

# Guardians of the River

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

Vol. 1 Issue 2

Fall 2022



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

#### **Marlinespike Seamanship**

What is a "Thief Knot"?

See page 4 for answer

#### **Flotilla Leadership**

FC-Neil Shilansky

VFC-Hans Neisser

IPFC-David Marriott

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

FSO-CM: Mac McCusker Jr.

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 (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 issue of Guardians of the River, the new newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District 014, Division 25, Flotilla 06 South Windsor, CT. We've had a great summer of activity on and off the water!

Many of our members have conducted numerous vessel safety checks, inspected aids to navigation, visited dozens of marinas, docks, and boat ramps and completed several harbor patrols (HARPATs). We also logged in scores of boat crew and coxswain hours on Long Island Sound and ushered at U.S. Coast Guard Band concerts held throughout the state. We are proud to be a 'force multiplier' and part of Team Coast Guard!  
- Neil Shilansky FC 25-06



### **Message from the Vice Flotilla Commander.**

Shipmates, as another busy boating season winds down, it's time to celebrate our successes and accomplishments to date. Bravo Zulu to those of you who have participated in active, on-water patrols, conducted vessel exams (VE), stood museum/event watches, and have done/are doing PATON checks. As we all know, these are but a few of the vitally important missions of the Auxiliary that help to ensure that the boating community is well-served.

Moving forward, I ask that all of us look to improve ourselves by focusing upon individual tasks. Training- leadership or perhaps a personal interest item and currency/maintenance of existing qualifications are always important. Time-keeping/reporting, as we approach the end of the fiscal year, should also be tackled. Our goal- to be "Semper Paratus",  
- Hans Neisser VFC 25-06

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## Members in Action

### 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.

### VE Day at Ram Island Yacht Club



Our flotilla commander, Neil Shilansky, attended a VE Day on June 18, 2022 at the Ram Island Yacht Club with a few fellow auxiliarians from the Mystic flotilla (Ed Chale, Richard Pianka).

It was a very successful day as some boat owners were issued their 2022 Vessel Safety Check Sticker, while a few others discovered the need to correct some deficiencies.

*Neil Shilansky just presented the "sticker" to a proud boat owner for passing a safety inspection at Ram Island Yacht Club. Soon after Neil placed the decal to the port side of the boater's facility.*



*End of a great VE day. Ed Chale (c) point of contact (POC) for the VE Day at Ram Island thanks Neil Shilansky (r) and Richard Pianka (l) for a successful VE Day.*

Images, provided by David Kenny (FSO-PA)

### VE Day at Chester Point Marina

Saturday July 9, 2022. The Coast Guard Auxiliary held a special vessel exam (VE) day. The event was organized by Tony Camilleri (25-02). Bob Carlson, Hans Neisser, Joe "Mac" McCusker Jr. and Frank Connolly (25-05) were on hand to offers vessel safety checks to all boat owners. We began at 9 a.m. and completed the day by early afternoon. The boaters were all glad to see us and to have their boat inspected. Just a small percentage of boaters failed mostly due to out-of-date flares. Most of the boaters were very concerned with the inexperienced boaters on the river. One boater told me of the close call they had out there. "It's the jet skis. They get too close to my boat... trying to ride my wake; they need to be careful out there." Overall we inspected around twenty boats with most passing.

### Kayak VE Day

Saturday July 16, 2022. Christy Billings (FSO-SR) a librarian at Russell Library, Middletown, CT, held a program "Book Yak on a Kayak". Folks read a book over the past month and discussed the book while paddling their kayaks on Chrystal Lake in Middletown. "We spend some quiet time on the water and everyone gets a chance to add to the conversation." said Christy. Before the folks shoved off, Bob Carlson inspected and passed all the kayaks for proper safety equipment.



Photo by Christy.Billings 25-06



## Training in Niantic Bay



*Alex Sixbey (r) and Greg Hermanowycz (25-04) are shown practicing a man overboard (MOB) drill in Niantic Bay aboard the facility Pelican (owned by Alex Sixbey).*

During the Man Overboard Rescue drill, a life jacket is thrown overboard to simulate a passenger falling off the vessel. The captain and mate must work together to safely retrieve the victim and coordinate further care.

*Photo by Neil Shilansky*

## Underway at Station New London



*Aux 420, a facility owned by Ed Pratt (25-06 during the summer-winters in Key West) passes the Eagle and a 45-foot response boat at USCG Station New London. Ed and Alex Sixbey were on patrol August 27, 2022.*

The USCGC *EAGLE* is a 295-foot, three-masted barque used as a training vessel for future officers of the United States Coast Guard. Known as “America’s Tall Ship,” the majestic *EAGLE* is the largest tall ship flying the Stars and Stripes and the only active square-rigger in U.S. government service. Built at the Blohm+Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany in 1936, and commissioned as Horst Wes-

sel, *EAGLE* was one of three sail-training ships operated by the pre-World War II German navy. At the close of the war, the ship was taken as a war reparation by the U.S., re-commissioned as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *EAGLE* and sailed to New London, Connecticut, which has been her permanent homeport ever since.

The 45-foot response boat-medium is a multi-mission capable boat, operable from shore stations. The RB-M can respond rapidly to Coast Guard missions or conduct planned patrols and training. Its missions are search and rescue, living marine resources, recreational boating safety, enforcement of laws and treaties and port, waterways, and coastal security.

*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](mailto:rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net) and remember to identify the participants in the photo.*

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## Getting to know your fellow member

Did you know?

