

Buoy 13



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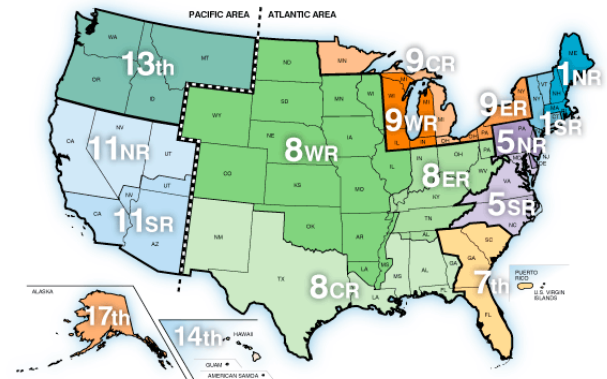
2023 Bridge

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U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AREAS, DISTRICTS, AND REGIONS



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*** About the Cover Page: Como Singler swearing in Como Dan Kienle and Craig Hartman, Chief of Staff**



Commodore's Log By Como Dan Kienle



The District 13 D-Train was held in Clackamas, OR, at the Monarch Hotel the weekend of February 24th through the 26th. As can happen this time of year, a winter storm hit the Portland, OR, area Wednesday night. After studying forecasts and making many phone calls, it was decided to delay D-Train activities on Friday to allow for safe travel on Friday morning. As a result, we started off our conference with the EXCOM meeting at 1300, while at the same time we conducted Flotilla Commander training. The Ways and Means Committee met in the afternoon and by our group dinner we were back on schedule. As it turned out, activities on Friday were well attended despite our worries.

The District 13 Board met Saturday morning followed by a group lunch. Training took place in the afternoon including sessions on Public Affairs, Public Education and uniforms. At the same time, an introduction to Uninspected Passenger Vessels took place. Our Qualification Examiners (QE)s met for a workshop followed by the Operations Advisory Board meeting.

Saturday night ushered in our formal dinner and award presentations. At the banquet, we were honored to have District 13 Commander RADM Bouboulis and his wife Mimi and District 13 Chief of Prevention Division CAPT Burkett. From Sector Puget Sound, Deputy Sector Commander CAPT Moon and Command Master Chief MCPO Mullins attended. From Sector Columbia River Sector Commander CAPT Jackson and wife Melani joined us. From BSX, Mr. Seven Keel attended and from the Seattle Office we had our Director of Auxiliary, CDR Jantzen, YN1 Po Ching and Auxiliary Specialist Jennifer MacArthur.

After my comments and those from DNACO Singler, RADM Bouboulis gave us some encouraging words from the active duty perspective. This was followed by a Change of Watch Ceremony for DCO, DCOS and DCAPT's.

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District Chief of Staff By Craig Hartman



Hello all and welcome to the start of our busy season here in District 13. I want to make sure that everyone is aware of a few focus areas that the District is working on this year.

Public Affairs is a primary mission critical area that touches all the aspects of the auxiliary. We need to increase our member participation within Public Affairs to communicate our achievements and support our auxiliary recruiting efforts. Ms. Debra Alderman is our District Staff Officer for Public Affairs and she and her team will mentor interested members in enhancing the knowledge and skills they need to be great Public Affairs teammates! Everyone is a member of our Public Affairs team and can assist by capturing the story of events with images and captions. Please feel free to reach out to Ms. Alderman to see how you can support your own flotillas accomplishments and to share them with the district.

Our second mission critical area is *Public Education*. We are seeking members who want to share their experiences and their skills by becoming an instructor for the auxiliary and to the public. Our plan is to provide members the needed training and practice opportunities in order to become well rounded instructors. Instructor qualification training is self paced and can be in person or by an online platform such as ZOOM. Mr. Dave Hansen, our District Staff Officer for Public Education, and his team are ready to support members in starting their training. Your experiences bring value to our instructor program and will be expanding our Public Education classes to include several specialties such as Navigation, Kids and Paddlecraft, Sailing Skills and Seamanship. We also instruct state boater classes which are the Basic Boater Education courses offered by each state which builds a foundation, to the specialty classes we will offer.

Our third mission critical area is *Recruiting* for the auxiliary. By utilizing Public Affairs and Instructor missions, we can reach a wide public audience by reflecting the USCG Auxiliary and our missions.

Whether you are speaking to a neighbor, a family member, or an acquaintance, remember to let people know about the Auxiliary and the crucial role you provide by supporting your community and our nation during times of crisis. Lastly, let them know how they too can be an important and pivotal member of the Auxiliary and invite them to a meeting.



District Captain Reports

WHAT ELSE COULD GO WRONG?

By Klaus Nijhuis, DCAPT-N

Henry asks me, "Would you teach a chapter in the Flotilla Commander Course at D-TRAIN?"

"Of course, just let me know what you want me to teach." I say Henry does his magic with the PowerPoint slides, sends them out for review, several iterations later: all polished. He asks: "I know you have meetings, when would you be free to teach your segments?"

"I have my first meeting starting at 0800 on Friday; nothing scheduled from 1330 to 1530."

