

Guardians of the River

Flotilla 014-25-06 South Windsor, CT

Vol. 3 Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2024



L BOSUN'S C K E R

What does Bravo Zulu (BZ) mean? And where did it come from? See page 7.

Flotilla Leadership

FC-David Marriott

VFC-Wayne Mulligan

IPFC-Neil Shilansky

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: Open

AFSO-IS Eileen Christensen

FSO-MA: Patrick Benoit

FSO-MT: Gary Magoon

FSO-NS: David Marriott

FSO-OP: Eileen Christensen

FSO-PA: Bob Carlson

FSO-PE: David Marriott

FSO-PV: Neil Shilansky

FSO-SR: Selena Benoit

FSO-VE: Nicky Chaleunphone

Safety Officer- Hans Neisser

FSO-MS: Open

FSO-PB: Open

Editor: Bob Carlson

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 an email with your images and a brief description 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 third year-first issue of Guardians of the River, the newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District 014, Division 25, Flotilla 06 South Windsor, CT. As your newly elected Flotilla Commander I look forward to working with you throughout the year. We are a relatively small group but continue to be very active in vessel exams, inspecting navigational aids, teaching and supporting the Coast Guard Academy just to name a few. Also, we have a number of staff officer positions open, (as noted at the left) and if are interested in any of the positions please contact Wayne or myself.

I also recommend you take advantage of the many training opportunities available. And it's not all work and no play. We'll hold fellowship activities throughout the year as this is a great way to get to know your fellow members.

Enjoy this newsletter edition and I hope to see you at our next flotilla meeting. Respectively,

David Marriott, Flotilla Commander



Message from the Vice Flotilla Commander

When the thoughts of moving back north from North Carolina after 12 years finally settled in, I knew the kids would be thrilled to have us back home, but I was concerned about what I would do with all my time. While there, I spent many very pleasant hours on the water helping the gold side train their newcomers to the small boat station near us. There were also the many hours at Fort Macon in Morehead City and Sector North Carolina in Wilmington working with the Emergency Management Force Readiness team helping update many of their contingency plans.

I was thinking, how could a flotilla in the middle of Connecticut do anything with the USCG? In the short time I have been associated with the South Windsor Flotilla, I am amazed and thrilled at the dedication and energy given by all the members of the flotilla to help make the boating community safer and also to support the gold side.

Thank you and keep up the good and important work. Respectfully,

Wayne Mulligan, Vice Flotilla Commander



Message from the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander

Our 25-06 flotilla home is South Windsor. However, for the past year and a half, when our meeting location, the South Windsor Park & Rec, closed to relocate and renovate, we had to persevere and find new meeting location. Well, the wait is no longer. We are back at the new South Windsor Park & Rec located at 350 Foster Street in South Windsor.

Special thanks go out to the Glastonbury Public Library and Goodwin University, for giving us the space and the necessary technology and equipment required to hold our meetings in-person and on Zoom.

Respectfully,

Neil Shilansky, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FC Message-Pg 1

Members in Action-Pg. 2-4

Happenings at the Academy-Pg-4

Flotilla Officer's Wardroom-Pg. 5

Training, Development and a COW-Pg.5-7

Bosun's Locker -Pg. 7

Auxiliary in Action-10 years ago-Pg 8



Members in Action



Our meeting minutes are now available on our website and saved for future reference. To access our meeting minutes you need to be logged into “Member Zone”.

[Meeting Minutes \(uscgaux.info\)](http://uscgaux.info)

Members attend Staff Officer College.

This past January, Patrick and Selena Benoit attended the Staff Officer College in the New York City area. The intense one-day seminar was designed to give current and future staff offices an overview of duties and responsibilities for their new positions. Over 100 were in attendance from throughout First Southern. Patrick provided the following feedback.

