

# Guardians of the River

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

Vol. 2 Issue 2

Summer 2023



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

Why Coast Guard vessels are called cutters?  
*See page 7 for the answer*

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VFC-Hans Neisser

IPFC-David Marriott

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FSO-FN: Stan Barnes

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FSO-OP: Eileen Christensen

FSO-PA: Bob Carlson

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

Currently we are in the busiest time of the boating season here in our Flotilla and Division area of operations. During these summer weekdays and weekends, more and more boaters are either preparing their vessels for an upcoming trip, or are out and about in the Connecticut lakes, rivers, and Long Island Sound

This is also a time of the year where we hear more boating accidents in the news. Of course the OceanGate Titan Submersible implosion has dominated the news this summer. There were other notable accidents in Connecticut such as: Man Overboard over an area of Cornfield Point in Old Saybrook in June; A Candlewood Lake two boat crash in May that sent 2 people to the hospital; and also in May two boats caught on fire at a Danbury marina - likely from one of the boat's electric motor catching fire and spreading it throughout its boat and its neighbor's boat.

Whether participating on the water operations, teaching a Boating America class, inspecting Private Aids to Navigation, giving a Vessel Safety Check, visiting a marina or business as a program visitor or to conduct a Harbor Patrol, or advertising events as a Public Affairs officer, all of us are doing our best as members of Team Coast Guard to promote recreational boating safety. We do our jobs to prevent or at least reduce the chances of these accidents; and if and when these accidents do occur, our operational and risk-management training provide us to assist if necessary.

I hope everyone is having a great summer and I hope to see you out and about our Connecticut rivers and waters.

Respectfully,  
Neil Shilansky  
Flotilla Commander  
25-06

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## Members in Action

### FSO-VE (Vessel Exams)

Summer boating season is here. That means VE days. Flotilla 06 members are always very active in inspecting boats along the Connecticut River and the coast of Long Island Sound.



Our Flotilla Commander (FC), Neil Shilansky (L) and 25-05 FC Steven Finigan in front of the Joseph Conrad at Mystic Seaport after they spent the morning of 27 MAY conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at Baldwin Yacht Club at Mystic Seaport.



### Boat Crew

The 156th Yale-Harvard Regatta took place June 9-10 on the Thames River (Gales Ferry, Conn.) and the auxiliary was called into action. Six auxiliarists boarded Sugar Magnolia (Steve Morowsky's 34' cabin cruiser) to patrol the race area and help keep everyone safe. Members of the crew included: from 25-06 Eileen Christensen, David Marriott and Neil Shilansky. From 25-04 Steve Morowsky Crystal Begleiter and Jeff Begleiter.



### Coast Guard Station New London on patrol

The 29-foot response boat small II is a high-speed deployable asset designed to operate year-round in shallow waters along coast boarders. The missions of the small boats are search and rescue, recreational boating safety, enforcement of laws and treaties, marine environmental protection, defense operations, and port, waterways and coastal security.

Right. Harvard crew warming up before their race.







## Public Affairs

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. Some upcoming events: VE Days, on-the-water missions.

### Standing watch at the Academy museum began May 20, 2023

The Coast Guard Museum is located on the grounds of the Academy in New London Connecticut. It is open every day Monday through Saturday. During the week the cadets stand watch greeting visitors and on Saturdays the Auxiliary takes over. This year the auxiliary will be on hand every Saturday from May 20-September 2, 2023. Bob Carlson the program's point of contact (POC) was the first to stand watch this season.

Program update: As of July 20, 2023 the museum team has greeted over 340 visitors. Most coming from an open house weekend (June 24 and 25, 2023) welcoming the freshman class and their families. SWAB summer (start of boot camp) began June 26, 2023.

"It was a very slow day. Cold and rainy and the end of commencement week... the campus was very quiet as I only had 7 visitors so I had plenty of time to take a few selfies" said Carlson.



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## Commencement Week

### Auxiliary attend Commencement at Coast Guard Academy

Auxiliarists were out in force at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's commencement exercises Wednesday, May 17, 2023. This year the weather cooperated and commencement was held outside on Cadet Memorial Field. Auxiliarists were on hand to provide transportation services to visitors, attend to visitor's special needs, provide directions and assist in public affairs. Auxiliarists driving golf carts shuttled their guests from throughout the campus to and from the commencement field.



