

# 11orth- wind

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
District 11, Northern Region

Vol. 28 | Issue 3  
Jul – Sep 2021

U.S.  
COAST GUARD  
AUXILIARY

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY  
PATROL

*The Physiology  
of Cold-Water  
Immersion*

Page 5

Core Value:  
Devotion to Duty

Page 7

Interpreter  
Corps

Page 11

## In this Issue:

From the District Commodore.....	- 3 -
From the Gold Side.....	- 6 -
The Physiology of Cold Water Immersion ...	- 7 -
CG Core Values: Devotion to Duty .....	- 9 -
Locating a Disruptive Hot Mic .....	- 10 -
Those Who Have <i>Crosted the Bar</i> .....	- 11 -
Coast Guard Urges Safe Boating .....	- 12 -
Auxiliary Interpreter Corps .....	- 13 -
Spotlight Question .....	- 15 -
<i>Bugler's Call</i> .....	- 16 -

**Contributors to this Issue:** Roger Bazeley, Terry Blanchard, Vicki Hudson, CDR Paige Keenan, COMO Dean McFarren, Ricardo Moreno, Tiffany Townsend, and Greg Schaefer

**Photos herein** are provided by the author, by the subject, or by the staff, or are in the public domain and/or free to use.

**Cover Photo:** U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District 11N boat crew members Alex Bennet, Renee Thomas, and Stephen Bush (not pictured) participate in a side towing exercise aboard operational facilities *Silver Charm* and *Servant* while in the Oakland Estuary on March 6, 2021. (Photo by Tiffany Townsend)

### District Publications Staff:

Greg Schaefer, DSO-PB  
Tiffany Townsend, Deputy DSO-PB  
Roger Bazeley, ADSO-PB for Photography  
Ron Kelley, ADSO-PB for Northern California  
Vicki Hudson, ADSO-PB for the Bay Area  
Allison Thompson, ADSO-PB for the Sierra and Utah  
Richard Celia, ADSO-PB for Central California

## From the Editor:

*Doing important work safely.* That's the phrase that comes to mind as I look through the submissions to this quarter's issue of the *Northwind*. The work that we do is important; and it's important that we do it safely.

There's a principle among first responders that being unsafe in responding to an emergency can make matters worse by leading to the possibility of there being *more* victims and not fewer. This has to do with people entering a scene with the intention of helping, but falling victim to the incident themselves. Not only does it delay rescue of the initial victims, but it compounds the matter by adding victims to the total count.

In this issue of *Northwind*, you'll find articles related to the important work that we do, and related to doing our work safely. Have a look and learn something about the Interpreter Corps, the effects of cold-water immersion, and what it is to have a Devotion to Duty.

Peace,

Gregory O. Schaefer

Flotilla 46, Redwood City  
*NORTHWIND* editor  
DSO-PB, FSO-MS, D-AD (Awards),  
ACS Chaplain, Sector San Francisco



*Northwind* is published on or near the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, April, July, and October. *Northwind* staff reserves the right to edit all submissions, takes no responsibility and accepts no liability for damages caused by errors left in the document, cannot accept responsibility for the validity of websites that link from this publication, and cannot accept responsibility for any content submitted by any author. Articles published in *Northwind* must be consistent with the stated policies of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

# From the District Commodore

---

Ahoy D11N Shipmates!

I hope this article finds you all healthy, safe, and a bit exhausted from a summer of activities on the water, in the air, and doing all of the things we joined the Auxiliary for. As we approach the end of our boating season, it truly has been one for the books as we continue to figure out our new normal living with COVID-19.

**So, what's happened in past three months?** We definitely had successes and challenges during the summer months. Our members continued to file requests for authorization to perform Auxiliary tasks for a myriad of missions ranging from air and water patrols to PA events to in-person Public Education. It is clear that we are starting to figure this COVID-19 thing out to work and interact with the public as we contributed over 2,500 volunteer hours in the third quarter alone!

The boating season itself wasn't all that we had hoped for as the continued drought in the western United States reduced water levels in many of the inland lakes, reservoirs, and rivers that we patrol, even closing some. We were there as much as nature would let us be. We did however continue to patrol in the offshore waters and in San Francisco Bay & delta in support of Sector San Francisco and fly in support of Air Station San Francisco.



Photo by Tiffany Townsend

and 65 members support the four-day event in various capacities: on the water as tarp and picket

boats, serving as Aux Safety Officers aboard the CGC Aspen and CGC George Cobb, and ensuring ongoing Communications and radio guard was kept with our OPFAC's while liaising with the FAA/Air Show



Commodore Dean McFarren

command. It truly was a magnificent event and so far, the only Fleet Week held this year.