“The staff officer college was definitely a lot of knowledge to take in. Meeting and listening to our district Commodore lay out his expectations and hearing from the various speakers who gave very in-depth briefs and lessons provided both of us with a firm grasp of what is expected of us as Auxiliarists. The venue was fantastic as was the food and our fellow Auxiliarists who were more than happy to welcome the new members into the fold.” –Patrick Benoit FSO-MA

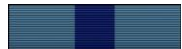


2024 D1SR Staff Officer College
20 Jan 2024



WELCOME 0800-0850	Official opening with remarks from District Leaders & Guests
SESSION 1 0900-0950	“The Red A” What is a Staff Officer, Basic Functions, Common knowledge, & Requirements
SESSION 2 1000-1050	“The Duties of a Staff Officer” Day to day operations, time management, team management, reporting, parallel Staffing
SESSION 3 1100-1150	“Staff Officer Tool Bag” AuxOfficer, AUXDATA, LUCI, Goals, Awards
LUNCH 1150-1250	Enjoy fellowship & networking over box lunches
SESSION 4 1300-1350	“Role Model & Mentoring” Setting the example, Courtesy, Etiquette, Protocol, Uniforms, Aux Positions & Active Duty Ranks
SESSION 5 1400-1450	“Staff Officer Advancement” Moving up the appointed ladder, challenging yourself to excel, retirement in place
SESSION 6 1500-1550	“Succession Planning” Building a stronger program for the future, Training your replacement, Continuing your legacy

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 begins stay tuned for scheduled VE days. Thinking about becoming VE certified? Email our VE officer Nicky Chaleunphone as he can get you started.

FSO-PV (Program Visitor)

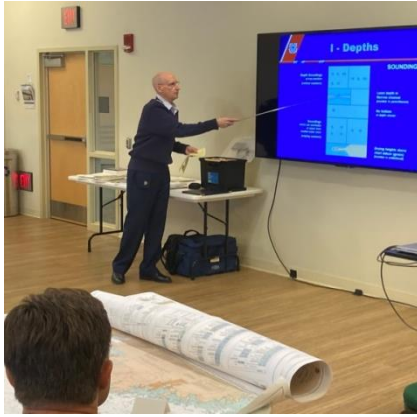
As a program visitor, you would visit marinas, city halls, libraries, boating sales locations etc. If you would like to get involved about becoming PV certified, email our PV officer, Neil Shilansky as he can get you started.



FSO-PE (Public Education)



How to Read a Navigation Chart



January 2024- Flotilla 06 was at Goodwin University, East Hartford, CT to present "How to read a Navigation Chart". Several members of our flotilla attended along with the general public. Gary Magoon (L photo) explains the use of symbology (the use of symbols on a chart). David Marriott (R photo) presenting to a full class of students. Observing at the back of the class are flotilla 06 members: Gary Magoon, Stan Barnes, and Wayne Mulligan, who assisted in teaching the class (along with Neil Shilansky who supplied the photos).

Learn How to Read a Nautical Chart

How to Read and use a Nautical Chart is a four to five-hour seminar course that will help students unravel the mystery of charts. This course will provide the student with the knowledge to interpret a chart's contents, to plot a course, to compensate for tide and current, to navigate safely to his or her destination and return to port. The course will also discuss the difference between paper and electronic charts (Chart Recorders / GPS). **Textbook and training chart are included.**

Date: Saturday January 27, 2024

Time: 9 am to 3 pm. There will be a 45-minute lunch break to go out for lunch or to study (bring your lunch).

Location: Goodwin University, 1st Floor Community Room
229 Riverside Drive, East Hartford 06118

Cost: \$45 per individual, \$20.00 for each additional family member living at the same address (must share text and training chart), and \$40 for first responders, senior citizens or Goodwin University students or faculty members.

Take the Boat America Course from the Experts

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 spring the classes began Tuesday March 5, 2024 at Rockville High School from 6:15 pm - 8:30 pm, 5 sessions, ending April 16, 2024. **Note: no class on Tuesday April 2 and 9, 2024.**

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 for this edition of our newsletter. 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 to Bob Carlson-rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net.

