

# The Daymark

## Commander's Corner

By AUX Alexander R. Rico, Flotilla Commander



Recreational Boating Safety Booth / Photo by AUX Obed Fulcar [2019]

I am pleased to present our third issue of the Daymark; it reflects the continued hard work and perseverance of our flotilla's members. These are tumultuous times. However, I am encouraged by working with such dedicated people and it gives me hope for progress in our city and our organization as we move forward.

From the beginning of my tenure as Flotilla Commander,

I have been committed to promoting diversity in as many forms as possible. This includes appointing a Flotilla Staff Officer for Diversity whose main role is to advise on how to best integrate the range of backgrounds, experiences, and cultures of our membership into our interactions with the public and within our flotilla. Our fellowship events have highlighted our multiculturalism and religious diversity, and provide opportunities to learn from one another. I can confidently say we have one of the most diverse units in the Auxiliary, and I have enjoyed sharing my Latino culture with my fellow Auxiliarists.

My team and I continue to pursue opportunities that promote and celebrate the uniqueness of our members and the diverse community we serve. We have and continue to focus on recruiting more women and veterans as we expand our membership. We have laid the groundwork through the Sea Tow Foundation Life Jacket Loaner Program to encourage safe boating with groups that have not traditionally had access to waterfront activities, whether due to a lack of information or due to economic constraints. With this, I also look forward to expanding our programming to include more Spanish language services. These are just some of the initiatives we have been working on throughout the year, and I encourage our members and partners to come to me with additional suggestions. With your help, I know we can do more to address diversity and expand our work even further to address systemic issues in our community.

Despite COVID-19, Flotilla 5-11 continues to work toward innovative ways of interacting with our stakeholders. The safety of both our members and our neighbors is our paramount concern. We will continue to follow the guidance provided by our Chain of Leadership, the U.S. Coast Guard, Centers for Disease Control, and our state and local officials. I encourage everyone to keep wearing a mask in public and to continue to social distance; these actions can help save lives.

U.S.C.G. Auxiliary  
1<sup>st</sup> Southern District | Division 5  
Flotilla 11 | Upper Manhattan

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## *U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Celebrates 81 Years of Service*

By AUX Alexander R. Rico, Flotilla Commander

I am happy to acknowledge the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary! Since our inception, we have attracted passionate volunteers devoted to serving their community on and off the water. Our many accomplishments throughout the years are directly attributed to these ardent individuals. Copied below is a message from Admiral Schultz about this occasion. We continue to provide an important service to the U.S. Coast Guard and to the public in an ever-changing and complex environment. Bravo Zulu to my fellow Auxiliarists!

*A letter from Admiral K. L. Schultz, Commandant, United States Coast Guard*

Congratulations to the Coast Guard Auxiliary on its 81st birthday. Since inception in 1939, the men and women of the Auxiliary have been steadfast shipmates and invaluable assets to our Service.

Our 23,000 uniformed volunteers are profound examples of selfless devotion to duty who have not only embraced and exemplified my watchwords of "Ready, Relevant, and Responsive," but have proudly added "Resilient" to that list. The Coast Guard has always upheld a solemn promise to serve our Nation, conducting operations under the umbrella of eleven statutory missions, including responding to disasters, rescuing boaters in distress, and educating America's boating public. These missions were performed in exemplary fashion this past year, enabled by superlative Auxiliary involvement. Examples include two Auxiliarists with emergency management expertise providing expert support to the Coast Guard's Hurricane Dorian response center and briefing the White House; an Auxiliary boat crew in the Fifth District (Northern Region) saving the lives of six passengers on a small boat that capsized in the Delaware River; and Auxiliary flotillas across the Nation establishing specialized training and partnerships with Sea Scout youth under provisions of the new AUXSCOUT program. Even more impressively, against the unprecedented constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Auxiliary supported myriad Coast Guard missions throughout the year while remaining the vanguard for Recreational Boating Safety (RBS). Auxiliarists delivered over 2.4 million hours of support, performed more than 121,500 vessel safety checks and marine dealer visits, and taught over 6,800 boating safety classes, significantly enhancing safety on America's waterways.

The aforementioned accomplishments and characteristics reflect a highly dynamic, diverse and dedicated organization of servant leaders, experienced counselors, and true patriots. It is our privilege to include them on our Coast Guard Watch, Quarter, and Station Bill, and have them serve alongside for every mile we steam. On June 23, 2020, I strongly encourage all Coast Guard units to hoist the Auxiliary colors in recognition of the exceptional Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty that are consistently displayed by our Coast Guard Auxiliarists. On the 81st anniversary, we thank them for their exemplary service.

-ADM K. L. Schultz, Commandant

# The Daymark

## *Virtual Vessel Safety Checks*

By AUX John McNamara (FSO-PE/VE)

Vessel Safety Checks are important for vessel owners as they provide peace of mind that your vessel meets federal safety standards, and that in an emergency, you will have the necessary equipment to save lives and summon help. In addition, many boating insurance companies provide discounts for vessels that undergo a Vessel Safety Check each year.

