

11 North- wind

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

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Water Safety Fair
Returns to
Station Golden Gate

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Change of
Command
at ASSF

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Meet Tina Perry

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Contributors to this Issue: Aux. Roger Bazeley, Aux. Gwendolyn Hammer, Aux. Vicki Hudson, CDR Christina Jones, COMO Dean McFarren, Aux. Tiffany Townsend, and Aux. Greg Schaefer

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Cover: Aux. Coxswain Terry Blanchard signals an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter rescue team during their final pass at the 2022 Water Safety Fair at Coast Guard Station Golden Gate.

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From the Editor:

When I was a kid, I loved to take things apart. Mostly, I wanted to see what was going on inside of a thing that made it work. What did each piece do? How did they work together? Then, apart from the challenge of getting the thing put back together again, I had a close-up understanding of the thing's inner-workings and the interdependence of its parts.

I feel fortunate that I've been able to carry that inquisitiveness forward into adulthood and to look at systems in a similar way: How does it work? What does each part contribute? How do the parts work together? This can be a helpful lens in workplace settings, in families, in friend-groups, and in organizations like ours.

In this issue of *Northwind*, you will see articles about the interdependence of the various parts of the Coast Guard, specifically the interaction of the Active Duty and the Auxiliary in various events across our AOR over the past quarter. You'll notice that Auxiliarists were involved in planning, behind the scenes, in the kitchen, in photo-documenting the event, in official parties, and in various other ways. I think this interdependence is what makes us work as well as we do.

As you read this issue, spare a thought for the interdependences in your life - on whom or what do you rely in order for you to be fully who you are? How can you acknowledge that today?

Peace,

Gregory O. Schaefer, *NORTHWIND* editor
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DSO-PB, D-AD (Awards)
Flotilla 46, Redwood City



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From the District Commodore

Ahoy D11N Shipmates,

I hope you are all doing well and are enjoying the warm summer weather that has seemed to start early this year.

So, what's happened in past three months?

Our first large event of the year, National Safe Boating Week, was an amazing success as just about every Division and most Flotillas were able to get out and meet the public *en masse* for the first time in three years. Activities included Vessel Examinations, Public Affairs events, Public Education classes, on the water patrols, reaching out to new venues for program visitation safety literature, and even having our Bell 47 Helicopter OPFAC fly in and land at the San Ramon Art and Wind festival. Our District Public Affairs team led by Jane Smith, DSO-PA, did a great job recording the activities and highlighting the many smiling faces of our Auxiliary members. It is great seeing our team out in public again serving and educating the public.

The "Antlers OPTREX" at Lake Shasta was a great success thanks to the efforts of many folks. The logistical issues created by extremely low water levels at Lake Shasta were overcome by holding on-the-water activities on Whiskeytown Lake. Multiple shoreside training activities were offered in the Antlers Resort clubhouse which was ours for the weekend. Six boats, eleven candidates for checkrides (all were successful), and about thirty-five Auxiliarists thoroughly enjoyed this most productive weekend filled with great activities and wonderful fellowship! Please check the District calendar or read the District Operations report for more news on coming OPTREXes this year. Also, just a reminder that IF you cannot attend any of the scheduled OPTREXes, please reach out to your Operations staff officer to see if there is a two-boat qualification event being held in your area.

I like to keep all of our shipmates up to date on our Request for Forces program partnership with USCG units in our AOR. To date, we've placed Auxiliarists in roles to fill 44 (with 4 more in process) of the 68 requests for assistance we have received since the inception of the program back in Q3-2020. For those who don't know, the RFF program goal is 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. If you would like to be considered for any of these roles, please talk to

your Flotilla Commander or unit AUC for potential opportunities.

What is happening now?

We are now in the middle of boating season and from what I'm hearing from units in our AOR, we are very busy and doing what we can to put boats on the water, planes in the air, and boots on the ground to continue reaching out to the public at PA events and educate them through educational activities. I'm also hearing that water levels in a majority of our inland lakes are already at very low levels, making it dangerous for the public and ourselves. Please make sure to take the proper precautions, include low water in your pre-mission briefing, and avoid areas where underwater obstacles may be lurking. Don't become a SAR case!



Commodore Dean McFarren

The D11N Auxiliary Communications team worked with the Coast Guard D11 Command Center conducting a Contingency Network (D11CCNET) Full Scale Exercise on 23 April 2022. The exercise tested the capabilities and design of a High Frequency (HF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) radio network. The test was extremely successful and confirmed that the contingent communications system in place in D11N is effective in ensuring Coast Guard units can maintain communications throughout Northern California. Larry Stanton, DSO-CM, and Bill Scholz, ADSO-CM, along with 16 other members of the Communications team, did an exceptional job in supporting our Coast Guard partners. As I write this article, I just reviewed the results of the required workshops many of our members have to take to maintain their qualifications. As of the 30 JUN deadline, 100% of our Vessel Examiners, 100% of our Telecommunications Operators, and 94% of our instructors have taken the workshops. Bravo Zulu to you all. I, and the rest of the District, appreciate your diligence. Unfortunately, it's not all peaches and cream; with only 51% of our Surface Operations team completing the workshops. Those of you who have not taken this class are now in REWK and unable to secure orders. Our amazing team of virtual Instructors are offering classes each month so there really is no reason to not take the workshop. Please get 'er done!!!! Also, just a reminder that you need to keep your Core Training qualification up to date if you want to perform any AUX activities. Currently our District is at 60% compliance so I know a lot of you that are reading this most likely need

to take these classes. They're short and easy to take so I encourage you to take them quickly and get them out of the way for the next five years.