D11N continues to focus on the Request for Forces (Needs Assessment) program, working with our Coast Guard partners and our ASC's/AUC's to define job descriptions and locate members to fill active-duty vacancies or augment current station forces as needed. As of 30 Sept, we have identified and assigned Aux members to fill 39 of 60 requests, with two pending. The RFF program was initiated by ADM Penoyer in late 2020 to foster collaboration between Active-Duty units and Auxiliary personnel and we have been successful at placing Auxiliary members in many non-traditional Aux roles across the District.

DCOS Curtis Han and I met with Sector San Francisco Commander, CAPT Taylor Lam, and his Deputy, CAPT Jordan Balueza, in late September to provide an update on RFF progress and discuss future opportunities for collaboration. Both Captains were very impressed at our District's ongoing RFF response and forward thinking to fill vacancies and commended all of our members on helping meet Coast Guard goals and objectives. If you are interested in working directly with the Gold Side, please contact your Flotilla Commander and let them know. Also, please review/update your "Skills Bank" information in AUXDATA II so our staff can



see your qualifications to help place you when there is a need.



*Sector SF and Auxiliary D11N Bridge Meeting (9/24/21). Left to right: CAPT Jordan Baldueza, COMO Dean McFarren, CAPT Taylor Lam, DCOS Curtis Han*

I mentioned earlier that there were a couple of setbacks, as well. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our in-person PCA fair in September due to a spike in hospitalizations due to the COVID outbreak. This was an incredible disappointment as I was truly looking forward to seeing our members as a group since our January 2020 PCA Fair.

However, you can never keep a good District down! Our PCA President Jim Losi, Michelle Thompson, our Tech guru Bryce Leinan, and the rest of the PCA team quickly pivoted and suggested we have an online event that included our National Commodore Alex Malewski, DNACO Mary Kirkwood, and Sector San Francisco Commander, CAPT Taylor Lam, as speakers. In all, we had close to 100 members attend the live stream event. No, live streaming an event such as this doesn't replace an in-person meeting, but it still gave us an opportunity to come together as a team.

On that same weekend, we held our District elections where we selected our District Captains for the 2022 term. Alan Stanton and Bruce Martin were reelected

for second terms and current DCDR DIV-06 Chuck Cobery was elected to our third DCAPT position. Congratulations to all. Both DCOS Han and I will continue to serve as part of your EXCOM through the end of 2022.

**What is happening now?** We still have plenty going on right now even as the days get shorter and the shadows longer. First, our Division and Flotilla elections are getting underway. As in 2020, we will be holding the elections electronically to ensure all our members have an opportunity to vote for their elected leader of choice. I cannot express how happy I am to see so many of our members choosing to step into Auxiliary leadership positions, both Elected and Appointed. You are the future of the Auxiliary and are helping shape what we look like for years to come. Bravo Zulu to you all for serving those who serve.

We have started planning for our Elected Officer Training that will be held both virtually and in person at our January PCA fair. Session 1 will be held virtually on our GoToMeeting platform on 9 Dec and will focus on topics and tasks that Flotilla Commanders need to complete prior to the end of the year. Session 2 will be held in person and focus more on leadership and strategy.

There is about a week left in the Coast Guard's financial system software revision, during which time the Coast Guard will not be able to process orders or reimburse members for expenses. A side issue may be that some members will not be able to requalify in certain programs such as Coxswain/boat crew or Pilot/air crew during this time. If you still need to requalify this year, please work with your FSO-OP and make your need known. The financial system changeover does not affect activities where reimbursable orders are not needed. We can still

perform vessel inspections, conduct public education classes, and program visits. There are still opportunities to remain visible and I urge everyone to keep the Auxiliary in the eyes of the public.

**What is coming up?** As we move into the fourth quarter of the year, there are still many things we can do to stay current or prepare for new qualifications. Take a look at your profile in AUXDATA II and check to see if you are coming due for Core Training. Take the Initial Risk Management course. Attend the wide variety of virtual classes provided by our Member Training team. Additionally, inspect your PPE, get any maintenance done on your OPFAC. Order new pamphlets to distribute at your PV locations. The key is to be prepared for the new year and ready to hit the ground running.

The January PCA fair will be held on 15-16 JAN 2022 and will again offer many learning opportunities, a chance to sign off your PQS book in several programs, and also an opportunity to see friends face to face and renew old acquaintances. We will also be holding our annual District 11 North memorial that will recognize our deceased shipmates from 2019-2021. PCA President Jim Losi and PCA Fair Coordinator Michelle Thompson will be sending out more information including registration options and class offerings in the coming weeks. So please save the dates.