Vessel Safety Checks are free, and if your vessel does not pass, there is no citation issued. Instead, you're provided a written report and guidance on how to correct any deficiencies.

However, due to the current pandemic we have been unable to get out into the field and perform Vessel Safety Checks, as we have done in the past. While this is changing with the reopening plans, and Vessel Safety Checks are again starting in certain areas following strict safety and social distancing protocols, we recommend that vessel owners perform a Virtual Vessel Safety Check. This self-guided check will walk you through all of the items we cover during an in-person Vessel Safety Check. Please click on the link: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=virtual-safety-check>, to learn more about the Virtual Vessel Safety Check.

Although completion of the Virtual Vessel Safety Check will not result in the awarding of a Vessel Safety Check Decal, it will walk you through the items required during a Vessel Safety Check, providing you with peace of mind, and knowing that when we are able to conduct a Vessel Safety Check in-person again, your boat or paddle craft will pass with flying colors!

If you are interested in scheduling a Vessel Safety Check, or need any information or assistance regarding the Virtual Vessel Safety Check or Vessel Safety Check, please email me, John McNamara at: [cgauxjwm@gmail.com](mailto:cgauxjwm@gmail.com) with: your name, vessel type and location, phone contact and email.



# The Daymark

## ***COVID-19 Health Tips***

### **Stay Healthy and Safe When Boating**

By AUX Avi Henoch, MD

Now that the 2020 recreational boating season is under way, we have to keep in mind health safety along with boating safety. Listed below are points to observe before and while boating:



*AUX Henoch during Fleet Week /  
Photo by AUX Abron Rosenfield*

- ✦ If you are not feeling well or show any symptoms, stay home.
- ✦ Always wear a mask or bandanna when in public spaces.
- ✦ Carry alcohol spray or Purell type gel to clean your hands
- ✦ Avoid closed or crowded areas. If a boat launch appears to be crowded, consider visiting a different boat launch, or returning at a different time or day.
- ✦ Observe social distancing and disinfecting standards aboard the boat. Maintain social distancing from other boats and boaters in parking lots, at dock, fueling stations, and on the water.
- ✦ Do not share a car, boat, canoe, or kayak with people not in your household while traveling to fishing or boating sites.
- ✦ Anglers fishing from boats should always be able to maintain at least six feet of distance between one another.
- ✦ Wear gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) and practice proper social distancing when using public equipment such as gas pumps or pump out facilities.
- ✦ Do not share paddles or any hand-held safety, recreational or other equipment.
- ✦ The virus is airborne, so avoid close quarters with stagnant air.
- ✦ Stay outside the cockpit
- ✦ Do not go below with more than one person
- ✦ Try to avoid overnight voyages

In about 25% of Covid-19 cases there are initial gastrointestinal symptoms. These include diarrhea, abdominal pain and nausea, vomiting, appetite loss. Be aware that nausea and vomiting can look like seasickness. For more information about symptoms visit the [CDC Symptoms webpage](#).

Full studies on treatment should be completed in the coming year – if you're worried, check with your doctor for more medical advice. A vaccine is also in the works, but will likely not be ready until 2021. In the meantime, with proper precautions, boating is an excellent way to enjoy oneself during the summer season during this unusual time.

Staying outside in activities with moving air such as on a boat and maintaining proper distance and other measures is a great way to have enjoyment during this crisis. For more health tips and information on COVID-19 see our *Helpful Resources* section below for additional links.

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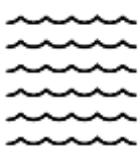
## Safety Tips

### Capacity is Key

Be sure to know your boat's capacity. If you have too many people or too much weight on your boat, the boat may become unstable and capsize. Please be sure to refer to your boat's capacity plate or owner's manual for information on your boat's capacity.



### Check the Weather



Check the weather, including the water temperature. Know the latest marine weather forecast prior to going out, and keep a regular check for changing conditions, as weather can change quickly, like air mass thunderstorms developing on hot afternoons during the summer period. NOAA is a great source of marine observations and forecasts at: <https://www.weather.gov/marine/atlantictext>

For more recreational boating safety tips check Safe Boating Campaign: <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/>

## Awards & Commendations

### Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal:



 Michael Barth

### Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendations:



 Alexander Rico

 William Linder

 John McNamara

 Avraham Henoch (2)

 Michael Barth (5)

 David Arroyo

 Obed Fulcar

 John Gallagher

 Slawomir Adams (2)

 Ted Wadsworth

## Helpful Resources

### Federal Government

- U.S. Coast Guard Coronavirus FAQs: <https://www.uscg.mil/Coronavirus/FAQ/>
- U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety: <https://www.uscgboating.org/>
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Recruiting: <http://join.cgaux.org/>
- FEMA (COVID-19): <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus>
- CDC (COVID-19): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

### Other COVID-19 Support

- NY State <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
- NYC Emergency Management: <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/news/tips-for-navigating-social-distancing-boating/>
- Safe Boating Campaign: <https://www.uscgboating.org>