



Date: January 12th, 2016

Contact: Zach Perkins, Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary / Flotilla 014-05-03
zperkins.CGAux@gmail.com
510-367-2368

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [Photos attached]

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

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.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian, uniformed volunteer component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security / U.S. Coast Guard. While the Auxiliary is not directly involved in military or law enforcement activities, today, some 32,000 men and women participate in thousands of hours of support that directly supplements the Coast Guard's Maritime Domain Awareness missions which include Harbor Patrols, Vessel Safety and Inspections, Public Education, Radio Communications, Search & Rescue and Marine Environmental Protection. The over-arching mission of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is to augment the Recreational Boating Safety Mission of the United States Coast Guard as well as assisting with the security of our citizens, ports, waterways and coastal regions.



NEW YORK, NY – On January 7th, 2016 at the New York Boat Show, members of District 1SR, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, speak with a member of the boating public about boating safety courses. From L-R: Mark Dilone (Member Training Officer for Flotilla 014-05-03), Lorraine Bier (Commander for Flotilla 014-12-05), Walter Bier (Commander for Division 12), and Norm Harris (Operations Officer for Division 5); photo by Zach Perkins (Public Affairs Officer for Flotilla 014-05-03).



NEW YORK, NY – On January 7th, 2016 at the New York Boat Show, Division 5 Vice Commander Mike Raffel, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, speaks with a member of the boating public about free Vessel Safety Checks; photo by Zach Perkins (Public Affairs Officer for Flotilla 014-05-03).