We have signed the contract for DTRAIN 2022, which will be held on March 25-27 at the Nugget Resort in Sparks, NV. This is a fantastic venue with recently remodeled hotel rooms and a great space for our conference. All at a very good price!!! Look for a flyer in your email inbox in the coming weeks and registration information on our District website. This is an event that shouldn't be missed. We will be having our ever-popular Friday night Member

Appreciation event (Fun Night) along with many classes and cap the weekend off with a formal awards banquet. So, dust off your Dinner Dress Blues and put a spit shine on your shoes as this looks to be another great event.

I am encouraged and appreciative to see so many of our members reengage in Auxiliary activities. Even though we remain in Phase III, it has allowed us to resume doing what we're passionate about. But we must remember that COVID-19 has not gone away...yet. It is still incumbent upon all of us to ensure we take appropriate safety precautions to safeguard ourselves, our fellow Auxiliarists, and the general public.

Before closing, I would like to take a moment to remember four of our Auxiliary family that passed over the bar in the past three months. All were dedicated Auxiliarists that made lasting contributions to our District: Chris Pacheco (FL 10-2, Modesto), Daniel Merle (FL12, Sausalito-Tiburon), Alan Haydis, Ret. (FL 10-2, Modesto), David Beach (FL 14, Central Marin). Fair winds and following seas.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our January PCA fair if not sooner. Please continue to stay safe and remain Semper Paratus.

V/R

COMO Dean McFarren, DCO

## From the Gold Side

As the summer boating season comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone for safely resuming in person activities under COVID restrictions and continuing virtual/hybrid activities so all members could participate as they felt comfortable. I know it required additional paperwork and planning, and members resumed activities in varying ways, but your efforts once again to assist and educate the recreational boating public and augment the Active duty Coast Guard was crucial to improving safety on the water and getting day-to-day Coast Guard missions done.



*Commander Paige Keenan*

The COVID-19 pandemic has been and continues to be hard on all of us. It has brought seemingly-daily changes in policy everywhere. Leadership within the Auxiliary has been instrumental in assisting with keeping all members informed on current D11 Auxiliary COVID Policy; Thank You. I know it wasn't always the easiest or most well-received information to pass along, but thank you for taking the time to inform and educate members on the constantly changing policies so that as many members as possible could return to doing what they love in the Auxiliary.

Election and Change of Watch season is upon us. I encourage all members to consider taking on an elected or appointed position in the Auxiliary. We are never too old to take on new rolls and challenge ourselves to continually improve this organization that we love. For those of you coming into newly elected and appointed positions or returning for another year, I encourage you to get your bearings and determine where your program, flotilla, division, or region is with respect to goals and accomplishments set in the previous year.

Make an honest assessment of:

- Your program or unit strengths
- Staff or unit membership capabilities
- Available resources

Match these against:

- Auxiliary Program or Unit requirements and goals
- Local CG Unit needs

Plan future actions:

- Develop a strategy – where do you want to be at the end of next year? What do you want to accomplish on your watch? What do you want to make better for the next watch?
- Develop goals and objectives for the year

Implement your plan:

- Communicate your goals and objectives via your leadership
- Line up your resources to accomplish your plan (people, training, skills, etc)
- Make it so and measure your efforts

This is a relatively short and sweet method to chart a course in your position. You've been chosen for your position based on the trust people have in you to do a good job and to keep moving forward. Take care of the people in your unit and program and you can't go wrong! Best of luck in the next year. OTO and I hope to get out to as many Division Changes of Watch as possible and look forward to seeing you in person again.

# The Physiology of Cold Water Immersion by Tiffany Townsend

*Immersion in water below 70 °F may cause dangerous hypothermia*

As fall and winter water temperatures decline, Coast Guard Auxiliaries must remain vigilant to reduce the risks of cold exposure. Immersion in water that is below 70 °F may cause dangerous hypothermia -- a lowering of core body temperature -- within an hour. The four phases of the body's response to cold water immersion are: *Cold Shock*, *Cold Incapacitation*, *Hypothermia*, and *Circum-Rescue Collapse and After-Drop*. Note that hypothermia is not our initial concern.

