

# Guardians of the River

## Flotilla 014-25-06 South Windsor, CT

Vol. 2 Issue 3

Fall 2023



### **L C K E** BOSUN'S

The black fleet. What do they do and why are they called that? See page 3.

#### **Flotilla Leadership**

**FC**-Neil Shilansky

**VFC**-Hans Neisser

**IPFC**-David Marriott

#### **Flotilla Staff Officers (FSO)**

**FSO-CM**: Mac McCusker Jr.

**FSO-CS**: Wayne Mulligan

**FSO-DV**: Nicky Chaleunphone

**FSO-FN**: Stan Barnes

**FSO-HR**: Bob Carlson

**AFSO-HR**: Stan Barnes

**FSO-IS**: Christy Billings

**AFSO-IS**: Eileen Christensen

**FSO-MA**: Dan Noble

**FSO-MT**: Hans Neisser

**FSO-NS**: David Marriott

**FSO-OP**: Eileen Christensen

**FSO-PA**: Bob Carlson

**FSO-PE**: David Marriott

**FSO-PV**: Neil Shilansky

**FSO-SR**: Christy Billings

**FSO-VE**: Nicky Chaleunphone

**Safety Officer**- Hans Neisser

**FSO-MS**: Open

**FSO-PB**: Open

*Guardian of the River* is the official electronic only publication of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25-6, South Windsor, CT. to provide articles of interest and information to its members. Comments and submissions consistent with the policies of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary are encouraged. Send email with high resolution images attached to: Bob Carlson FSO-PA by March 15 (Spring), June 15 (Summer) Sept 15 (Fall) Dec 15 (Winter) for inclusion in the next edition.



## Message from the Flotilla Commander.

Welcome to our second year-third issue of Guardians of the River, the newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District 014, Division 25, Flotilla 06 South Windsor, CT.

By the time you read this, I'll be finishing up my 2nd year as Flotilla Commander. It's my time to step down and allow new elected leadership to take the helm.

Flotilla 25-06 is in great hands. Our Flotilla Commander for 2024 is David Marriott, who has held this position before and volunteers hundreds if not thousands of hours every year in so many ways. Our Vice Flotilla Commander for 2024 is Wayne Mulligan, who has years of Coast Guard leadership experience in Coast Guard Auxiliary District 5 South and Flotilla 054-20-04 located in New Bern, NC

I want to thank the Flotilla Staff Officers who I have worked alongside and provided valuable insight and leadership. Special thanks to Vice Flotilla Commander Hans Neisser who has helped me greatly these past two years.

Of course, I'll still be dedicating many hours to 25-06. I'm currently purchasing and collecting the resources needed to convert my boat into a Coast Guard Auxiliary facility. I'll continue to volunteer my time conducting Vessel Safety Checks, Program Visits, Harbor Patrols, Aids to Navigation, Bridge Verifications, and if I can get my act together, begin the comprehensive training to become a coxswain.

Looking forward to a successful 2024, and wishing our new leadership all the best

Respectfully,

Neil Shilansky  
Flotilla Commander  
25-06

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## Members in Action



### FSO-VE (Vessel Exams)



Flotilla 06 members are always very active in inspecting boats along the Connecticut River and the coast of Long Island Sound. As the boating season ends our flotilla inspected 60 vessels-with Neil Shilansky leading with 25. We inspected boats along the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound and even some on dry land.

### FSO-PV (Program Visitor)

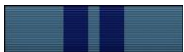
Late summer, Neil Shilansky teamed up with David Hernández Jr (25-04) to completed several harbor patrols (Harpats) and program visits (PV's) in Old Lyme & Glastonbury area. They completed 12 visits during one long day. Their visits included:

1. Reynolds Garage and Marine
2. Old Lyme Marina
3. Cove Landing Marina
4. Old Lyme Dock Co
5. Black Hall Marina & Bait
6. 4 Mile River Marina
7. River Landing Marina
8. HTFD Yacht Club
9. Glastonbury Yacht CB
10. Seaboard Marina
11. Glastonbury Boathouse
12. Glastonbury Boat Launch

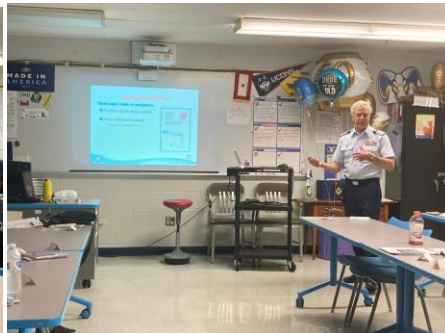
Photos by David Hernández Jr (25-04)



### FSO-PE (Public Education)



#### Boat America Course Offered at Rockville High School, Vernon, CT.



For several years now, David Marriott, Neil Shilansky and Eileen Christensen team up to teach the basic boating safety class. This fall the classes began Tuesday October 4, 2022 for four consecutive Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Rockville High School. “The classes went very well. We had 10 students and all passed and we received great reviews” said Marriott.

