

Guardians of the River

Flotilla 014-25-6 South Windsor, CT



Special First Edition

May 2022

Fun Fact

Alexander Hamilton is considered the father of the Coast Guard.

Flotilla Leadership

FC-Neil Shilansky

VFC-Hans Neisser

IPFC-David Marriott

Flotilla Staff Officers (FSO)

FSO-CM: Mac McCusker

FSO-CS: Matt E. Kozloski

FSO-DV: Nicky Chaleunphone

FSO-FN: Stan Barnes

FSO-HR: Bob Carlson

AFSO-HR: Stan Barnes

FSO-IS: Eileen Christensen

FSO-MA: Dan Noble

FSO-MS: Matt Joia

FSO-MT: Hans Neisser

FSO-NS: David Marriott

FSO-OP: Eileen Christensen

FSO-PA: Bob Carlson

FSO-PB: Open

FSO-PE: David Marriott

FSO-PV: Neil Shilansky

FSO-SR: Christy Billings

FSO-VE: Nicky Chaleunphone

Safety Officer- Hans Neisser

Provisional Editors-Bob Carlson & Hans Neisser

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, June 15 Sept 15 Dec 15.



Message from the Flotilla Commander.

Welcome to the first edition of *Guardians of the River*, a publication of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District 014, Division 25, Flotilla 6, South Windsor, CT. The last 2 years have been very challenging. Our hope is that this year will bring some relief from the pandemic and we will begin to perform our missions in safety.

This newsletter will eventually be published quarterly to keep our members informed of what's happening and to highlight member activities. The newsletter team welcomes your submissions. *Neil Shilansky*



Message from the Vice Flotilla Commander.

Welcome to the first edition of *Guardians of the River*. We are excitedly looking forward to this newsletter becoming another vehicle for enhancing the Four Cornerstones of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship. With your continuing contributions to the newsletter, we will truly become "Semper Paratus". *Hans Neisser*



Past Flotilla Commander

As I have stated many times in the past, I am always so proud of our relatively small flotilla. We have so many members who not only give their time and talents to our flotilla but also give for the betterment of the Division, District and National staff of our Auxiliary, as they help the Coast Guard.

This past year was my fourth or possibly my fifth time that I was honored to serve as your Flotilla Commander and I thank you for trusting me with this responsibility. As you know, this year our flotilla did not come in first place in our division. Aside from that pesky little thing called COVID, for one reason or another, we had no active facilities, a circumstance which limited our time on water and our mission hours. Yet our flotilla still came in second place in 2021, BZ (Well Done)!

In closing I would like to say, I know the past couple of years have been tough on all of us. Keep your chin up and like our Risk Management programs teach us, always practice situation awareness. If you think something can be done better, bring it up; let's talk about it. Remember—this flotilla does not belong to your elected officers; it belongs to all of us. Semper Paratus and best wishes to our first Newsletter. *David Marriott*

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Staff Officer Updates

FSO-VE (Vessel Exams)

One of our flotilla's major accomplishments is the number of vessel exams we complete during the year. We have several examiners in our flotilla and always welcome members who have interest in getting VE certified.

Stay tuned for Vessel Examination dates and locations in our area of responsibility (AOR). In the past, members from 25-06 have participated with other VEs throughout Division 25 in VE Days at the following marinas: Ragged Rock Marina, Between the Bridges Marina, Hays Haven Marina, Chester Point Marina, Boats Inc. Marina, and Three Belles Marina.

Members in Action

We reserved this section to highlight our member's activity. As a reminder if you participate in any event please take a few photos and send a brief description to Bob Carlson at rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net and remember to identify the participants in the photo.



Neil Shilansky 25-06 Flotilla Commander (left) teamed up with Ed Chale 25-03 at the Connecticut Spring Boat Show at Safe Harbor Essex Island Marina on April 30, 2022. Neil and Ed had the opportunity to meet and greet boat owners to promote safe boating. The Coast Guard Auxiliary recommends all boaters and passengers not only have a life jacket, but wear it at all times while boating-regardless of your age or experience level. It's a proven fact that life jackets save lives.

Veterans Corner

Several of our members are veterans from all branches of the armed services. We invite your feedback.

"This is the kind of boat I qualified on"

I got my coxswain qualifications on a motor life boat like this when I was stationed at Group Southwest Harbor, Maine. It was slow, compared to the 40 foot work boats we had but it was good to be in during heavy weather. It is a self-righting surf boat. Luckily I never flipped it. When that happens antennas and other gear gets lost: very expensive and I'd probably have ended up in the brig or at least demoted to Seaman Apprentice (E-2). – Phil Hovey Petty Officer Second Class. USCG 1973-1977



Please note: I included this story from my good friend Phil Hovey as he was instrumental in working with me in designing this newsletter. **Bob Carlson**



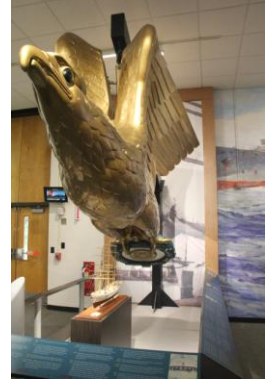
Future Events

The Coast Guard Academy Museum needs our help!

With many cadets off campus during the summer, the curator of the museum has requested our help to keep the museum open on Saturdays through the summer. Auxiliarists are needed to stand watch on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays beginning May through September.

What you can expect while standing watch.

Visitors could be local or new to the area. The museum is self guided and they can visit as long as they like. Some folks ask for directions to other points of interest in the New London area. (Eagle, Groton Sub Base, Casino, Ft. Trumbull. etc.) Last year VIP visitors included: Admirals, Senators and Congressmen...so look sharp.



Interested? email Bob Carlson at rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net for more information.