The first three phases of response to cold water immersion follow the "1-10-1" rule: one minute of cold shock, ten minutes of cold incapacitation, and approximately one hour to develop hypothermia. During the first minute of cold shock, there is a sudden uncontrollable gasp reflex, followed by several minutes of hyperventilation. Panic perpetuates hyperventilation, potentially leading to loss of consciousness and drowning. With cold exposure, peripheral blood vessels constrict, increasing strain on the heart, which may lead to cardiac arrest. A personal flotation device is critical for survival, as it helps prevent panic, control breathing, and avoid drowning. Twenty percent of people die within the first minute of cold-water immersion if their head goes under the water.

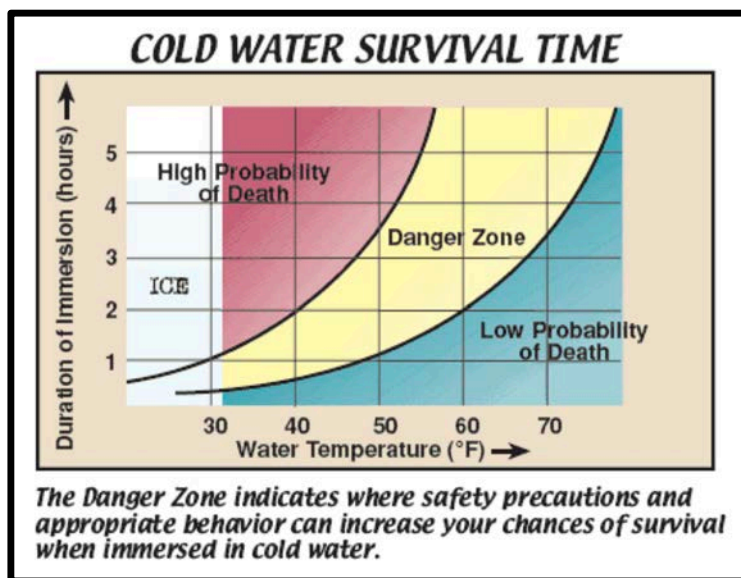
During the next ten minutes, cold incapacitation develops. Vessels constrict to preserve core

temperature, decreasing blood flow to nerves and muscles. Loss of meaningful limb use and the inability to swim perpetuate a sense of panic. If not wearing personal flotation, swim failure results in water swallowing and drowning. To survive, the victim must concentrate on remaining calm, self-rescue techniques, and safely awaiting rescue.

During the following hour of cold-water immersion, hypothermia inhibits one's ability to self-rescue. As mild hypothermia develops with body temperature below 96 °F (35 °C), the skin is cold and pale, shivering occurs, heart rate and respiratory rate increase, and poor judgement and apathy develop. With moderate hypothermia (81 to 91 °F, 27 to 33 °C), shivering stops, heart rate and breathing decline, reflexes and voluntary muscle control diminish, and

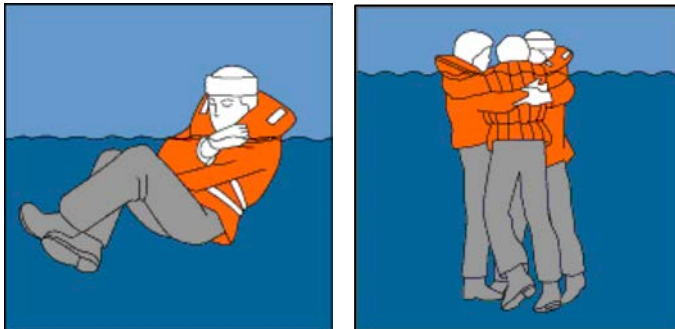
there is reduction in consciousness. Paradoxical undressing (the removal of clothing due to a sudden feeling of warmth) may occur. At body temperatures below 80 °F (27 °C), severe hypothermia may result in coma, cardiac arrest, and death.

A cold-water immersion victim should attempt to get out of the water as soon as possible. Water temperatures of 50 to 60 °F in the San Francisco Bay may cause loss of dexterity within ten to fifteen minutes and exhaustion and loss of consciousness within one to two hours. Winter water temperatures of 40 °F in Lake Tahoe may cause loss of purposeful





function in less than five minutes and death within an hour. Climbing onto an overturned vessel or paddle craft minimizes cold-water exposure time and makes a person more visible to rescuers. If unable to leave the water, minimize movement, stay with the group or boat, and use the heat escape lessening position (H.E.L.P.) or huddle together to preserve warmth.



Only swim to shore if the distance is short, as exercising in cold water actually results in more rapid heat loss from the body rather than warming the core. With approximately one hour of consciousness to practice these self-rescue techniques, a personal flotation device can be lifesaving. In the words of Coast Guard rescue swimmer Mario Vittone, “It is impossible to get hypothermic in cold water unless you are wearing flotation. Without flotation you won’t live long enough to become hypothermic.”