Happenings at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT

The Coast Guard Academy Museum needs our help again for 2024



I am reaching out to all members of our flotilla who might be interested in standing watch at the Academy Museum this summer. For those who are new to our group, every summer we stand watch at the academy museum on Saturdays while the cadets are off for the summer. You serve as greeters and meet a host of folks including veterans, families of current and future cadets and maybe even an admiral, senator or general.

James Brundage is our curator who joined the Academy museum team last year. He is very happy to hear our involvement again this year. Like last year we are planning on standing watch at the Academy Museum every Saturday following commencement, **May 25, 2024 to September 7, 2024**. Time is 10 am to 4 pm. Send me an email at rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net for more information or to sign up.

Auxiliarists Assist Concert Goers at the Coast Guard Academy

This past winter, David Marriott assisted at the academy and submitted this photo. Pictured below, assisting with the live video feed are Frank Schiavone 25-02 (L) and Lu Finegan 25-05 (R). During the concert they monitored the 4 cameras. The large screen monitor that is between them is the live feed that goes out over the USCG Band's livestream YouTube network.





Flotilla Officer's Wardroom

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

Bob Carlson Flotilla Historian-(not an official office), a position responsible for collecting and documenting Coast Guard Auxiliary History. Currently I am working on capturing events beginning 2010 and working my way forward through the years. So far I have completed 2010, 2011, 2012 - all posted on our flotilla webpage. I just received a very interesting link to a film made by the Coast Guard during WW II . It highlights the Coast Guard Auxiliary duties during the war. Check it out.

<https://archive.org/details/80234c-coast-guard-auxiliary>

About the film. *Coast Guard Auxiliary.* Narrated by Bill Stern. (Member CGA Flotilla Number 302). A US Coast Guard Picture. This is a black and white, 1940s era film, produced by the United States Coast Guard. The purpose of the film is to show the effort and training auxiliary Coast Guardsmen undergo in order to serve the United States Coast Guard.



Training, Development and a Change of Watch (COW)



HOW TO OBTAIN THE RBS DEVICE

You may have seen some of your fellow Auxiliarists wearing the RBS device on their uniforms. The coveted RBS insignia that was introduced in 2007, recognizes Auxiliarists who provide exceptional and continuous strong support to the RBS program. The requirement for the RBS device encompasses activity over a minimum of a two year period. Auxiliarists must compile 120 points for two consecutive years for a total of 240 points.

The way to earn the RBS device is to complete a combination of program visits, vessel safety checks and facility inspections which is worth (1) point. Public affairs, education and outreach legislative and state RBS is (1) point per hour. Points can be compiled from one or any combination of these areas.

To log in your points under Public Affairs, there are 4 categories. External Print Media-10F, Broadcast Media-10C, Speeches/Talks-10B and Community Relations (COMREL)-10J. Just make sure you use one of the 4 codes when entering your hours into AUXDATA II.



Flotilla 06 Members Attend D-Train 2024 held at the Mystic Marriott from March 15-17



At this year's D-Train 2024 held at the Mystic Marriott for three days on March 15-17, 2024. For three days, members were presented with a variety of skill-based training sessions designed to support their career path and interests. Also included were a number of fellowship opportunities. For details of this event, please visit d1dtrain.org.

Friday was informal day as COMO Michael West as Chief Leprechaun presented Joseph "Mac" McCusker Jr. (DCDR Division 25), with the Member Training Award during a St. Patrick's Day themed celebration.

Photo at the right, D Train Awards luncheon attendees from our flotilla, (left to right) Neil Shilansky, Gary Magoon, Wayne Mulligan, Mac McCusker Jr, David Marriott, Eileen Christenson, and Division 25 SO-IS Joe Romanowski, (last person was unidentified).

First Southern Division 25 Change of Watch (COW) April 13, 2024



Above, Jason Kane (L) and Joseph "Mac" McCusker Jr. (center) prepare to take the oath of office given by DCO Michael West Commodore, D1SR.

