress the boat

crews, medical staff, fire and EMS agencies and hospital disaster operations.

The Auxiliarists arrived on board AIRSTA/SFO Port Angeles at 0630 to get their assignments and have moulage applied. The Red Cross was there with coffee and pastries and preparing sack lunches for the participants (PB&J!).

The actors then waited to be called. And



photo supplied by AUX Dave Larkin of Flotilla 44

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Sector Puget Sound Mass Rescue Exercise

photo supplied by AUX Dave Larkin of Flotilla 44



waited. And waited.

As the actors were being made up Arrow Launch was out in the Straights of Juan de Fuca tossing 60 immersion suits in the water simulating casualties. Each suit had a triage tag attached giving the name and injuries of the simulated victim.

Two USCG response boats, assisted by

the 87' *USCG Cutter Wahoo, (WPB 7345)* acting as On-Scene Commander began fishing the suits out of the water. They were only allowed to retrieve as many suits as they could safely carry as passengers before returning to shore to offload.

Upon arriving at the Station the suits were exchanged for a live Auxiliary actor

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Sector Puget Sound Mass Rescue Exercise



integrated with USCG and local emergency management personnel.

In all the Auxiliary provided 40 members from 14 Flotillas and seven Divisions. They provided (combined) over 600 volunteer hours and traveled over 9,620 miles to take part in this drill. None of this was paid or reimbursed except for patrol orders for the two Aux surface facilities. This shows an outstanding dedication on the part of the Auxiliary members which was not lost on the Sector Puget Sound command.

BZ to all who participated or supported those who did.

who took on the role. Each of the “victims” was triaged, treated and then transported via EMS to the local hospital which then exercised their own disaster plan.

Two Auxiliary facilities were underway for the drill, one out of play that transported local and national media and one playing the part of a Good Samaritan vessel that also conducted at-sea rescues. We had Auxiliarists working in the County EOC filling ICS roles fully



News You Can Use - third Cover Story

Coast Guard Coordinates Multi-Agency Mass Rescue Exercise by Michael Sealfon, DSO-PA D13/AUXPA1

Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound's area of responsibility extends throughout Puget Sound and north to include the challenging waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The Sector's many responsibilities include insuring the safety of the international ferry vessels that traverse this heavily trafficked area. Due to the large number of passengers

carried daily across international waters, any potential disaster could quickly overwhelm local U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles' capabilities. To effectively fulfill its mandated mission, Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound is tasked to establish and maintain a Mass Rescue Plan (MRP) to coordinate the response to a mass rescue situation.

The primary goal of a MRP is to adopt an all-hazard, capabilities-based approach to preparedness necessary to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other maritime emergencies which require a mass rescue operation. Among numerous other tasks the MRP calls for establishing a Unified Command (UC) compliant with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Command Structure including all the relevant US, Canadian, state and local agencies.

The effectiveness of the Sector Puget Sound MRP was tested in late September 2016 by conducting a Mass Rescue Operation in United States waters near Ediz Hook Light, Port Angeles, Washington.

This exercise was planned and



ABOVE: 87' USCG Cutter Wahoo, (WPB 7345) on station coordinating all the on scene assets. A hazy Mount Baker is seen in the background, photo supplied by Michael Sealfon.

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Coast Guard Coordinates Multi-Agency Mass Rescue Exercise

coordinated by the staff of the Sector Puget Sound Contingency Section and involved fourteen government agencies including U. S. Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles air and surface assets, Auxiliary surface facilities and crews, multiple federal, Clallam County and City of Port Angeles agencies, the Red Cross, local hospital and EMT organizations and elements of the Canadian Coast Guard.

The mass rescue exercise (MRE) scenario involved simulating the sinking of the Port Angeles to Victoria ferry with 500 passengers on-board. According to the exercise plan, thirty minutes into the regular morning voyage from Port Angeles to Victoria, B.C. the ship struck a drifting cargo container and the hull sustained massive damage which required abandonment of the vessel. Within five minutes of receipt of the distress message, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was established at the Clallam County Sheriff's office and a Search and Rescue Telephone (SARTEL) call was initiated. Shortly thereafter, Joint Rescue Coast Guard Victoria was contacted for availability of deployable assets.

Converging on the scene were: The 87' *USCGC Wahoo (WPB 87345)* and two response boats from Station Port

Angeles; two USCG Auxiliary facilities; and a launch from Arrow Marine. They were soon joined by a rescue helicopter and the 42' Canadian rescue-lifeboat *Cape Naden*. All vessels and a rescue swimmer were involved in retrieving approximately 60 "survivors", performing on-site treatment, and expediting medical transport to the triage staging area located at USCG Air Station Port Angeles.

At the triage site, Auxiliary volunteers who had been previously moulanged by American Red Cross volunteers, were staged based upon type and severity of injury and triaged by U.S. Coast Guard health care personnel.

At the conclusion of the all-day exercise, CAPT Raymond, Commander Sector Puget Sound and overall Incident Commander stated, "Great exercise and a great chance to build relationships." LT Roberts, Contingency Planning Section and exercise coordinator remarked, "The exercise was successful and lessons were learned." Her additional comments were, "The plan looked at specific areas such as triage which brought in other agencies."

Bravo Zulu to Team Coast Guard, and all the other participating agencies and personnel.

Leadership Notes

Beginning in August Auxiliary units from the national level to your local flotilla have been, or very soon will be holding elections for a fresh suite of officeholders. These elected leaders will in turn appoint a number of staff officers who are specialists in one or another task the Auxiliary requires to function. Some of the new faces you will recognize, others you may not, but keep in mind that each have come forward to lead all of us from yesterday toward tomorrow. Without their leadership we cease to be an organization and devolve into a gaggle of individuals simultaneously moving in every direction imaginable (and likely one or two directions we never imagined).

How did we all come to be in the Auxiliary? Nobody was conscripted by the draft. Certainly nobody was lured by the lucrative paychecks! Each and every one of us volunteered. We were motivated and inspired to serve our communities. Look around, isn't our retention problem largely the result of our difficulties finding new and old members opportunities to serve and inspiring them to accept the challenges?

**...TO BUILD A SHIP,
DON'T DRUM UP PEOPLE TO COLLECT
WOOD ...ASSIGN THEM TASKS & WORK,
BUT RATHER TEACH THEM TO
LONG FOR THE ENDLESS
IMMENSITY OF THE SEA.**

Antoine de Saint-Exupery



LEFT:: This Facebook meme was posted 18 September on the official Facebook page of the United States Coast Guard Barque EAGLE. The quotation about leadership is by French writer, poet, aristocrat, journalist, and pioneering aviator Antoine Marie Jean-Baptiste Roger, comte de Saint-Exupéry, most famous in this country for his books *Night Flight* and *The Little Prince*.

The above image appeared recently in the social media outreach of the USCGC Eagle, and it bears a great message about leadership in general, and one absolutely critical to leading in the Auxiliary.

I'll not insult your intelligence with an intricate explanation, suffice it to say that: inspiring folks - 'teaching that longing' is not the best way to lead in the Auxiliary, it is the only way. -the editor



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ETHOS

I AM A COAST GUARDSMAN.

I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

I WILL PROTECT THEM.

I WILL DEFEND THEM.

I WILL SAVE THEM.

I AM THEIR SHIELD.

FOR THEM I AM SEMPER PARATUS.

I LIVE THE COAST GUARD CORE VALUES.

I AM PROUD TO BE A COAST GUARDSMAN.

WE ARE THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.



Homeland
Security