There has also been a lot of activity in the DIRAUX office. CDR Paige Keenan has officially retired and our new DIRAUX, CDR Christina Jones, has jumped right in with both feet and is doing an incredible job. We're lucky to have her. Our OTO, BOSN2 Dustin Finkelson, has also left us and is now the OIC at CG Station Freeport TX, and we are awaiting arrival of BOSN2 Thomas Perez, who will be joining us at the end of July. And if that isn't enough change, our Yeoman Tise Maele was advanced to YN1 and has shipped off to Base Kodiak, AK. We should be getting a replacement for Tise at the end of July as well. So, this has left the resource cupboard at the DIRAUX office pretty bare, with Tina and our intrepid volunteers picking up the slack as much as possible. So please be patient if you have sent in a request to the office. It will be worked as soon as time allows.

In addition to the activity at the office, BSX has revised our COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance (v.4) to now allow our unvaccinated members to receive orders and join the rest of the District in doing the Good Work! There are still a couple of safety restrictions but nothing that cannot be managed responsibly. I'm glad that our entire workforce is back in the game!!!

As part of this new guidance, all members must submit an updated Auxiliary High Risk Assessment form (ANSC-7101 v.4-22) to the DIRAUX office. This form can be found on our District website on the COVID-19 Information page. I encourage all to complete this quickly as it is required to be assigned to duty or perform any Auxiliary tasks in person.

Lastly, we were privileged to have our new Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Fagan, on Coast Guard Island a few weeks ago, where she held an all-hands meeting for Base Alameda. As part of her presentation, the Admiral discussed the "people aspect" of our service and how each and every member is making a contribution to the overall success of our Coast Guard. This included publicly recognizing 20 Coasties, Civilian Employees, and ONE Auxiliarist. Our own Kit Galvin received a well-deserved thank you, handshake, and one of the Admiral's Challenge Coins. Truly, each and every one of our D11N members deserves this recognition as it is a team effort to get the job done. You have my heartfelt appreciation for everything you do.

What is coming up?

As we move into the third quarter of the year, I remain encouraged and appreciative so see so many of our members reengage in Auxiliary activities. I would like to see more members reengaging and reentering the workforce but I know that will come with time. We continue to make strides with our recruiting efforts and have attracted 72 new members this year. Welcome to all of you and please complete your core training, introduction to risk management, and your BQ classwork quickly as we need you in an operational capacity sooner than later.

Just a reminder that "Dues" season is almost upon us. Please pay attention to your email and your FSO-FN for notification. If you think about the cost of dues over the year, your monthly amount would be less than a cup of coffee at your favorite roastery. You are investing in the future of the Auxiliary and also helping save lives.

Lastly, election season is coming up in the 3rd and 4th quarter. Our District will be electing a new District Commodore, District Chief of Staff, and three District Captains. The election will take place at the District Board & Staff meeting on 17 SEP at Coast Guard Island as part of our fall PCA fair. Candidates for DCO: Curtis Han (currently DCOS); for DCOS: Alan Stanton, Bruce Martin, Chuck Cobery, Jim Losi; for DCAPT: Chuck Cobery, COMO Dale Fajardo, Lew Derfuss, Mike Brown, Randy McCormick, William (Bill) Hale. This will be a great election and I am happy to see so many strong leaders putting themselves out there to serve our membership.

For those of you who of thought of entering the Auxiliary leadership tract, I encourage you to make your thoughts known now to your current elected or appointed leadership and start the succession planning process to prepare you for your next step.

Before closing, I would like to take a moment to remember two of our Auxiliary family that passed over the bar in the second quarter of 2022. Both were dedicated Auxiliarists that made lasting contributions to our District: Varon Smith (FL 12-1, East Bay) and Dr. Palmer Wilkins (FL 14, Central Marin, retired). Fair winds and following seas.

I look forward to seeing everyone this year. Please continue to stay safe and remain *Semper Paratus*.

From the Gold Side

by CDR Christina Jones

Greetings, I am Commander Christina Jones. I have recently reported as the Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) for the Eleventh Coast Guard District Northern and Southern Regions.

Prior to reporting to the DIRAUX office, I was assigned as Chief, Domestic Vessel Inspections at Sector New Orleans, where I oversaw regulatory compliance of the largest towing vessel fleet in the U.S. and directed domestic vessel inspections for the unit ranked #1 nationwide for vessel inspection activities. My previous assignments include Coast Guard Atlantic Area, International Port Security Program where I served as a Head of Delegation and a lead instructor for port security assessments and capacity building missions around the world. From 2012 – 2015, I served as the Supervisor of Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Cincinnati. In this capacity, I was the senior Coast Guard official responsible for all Coast Guard missions within the Port of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, the second largest inland port in the U.S. with more than 48 million tons of cargo transits annually. Other assignments include Marine Investigations and Contingency Planning & Force Readiness at Sector San Francisco from 2008 – 2012. Between 2005 and 2008, I was assigned to Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach where I qualified as both a Command Duty Officer and Marine Inspector.