(L to R): Eileen Christensen, David Marriott, Charles McCarthy, Ken Miltenberger, Stephen Morowsky and David Kenny. As the graduates celebrate their commission the traditional cover toss is always followed by a Coast Guard fly over.

Photo by David Kenny



NEW LONDON, CONN., -- Two-hundred and thirty-five ensigns were graduated and commissioned for service at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Wednesday, May 17. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas delivered the keynote address during the 142nd commencement exercises on Cadet Memorial Field. The Class of 2023 arrived at the Academy on July 1, 2019. The class motto is Omnes Simul, which means "All Together."








## Auxiliary Band Plays at Change of Watch

On Friday June 30, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band played at the Coast Guard Station Eatons Neck Change of Command Ceremony in Eatons Neck, NY. The featured guest speaker was Captain Eva Van Camp, Assistant Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy. Pictured are Coast Guard Auxiliary Band percussionists Scott Dane (L) from Flotilla 014-22-07 and Neil Shilansky from Flotilla 014-25-06.



**Captain Eva Van Camp**  
Assistant Superintendent, Coast Guard Academy



CAPT Eva Van Camp recently was the Commander, Sector Long Island Sound from July 2020 to June 2023. She currently is transferring to the Coast Guard Academy as the next Assistant Superintendent where she will assist overseeing the Academy's recruitment, accession, education, development, and graduation of cadets with a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by their commissioning as officers in the United States Coast Guard.

Captain Eva Van Camp graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy with a degree in Marine and Environmental Science in 1997. Following graduation, she reported for her first tour of duty as a Deck Watch Officer onboard USCGC LAUREL homeported in Mayport, Florida.

Captain Van Camp departed USCGC LAUREL for District Seven Command Center as a Command Duty Officer coordinating law enforcement and search and rescue response missions in the nation's busiest area of responsibility. Other operational tours include: Chief of Response at Sector Hampton Roads, where she coordinated Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Incident Management covering 3000 miles of Virginia's navigable waterways, supervised five 87' Patrol Boats, six small boat stations and a specialized Sector Boarding Team. Chief of Waterways and Chief of Enforcement at Sector New Orleans, and Navigator of the USS DECATUR (DDG-73). In 2010, as the Chief of Enforcement, Captain Van Camp synchronized the initial and follow-on contingency response for the Deepwater Horizon Spill, which became the largest man-made environmental disaster in U.S. history.

Captain Van Camp served in several other staff positions including Executive Assistant to the Director of Governmental and Public Affairs for the Coast Guard, Senior Strategic Analyst in the Emerging Policy for the Deputy Commandant for Operations, Comptroller and Operations Department Head at Base Los Angeles Long Beach, Senior Portfolio Manager for the Office of the Deputy Commandant for Operations Administration and Coordination Staff, and Aide to the Pacific Area Commander.

Captain Van Camp earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2003 and a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy from the U.S. National War College in 2020. Additionally, she completed the Joint Professional Military Education Certification from the U.S. Air Force Air University.

Her personal awards include four Meritorious Service Medals with "O" device, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals with "O" device, Coast Guard Achievement Medal with "O" device, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals, Volunteer Service Medal and various other personal and unit awards.

Captain Van Camp is married to retired Coast Guard Captain Timothy Schang and has a daughter Madison and son Blair who are 12 and 6 years old respectively.

## Sailfest New London Connecticut



Division 25 was on hand at New London's Sailfest July 9, 2023. The Auxiliary set up an information booth to meet and greet visitors- promoting boating safety and offering information about the Coast Guard, Academy and the Auxiliary, This year the Point of Contact (POC) and mission coordinator was Ed Chale of flotilla 04.

Sailfest 2023 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. Located at the waterfront park and Throughout New London's nearby streets. (from Sailfest website)

(L to R) Neil Shilansky 25-06, Ken Soeder, 25-03 Ed Chale, 25-03 Sean Peoples, 25-04,



## Flotilla Officer's Wardroom

This is a new feature to explore some areas of responsibility of our flotilla officers. To kick it off this quarter Bob Carlson our Flotilla Staff Officer for Human Resources (FSO-HR) offers a few points our members should be aware of.