"Ok, you could do chapters 5 and/ or 6. You have one hour each. Linda McCarty might be available to teach one of those." "That's fine, I'll prepare for both." Henry closes with: "By the way, are you bringing your wooden shoes? I'll bring mine."

The day before going to Clackamas, I am ironing my uniforms and moving the ribbons and things from my white jacket to the black one. In the garment bag they go; on two hangers. Then polishing the shoes.

The drive in to the conference center on Thursday: roads are clear all through Washington State. I cross the River into Oregon and spin out left and right. Never have I seen such a mess. Driving slow, I note that the traffic going in the opposite direction is completely stopped. The back up seems to go forever.

After arrival at the Monarch Inn, I hear the conference start is delayed to 1300 to allow for travel in the inclement weather. I took a short nap after getting into my room and then went to get some food at de Fuego. After paying my bill, I was greeted by Senior District leadership in the lobby. "Want to join us for dinner?" I told them I couldn't go since I had to get on a Zoom call for the Division One meeting. Kevin Coulombe facilitating it while still in Snohomish.

Because of the delayed start, I figured I could take another cat nap. Twenty minutes later I went to the closet with the intent to put on my Trops ahead of our meeting (we were also going to talk about Sea Scouts). When I unzipped the garment bag I found out I had left my trop uniform at home; instead I had two dress uniforms in the bag, dinner dress blue jacket and white jacket. At home, I had taken the medals from one to put on the other and thought I had put my trops in with the dinner dress blue but instead I put the white in the garment bag.

So I rushed up to the District Store, not yet open, but found Matt Epstein bringing things in. I explained my situation, asking if I could come in 15 minutes before 1300 to see if I could put together something resembling a uniform prior to my first meeting. Down the stairs, I found the FC sitting in the lobby. We had a bit of small talk and I explained I too was without my trops. We chuckled about our mutual lament. About that time, Diane Epstein came down and told me that Matt was ready to let me look around for makeshift trops. I asked if the FC could also come along so together we rummaged through boxes to see what we could find. Diane asked my waist size. I told her and she said: "I have some pants that size right here." I dove into a box and the second Trop shirt I looked at is my neck size. All I need now is a woolly- pully to cover up the fact that I had no nameplate ribbons or insignia. We waited around for Matt to bring up the boxes with sweaters and I found one several sizes too small, but I confirmed it would stretch and although it had a slight but distinct odor of naphtha (moth balls) I was delighted. I purchased my stuff, went

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down to my room to change with only minutes to spare until the first meeting.

At NACON last August, I had bought some shoulder boards with the hopes of being elected to my current office, fortunately I packed them in the case that held my cumberbund, studs, etc. I reached for them, pulled them out of the box nicely packed with that beautiful vanguard cardboard frame, which, of course covers the fact that these are shoulder boards for the dress blue uniform, so no shoulder boards on the woolly- pully, which I put on only to discover a small hole just where my belly button was underneath. I tuck at it to see if I could minimize the amount of light blue peeking through.

I shared my story with those gathered in the conference room and, with good fortune, my Southern-area counterpart Kevin Thiel said he had brought some spare shoulder boards and was happy to share them with me.

With no time to call Henry to discuss the fact that I had no idea if I would have any time to present at the FC Academy and also to let him know I didn't bring my wooden shoes, I dove right into the business being discussed by NEXCOM. I worried about two things; would I be able to help Henry out and, what- another hole, and another hole, and yet another in that wooly- pully?

The Meeting ends. I rushed down the stairs to see if I could do my segment in the 30 minutes between this and the next meeting. Henry called as I was on the last flight down. I tried to pick up while running to the training room. As I stormed through the door, Henry greeted me "Just in time!" I launched into my remarks regarding Chapter 5: Recruiting and Retention.

At dinner that evening, I shared with Henry that I didn't bring my wooden shoes. He was visibly dismayed but confessed he didn't bring his either. We had been scheming to clog dance at one of these events - just for giggles.

For the balance of this event, when we saw each other, he and I continued talking about wooden shoes. We finally concluded we would turn them into little sailing ships, bring them to the next gathering and float them in the pool (provided the water would not be as hard as it was at the hotel, thanks to that extraordinary weather).



DCAPT-E
By James Harris

USCG AUXILIARISTS SEEN WALKING ON WATER!

Hello from the Eastern part of the District Yes, Auxiliarists in the East can literally walk on our local waterways in Eastern Washington, Idaho and Montana, at least for part of the year! Our water is slowly becoming a little less “hard” as the snow is beginning to melt and our waterways are starting to thaw. The local stores are putting the skis, sleds and snow shovels away and we’re starting to see PFD’s, boating supplies and kayaks along with other water craft out in their places. It’s still near freezing at night, but the days are finally warming up. This has been an unusual winter as we began to freeze in early October and had no thawing until this month for most of the Eastern District. Normally we get thaws in November and December, but the snow did not melt in most of our AOR.

As our season in the East traditionally runs from about Memorial Day to Labor Day (we’ve seen snow on the 4th of July on our waterways in the past) so we only get a few months to complete our mission of promoting and improving Recreational Boating Safety, through boating education, vessel exams, program visits, public affairs, on-water activities and patrols, among other activities.