I am extremely excited to be here and am highly encouraged about the future of the Auxiliary program within District 11. I have always valued the Auxiliary and have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Auxiliarists throughout my entire career. In my current role as DIRAUX, I look forward to continuing to build on this foundation

As vital members of Team Coast Guard, Auxiliarists within District 11 Northern Region have enabled District 11 and the Coast Guard at large to successfully perform a gamut of missions. With a compliment of nearly 1100 Auxiliarists within D11N, the Auxiliary is a significant force multiplier for our Service and fulfills a critical role within our district. Effectively augmenting the total workforce, our highly skilled and talented Auxiliarists have been paramount in bridging challenging personnel- and resource-gaps.

While Recreational Boating Safety remains the bread and butter of the Auxiliary, I am thoroughly impressed by and enthusiastic about the expansive and diverse mission sets that the Auxiliary actively engages in. In my short time as

the Director, I have witnessed the tremendous work you all are doing: heeding the call and voluntarily deploying to the Southwest Border in support of CBP; participating in Juneteenth observances; assisting the DIRAUX office with administrative support; conducting Auxiliary Air Patrols; providing culinary services to cutters; assisting with vital Waterways



CDR Christina Jones, DIRAUX

Management activities; providing support to Coast Guard medical clinics; conducting Vessel Exams; assisting Sectors with Response and Prevention missions; and hosting Public Education courses. Our members do it all!

In reflecting on the Commandant’s Intent 2022, and in charting the course forward, I charge each of you to:

Transform our Total Workforce *Deploy innovative recruiting practices.* With a renewed focus on recruitment and retention, the Auxiliary is optimally positioned to serve at the forefront of this mission. In many communities throughout our nation, the Auxiliary may be the only Coast Guard face and/or image of the Coast Guard that members of the public have an opportunity to interact with. As such, I highly encourage our members to continue to share your story, the Coast Guard story, and capitalize on those opportunities to recruit highly skilled, talented, and capable leaders.

Sharpen Our Competitive Edge *Drive a culture of innovation.* I encourage our members to explore the new opportunities that are available for the Auxiliary. Additionally, let us continue to look at ways to maximize and optimally employ our available resources, assets, systems, facilities, etc.

Advance our Mission Excellence *“Be Brilliant at the Basics.”* In executing our missions, it is vitally important that we continue to properly train and equip our members with the necessary skill sets to remain *Semper Paratus*: always ready when called upon for normal day-to-day operations, in response to surge staffing operations, and in times of crisis.

I look forward to serving alongside you as the Director. Thank you for your selfless service and unwavering devotion to duty.

Water Safety Fair, Station Golden Gate by Tiffany Townsend

The first in-person and fully-interactive public event held at Station Golden Gate since the pandemic.

U.S. Coast Guard Station Golden Gate kicked off National Safe Boating Week with the return of its annual Water Safety Fair on May 21, 2022.



Flotilla 12, Sausalito-Tiburon, co-hosted the recreational boating safety event with support from Flotilla 14, Central Marin, and D11NR Auxiliaries.

Outdoor exhibits included life jacket giveaways, boating safety and California boater card information, marine safety education, paddlecraft safety, knot tying and line heaving, and Coast Guard recruitment. Public tours were available aboard Coast Guard motor lifeboats, Auxiliary facilities, and the Auxiliary communications vehicle.

Participants interacted with "Coastie," the Auxiliary remotely operated vehicle and with Oscar, the Station's dog, a large standard poodle.



Petty Officer 1st Class Cory Sumner, a Maritime Enforcement Specialist at Maritime Safety and Security Team San Francisco, and K9 Feco perform an explosive detection demonstration.

Guests of all ages enjoyed a demonstration by Feco, the explosives detection dog. The U.S. Coast Guard K-9 is well-known for #FecoFriday social media fame. The 9-year-old Hungarian Vizsla joined the Coast Guard in late 2014 and was recently presented the Animals in War and

Peace Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service to our country.

Interagency participation included support from multiple fire engines, a marine rescue dive team boat, National Park Service lifeguards with jet skis, and a high-angle cliff rescue team with their search and rescue dog, Beacon.



A highlight of the event was the landing of an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco on the Fort Baker parade grounds field. Tours and photo opportunities were provided, followed by rescue swimmer demonstrations.

Over three hundred and fifty guests, thirty Auxiliaries, twenty Coast Guardsmen, and fifteen interagency partners participated during the three-hour open house at Coast Guard Station Golden Gate.



Auxiliary John Foley prepares lunch for Water Safety Fair volunteers and on-duty crew in the galley of Coast Guard Station Golden Gate. Photo by Arne Gelb.

This was the first opportunity for many in attendance to tour a motor lifeboat station. With all of the smallest size life jackets given away, the mission to promote a lifetime of boating safety was considered a success.

Tiffany Townsend serves the District as Deputy DSO-PB and also serves as Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 12, Sausalito-Tiburon.



New Skipper at Air Station San Francisco

by Greg Schaefer

A Time-Honored Tradition with an Important Purpose

Whether it's The Byrds in 1965, or the author of Ecclesiastes millennia earlier, there are plenty of reminders that "there is a season" for much of what goes on around and within us. This time of year is a particularly heavy season for comings-and-goings in our organization. In a span of just a few weeks, we say goodbye to CDR Keenan, BSN2 Finkelson, RADM Penoyer, and others who have been important to our work for the last few years. And, as is the way, we welcome aboard CDR Jones, RADM Sugimoto, and other successors. By tradition, roles are visibly handed off to the next person so there is no question where the crew should look for direction.