Before, during, and following rescue, caution must be maintained to avoid circum-rescue collapse, ranging in severity from fainting to death. When rescue is anticipated, the body’s stress response diminishes and a decrease in blood pressure may lead to shock. Extended time in cold water also promotes urination, causing relative dehydration, contributing to shock upon rewarming. Therefore, proper extraction technique is essential to prevent shock from circum-rescue collapse. A person should be kept in the horizontal (not upright) position in order to maintain adequate blood pressure. Movement

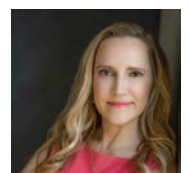
should be minimized. Arms and legs should not be elevated, as a sudden return of cold blood to the core may cause cardiac arrhythmias. After-drop, a temperature drop due to cold blood return from warming extremities, may also be life-threatening. Twenty percent of all cold-water immersion deaths occur within the hours following rescue.

As Coast Guard Auxiliarists, minimizing the risks of cold exposure is essential. Wearing a personal flotation device with appropriate exposure protection for the operational area is necessary any time on or near the water. Boat crew members are required to wear anti-exposure suits when water temperatures are between 50 and 60 °F, while dry suits are recommended when both water and air temperatures are below 50 °F. Rotating crew positions for breaks from wind and spray allow rewarming. Regular fluid intake is encouraged to remain hydrated. Situational awareness and risk management must continually be maintained. Following these risk reduction guidelines will promote safe participation for all while patrolling our cold waters. Please be vigilant and *semper paratus*.



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary boat crew member Alex Bennett stands port watch aboard Operational Facility Silver Charm on Saturday, April 17, 2021, wearing an anti-exposure suit.

Tiffany Townsend, in addition to being our district’s Deputy DSO-PB and Flotilla Vice Commander of Flotilla 12, Sausalito-Tiburon, is an anesthesiologist, diving and hyperbaric medicine physician, and advanced wilderness expedition provider.





## CG Core Values: Devotion to Duty

by Vicki Hudson

*We are volunteers who seek responsibility, accept accountability, and are committed to the successful achievement of our organizational goals. We exist to serve. We serve with pride.*

This third and final essay in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Values series is in part a conundrum.

The question raised – what is duty to the volunteer?

A demonstration of leadership and initiative is to seek out and accept positions and appointments of responsibility. Every person that has self-selected to become a Coast Guard Auxiliary member has self-selected to accept an identity that includes representing something greater than self.

The word devotion may mean enthusiasm, love, or loyalty to a person, activity, or cause; it may also mean a life of observance. As volunteers, any form of the word is applicable.

The word duty is perhaps simpler to grasp – obligation, responsibility, commitment, allegiance, obedience. The inherent meaning of duty is that something is expected, an action that must be followed through upon.

In accepting, and being selected for, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, we volunteers acknowledge there are jobs to do, details to complete, and roles with diverse levels of responsibility to fulfill. Our organizational values call to us though to do more than show up. We are devoted to our mission, devoted to our crewmates, devoted to the Auxiliary – and this is

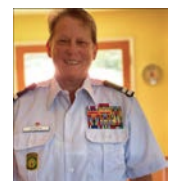
demonstrated in the acceptance of obligation as an elected officer, the responsibility of an appointed staff officer, the commitment of a program visitor, instructor, boat crew, or any number of defined roles within the Auxiliary. The way assigned and appointed duties are executed also demonstrates allegiance and obedience: wear of the uniform correctly, submission of documents promptly, conducting the performance of our duties as professionals though we are “merely” volunteers.

We, the Auxiliary, exist to serve. We, the volunteers, serve with pride. A life of observance that benefits our community by creating safe boating environments, bringing attention to pollution and ecological issues in our local area. A life of observance from hours in the air looking for a small dot of a lost swimmer or boater, or hours of administrative minutia that ensures a record is correct or an individual accomplishment is duly noted.

Devotion to duty is what binds each volunteer towards more than the least to get by and encourages the community of members to become trove of treasured relationships with the same common goal – make our communities safer and better through successful achievement of the United States Coast Guard organizational goals.