We held our “spring” Division meetings and we have plans for a boat crew academy and we are gearing up to begin our QE’s soon, to ensure all those who wish to obtain new or to stay current in their competencies. Our Divisions in Idaho, Montana and Eastern Washington began providing in-person safe boating education classes and RBS Visits. Our Members stood watch at a number of boat shows and outdoor sporting shows, promoting our boater safety mission this spring. We began stocking the loaner PFD stands at boat launches and started doing VSC’s, (as the local boats are starting to come out of storage and on to the waterways) We have provided thousands of paddle craft brochures to local vendors and end users, and we’re working toward obtaining proclamations for National Safe Boating Week from our local, county and state officials.

The Eastern Area supports many major events on our local waterways, from hosting full and half Ironman competitions, triathlons and other swimming events, numerous fireworks displays and several Hydrofoil and other boat races. These events draw thousands of spectators and participants seasonally and plans are already underway to assist local authorities, ensuring the public and participants can safely enjoy these events.

As our member size is smaller than those units in the West, and our AOR is extremely vast, comprising of two and a half states, we have often relied on other Divisions to assist with our local activities. We are already planning for the cooperation between Divisions for this season’s events as well.

Looking forward to a safe, productive and enjoyable season!



-Southern Area Report March 2023 By Kevin Theil, DCAPT-S

We are already two months into 2023. The District 13 meeting or DTRAIN was held in Clackamas two weeks ago. Our Spring DTRAIN was a very successful event with lots of member training and fellowship. I really enjoyed gathering and getting re-acquainted with shipmates from neighboring and distant divisions.

Thank you to everyone who organized this event and to everyone who attended. The divisions and flotillas in the Southern Area are busy at work and off to a very good start. Several members were busy in January and February staffing Public Affairs Booths at Boat Shows and Sportsman's Shows in Portland, Eugene, Roseburg, and Medford. I want to thank our members for their hard work and for making each of these events a success.

I am very optimistic about 2023 and the opportunities we will have to serve the boating public and the Coast Guard. There are many events on our calendars and many more to be added. Several flotillas have started planning for National Safe Boating Week. I challenge every flotilla in the Southern Area to hold at least one event during National Safe Boating Week. It is so important that we get out early in the season and reconnect with the boating public.

We will never know how many mishaps are prevented because of the time and effort each of you spend doing program visits, public education classes, vessel exams and talking to boaters at PA events. We do know for certain that our RBS missions prevent mishaps and save lives, because when we were not out during COVID -19, mishaps and accidents increased significantly. Let's make a strong showing this spring by reconnecting with boaters and re-establishing our brand with the services we provide to recreational boaters.

Several flotillas have had recent success in recruiting new members. This is very encouraging as every flotilla is looking to grow and strengthen their ranks. When new members join your flotilla, remember to make every effort to make them

feel welcome and help them to become a productive member. It is critical that new members have someone available to answer questions, help them with uniforms, and show them the many missions or programs they can train and qualify to perform.

Invite a new member to accompany you on a mission. Being a mentor can be rewarding and fun! I hope you will make the choice to be active this year and participate in your flotilla activities as much as you are able. Your flotilla, and the leaders you have selected are counting on you. I hope to see you soon at one of your local events. Thank you for your service and support. Have a great summer and be safe out there. Be Always Ready!

Auxiliarist Gene Fusch, Auxiliarist of the Year 2022 recognition:

Today was a good day! See photos & award from this morning's All Hands at Sector Puget Sound where I presented Auxiliarist Fusch with his Auxiliarist of the Year 2022 recognition Award and Plaque. Thank you to you and your passionate group of volunteers across the region that make a positive impact on the lives of people in the Pacific Northwest each day.

Best, CAPT Hibert



L-R Capt Patrick Hilbert with Aux of the Year award recipient Gene Fusch

US Coast Guard photo

The Who, What, Where and Why of Public Affairs By Craig Hartman, DCOS

In the last few years, you may not have heard much about the District Thirteen Public Affairs mission, but it's something each auxiliary member does when we put on our uniforms or go on missions. Public Affairs is about communicating who the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is and our values. What we do as auxiliarists is important and this is achieved by communicating via images as well as spoken and written words. All Auxiliary Public Affairs members are communicators and tell the Auxiliary's story of action with words and photos. The Auxiliary's Public Affairs mission has two main focuses: Media Relations and Community Relations.

Media Relations involves the mechanics of working with print, radio, and television and does require training to assure our members and the Auxiliary are presented to the highest degree. In essence, auxiliarists build relationships with the media outlets and learn how to communicate in a way that is effective and efficient. The second main focus is Community Relations where we communicate who the Auxiliary is by missions we accomplish and how we communicate those missions. This aspect encompasses the general public, community organizations, businesses, and even the Auxiliary leadership. We focus on this by following the four cornerstones of the Auxiliary: Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, Member Services and Fellowship.