Air Station San Francisco (ASSF) held a Change of Command ceremony in June as Captain Thomas Cooper was relieved by Captain Christopher Huberty. If you've never been to a Change of Command, I encourage you to try to get yourself invited to one. It really is a beautiful ceremony and I'd like to highlight both the traditions and rituals, as well as the interdependence involved in pulling off the day.

An important part of this ceremony is that the transition in command from one person to another is visible to the unit. This is initially hinted at early in the ceremony in the "personnel inspection." After the



welcome and instructions, the official party arrives on stage, the colors are presented, the National Anthem is

rendered, and the Chaplain leads an invocation. Then, the Personnel Inspection is an opportunity for the outgoing and incoming COs to greet each member of the crew personally, one thanking the crew for the last time, and one reviewing the personnel about to be under their command.



The day's Presiding Officer, RADM Brian Penoyer, in addition to remarks about the Air Station, the Crew, and the Skipper, presented a Unit Award to the entire Crew of the Air Station. By tradition, it is received on the crew's behalf by the junior-most member of the unit. It was a sweet sight to see him receive that award from Rear Admiral Penoyer.

Next, the outgoing CO has an opportunity to speak words of reflection, gratitude, inspiration, and charge to the unit he has commanded for the last few years. And then, by tradition, the outgoing CO and the incoming CO read aloud their new orders:

*From: Commander, Coast Guard Personnel Service Center
To: Captain Thomas F. Cooper, United States Coast Guard
Subject: Orders, New Assignment
Upon relief of duties as the Commanding Officer, Coast Guard ASSF proceed to the great state of Florida for retirement.*

*From: Commander, Coast Guard Personnel Service Center
To: Captain Christopher Huberty, United States Coast Guard
Subject: Orders, New Assignment
Detach upon completion of assignment at Coast Guard Eleventh District and report for duty as Commanding Officer, ASSF.*

This transition is ritualized by a moving moment in the ceremony that not everyone is able to hear from the audience. But, as I was the Chaplain for this ceremony and was seated on the dais, I had a front-row seat! By tradition: CAPT Huberty salutes RADM Penoyer and requests permission to relieve CAPT Cooper as CO, to which the RADM responds, "Very well, carry out your orders," returning the salute.

CAPT Huberty turns to CAPT Cooper and says, "Sir, I relieve you," to which he replies, "Very well, I stand relieved," and they exchange salutes.



CAPT Huberty turns back to RADM Penoyer, salutes, and says, “Admiral, I have properly relieved Captain Cooper as Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco,” to which he responds, “Very well,” and returns the salute.

Finally, CAPT Cooper salutes to RADM Penoyer and says, “Admiral, I have been properly relieved,” to which RADM Penoyer returns the salute and responds, “Very well, congratulations.”

And there, in a few short phrases, is the essence of what we were all doing there that day: Relief was offered, Command was relinquished, and the work of the Air Station would carry on. Lives would go on being saved, laws enforced, and the environment protected . . . under new management.

The new CO greets the assembly, makes some remarks, expresses gratitude and enthusiasm, and begins to cast the vision for the next season in the life of this station and the ceremony ends with a benediction. In this case, it was immediately followed by a retirement ceremony for CAPT Cooper and a large and festive reception in the hangar.

Of course, an event like this doesn’t just come together. An MC leads the assembly through the ceremony; a team of very-hard-working people prepare the space, the script, and all the details; other Captains come from all over the AOR to witness this Change of Command. But I want to highlight the work of Auxiliarists, without whom I daresay it would not have been nearly the event that it was.



hundreds of people in attendance – surely a tiring (but, according to AUXCA Michele Gibson, very rewarding) job. It’s important to know that the AUXCA team began months in advance, putting

I personally saw at least half-a-dozen AUXCA (Culinary Assistance) staff catering to the needs of the

together a menu, a schedule, and a plan to feed the crew, guests, and family members in attendance.

Northwind’s own Roger Bazeley was documenting the day in pictures (including all of the ones in this article). Despite having covered another event the day before, Roger carried around his cache of equipment and an eye for the job and documented the day wonderfully. (Since he was behind the camera in all of the pictures, you’ll just have to take my word for it that he was there.)

I serve on the Auxiliary Chaplain Support Team and was asked to be the Chaplain for the day, praying the invocation and benediction, which involved quite a bit of preparation as well as coordination with the Project Officer.



Equally striking to me, though, was the presence of so many Auxiliarists in the audience. Anyone you know?



All told, at least fifteen Auxiliarists made the trip to ASSF for the day’s ceremony. Because they were looking for something to do on a Friday morning and a good lunch? Maybe. But more likely because our part of Team Coast Guard is an integral part of the mission of Air Station San Francisco. I suspect many of us just wanted to be there for the Change of Command of *their* unit. (That’s why I was there.)

CAPT Cooper, in his remarks, emphasized the work of Auxiliarists in the success of the Air Station’s mission. This truly is shared work in which we are engaged, and it demonstrates the interdependence of the entire Coast Guard.