Stan Barnes (FSO-FN) our past flotilla commander, avid sailor and member of the Auxiliary for over 45 years also served in the U.S. Army. Stationed at Fort Carson, CO as a howitzer battery surveyor and was honorably discharge with the rank of E-5.



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

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## Veterans Corner

### When the Rockefellers came to town.

I was stationed at USCG Group Southwest Harbor, Maine in 1976 when then Vice President Nelson Rockefeller visited his summer home in Northeast Harbor, Maine. One day he took his large sailing yacht out for a day's excursion off the Cranberry Isles. Of course he was required to have his Secret Service contingent present. This is the scene I remember: There's Rockefeller and family, no more than four or five people, lounging on the spacious afterdeck of his yacht. Then there's me as coxswain, an engineer, and a seaman along with a half dozen Secret Service agents crammed in our little 36' USCG workboat following along like a little puppy dog trailing after its master.— Phil Hovey Petty Officer Second Class. USCG 1973-1977

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

## Awards

### The Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary received the DHS Outstanding Unit Award.

In January 2021, the Coast Guard received the Department of Homeland Security's Outstanding Unit Award (OUA) for outstanding service during multiple hurricanes, the national response at the Southwest Border, and the COVID 19 global pandemic for the period of Aug. 25, 2017, through Nov. 30, 2020. The citation also praised the exceptional resilience of the Coast Guard during the fiscal year 2019 35-day partial government lapse in appropriation and the courage, resourcefulness, and professionalism of our people.

The Secretary of Homeland Security takes great pleasure in presenting the DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD to THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD for service as set forth in the following.



#### CITATION:

"For outstanding service to the Department of Homeland Security and the United States of America from 25 August 2017 to 30 November 2020 during multiple devastating hurricanes, a Presidentially-declared National Emergency along the Southwest Border, and the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus global pandemic. Across four of the most active and devastating hurricane seasons on record, the United States Coast Guard consistently recognized the significant risks to life and property, repositioning its personnel, vessels, and aircraft to rapidly respond, saving or assisting over 13,000 lives. The Coast Guard swiftly restored the flow of commerce to dozens of vital, storm-damaged ports by reestablishing thousands of aids to navigation and removing countless hazards caused by displaced vessels. Following the Declaration of National Emergency along the Southwest Border, the Coast Guard provided mission-enhancing aviation, surface, medical, and ground support to Customs and Border Protection to assist in processing unprecedented numbers of migrants arriving at the border. Addressing the drivers of this land migration, the Coast Guard countered cartel-driven instability in Central America through record levels of at-sea drug interdictions yielding 1.3 million pounds of seized cocaine and the apprehension of 1,856 smugglers, while also providing critical support to the President's Enhanced Counter-narcotic Operations in 2020. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coast Guard partnered with multiple agencies to safely disembark more than 250,000 cruise ship passengers and 90,000 crew members from 125 vessels, preventing outbreaks and inundation of local hospitals. Further, the Coast Guard exhibited exceptional resilience conducting its full portfolio of multi-mission operations during both the pandemic and the 35-day partial government lapse in Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations, including response to myriad regional, national, and global crises, including: the capsizing of M/V GOLDEN RAY and the enforcement of United Nations sanctions against North Korea "ship to ship" transfers. Through their outstanding courage, resourcefulness, and professionalism, members of the United States Coast Guard reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States of America."

CHAD F. WOLF

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security



## Coast Guard - History 101

*August 4, 2022* marked the United States Coast Guard's 232nd Birthday and is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government. Established in 1790, the Coast Guard served as the nation's only armed force on the sea until Congress launched the Navy Department eight years later.

*1990-91* Coast Guard begins integration of Auxiliarists into everyday operations: Auxiliarists inspect commercial fishing vessels, fly as air observers in C-130 aircraft, work in Coast Guard offices and qualify as Coast Guard boat crew.

### One Hundred Years Ago

*1922* During the year, the Coast Guard saved 2,954 lives and property worth \$35,346,095.00

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## **BOSUN'S LOCKER** *Marlinespike Seamanship*

### The Thief Knot

The *thief knot* resembles the reef knot (square knot) except that the free, or bitter ends are on opposite sides. It is said that sailors would secure their belongings in a ditty bag using the thief knot, often with the ends hidden.



*From Ashley's Book of Knots #1207*

"There is a legend that sailors tie clothes bags, and bread bags with this knot and that thieves always retie them with reef knots and so are inevitably detected. It is a pleasing story that should encourage honesty. However, if I have ever met this knot in practical use, I have neither recognized it nor paid penalty for my failure to do so."

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## Mission Complete

Saturday September 3, 2022 was the end of the summer-long watchstanding mission at the Coast Guard Academy Museum. 11 auxiliarists from Divisions 07, 24 and 25 participated this year. Starting in May and ending in September we greeted a total of 464 visitors. We traveled 1930 miles and stood watch for 85 hours (not including travel time.)

We greeted potential academy students with their families from Texas, California, Wisconsin, Maryland and Minnesota. I had the pleasure of meeting an U.S. Army brigadier general who "didn't have a problem with his daughter attending the Coast Guard Academy" additionally, I met an Air Force colonel whose daughter attended the AIM program and will apply for admission to the academy.

We also had the pleasure of greeting academy alumni, fellow auxiliarists from California, Coast Guard veterans and a "boat load" of AIM students and their families. – Bob Carlson Point of Contact (POC) for watchstanders at the Academy Museum.

