

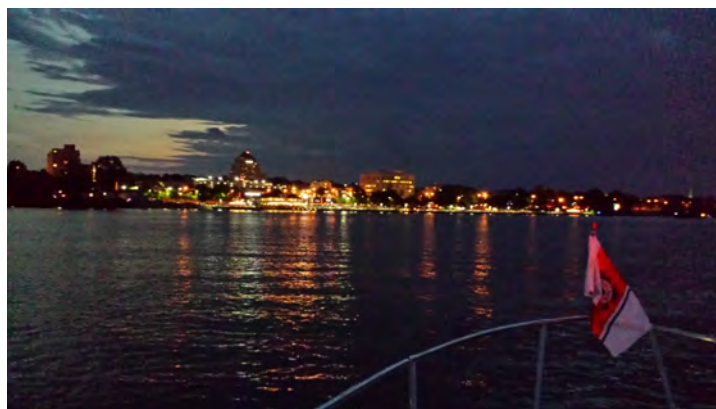
# MAKING WAVES



The Middletown, CT fireworks were held this year on Saturday, July 1st. Division 25 sent two AUXFAC's to work with local and state law enforcement boats to provide a security perimeter around the fireworks barge located on the Connecticut River midway between Middletown and Portland. AUXFAC OPTIMISTIC came down from Glastonbury, while SEA LION came up from Chester.



Alex Sixbey at the helm of Sea Lion prior to getting underway.



Middletown skyline just before the fireworks display.



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SEMPER PARATUS

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Members of Division 014-25 who wish to contribute photos and or articles to this newsletter should contact SO-PB David Thiede. Remember - this is your newsletter. Help make it a great one!

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Leadership Development Academy:  
December 1-3, 2017  
US Coast Guard Academy

Hartford Boat Show: February 8 - 11, 2018  
Hartford Convention Center

Hunting & Fishing Show: April 6-8, 2018  
Hartford Convention Center

Change of Watch—TBD



Tall ship the Oliver Perry Hazard from Newport, Rhode Island moored at New London City Pier

Photo by DCAP Bruce Buckley

*Making Waves is published quarterly. The views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.*

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## CONNECTICUT MARITIME HERITAGE FESTIVAL

by M. Edward Chale

The 2017 Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 8-10, along New London's historic waterfront. The features included tours of a Navy warship, Coast Guard cutters, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's ship and sailing schooners, as well as the annual Chowder Challenge, food trucks and more.

About 18 Division 24 and 25 shipmates helped make the Festival a success. Auxiliarists stood watch dockside at several Coast Guard vessels when they were open to the public while others led the tours. In addition, other colleagues staffed the AUX booth on City Pier. Division 25 provided two Auxiliary Facility (AUXFAC) vessels and their coxswains and crews.

Division 25 had a booth at City Pier, next to booths sponsored by the U. S. Navy's New London Submarine Base and the Coast Guard's Research and Development Center. Our booth was managed by DCAPT Bruce Buckley. There were several watchstanders, including Nicolai Werner (Flotilla 25-05) and Chris Stechman (24-03). They greeted visitors, gave a short lesson on paddle craft safety and answered questions about the Auxiliary.

The weekend's centerpiece attraction was the Naval ship USS Cole, a 505-foot Aegis-equipped guided missile destroyer home ported in Norfolk, Virginia. The ship was moored at the Fort Trumbull Pier, where she was visited by over 6,000 people.



Admission line at fort Trumbull for the Coast Guard Cutter Thunder Bay and the USS Cole.

Photo by DCAP Bruce Buckley



CT Maritime continued from page 3

The Coast Guard provided three cutters for the weekends events; the Thunder Bay, a 140-foot ice breaker home ported in Rockland, Maine; the Albacore, an 87-foot coastal patrol vessel of the Marine Protector class home-ported in New London; and the Bollard, a 65-foot small ice-breaking harbor tug that operates out of Coast Guard Sector Long Island sound in New Haven.

Thunder Bay (below right, docked next to the USS Cole) received about 700 visitors and Tom Ceneglio (Flotilla 10-20) was among those who stood watch Saturday. David Marriott (25-06) stood watch all day Sunday, helped by brothers Dan and John Mercier (25-03), Neil Shilansky (25-06) and a half dozen Cadets from the Coast Guard Academy.



Photo by DCAP Bruce Buckley

Albacore received visitors on Saturday. Ken and Marie Miltenberger (Flotilla 25-03) took turns giving tours and assisting people dockside while David Getty (also of Flotilla 25-03) stood watch. Dave Obedzinski (25-06) and Marty Loughlin (25-04) also stood watch dockside in the afternoon.

On Saturday, the highlight of the day was the Coast Guard conducting a live search-and-rescue demonstration on the Thames River, featuring a Sikorsky MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter out of Air Station Cape Cod.

The final event of the Festival, the Morgan Cup Challenge was on Sunday afternoon. Auxiliary Facilities skippered by Coxswains Rick Kantor and Dave Thiede, guided the schooners down the Thames River. They provided security escort while the schooners participated in the Challenge race off of Ocean Beach. Retired Admiral Robert Papp, the 24<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Coast Guard, was aboard Columbia, which handily won the Cup.

Article excerpts by M. Edward Chalé, SO-PA



AUXFAC Sea Lion escorting Columbia  
Photo by Joe Laudano



Schooner Columbia overtaking the Mystic Whaler  
Photo by David Thiede

A three day event such as the Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival in New London, CT takes lots of planning before hand along with able staff and volunteers to pull it off. For this year's event, Bruce Buckley, DCAP planned the Auxiliary booth and was instrumental on obtaining space for the Coast Guard Research & Development Center and the Navy. Many thanks also to Ed Chalé, SO-PA for all of his work with helping to set up the Auxiliary watch standers and tour guides for the ships. Ed had numerous meetings and correspondence with the Festival Board Members and officers of the Coast Guard cutters. Bravo Zulu Ed.



Bert N. Macesker, Executive Director of the Research Development Center, and a young visitor with one of RDC's "toys."

Photo by: M. Edward Chalé, SO-PA



A photo of Ed Chalé (25-03) wearing the U.S. Navy's latest self-contained diving mask. Good thing we got his good side!

Photo by Navy Dive Team member



Carlos Blas (25-04) and AUXFAC owner Alex Sixbey (25-06) in front of Sea Lion docked at New London City Pier before the schooner race.

Photo by DCAP Bruce Buckley