Tina Perry - Backbone of DIRAUX

by Vicki Hudson

“Tina at DIRAUX will know.” Who is this Tina and what’s a DIRAUX?

One of the first tidbits of information gleaned from listening to the more experienced members of the flotilla was “Tina at DIRAUX will know.” Who was this Tina and what’s a DIRAUX?

Tina is Tina Perry, the Auxiliary Affairs Specialist, a federal civilian employee that supports the Director of the Auxiliary, or the DIRAUX, who is the Commander of Auxiliary for the District. The office is located at Base Alameda.

As the main HR person for D11 North, Tina runs all the background checks, enters the new member data into AUXDATA, makes the transitions for members from AP (applicant pending) to IQ (initially qualified) to BQ (basically qualified) and, for those who put forth the effort, AX or AX2 (Operational Auxiliarist). For those members who want to volunteer in areas that require a higher level of security status (such as air crew), Tina assists with completion of the electronic personal security questionnaire (e-Quip) and its processing. Members who will be working at Coast Guard workstations need an ALAC card and Tina is the trusted agent who handles that information.

Tina also has oversight of all member records, making sure AUX member files are up to date with positional assignments, service awards, merit awards, and all possible certifications. She conducts inter- and intra-District transfers, works on ID cards, and fields the many email messages that come in through the D11N shared mailbox.

With all these responsibilities, there are a few Aux volunteers that provide admin support and Tina has delegated a few things to them. Sue Fry, for example, can process an I.D. card. Michael Brown will assist

with issuing PPE gear. Others assist with filing and mailing out awards and certifications. Tina is the backbone that makes things happen at DIRAUX.

What can an Auxiliarist do that supports Tina and her small assisting staff of volunteers, in supporting us? Tina’s response – “Use the Chain of Leadership, try to resolve the issue at the lowest level. Member training officers are going to have to do a better job reaching the new members because new members should not be calling me and asking me, what do they need to do to get their ID card?”

Another important point from Tina, is make sure to use the shared email address so that your message won’t be lost in one person’s inbox. (The general email address d11auxnorthern@uscg.mil; all email should go to this general box.)

Getting an I.D. card used to mean having to make an appointment or coming in on Wednesday (drop in day) and getting your photo taken. Our new Commander at DIRAUX has allowed that you can have your photo taken in Trops or ODU’s (just need to have a red background) and then email it to the shared email address with a request for a card to be issued.

If someone wants to drop by DIRAUX it’s best to email ahead of time and note what you want to accomplish by coming by. The office has hybrid work hours, with many staff working remotely part of the week. Tina is in the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Wednesday is Aux member walk in day, while Friday is by appointment only.

Tina will be retiring in two years, but the actual date is, as she says, “Classified!”

“I’m just going to disappear one day and be on a beach somewhere!”



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



No Longer Serviceable: Tribute to a Pair of Boots by Gwen Hammer

We had just finished an invigorating day of several hours of helicopter/boat hoisting exercises with the USCG Air Station San Francisco. As I kicked back in the cabin of OPFAC *Silver Charm*, joining the playful banter with my coxswain, Aux. Terry Blanchard, and the rest of the crew, COMO Wally Smith and Aux. Lou Sarto, I noticed the sole of one of my boots falling off. A closer look and an attempt to see if it was repairable led to multiple chunks of the rubber sole starting to break off. Fortunately, duct tape came to the rescue.

We were headed to USCG Station/Sector on Yerba Buena Island (YBI) for a late lunch in the galley. Safety comes first and nobody mentioned that the “uniform police” could be lurking anywhere and “I spy out” my, well, not so correct duct taped boots. Fortunately for us, the galley was empty, and we sat outside. The only “military personnel” who might have seen the boots was the island’s mascot, an inquisitive racoon.

Driving home from the helicopter hoisting patrol that day, I started thinking about my boots. I had plenty of time to think during the 3.5-hour drive. My boots had a very long and diverse career with the USCG Auxiliary. I bought them from Dee Bees store on Alameda Island, probably 14 years ago. At that time, I was told they had to have a steel toe, so the side-zippered, 8 inch high, steel toed boots weighed in at 3 pounds. I tell you this because: try being nimble on small boats, with basically 1.5-pound weights on each ankle. But indeed, I did. I’ll admit, my boots didn’t get much TLC. An occasional slathering of black boot polish and some waterproofing. And yet, they held strong all these years and kept me safe.

I wondered how many operational and training hours of time my boots had accumulated over the years. According to AUX Data II, I’ve accrued almost 5,000 hours. Of course, the boots weren’t worn for

all those activities, but I would guess probably about 85% of the time they were trotting on Auxiliary facilities, USCG bases (YBI, Alameda), USCG stations (San Francisco, Golden Gate, Rio Vista), USCG cutters (Stratton, Waesche), and USCGC Eagle (San Francisco, 2008). My boots met at least one of the USCG commandants (Papp), another before he became commandant (Shultz), and many other supportive personnel from the “gold side.” They also participated at boat shows, safe boating week events, Flotilla meetings, and PCA Fairs, and they graced the city streets enroute to the many USCG Auxiliary activities. Not to mention all the time they spent maneuvering the gas and brake pedals in my car *enroute* to all the volunteer activities.