*Editor's Note: This is the last in a series of articles exploring the Coast Guard's Core Values.*

*Vicki Hudson serves as ADSO-PB and is a member of Flotilla 12-1, East Bay.*



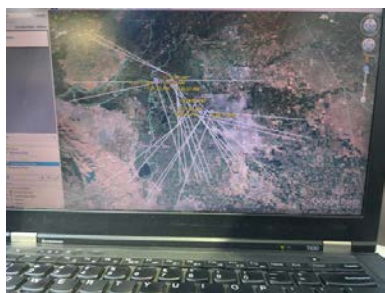
# Locating a Disruptive Hot Mic

by Terry Blanchard

*A little DFing makes a big difference.*

On Friday morning, 2 April 2021, I was contacted as the Auxiliary Watch Officer for the day by PO Robb at the Sector San Francisco Command Center. We were requested to attempt to locate a stuck "hot" microphone on VHF Channel 16 that was blocking the Sector San Francisco and Station Rio Vista Rescue 21 systems from receiving other signals in the area. The Sector staff had attempted to DF it using the Rescue 21 system but were only able to locate it as "somewhere South of Walnut Grove and East of Antioch." I contacted Auxiliarist Larry Stanton, also in Elk Grove, and within 30 minutes we were underway to Walnut Grove with RDF equipment in place to attempt to identify the location of the signal.

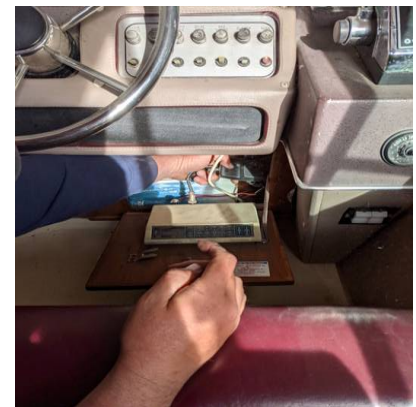
We began to pick up a weak and unreadable signal in sporadic locations South of Walnut Grove, and proceeded to attempt to locate the origin for the remainder of the day. After 6 hours and over 150 miles, we were able to identify it as somewhere approximately South of Bouldin Island and East of Owl Harbor Marina in the Sacramento River Delta area. We had run to our limit of fuel and alerted



Sector SF we would resume DF operations at first light the next day. Beginning at 0630 on Saturday, 3 April I resumed RDF operations from the farm roads on Bouldin Island. After 6 more hours of chasing extremely weak signals I was able to narrow down the lines of bearing and locate the source of the

signal as a stuck marine radio located in a private cabin cruiser berthed at RiverPoint Landing Marina in Stockton.

With the assistance of the harbormaster's staff we isolated the vessel. The harbormasters staff boarded the vessel and located a very old VHF marine radio that was stuck on transmit. The radio was extremely hot and impossible to touch after transmitting on "high" power for 48+ hours. The antenna was folded



down and the boat was located in the middle of a steel boat shed, in the middle of the marina, making DF'ing difficult at best. The harbormasters staff removed the microphone and unplugged the battery power to the radio, and I was able to confirm with Station Rio Vista and Sector San Francisco watchstanders that the signal of the past 36 hours had been eliminated. The harbormasters staff promised to contact the owner of the vessel and inform her of the incident, and assist her in repairing the issue before she got underway again.

Larry Stanton and I spent over 21 hours and more than 300 miles traveling Delta roads and levees over two full days to successfully locate and extinguish this signal, using personally owned DF equipment on loan from Peter Todebush.

*Terry Blanchard is Division Vice-Commander of Division 1 and a member of Flotilla 19, Coyote Point.*



## Those Who Have Crost the Bar – Jun/Jul/Aug

*“Crossing the Bar” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

Chris Pacheco  
Fl 10-02, Modesto

David Beach  
Flotilla 14, Central Marin

Daniel Merle  
Flotilla 12, Sausalito-Tiburon

*Rest easy, shipmates; we've got the watch.*

*Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;  
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face*



## Coast Guard Urges Safe Boating

by Roger Bazeley

*Team Coast Guard urges safety during fall recreational boating season.*

The USCG reports that the summer 2020 recreational boating season saw the highest on-water deaths from recreational boating in 23 years. The increase in boating accidents and deaths nationwide exceeded 2019 by 24%. As boaters take to the water, there is an increased likelihood for search and rescue situations, due to mechanical failures and accidents. If you know someone that is a new boat or paddle craft owner, please point them toward boating safety courses and equipment that could help save their life.

New for 2021 is the focus on educating mariners on the use of engine cut-off switches, stemming from new legislation that went into effect on April 1. Engine cut-off switches are either lanyards or electronic fobs that are attached to the driver of a boat, which are designed to shut off the engine if the driver leaves the cockpit, preventing a runaway boat. This legislation is aimed toward recreational owners of boats less than 26 feet with an engine rated at three horsepower or more. Information on this topic is found at <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-devices.php>.

