Lower Manhattan Flotilla Provides Significant Coast Guard Presence and Educational Outreach at Annual New York Boat Show

By Zach Perkins, FSO-PA

NEW YORK, NY - Thanks to the participation of United States Coast Guard Auxiliarists from Flotilla 014-05-03 (Lower Manhattan), the Coast Guard was well represented at the 2016 New York Boat Show. In keeping with the Auxiliary’s mission to promote and improve recreational boating safety, volunteer members from across District 1SR provided a much-needed presence for the Coast Guard at this high profile boating event.

The annual New York Boat Show was held from January 6th to 10th, 2016 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York. Over those five days, approximately 30,000 attendees visited 300 boating vendors in the 80,000 square foot space. Six Auxiliarists from Flotilla 014-05-03 (Lower Manhattan) engaged with members of the public about the importance of boating safety and encouraged them to take part in Coast Guard sanctioned boating safety classes.

Auxiliarists also educated visitors about free Vessel Safety Checks being offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Division 5 Operations Officer, Norm Harris said, “The mission is boating safety. Many people who are looking for boats are new boaters, and they should not go out on the water without participating in our public education classes, our boating safety courses in particular.”

Division 12 Commander Walter Bier said, “We educate people, that’s first and foremost. We’re talking about boating safety courses, which are now mandatory in New York State for anyone born after 1996. We do vessel safety checks. If you have a boat, you want to make sure you have all the required equipment, and what is also not only required but recommended for safe operation.”

According to the Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety's 2014 Recreational Boating Statistics, of the 610 boating deaths across the nation, more than 250 boat operators had not taken a safety class.
Occasionally, many of our members attend Flotilla meetings and may not (quite) understand all of the acronyms used during the meeting. We feel that every member should have a clear understanding of the many acronyms used during the meetings and within any communications of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

It is very important to educate our prospective and current members. We hope this portion of the newsletter is reviewed by all members.
A NOTE TO THE 2016 OFFICERS:

On behalf of the members of Flotilla 014-05-03, we would like to welcome all of the 2016 Flotilla Officers. We look forward to another successful year with you and wish you the very best!

The Flotilla Officers (listed to the right) are here to assist all members with guidance and instruction in completing missions, coursework, etc.

With each of the Flotilla Officers, there is an abundance of knowledge and experience. Therefore, our flotilla is filled with fresh ideas moving forward.

In 2016, we plan to utilize the Flotilla Officers’ knowledge and experience to accomplish several missions and events. Furthermore, the Flotilla Officers were appointed by our Flotilla Commander, Anthony Carter.

If any member needs assistance or has questions, please reach out to any of the Flotilla Officers. They will gladly assist you or direct you to the proper staff member.

WELCOME 2016 OFFICERS

FC: Anthony Carter
VFC: Charles Jeff Rooney
FSO-CM: Val Yankovskiy
FSO-CS: Stefan Jacome-Ramos
FSO-DV: Marvin Brody
FSO-FN: Meagan Downey
FSO-HR: Vincent Matsui
FSO-IS: Charles Jeff Rooney
FSO-MA: Cristin Bucuic
FSO-MS: Vacant
FSO-MT: Mark Peter Dilone
FSO-OP: Nicholas Cianca
FSO-PA: Zachary Perkins
FSO-PB: Carmen Y. Perrin
FSO-PE: Vacant
FSO-PV: Joy Scher
FSO-SR: Richard Scher
FSO-VE: Andrew Thurman

New Flotilla Staff Officers (FSOs) were sworn in at our February, 2016 flotilla meeting.
Anthony Carter received the 2016 Division Flotilla of the Year for 05-03 at D-Train (Groton, CT).

During NBSW (May 21-27), Anthony Carter received a meritorious award for the vessel exams on behalf of our Flotilla. There were 30 motorized vessels at Liberty Landing with 28 passing inspection and 165 paddle craft (kayaks) with 160 passing inspection.


Carmen Perrin received the 2016 New Auxiliarist Award for Division 5 of Sector NY at D-Train (Groton, CT).

Congratulations to All!
Lower Manhattan Flotilla 60th Anniversary Events

August 13, 9:30 AM
Free River Kayaking
Early morning kayaking on the Hudson River leaving from the Downtown Boathouse.

August 14, 4:00 PM
Cyclones vs. Black Bears
It’s T-shirt day at MCU Park, perfect for post thrill ride excitement.

August 23, 5:30 PM
Free River Kayaking
After work kayaking on the Hudson River leaving from the Downtown Boathouse.

August 14, 12:00 PM
Luna Amusement Park
Walk the historic boardwalk then rides and games, fun for the whole family.

August 15, 8:30 PM
Post Meeting Fellowship
Spend time getting to know your shipmates over oysters, burgers and drinks at Pier A.

September 10, 11:00 AM
Potluck Family Picnic on Governors Island
Bring something to share- we eat then bike, play or check out the views from The Hills.

Save the date- Join your fellow auxiliarists and some special guests as we mark the Flotilla’s 60 years of service on September 19, 2016. Details to follow.
Ahoy shipmates!