The “DNA” from the soles of my boots have left their mark on a number of USCG Auxiliary facilities, starting with *Spending 3.2* in the Delta, to multiple facilities in the San Francisco Bay area, such as *Silver Charm*, *Sunrise*, *Gloriana*, *Fever*, *Cheers*, and my own facility, *Papito*. My boots had spent an inordinate amount of time on “Maritime Operational Missions,” moving about the boats as needed, but were especially active and feisty for several yearly Fleet Weeks, the America’s Cup, Sail Grand Prix, and similar events. As all who have captained and crewed with me know, those 3 pounds of boots would get moving rapidly around the boat for these special events, keeping the recreational boaters out of the “no go” zones!

It’s no wonder, with such a long career of faithfully serving, by the time I got home, I knew I had to write a tribute to my boots before letting them go. And now that my story is written, with a small pang in my heart, my boots have served their time and have kept me safe and, with gratitude, I wish them “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

Gwendolyn Hammer is a member of Flotilla 12-1, East Bay, and serves as Boat Crew and a Vessel Examiner.





THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
Washington, DC 20593

AUXILIARY POLICY STATEMENT

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of our Service. Guided by our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty, Auxiliary contributions are paramount to mission excellence and to facing our Nation's current and future challenges. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an indispensable part of the Coast Guard team.

Established by Congress on June 23, 1939, as the "Volunteer Reserve", the Auxiliary conducted many of the Coast Guard's domestic missions while the Active Duty and Reserve components were forward deployed during World War II. The Auxiliary has continued its great service to our Nation ever since.

The spirit of volunteerism and patriotism that called the first Auxiliarist to duty continues today in the more than 21,000 professionals who faithfully execute assigned Auxiliary missions across our Nation, its territories, and in foreign countries where U.S. engagement is enhanced by Auxiliary services. Upon enrollment, Auxiliarists pledge to support the Coast Guard Auxiliary, faithfully execute assigned duties, and abide by the governing policies established by the Commandant.

The Auxiliary is a significant force multiplier that provides the Coast Guard with vital flexibility to bridge gaps and perform missions in the dynamic global maritime environment. Auxiliarists enthusiastically provide experience, talent, and facilities for an ever-expanding range of activities, including: Maritime Safety Outreach, Search and Rescue, Safety and Security Awareness Patrols, Disaster Response, Pollution Response, Recruiting, Cyber Security Support, Culinary Assistance, Health Services, Legal Services, and Religious Ministries. These activities enable the Coast Guard to successfully execute all of its missions, and they do it as volunteers!

The Auxiliary missions are:

- To promote and improve Recreational Boating Safety
- 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

I charge all Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge to continually strive to include the Auxiliary in mission execution and support so that we can maximize sustained excellence across all mission areas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Linda L. Fagan".

LINDA L. FAGAN
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

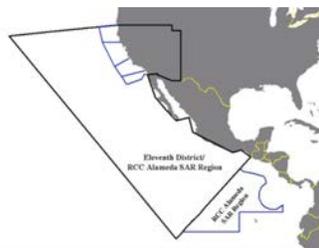
AirSta San Francisco Interagency Day by Tiffany Townsend

Northern California search and rescue teams met for Interagency Day at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco on Friday, March 18, 2022, enhancing and



promoting team coordination. Local first responders included members of the Coast Guard, Navy, Army, FBI, Secret Service, police, fire, DHS explosive detection K-9 teams, and Auxiliary surface and air operational crewmembers.

Through the Alameda Rescue Coordination Center, the Eleventh Coast Guard District AOR encompasses the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and offshore waters extending over one thousand miles from the coast and as far south as Ecuador. Coast Guard units include three rotary-wing air stations, one forward operating base, and one fixed-wing air station.



There are unique and dynamic aspects to Coast Guard Sector San Francisco's operating environment. Six shipping ports and seventy-eight regulated facilities are covered. Five refineries account for ten percent of the refining capacity in the United States. As the second largest ammunitions seaport in the world, San Francisco bears twenty-five percent of the nation's

explosive outload capacity. With a single point of entry at the Golden Gate Bridge, the nation's fourth largest ferry system, over one thousand marine events permitted annually, variable influx from coastal waters and tributaries, and ever-changing weather conditions, this generates a complex operating

Coast Guard Operational Facility	Cases	Percent of Total
Air Station San Francisco	1341	52.5%
Sector San Diego	491	19.2%
Forward Operating Base Point Mugu	381	14.9%
Sector Humboldt Bay	323	12.6%
Total	2556	

environment. A majority of SAR activity for fiscal years 2021 occurred in the San Francisco Bay. The AOR of Sector San

Francisco is significantly supported by the Auxiliary as a force multiplier:

Civilian Employees:	43	Officers:	74
Reserve:	163	Enlisted:	532
Auxiliary:	1,568		

Following introductions with a review of each team's resources and capabilities, participants shared information while touring interagency static displays. An air asset demonstration was conducted by the Sonoma County Sheriff helicopter rescue team. Volunteers were hoisted by a 100-foot line, forty feet in the air across Air Station San Francisco's landing zone.



Opportunities abound when local first responders get together. Participants shared ideas, formed new friendships, and look forward to training and meeting together for years to come.

Tiffany Townsend serves the District as Deputy DSO-PB and also serves as Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 12, Sausalito-Tiburon.