The Coast Guard recommends mariners heed the safety tips below to help ensure safety while on the water:

- **Always wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket while underway.** 80% of boating deaths are due to drowning, and 86% of those victims were not wearing properly fitting life jacket.
- **Don't drink and boat.** People operating vessels under the influence of alcohol, drugs or impairing medication pose a serious threat to you and anyone else aboard.
- **Make a VHF radio your go-to means of communicating in an emergency.** Cell phones may go out of range or lose battery power when needed most.
- **Take a boating safety course.** The Coast Guard Auxiliary at offers boating safety courses ranging from electronic navigation to boat handling. [Click here to register for a boating safety course.](#)
- **Get a vessel free safety check from the Coast Guard Auxiliary** to ensure you have all the gear and safety equipment required by your state and federal laws. [Click here](#) to find one near you.
- **Look at the weather and tides before you head out.** It might look like a nice day, but squalls and shifting tides can come suddenly.
- **File a float plan.** A planned route and time of return left with someone who can help find you.
- **Avoid Hypothermia.** Dress for water temperature and not just for the weather.
- **Know your navigation rules.** Know how to properly navigate waterways and maintain lookouts to keep yourself and everyone else around you safe.
- **Locator beacons can help the USCG find you faster.** Locator Beacons attached to your boat and your life jacket and should be registered with the owner's information and emergency contacts.
- **Label kayaks and paddle craft:** When adrift kayaks are properly labeled, it is easier for rescue personnel to confirm actual distress and save countless hours of searching for a missing owner.
- **Check out the Coast Guard Boating Safety app.** Here, you can file a float plan, request assistance, request a vessel safety check, and report pollution and hazards to navigation.
- **Beachgoers and Swimmers.** Need to be aware of the dangers along the coast, such as cold water, dangerous surf, sneaker waves, and rip currents. **Sneaker waves** are deadly, larger-than-average swells that suddenly surge much farther up the beach following periods of quiet surf and smaller waves. **Rip currents** can occur often where water seems calm, between areas of breaking waves. They don't pull people under the water but can pull even the strongest swimmer far out to sea.

# Auxiliary Interpreter Corps

by Ricardo Moreno

*The Interpreter Corps has almost 550 interpreters and 45 languages*

The USCG Auxiliary Interpreters Corps is part of the USCG Auxiliary International Affairs Directorate. With almost 550 interpreters speaking 45 languages, the Interpreter Corps provides capable, qualified, and competent language interpretation services for international mission requirements.

Language support is provided to the US Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security agencies, Department of Defense, and a number of local and state agencies. Interpreters often have access to sensitive or confidential information, and in these situations must have the necessary authorization or clearance. The missions come as a mix of everyday activities and other very high-profile ones. These can include: Outreach to and collaboration with friendly nations (communication with foreign Coast Guards, Navies, governments, and dignitaries); translation of documents, websites, manuals; vessel communication and Search and Rescue; Incident Management support of other agencies during natural disasters; and Special missions, such as recent missions to support DHS on the southern border or with Afghan migration. Interpreters in our District have participated in all of these areas, and have done so over the phone, at USCG Stations, and aboard cutters, helicopters, and planes.

Current and recent missions include Turkish Interpretation Support for criminal investigation, Creole Interpretation Support to Cutter captains intercepting migrants at sea, Portuguese Interpretation Support for migrants and refugee intake at Southern border, Mandarin Interpretation Support for distressed vessel and stranded Chinese nationals, Dari Translation Support for Afghan Allies Welcome mission, Chinese Interpretation Support for MARPOL Pollution Investigation, Russian Interpreter Support for distressed vessel and Russian national, and Spanish Interpretation Support for international fisheries conference.



*Supporting the USMC on training activities with the "Fuzilheiros Navais" from Mozambique.*

Personally, I have had the privilege to be a member of the Interpreter Corps for 10 years. During this time, I have participated in a number of missions, with the highlight being a deployment to Mozambique for two weeks, supporting the USN, USMC, and the State Department, in training and humanitarian activities.

We need more interpreters and are actively recruiting, especially for Southeast Asian, Russian, Mandarin, and Cantonese languages. If you are fluent in a foreign language and are interested in joining the Interpreter Corps, please contact me at [moreno.uscgaux@gmail.com](mailto:moreno.uscgaux@gmail.com) and I will be happy to walk you through the process. Qualification as an Interpreter will include an interview with a Language Qualified Examiner.