My name is N753B. I’m a Beechcraft Debonair. I seat 4 people behind a 300hp fuel-injected 6-cylinder 4-stroke piston engine and 3-bladed prop. I have retractable landing gear that allows me to fly 170 knots once my wheels are stowed away. I’ve been volunteered by my owner, Vince Matsui, to be available as a facility for the CGAUX and specifically AuxAir. Because Vince is a member of the Lower Manhattan flotilla, I am designated as a Lower Manhattan facility!

When I fly AuxAir missions, my name will change to COAST GUARD AUXAIR 53 BRAVO – CGX 53B. This is a military designation that alerts air traffic controllers that I’m flying a Coast Guard mission and to accord my pilots some degree of priority handling.

I’ll be flying all types of missions for AuxAir within the First District - Southern Region’s Area of Responsibility: The winter will be my busy season, when the CG requires AuxAir assistance to monitor icing conditions in the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, Long Island Sound, and the New York Harbor. During the more temperate seasons, I’ll fly Maritime Observation Mission patrols in the AOR, monitoring shoaling at the inlets, bridge construction along the Connecticut shoreline, oil spills on the waterways, and providing area familiarization flights for newly transferred CG personnel. If the pilots on board are qualified, I may be called upon to conduct search and rescue missions for missing boaters. This past spring, AuxAir flew a plane full of stranded, cold-stunned turtles from Cape Cod down to Florida to support animal conservation.

My most important payload is not the pilots but the qualified AuxAir Observers. The Observer’s job is to make observations, take notes and photographs, and report back on the mission’s findings to Sector New York or Sector Long Island Sound and Air Station Cape Cod. Observers produce the timely intelligence required for the CG to execute its manifold missions; it’s this reporting that makes AuxAir an important force multiplier for the CG.

Safety of flight is a CG and AuxAir imperative, so I will be inspected after every 100 hours of flight time, and will have a spectrometric analysis of my oil taken regularly. I will always be flown with two pilots on board, and my pilots and crew need to meet regular training requirements including an annual swim test and water egress instruction. My crews will also partake in more advanced training in Crew Resource Management and Spatial Disorientation and Hypoxia, just like their CG active duty aviation counterparts. My flights will always be conducted in Visual Flight Rules conditions, during daylight hours, with minimum ceilings of 2,000 feet, minimum visibility of 4 statute miles, and sustained winds under 25 knots.

Hopefully I’ve given you sense of what role I, your aircraft facility, will play in the CGAUX.

Semper Paratus! CGX 53B
Flotilla Members Conduct Special Visit To New York Harbor School

By Zach Perkins, FSO-PA

GOVERNORS ISLAND, NY – On February 25th, Auxiliarists from Flotilla 014-05-03 (Lower Manhattan), conducted a special visit to the New York Harbor School on Governors Island. The Harbor School is a unique public high school that provides students with on-the-water learning experiences and strives to relate every aspect of its curriculum to that. The trip was led by Auxiliarist Mike Kessler (SO-MT and FSO-MT) as a combined Marine Safety visitation and educational experience. He was accompanied by Flotilla 5-3 Auxiliarists Tony Carter (FC, 5-3), Zach Perkins (FSO-PA, 5-3), Nelson Cancel (Member, 5-3), Joyce Clarke (Member, 5-3), Flotilla 5-4 Auxiliarists Mike Raffel (VCDR, Division 5) and Norm Harris (SO-OP and FSO-MT, 5-4). The group met with several classes of sophomores and juniors, where Mike Kessler spoke to the students about the Coast Guard Auxiliary and their professional careers. Later, Auxiliarists were treated to a tour of the Harbor School’s facilities, including their dive school and state of the art boating simulators. Flotilla members were very impressed by the professionalism of the students and staff alike, and hope to pursue opportunities to work more closely with the Harbor School in the near future.
Coast Guard Foundation ‘Run To Remember Campaign’ - Team D1SR

Team D1SR has raised both awareness and funds for the Coast Guard Foundation. We have been proud to have successfully completed events in New York - July 19, 2015, Connecticut - October 10, 2015, and in Vermont - November 01, 2015.

We are participating and planning events in the following states in New Jersey - 2016, Massachusetts - 2016, and Washington D.C. - 2016 to promote team building activities, a healthy fitness lifestyle, and most importantly to acknowledge the work of all the members of the innumerable men and women in the Coast Guard that inspire people every day and that make an immeasurable difference in our lives.

Led and organized by John Bilas, Relay Team Captain, Team D1SR is paying tribute to the United States Coast Guard fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of our country.

In addition, they are raising funds for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (Americas Volunteer Guardian's), so members can gain emergency medical training, certification, equipment and first responder gear through a new grant program. Our combined goal is to raise more than $80,000 for the Coast Guard Foundation.

Please support us and make a meaningful difference with your donation! We have a joint mission to raise critical funds for the courageous men and women who work every day to help improve our community, preserve our environment, educate, and save lives. The Foundation supports important programs and projects through donations from individuals, corporations, and through grants and special fundraising events. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated and thanks in advance for your contribution.

-- John Bilas

To Donate To Team D1SR’s ‘Run To Remember Campaign’ please visit:
https://wfc2.wiredforchange.com/o/8777/donate_page/donate-aux