Aux-PA Partners with Local Marine Dealer by Linda Ravetti

If one life can be saved, the effort is certainly worth it.

The Sierra Division of USCG District 11NR is collaborating with the West Marine Store in Reno, Nevada, to promote safe boating and paddle craft at the store.

Manager Aaron Weitzman approached the Sierra Division’s Bill Stolz, SO-PA, about having a boating safety table monthly at the store during the busy boating season. Division Auxiliarists staff the table on the last Friday of each month from 0900 hours to 1500 hours.

The table displays free swag including Nevada Department of Wildlife coffee mugs, floating key

chains, Nevada and California Boating regulation booklets, Nevada Boater Safety education booklets, and boater safety activities booklets for children.

Linda Ravetti, a new Program Visitor with Flotilla 11-03, Reno, is heading up this program. “It is very rewarding to offer safe boating information for the customers. If one life can be saved, the effort is certainly worth it.”

“The collaboration with the USCG Auxiliary is a win-win”, said Richard E. Michaelson, Assistant Manager. “Our customers are always pleased to see the Auxiliary in our store and that helps our sales.”



Linda Ravetti is a member of Flotilla 11-03, Reno.

Auxiliarist of the Year Award

by Vicki Hudson

The Auxiliarist of the Year (AUXOY) award recognizes the most exemplary performance by an eligible Auxiliarist during the previous calendar year. Only those Auxiliarists who demonstrated sustained, exceptional standards of proficiency and conduct, and whose appearance and bearing were consistently impeccable, shall be considered for nomination. This award parallels the awards for the Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY) and the Civilian Employee of the Year (CEOY) awards. AUXOY tenure shall extend from the date of their announcement as AUXOY until the date of announcement of their successor.

Aux manual, section A.16.e.(1), has the Eligibility Criteria that nominees must meet:

- Be a member in good standing of the Auxiliary for no less than one year from initial enrollment to the date of nomination.
- Demonstrated exemplary conduct.
- Embraced Coast Guard core values of “Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.”
- Projected exceptional uniform appearance and bearing.
- Delivered consistently outstanding performance in terms of leadership, Auxiliary program skills, personal and work ethics, and Auxiliary knowledge.
- Displayed superb initiative and motivation that helped significantly advance themselves and Auxiliary program(s).
- Performed duties in outstanding fashion and achieved results of high quality, customer service, and teamwork that resulted in improved efficiency and effectiveness of Auxiliary and/or Coast Guard unit(s).

Other related contributions, achievements, and awards should be included for consideration.

This is a very prestigious award and odds are slight that any one member will be nominated and then selected. That’s not a reason to fail to educate

members of its existence or shoot for the moon and strive to become a contender! Member on boarding and mentoring are key. Like many aspects of membership, it matters if someone takes the time to share information and knowledge.

Nominations are called for in January. The nomination packet is initiated at the Flotilla level and electronically passed through the Chain of Leadership to the regional Executive Committee. One nomination is forwarded from the District forward for continued consideration by national level leaders until one is selected for consideration by the Commandant.

You’ll know who to mentor towards a strong nomination – the new members that fly through to BQ, or dependable members that always get stuff done. Members in AP status will benefit from assigned coaches or mentors to support their progress out of AP during that initial year of membership; set a goal of within 6 months. Experienced mentors and coaches are needed to step up and assist new members with selecting their initial path for engagement in Auxiliary duties and mentoring them through those first certifications. The elected leaders can create an award recognition plan, identify and track who is most likely to be in the running for something. Finally, a skilled award wordsmith is needed to assemble the packet, submit to the FC, and the FC then endorses and moves it forward.

Earning the Member of the Year Award may have slim odds, however these actions will benefit more than one individual. The whole flotilla will benefit with regards to involvement, retention, and flourishing as a unit.