And, you can all help us by educating more people about what we do. Many USCG Stations and Commands, and even our own Auxiliary members, are not fully aware of what we do. You can use the flyer on page 12 to spread the word. I am also available to come and speak about our capabilities and engagement model.



Ricardo Moreno is a member of Flotilla 49, Silicon Valley, and District 11N Program Coordinator for the Interpreter Corps.



# COAST GUARD AUXILIARY INTERPRETER CORPS

FREE, ON DEMAND, LANGUAGE SUPPORT



## 400+ INTERPRETERS

USCG Auxiliary members  
Uniformed volunteers



## 40+ LANGUAGES

Visit <http://icdept.cgaux.org/> for list  
of languages supported



## SUPPORTED AGENCIES

US Coast Guard  
DoD  
DHS  
Sheriff, Police and Fire Departments  
Search and Rescue Organizations  
Other US Federal, State and Local  
Agencies



## SCOPE AND SKILLS

Search and Rescue missions  
General interpretation  
Foreign dignitary visits and diplomatic  
missions  
Incident management  
Victims support  
Document translation and more



## READILY AVAILABLE

Planned and ad-hoc assignments  
In person or remote  
In the US or in foreign soil (with  
proper authorization)



**Request mission support:**



+1-847-809-0802



[interpreter.uscgaux@gmail.com](mailto:interpreter.uscgaux@gmail.com)





## Spotlight Question

by Greg Schaefer

This page encourages you to explore Auxiliary websites. The first one to answer correctly will be spotlighted here in the next issue. Good luck!

**Last quarter's question** was fill-in-the-blank: *Each year, Auxiliarists save nearly 500 lives, assist some 15,000 boaters in distress, and graduate over 500,000 students from safe boating classes every year." The results of these efforts save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year."*

This quarter's question:

According to a national Auxiliary website, how many 1) Members, 2) Units, 3) Hours, 4) Vessels, 5) Aircraft, and 6) Radio Facilities does the Auxiliary contribute to Team Coast Guard? And, as always, 7) where did you find this information?

Send your answer in an email to [gregschaefer.uscgaux@gmail.com](mailto:gregschaefer.uscgaux@gmail.com).

Congratulations to the first person to submit the correct answer last quarter, DAVID BELTRAN!



David Beltran is a member, and the Flotilla Commander, of Flotilla 19, Coyote Point. David writes: I'm married and have a son in 9th grade and a daughter in 6th grade, both of whom are active in Scouts BSA. I like to travel to places near the ocean to scuba dive and free dive. I'm working as a financial advisor.

# Bugler's Call

by Roger Bazeley

## Bugler's Call to Remembrance at the Presidio

The bugler stands straight as a sentinel, a lone figure silhouetted by the golden glow of the late afternoon's setting sun. In solitary reflection while snapping to attention, slowly and deliberately raising the horn to his lips while inhaling a deep breath of the surrounding air.

Surrounded by tall shade trees, flags waving in the costal winds flowing through the Golden Gate and through the hills and groves of eucalyptus and cypress of the Presidio, surrounded by thousands of stone markers and headstones of our nation's fallen heroes.



The lone bugler's first notes float on the afternoon's breeze sorrowfully this Memorial Day.

The Bugler plays with respect notes that honor those individuals that served, whether Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter at the Presidio marking points of historic sacrifice. Each note of twenty-eight are played in sequence in remembrance of our fallen who sacrificed through dedication, belief and duty with honor – our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, and neighbors and Gold Star families. The bugler's notes of taps progress and rise to the heavens.

The lone Bugler plays the last of the twenty-eight notes of Taps sustaining the last note with a quivering of emotional finality, until it drifts of tapering into silence. All is still but the snap of waving flags and rustling of leaves wind sweeping through the giant majestic eucalyptus and cypress trees of the Presidio. The notes of Taps still lingering in memory as we remember the fallen, but not forgotten.

The bugler as a lone sentinel and keeper of the notes played which penetrates the souls and hearts of all who listen and remember, respectfully lowers the trumpet and salutes the fallen, all present, and the American Flag at half-mast, at the Presidio Memorial as night comes.

People gathering at the Presidio disperse and wander about the tress and monuments of the Presidio some quietly weeping and others gathering and walking in groups or couples, and some families sitting on blankets between the headstones of loved service members, and with children taking family selfies, in the Presidio a place of comfort and remembrance. We shall never forget all the family gatherings, walks, camping, biking, running and moments of reflection and remembrance in the Presidio. A place to fully experience all that is life.



# Save A Life. Wear It!