You may be wondering what is involved in performing Auxiliary Public Affairs. In its simplest form, it's doing what we do every day, representing the Auxiliary. It's how we appear, what we say and how we communicate. As with anything, the more you know the better you can perform the role and Public Affairs is no different. There are courses offered to help you start or continue your Public Affairs journey. Whether you want to support the US Coast Guard in a Joint Operations Center during a humanitarian crisis or perform media relations to get the auxiliary message of safe boating out to the public, there are prescribed classes that will prepare you to support these roles. If you want to learn more about the US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Public Affairs Program, you can reach out to your Public Affairs Officer, your Member Training Officer or visit the Auxiliary Public Affairs website at <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=a-dept>

NAMPA, Idaho- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarists conduct vessel safety checks and man a Safe Boating Information table at Lake Lowell. Auxiliary tables are routinely displayed at local events and include boating safety equipment and literature. Saturday, July 30, 2022 (USCG AUX Photo/ Jenny Shea)



Division Awards

Division 06 – Member Training	Division 05 – CG Operations Communications
Division 11 – Human Resources (Retention)	Division 05 – Human Resources (Recruiting)
Division 07 – Navigation Systems	Division 06 – CG Operations Support
Division 07 – Operations Patrols	Division 05 – Program Visits
Division 05 – Public Affairs	Division 05 – Public Education
Division 05 – Vessel Exams	Division 02 – Food Services
Division 05 – Division of the Year	

Flotilla Awards

Flotilla 87 – Member Training	Flotilla 84 – Human Resources (Retention)
Flotilla 52 – Human Resources (Recruiting)	Flotilla 73 – Navigation Systems
Flotilla 52 – Operations Communications	Flotilla 11 – Operations Support
Flotilla 73 – Operation Patrols	Flotilla 45 – Program Visits
Flotilla 52 – Public Affairs	Flotilla 48 – Public Education
Flotilla 73 – Vessel Exams	Flotilla 24 – Food Services
Flotilla 52 – Flotilla of the Year	

Individual Awards

Member Training: Daniel McCarren FL 51	Navigation Systems: John Stuhr FL 73
Operations Communications: Cameron Young FL 52	Operations Support: Lyle Schrag FL 11
Operations Patrols: Robert Megel FL 73	Program Visits: Thomas Murphy FL 54
Public Education: Thomas Murphy FL 54	Public Affairs: Deborah Cordone FL 52
Culinary Assistance: Maxamillian Schneider FL 24	Vessel Exams: Gene Fusch FL 41

District Captain Awards for Member Training Achievement

DCAPT-S: Flotilla 59 Grants Pass	DCAPT-N: Flotilla 45 Bremerton
DCAPT-E: Flotilla 84 Coeur D' Alene	



Special Recognition Awards

Auxiliary Commandant Letter of Commendation to Camile Hallam
Auxiliary Achievement Medal to Craig Hartman
Auxiliary Achievement Medal to Debra Alderman
Auxiliary Commendation Medal to Dan Kienle
Auxiliary Commendation Medal to Joe Hernandez
Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal to Tiney Singler
Auxiliarist of the Year to Dale Vodicka
Auxiliary Achievement Medal to Dale Vodicka

-Continued from Commodore's message

Saturday night, we had our usual raffle fun and then adjourned to the Commodore's Open House.

We concluded D-Train on Sunday with the Past Division Commander Association's breakfast followed by an Annual TCT Refresher Workshop given by COMO Tiney Singler and Kevin Thiel. Kenny Kent presented the Operations Workshop to finish off the conference.

I want to congratulate all of our award recipients and thank each and every member that attended D-Train. We are facing a challenging year, but we are ready to fully serve the US Coast Guard and the recreational boating public and in our way, we are ready to get back to saving lives.

Past Division Commander's Association Highlights – D13 DTrain – Clackamas, OR, Feb 26, 2023

The group had an enjoyable breakfast meeting (about 30 members and their guests). Six people joined the PDCA.

Goals – 2023:

- National Safe Boating Week – City Proclamations
- Honor Flights – Spring & Fall
- NACO 3 Star Award
- D13 Website – Leadership Tab - PDCA
- Lists all D13 DCO's – 1943 to current
- Quarterly Zoom meetings
- Mentoring/Developing Leaders
- Buoy 13 – PDCA News

It was an honor and privilege to serve as the President for the past two terms.

Sincerely,
Jim Ehnborn, Past President.



L - R Jim Ehnborn swearing in Klaas Nijhuis, DCAPT-N as President; Debra Alderman, DSO-PA as Vice President. [photo provided by Jim Ehnborn]

BOAT SHOW SEASON GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BOOTH

By Mr. Norm Hoffman, former National RBS Outreach Staff Officer

The early months of each year constitute boat show season. All over District 13, shows proliferate creating interest in getting on the water. Fishermen, recreational boaters, and outdoor people shake off the winter lethargy and file through the ticket lines to local shows to embrace all that is boating. And this provides a golden opportunity for the Coast Guard Auxiliary to pursue their recreational boating safety mission by informing the public about boating and water safety as an important part of these events.