### ID Card

Your ID card is an important part of your membership. It will allow you to purchase certain items (i.e., uniforms) at the Coast Guard exchange along with other benefits. You want to make sure your ID card has not expired. Check the expiration date on the back. If it has expired email Bob Carlson at ([rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net)) and he can begin the process to renew your ID. (Yes you will need to supply a new photo)

### Membership Growth

Every member in our flotilla is an advocate and promoter of the Auxiliary. When on duty or off, -if the opportunity exists- promote the auxiliary and "sell" the benefits of joining. You never know when you might meet someone interested in joining. For example, at one of David Marriott's boating safety class, a student expressed interest in the auxiliary-that person is in the process of joining our flotilla.

I'd like to offer the opportunity to any of our flotilla officers to send me a brief overview of their area of responsibilities as I'll feature one in the next edition of our newsletter.

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

### Students at the Connecticut River Academy complete Boating Safety Course.

Thirty one students and 3 faculty members from the Connecticut River Academy, East Hartford, CT recently completed the Boating Safety course taught by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25- 06, South Windsor CT. David Marriott, (far right) and Eileen Christensen (not pictured) instructed the students in this 10 week class, Tony Camilleri, the Flotilla Commander, is pictured (far left). Students learned all the basics of safe boating. Topics discussed included: navigation, charting, boating law, safety equipment and problems on the water.



At the end of the training, the class presented a thank-you card to their instructors. The card was signed by each student and was in the shape of a boat.

The Connecticut River Academy is an early college high school on Goodwin College's new campus in East Hartford. Located beside the historic Connecticut River, the Academy's environmental science focus includes river studies; land, water and air quality; plant and animal growth; human ecology; and renewable energy.



# BOSUN'S LOCKER

Originally, the Coast Guard used the term cutter in its traditional sense, as a type of small sailing ship. Today the United States Coast Guard Cutter is the term used by the U.S. Coast Guard for its commissioned vessels. A "Cutter" is basically any CG vessel 65 feet in length or greater, having adequate accommodations for crew to live on board. Larger cutters (over 179 feet in length) are under control of Area Commands (Atlantic Area or Pacific Area). Cutters at or under 175 feet in length come under control of District Commands. Cutters, usually have a motor surf boat and/or a rigid hull inflatable boat on board. Polar Class icebreakers also carry an Arctic Survey Boat (ASB) and Landing Craft.

They carry the ship prefix USCGC. Below is a good example of coast guard cutters and naming convention.

## USCGC Nathan Bruckenthal (WPC-1128)



**Nathan B. "Nate" Bruckenthal** (July 17, 1979 – April 24, 2004) was a United States Coast Guardsman who was killed in the Iraq War, becoming the first to die in wartime action since the Vietnam War. Bruckenthal and two U.S. Navy sailors were killed while intercepting a water-borne suicide attack on an offshore oil terminal off the coast of Iraq in the northern Persian Gulf in 2004.

Bruckenthal was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device and the Purple Heart for his actions.

- 420' Icebreaker (WAGB)
- 418' National Security Cutter (WMSL)
- 399' Polar Class Icebreaker (WAGB)
- 378' High Endurance Cutter (WHEC)
- 295' Training Barque Eagle (WIX)
- 282' Medium Endurance Cutter (WMEC)
- 270' Medium Endurance Cutter (WMEC)
- 240' Seagoing Buoy Tender/ Icebreaker (WLBB)
- 225' Seagoing Buoy Tender (WLB)
- 210' Medium Endurance Cutter (WMEC)
- 175' Coastal Buoy Tender (WLM)
- 160' Inland Construction Tender (WLIC)
- 154' Fast Response Cutter (WPC)
- 140' Icebreaking Tug (WTGB)
- 110' Patrol Boat (WPB)
- 100' Inland Buoy Tender (WLI)
- 100' Inland Construction Tender (WLIC)
- 87' Coastal Patrol Boat (WPB)
- 75' River Buoy Tender (WLR)
- 75' Inland Construction Tender (WLIC)
- 65' River Buoy Tender (WLR)
- 65' Inland Buoy Tender (WLI)
- 65' Small Harbor Tug (WYTL)