**Boat America** is a boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a CT boating certificate. With the purchase of a state certificate, students are allowed to drive a Personal Water Craft (PWC) or any boat up to 65 feet. Connecticut requires each student to complete an approved class and pass the test with a minimum grade of 80%. *If you are interested in teaching all or part of this very important course contact David Marriott and he will give you the details. We always need teachers.*



## FSO-PA (Public Affairs)



Thank you to all who submitted photos of their activity this fall. Remember to take a few photos of your activity and send it to me with a brief description. I will include your activity in the next issue of our newsletter. Send your activity to Bob Carlson-rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net

### Stand Down 2023

The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) sponsored the annual Stand Down event which was held at five regional locations on Friday September 22, 2023 from 8:00AM – 2:00PM. The Department of Veteran's Affairs DVA continues their commitment to serving Connecticut's Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel, and their immediate families by providing this "one stop" access to a range of programs and services offered by state and federal agencies, Veterans organizations, and community-based non-profits at these regional sites across the State.

Below, Auxiliarist Nicky Chaleunphone (25-06) and David Hernández Jr (25-04) represented the auxiliary at the Rocky Hill facility standing watch at an information booth promoting boating safety and the benefits of joining the auxiliary.



### Auxiliarists Help at Concerts at the Coast Guard Academy



The U.S. Coast Guard Band invites students to attend its annual School Concert Series in Leamy Hall Auditorium. These age-specific performances allow students to experience an educational and entertaining hour-long performance by a world-class 50-piece Concert Band. Coast Guard Band Assistant Director CWO Jeffrey Spenner leads the Band in exploring music and how it connects, informs, interacts with, and enhances other areas of curriculum and life. The program will showcase the various sections of the band and highlight the collaborative way musicians come together to make beautiful music. Students will enjoy learning and listening to great music performed by world-class musicians in this interactive presentation.



David Marriott and other auxiliary members assisted in welcoming the students as their buses arrived at Lemey Hall auditorium. Once unloaded the buses were sent up to Bear Drive until the conclusion of the concert. On one of the concert days there were 27 busses to unload and park. “This season the Coast Guard Band performed 7 concerts with about 5,000 students attending ranging from elementary to high school” said Marriott.



## Flotilla Officer's Wardroom

This is a new feature to explore various offices within our flotilla.

### Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources (FSO-HR)

The FSO-HR is responsible for membership growth, retention and increasing pride among Auxiliary membership. The HR officer will also process requests (ID card), transfers, notifications and new member applications.

Bob Carlson is our FSO-HR and Stan Barnes is the AFSO-HR (assistant). Stan was our FSO-HR for several years as he is regarded as the HR expert. Earlier this year we lost a few members to disenrollment. Fortunately we welcomed a new member as a transfer (welcome Wayne Mulligan) and we happily enrolled four new members. Welcome Scott Organek, Paul Hopkins, Patrick and Selena Benoit.

## Auxiliary in Action-10 years ago. Fall 2013

### Auxiliary steps off at this year's Connecticut Veterans Day Parade.

The Auxiliary was out in full force at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Veterans Parade in Hartford, Connecticut, November 3, 2013. With almost 3,000 marchers, the Connecticut Veterans Parade is the largest veterans parade in all of New England and one of the biggest in the nation.

Coast Guard Academy Color Guard and the Auxiliary from First Southern Divisions 24 and 25 marched the 1.7 mile parade route through downtown Hartford. Kris Carlson, 25-06, brought her dog Remmi, as the mascot of flotilla 06, South Windsor and Rob Barba, 24-11 brought up his PWC.



Ready to step off are: first row: Kris Carlson and Remmi, back row, Rob Barba, 24-11, Bruce Buckley, 25-0 , Troy Clark, 25-03, David Obedzinski, 25-04, Robert Harris, 24-04, David Marriott, 25-06, Bill Bowen, 25-03 Richard Pummell, 25-06, and John McLeod, 24-01. Missing from the photo, Kim Filion, 24-01, and Bob Carlson, 25-06.



# **BOSUN'S LOCKER**

The USCG seagoing buoy tender is a type of United States Coast Guard Cutter used to service aids to navigation throughout the waters of the United States and wherever American shipping interests require. The U.S. Coast Guard has maintained a fleet of seagoing buoy tenders dating back to its origins in the U.S. Lighthouse Service (USLHS). These ships originally were designated with the hull classification symbol WAGL, but in 1965 the designation was changed to WLB, which is still used today.



Known as the “**black hull fleet**,” these cutters range in size from 75 to 160 feet in three classes (WLIC, WLR, WLI) and nine variants, representing different years of acquisition. Their primary missions are to build and service shore structures, such as piers and buoy trestles, and to maintain buoys and aids to navigation (ATON).



**Buoy Tender USCGC *Ida Lewis*** (WLM-551) docked during this past summer at Sailfest\* in New London Connecticut. *Ida Lewis* is the lead ship of the United States Coast Guard Keeper-class of Coastal Buoy Tenders. Launched in 1995, she has spent her entire career maintaining navigational aids near her homeport of Newport, Rhode Island. *Ida Lewis* is assigned to the First Coast Guard District.

*\*Sailfest 2023 New London, CT, was held July 8 & 9, 2023. Sailfest is Southeastern Connecticut’s premiere summertime event, complete with a major fireworks display, amusement rides, free entertainment, ships, and over 200 vendors lining the streets. The auxiliary stands watch at an information booth and assists in offering tours of the *Ida Lewis* to visitors.*