The boat or sportsmen's show can provide a jump start for your flotilla's activities including:

Vessel inspections
Boating classes
Membership information

An attractive and well-run display will yield rich dividends in touching a lot of people who need advice, information and resources to operate boats or paddle craft safely.

Policies abound to guide you through a successful show. However, establishing goals for the shows can also provide real dividends. Here are six that have worked to gain more contacts for Flotilla 52 in working the Eugene and Roseburg Sportsmen's shows;

1. Gear up: Make sure that you have plenty of materials for the shows. This is one place where you don't want to run short. Get your materials requests in early and emphasize Federal and State regulations, paddle craft items, and kid's stuff. Any left-over materials can be used to help other flotillas with their shows or for your own Safe Boating Week and other event displays later in the year.

2. Focus on families and children. There are some great materials for kids and parents love it when their kids are happy receiving coloring books, wrist bands, whistles, stickers, T-shirt transfers, and other swag. We have found that parents who would normally just walk by will stop and talk about safe boating if their children are recognized and included. With the right materials, you are also educating children to be safe on the water as well as the adults. Every boater should have a CG Federal Requirements pamphlet and the State Regulations. Some will have other needs or requests, but all have the need to understand the policies and laws which regulate safe boating.

3. Booth Expert: If you can add a subject matter expert on paddle craft or boating regs and policies to your booth watch-standers, you will be able to help with more the public's questions. If you don't, you can log the question plus the contact and have someone knowledgeable call them back.

4. Focus on Membership: Plan for part of your display to be about membership in the Auxiliary. Every flotilla could use the energy of new members and this is our lifeline. Prepare your watch standers to bring this up with interested booth visitors. Having a flotilla membership brochure on hand along with the Auxiliary recruiting brochure is a plus. Remember to also recruit for the Active-Duty Coast Guard at your booth. Recruiting materials are available through the Coast Guard recruiting offices.

5. Control Information: The science of sales tells us to capture key data. It is not enough to just give out a business card or brochure say "call me." We use a pre-printed request card for public requests. It has a place to record contact data and a choice of whether the individual wants a boat inspection, boating class, or more information about joining the Auxiliary (Plus a line for an "Other" choice). So, the form allows for choosing one, two, or all three basic options: boat inspection, boating class, membership information. Here's a tip: Make sure writing is legible on the card before the requestor leaves the booth.

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District Color Guards - Coast Guard Auxiliary Outreach to Community and Service

(Report on a new Color Guard of Flotilla 52, Eugene/Florence)

The last few months have been extremely busy for the Flotilla 52 Color Guard.

It was re-started in late 2022, with six new members interested in getting involved with this special Auxiliary and Coast Guard mission. Training began in earnest with Station Siuslaw River providing a basic marching and colors class. Then it was the Navy Reserve training them on flag folding at the Springfield Armory. Along with scheduled practice, It was decided that they would post the colors at each flotilla meeting to seize an opportunity to refine skills.

The first chance to perform before a larger audience took place at the live Flotilla 52 Change Of Watch that included families and guests. This was quickly followed by preparing and providing an honor guard for the funeral service for a flotilla member. The family of the member was very appreciative of the ceremony, service, and presentation of a funeral flag.

The Eugene Sportsmen's Show came next on the calendar. In early February, the Color Guard opened that show by posting the colors.

This was immediately followed by also opening the Douglas County Sportsmen's Show with Colors the following week. The color guard members have shown a lot of heart in giving of their personal time to practice, rehearse, and perform.

They continue to improve their skills and look forward to a busy schedule of performances as they represent the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary at community events.

As you are probably aware, there is a great need for color guards throughout District 13.

Trained color guards could take advantage of numerous public affairs opportunities in showing the flag at various events, creating goodwill for the Coast Guard & Auxiliary, and delighting appreciative audiences.

If you have interest in starting a color guard or being a part of one, please contact Norm Hoffman, Color Guard District 13 Program Manager at bghoffman@yahoo.com.



L - R: FL 52 Color Guard at C O W David Kelly, Steve Nichols, Rik Bellerue, Joe Giammona
Photo provided by Joe Giammona

A Safety Minute.....

Have you ever thought about what the term "Safety" means? The Oxford Language Dictionary defines Safety as: "the condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk, or injury." Remember, safety is not a thing, but a perception. If you evaluate your surroundings and feel safe, you are safe, but if an object strikes you, that perception of safety disappears. What does this mean for us? Simply, we must always watch out for ourselves, our families, and our shipmates. If we do this, we begin to adopt a Safety Culture view of the world around us. So, follow the old saying of Me, Mine, You, Yours and we will do all we can to stay safe and keep our shipmates safe.



Submitted by Craig Hartman, DCOS

“Coast Guard Siuslaw River!! We need some help!!”

By Cameron Young

When calls like this come over the radio it becomes “Go time”. The alarm goes off and crews rush to the rescue boats to assist a boater in trouble. No matter the issue, the Coast Guard is there to help and the first person to hear of it is the Watchstander. Answering the Mayday call, taking down all the details of the situation, informing help is on the way to a mariner who is understandably stressed is just one aspect of standing the watch.