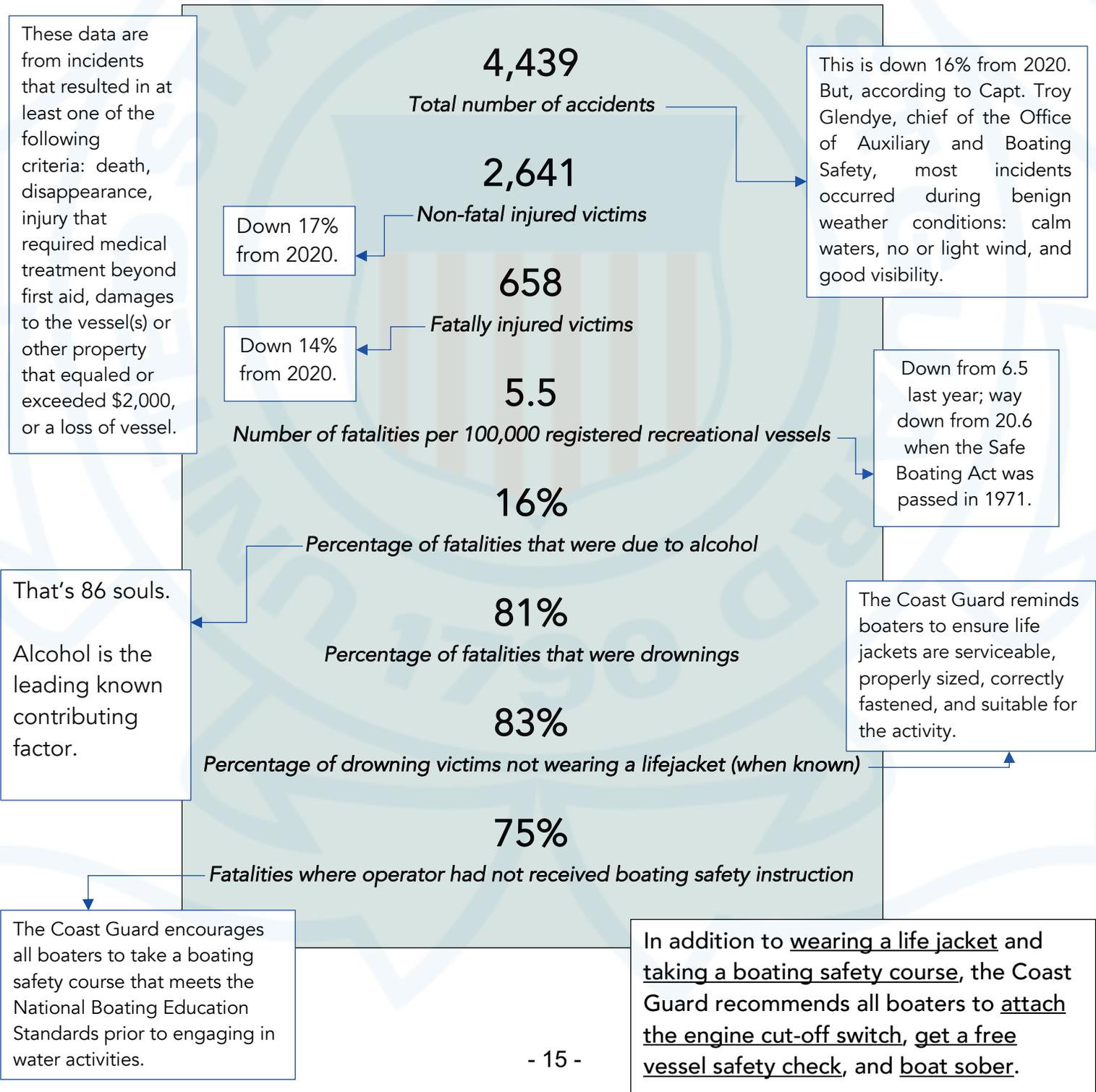
Vicki Hudson serves as ADSO-PB and is a member of Flotilla 12-1, East Bay.



2021 Recreational Boating Statistics

by Greg Schaefer

If you want to read the full, recently-released, 83-page report, visit www.uscgboating.org → "Statistics." Meanwhile, here is a summary.



Those Who Have Crost the Bar

“Crossing the Bar” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*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
When I have crost the bar.*

Varon B. Smith, Jr.
Flotilla 12-1, East Bay

Palmer O. Wilkins
Flotilla 14, Central Marin

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

Who Wants to Be Secretary?

by Vicki Hudson

Being the Secretary/Records is a good intro to many aspects of the Aux.

Since we've been meeting using online resources such as Zoom, or GoToMeeting; it's been much harder for the meeting chair to cast their eyes across the room till someone misses looking away in time and is then asked, "Would you take the minutes?"

Seems, no one ever wants to be that person, the meeting secretary, who is responsible for recording the who, what, when, where, and sometimes why of a meeting's events. Is it cultural sexism (That's a girl's job!)? Is it cultural devalue towards a position that records but isn't seen as an active job? Is it because of an assumption that anyone can do it so why should I? How about, maybe, it's because as simple as the position of secretary is assumed to be in the cultural assumptions of responsibility, people just don't know how or want to take the risk of doing it wrong?

Taking minutes is really not that hard, if the meeting chair has taken the time to create a detailed agenda. All the secretary has to do then is annotate the agenda with what happens, who did it (motions, seconds, volunteers to get stuff done), when stuff will happen, and why we want to do stuff. That's it. The details are in the agenda. The secretary is notating what is decided, what is intended, what will occur, who has the assignment, who was acknowledge or recognized, and most importantly, what the group as a whole wants done.

What does this look like? The agenda states, "meeting called to order" -- the secretary notes the time. The agenda states, "check for quorum" -- the secretary notes the number present and "yes" or "no." The

agenda shows decisions to be made -- the secretary notes who made the motion, who seconded, and whether it passed. The Chair recognizes or gives awards -- the secretary includes this in the minutes, which means either a note-to-self next to the agenda item as complete, or putting down the info on the award or recognition. (A good agenda will already have this info captured.)

Post meeting, the secretary takes the annotated agenda and reworks it into the minutes by entering all the notes to self and notations as updates to the agenda, which now becomes the minutes. The minutes are sent to the meeting chair for approval and, upon approval, are sent out to the membership.

The position of FSO-Secretary/Records, SO-SR, even DSO-SR, starts with being able to pay attention, notate an effective agenda, and following up with updating the agenda to reflect what was accomplished and thus create the minutes. At the flotilla or division level, being the Secretary/Records is a very good introduction to many aspects of the Auxiliary and a nice way to get your feet wet serving on a staff. There are mentors available to coach and train you up, also.

Next time you're at a monthly meeting, raise your hand, volunteer and gain some insight on the inner workings of your flotilla or division.

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





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