Above, Flotilla 06 was awarded the *Best Flotilla Award*. This award is based on the flotilla with the highest number of mission hours per member.



Several of Flotilla 06 members attended this year's COW. The event was held at the Coast Guard Academy in the CDR Merle J. Smith Consolidated Club (formally the officers club). Honored guest included: CDR Steven Koch Director of the Auxiliary D1SR (First Southern), CDR Josh Buck Deputy Commander and DCO Michael West Commodore D1SR. The yearly event features presentations of awards of which our flotilla did very well. Our members were awarded the following:

Instructor Award-David Marriott

Instructor Aid Award-Eileen Christensen, Neil Shilansky

Vessel Examiner Award-Neil Shilansky

Public Affairs Award-Robert Carlson

HarPat Award-Neil Shilansky

Best Flotilla Award-South Windsor, 25-06

Recognition for members who have exceeded 125 hours included: Christy Billings, Gary Magoon, and Neil Shilansky, Members who exceeded 500 hours: Robert Carlson, David Marriott, and Joseph McCusker.



Flotilla 06 members take a moment to gather at this year's COW at the Academy Consolidated Club. First row: David Marriott, Eileen Christensen, Patrick Benoit, Selena Benoit. Back row: Bob Carlson, Joseph "Mac" McCusker Jr. and Neil Shilansky.

**BOSUN'S
LOCKER**



Bravo Flag



Zulu Flag

Bravo Zulu (BZ) goes way back to the **1940s**, and it shows up in casual conversation, as a way to communicate between two ships, and even over the radio waves. Simply put, Bravo Zulu means "Good Job" or "Well Done."

Today the phrase has also been extended into correspondence, emails, and message traffic within the military to congratulate people who have earned that message. As a side note, it can be combined with the "negative" signal, spoken or written NEGAT, to say "NEGAT Bravo Zulu," or "not well done."



Auxiliary in Action-10 years ago. Spring 2014

**On Saturday May 17, 2014
Get a Free Check up from
the Deck up
(and below deck as well)**

May 17th thru May 23rd, 2014 is National Safe Boating Week. The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers boaters free vessel safety checks each year. Safety checks are designed to ensure your boat is in compliance with local, state and federal laws. Upon successfully passing the safety check, a decal for that year is placed on your boat.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK
2014
BoatUS

Vessel safety checks will be held on Saturday, May 17th, 2014 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at this marina. Sign up now or the day of the exam.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary wants all boaters to have a safe and enjoyable boating season. For more information visit the USCG Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check website at <http://cgaux.org/vsc/>.

*Even experienced boaters need a vessel safety check!
15 minutes could save your life and the life of your family.
Remember Boat Smart, Boat Safely.*

The U.S. Coast Guard reminds all boaters to boat responsibly.



All in a day's work. First Southern Division 25 offer Vessel Safety Checks at three area marinas.

Getting a "Check up from the Deck up"-and below deck as well. It's the best way to kick off the summer boating season.



Auxiliary Vessel Examiner Joe Romanowski, Niantic, CT (left) completes a complementary Vessel Safety Check for boat owners at Boats, Inc. Marina in Niantic Connecticut.

In celebration of National Safe Boating Week, members of the Auxiliary offered vessel exams at three marinas along the coastline of Long Island Sound. They were, Between the Bridges and Ragged Rock Marinas in Old Saybrook and Boats Inc. in Niantic, Connecticut. Eileen Christensen, Gary Magon, Richard Pummell, Ed Pratt covered Between the Bridges, Old Saybrook, CT. Tom Carlson, Bob Carlson and

Joe Romanowski covered Boats Inc. Niantic, Connecticut. By day's end, we completed 53 inspections. "Many of the boaters were ready for us. They had their safety equipment all ready for inspection. It was a great day" said Bob Carlson, event organizer.