I have been one of those Watchstanders for the past three years; trained and qualified by the Coast Guard,. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. “Eyes and Ears of the Coast Guard” is the short description of the position but it is so much more than that. I am immersed in the daily goings on of a Rescue Boat Station. From greeting people who walk in the front door, answering phone calls, keeping track of personnel and assets, passing messages, keeping an eye on the river as well as the myriad of duties on the radio. It sometimes gets pretty hectic when at the same time a Mayday call goes out, the phone rings, people come into the radio room needing answers. All the while logging what is going on in detail.

The personal rewards are many. From the ability to give back and support an incredible organization to helping the new recruits in their transition from Boot Camp to full-fledged Seamen. It is amazing to witness these young men and women train at their jobs and become fully qualified on the Rescue Boats within a year’s time. Most are in their early 20’s and some as young as 19!

It could be considered what I do a job. It isn’t by a long shot. It’s humbling and a pleasure. I’m proud to wear the uniform and play a small part in the United States Coast Guard.



COAST GUARD STATION SIUSILAW RIVER— Cameron Young on his OP Facility [US Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Joe Giammona, FL 52]

STAGES OF COLD WATER IMMERSION

WEAR IT
A Program of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

- 1. COLD SHOCK**
 - Gasp Reflex
 - Panic
 - Hyperventilation
 - Increased Heart Rate
- 2. MUSCLE FAILURE**
 - Loss of muscle coordination
 - Difficulty swimming, if you're able to swim at all
- 3. HYPOTHERMIA**
 - Body temperature drops to dangerous levels
 - 75% of victims don't survive to this point
- 4. RESCUE DANGERS**
 - Being removed from cold water can have short and long term effects on your body



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

SafeBoatingCampaign.com

The annual **Division 6 Change of Watch** ceremony was held on Saturday, January 21 at the Columbia River Maritime Museum. and attended by more than 50 Auxiliarists, spouses and invited guests. This is the occasion where incoming elected officers are sworn in, individual members and Flotillas are recognized for their achievements in support of the Auxiliary Mission are recognized and honored.



2023 Division 6 Leadership Team

L-R: SO-FS Wilhelm E. Mayorga, FC Corey Deck-FL63, SO-PA Lee Lafollette, SO-CM William Stenberg, SO-DV Mary Elaina Righetni, SO-CS, SO-IS Sallie Kiess, SO-PB Camile Hickman, SO-MS Walter Peterson, SO-PV Robert Gorski, SO-MA, VE John Lester, DCDR, SO-MT, SO-NS, and SO-PE Marcus J. Smith, IPCDR, SO-OP Ron Hilburger, Captain Scott Jackson (Seated) [photo courtesy of Lee Lafollette, SO-PA]

Special Guests attending were Captain Scott Jackson and wife Melani - Commander Sector Columbia River, Lieutenant Chris Saylor and fiancé Elizabeth – Sector Columbia River AUX OIA, CW04 Jason McCommons – Commander Station Cape Disappointment, Commodore Dan Kienle and his wife Deborah – USCGAUX D-13, and D-Capt. South Kevin Thiel – District South USCG D-13.

As is customary for Change of Watch ceremonies, a description of the Table of Remembrance followed by honoring those members who have “Crossed the Bar” during the past year. This is the first time in a very long time we have not had a member to recognize and we are grateful.

FL 62 Member Mark Dobney was honored

as he has retired from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary after 35 years of service to the organization. Mark joined the Auxiliary in January, 1988. He will also be retiring from active service to the US Coast Guard this summer. His accomplishments, positions and major contributions to both the US Coast Guard and the Auxiliary were recounted throughout his career.

Congratulations Mark on a spectacular career.

Captain Scott Jackson administered the oath of office to 2023 elected officers DCDR Marcus Smith and VCDR Mathew Epstein. Lieutenant Chris Saylor administered the oath of office to the 2023 Division 6 Staff Officers and CW04 Jason McCommons administered the oath of office to the Division 6 elected Officers.

Individual awards followed with FC Corey Deck, FL 63 Station Tillamook Bay receiving the 2022

Division 6 Auxiliarist of the year for his hard work and efforts to support FL63. Congratulations Corey.



FL 62: Mark Dobney—

2022 Flotilla Awards were presented to: Vessel Exams: FL 62 - 206, Program Visits: FL 62 – 172 Visits, and

FL 62 as Flotilla of the Year for their concerted effort Supporting the Auxiliary Mission. Total hours for Division 6 were 11,728 activity hours and 36,473 miles. Elected Official hours: Ron Hilburger 1,611 hours; Marcus Smith 1,800 hours, Sally Kiess 1,558 hours.

Captain Scott Jackson presented the 2022 Rose Festival USCG Meritorious Team Commendation Award Ron Hilburger, John Lester, Gary Righetini, Marcus Smith, Dan Carey, Mark Dobney, Ray Latham and Dean Wimer for their exceptional service on the US Coast Guard 2022 Portland Rose Festival security team. These individuals worked with the Canadian Coast Guard, Federal, State and local partners to secure the safety of high value military vessels navigating the Columbia River



L-R: Mathew D. Epstein, VCDR Marcus J. Smith, DCDR Captain Scott Jackson giving Oath of Office

enroute to the Portland waterfront during the event. Closing remarks were offered by Marcus Smith, 2023 Auxiliary DCDR Division 6, Kevin Thiel, Auxiliary D-Capt. South, Dan Kienle, Commodore D13 Auxiliary, Captain Jackson, Commander USCG Sector Columbia River, Lieutenant Chris Saylor and CWO4 Jason McCommons.

A major thank you to FL 62 member Jerry Ostermiller and the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

[Article submitted by Camile Hickman, SO-PB Div. 6]



L-R: DCDR Marcus J. Smith, FC FL 63 Corey Deck, IPDCDR Ron Hilburger [photos courtesy of Camile Hickman, SO-PB]

**National Safe Boating Week
May 20-26, 2023**

WEAR IT
BOAT RESPONSIBLY: WEAR A LIFE JACKET

Life Jacket Styles
Make sure it's the right fit for you, the activity and the water conditions. Life jackets should be in good and serviceable condition, and properly stored when not in use.

- Standup Paddleboarder (Soft pack inflatable life jacket)
- Anglers (Lightweight life jacket)
- Power Boater (Superior inflatable life jacket)

Life Jacket Fit Facts

- 1. Use cover straps approved (check the label). Reposition the seat and top for the most secure fit.
- 2. A snug fit is a proper fit.
- 3. Adult life jackets are not meant for children.
- 4. Do not have the jacket for a child too "grown into".
- 5. Check the jacket for proper fit.

Life Jackets Save Lives

81% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned.*
83% of them were not wearing a life jacket.*

Boating Accidents and Fatalities Statistics*
Accidents happen too fast to reach and put on a stowed life jacket. Always wear your life jacket.

Reported Boating Accidents

Most Common Vessels in Accidents:

1. Open motorboats (47%)
2. Personal watercraft (19%)
3. Cabin motorboats (13%)
4. Other (21%)

Top 5 Factors in Boating Accidents and Deaths:

1. Operator inattention
2. Operator inexperience
3. Improper lookout
4. Machinery failure
5. Excessive speed

Recreational Boat Registration by State*

100 million Americans participated in boating in 2021.** There were 11,957,866 registered boats in 2021 (state percentages indicated below).

Map showing registration percentages by state: Alaska (0.6%), Arizona (0.1%), California (0.3%), Colorado (0.1%), Connecticut (0.001%), District of Columbia (0.01%), Florida (0.007%), Georgia (0.001%), Hawaii (0.001%), Idaho (0.001%), Illinois (0.001%), Indiana (0.001%), Iowa (0.001%), Kansas (0.001%), Kentucky (0.001%), Louisiana (0.001%), Maine (0.001%), Maryland (0.001%), Massachusetts (0.001%), Michigan (0.001%), Minnesota (0.001%), Missouri (0.001%), Montana (0.001%), Nebraska (0.001%), Nevada (0.001%), New Hampshire (0.001%), New Jersey (0.001%), New Mexico (0.001%), New York (0.001%), North Carolina (0.001%), North Dakota (0.001%), Ohio (0.001%), Oklahoma (0.001%), Oregon (0.001%), Pennsylvania (0.001%), Rhode Island (0.001%), South Carolina (0.001%), South Dakota (0.001%), Tennessee (0.001%), Texas (0.001%), Utah (0.001%), Vermont (0.001%), Virginia (0.001%), Washington (0.001%), West Virginia (0.001%), Wisconsin (0.001%), Wyoming (0.001%).

Legend:
 American Samoa: 0.0001%
 District of Columbia: 0.01%
 Guam: 0.007%
 Northern Mariana Islands: 0.002%
 Puerto Rico: 0.2%
 Virgin Islands: 0.0%

Sources: *U.S. Coast Guard's 2021 Recreational Boating Database
 **National Marine Manufacturers Association

DSO-MA Report
By Mathew Epstein



Thank you all who attended the DTRAIN and visited our District Store. You all help to make the store successful. You have probably noticed we had a variety of pre-owned clothing and insignia priced at a substantial discount. These have been donated by members who have retired or no longer need that item. I would encourage each flotilla to set up a "lucky bag" to collect pre-owned items to be available for little or no cost. This helps members save money.

I want to remind Materials Officers that if you have Government Penalty Indicia stamps that are NOT being used, AuxCen has requested they be returned. Please send them to me and I will make sure they are returned. Also, please be aware that all Public Education books are to be ordered by the PE officer or Flotilla Commander, not the Materials Officer.

This is an exciting time for the Materials Department. I am happy to report that a new National directorate has been created to oversee DSO-MA's; it is the Document and Administrative "W" Directorate. One of the goals is to standardize the way DSO-MA's operate and produce guidelines for materials officers. We are now meeting monthly via Zoom to collaborate and develop those guidelines and procedures.

My team is working on developing an online store to make it easier for members in our district to purchase items that we already have in stock. So stay tuned...

Dale Vodicka Named District 13 Auxiliarist of the Year 2022



Pictured is Dale (left) being presented with his certificate by Rear Admiral Bouboulis.
Photo by John Stuhr, US CG Auxiliary

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE AUXILIARY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL TO MR. DALE E. VODICKA UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Mr. VODICKA is cited for superior performance of duty while serving as the Division Two Vice Division Commander, Division Two Staff Officer Public Affairs, Flotilla East Flotilla Staff Officer Public Affairs, Flotilla East Flotilla Staff Officer Vessel Exams from January 2022 to December 2022. In those capacities, his superior service and outstanding leadership were instrumental in the contribution of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's participation in and support of several division-wide community and partnership events including Alki Point Lighthouse tours, Sea Scout integration with the Auxiliary and Base Seattle, as well as Honor Flight uniformed support. Displaying a demonstrated initiative and leading by example, he personally contributed to over 1,700 volunteer hours to the Auxiliary of which were 240 hours of leadership activities, 206 hours of community relations, 79 hours of vessel safety checks, and multiple waterborne patrols as coxswain. Furthermore, he notably coordinated and managed the logistics of Auxiliary participation in the Seattle Boat Show, the largest boat show on the West coast. As a result, his team engaged with 50,000 members of the boating public as one of the 254 exhibitors over the nine-day event. Mr. VODICKA's diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Preparing for the Kayaking Season

With the sun coming out and the temperatures rising, we know it's time to dust off kayaks and break out our safety equipment. Before we launch our craft in the beautiful waters of Oregon, we need to inspect a few things to keep us safe on the water.

Safety checks on your kayak and kayaking equipment should be an essential component of your kayaking routine. Just as safety-conscious automobile drivers make sure they check tire pressure and engine oil levels before summer road trips, responsible kayakers make a habit of conducting safety checks before each kayaking excursion.

Listed below are a few things to consider before getting back in the water this year.



Inspect the following:

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD): try it on, check straps and look for cracks, holes, or tears in material
- Signaling whistle: test and attach to PFD
- Kayak body: Inspect seams, deck bungee cords, bulkhead, hatch covers and check for leaks in each cell
- For craft with rudders: check cords and cables, add lubricant if appropriate
- Bilge pumps: look for cracks and holes, test pump
- Kayak attire: try all items on, check for tears and holes, test zippers and each pocket
- Dry bag: check for leaks, holes, and cracks
- Float Plan: update as needed and review with the plan recipient
- Car rack: check fittings, screws, nuts, and all attachment points to car and to kayak
- Phone/radio: check batteries and operability, place in waterproof bag or attach to your PFD
- First aid kit: update supplies and check for leaks
- 360 light pole/flashlight: check batteries and operability
- Waterway Access Permit: check expiration date

The list above is focused on flat water kayaking; white water trips will require slightly different gear. Remember to plan and prepare with safety in mind, so that you can truly enjoy your kayaking trips with friends and family. If you have any questions you can reach me at wisman.dv@gmail.com. Written by Doug Wisman.

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Finally, you have an assigned booth, but you aren't constrained to stay in it. You can step out and interact with the boating public and in doing so will gain more contacts at the show. Take a handful of most popular brochures and activity books and enjoy meeting with the show visitors where they are. Remember to take scheduled breaks and meal times off, and.....

Have a great boat show!

Article edited by Joe Giammona, ADSO -PB

Retirement from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary?

By Como Dean Wimer

During my 25 years in the auxiliary I have been privileged to work with some fine people. They are dedicated to supporting the Coast Guard in its missions and have become some of my friends. In fact if it were not for the members I know and have worked with, I might retire.

During my years of service I have noticed something that alarms me! When someone retires from the Auxiliary, they lose contact with all of us. Yes, a few of us keep in contact with some of our special friends, but the majority seem to disappear and we lose contact.

What have we lost? Dedicated people who provide so much help and guidance.
We lose all the experience that has been developed over the years.
We lose personnel to help accomplish our mission.
We lose opportunities to support and help them in their day-to-day lives.
We lose the community contact the retiree has in the community.
We lose a resource that we can use to answer questions about processes and historical data.
Can we continue to keep losing these personnel? Do we miss them?

Can we find a way to allow these individuals to retire, but keep close contact with them? A way to keep these individuals connected to one another and to our active members. Like phone contact, email messages, wellness checks, visits when traveling through an area.

I would like to know if there are others who notice this issue. Are there members who would like to be part of a group to develop a plan, or is this idea of little importance? Let me know your thoughts.

**USCG AUXILIARY DISTRICT 13
DIVISION 8 SPRING MEETING
CLOVER ISLAND, WA
FEBRUARY 18, 2023**



Division 8 members were provided a tour of ANT Kennewick by BM1 Nancy Worley, Executive Petty Officer



Mark Hannibal conducted an overview of Easy Reports and entering hours



Linda Severin conducted a paddlecraft inspection



Richard McNulty displayed safety equipment on his boat



Division 8 2023 appointed officers sworn in by BM1 Nancy Worley, ANT Kennewick Executive Petty Officer

Photos provided by Dan Kienle