

U . S . C O A S T G U A R D A U X I L I A R Y

**BOATING SAFETY**  
**ADVOCATE**

**Newsletter**



FLOTILLA 3-10



CALLAO, VA



December

• 2016

• Erik Amato FSO-PB

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO THE MEMBERS,  
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF  
FLOTILLA 3-10**

**Merry Christmas**





Joe Riley Flotilla Commander 3-10

**H**ello fellow members, this is my final contribution to the ADVOCATE Newsletter as your Flotilla Commander. Let me say first that Carole and I both wish you and your loved ones the very best that these holidays have to offer. Enjoy your families and friends and stay warm and safe.

Please accept my heart felt thanks for all your hard work this year in maintaining Flotilla 3-10's status as one of the most productive flotilla's in the District.

**In 2016, Flotilla 3-10 members, performed:**

- 446 Vessel Safety Checks aboard boats in the water, on lifts, and on trailers throughout our wide geographical area of operation. This was an increase of 40 % over 2015's level of 311 VSC's. It was almost 70% more than in 2014.
- 543 Program Visits involving travel to and from widely separated Partners in 7 counties in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula of Virginia. This was an increase of 79% over 2015 Visits. It was more than double the 2014's visits.
- Six (6) Public and 5 Private boating safety education classes for 856 students in 5 counties of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. The number of public students in 2016 was an increase of 31 (20%) over 2015 levels. It was an increase of 95 public students or 150% over 2014 levels. The number of Kids 'n Water students was 600 more than each previous year!!
- 76 patrol missions involving more than 425 individual underway hours. This included the verification of 77 Federal and Private Aids to Navigation. The Operations program is the only mission area that showed a decline rather than an increase over the past two years. Notwithstanding, we met every Coast Guard demand in our traditional AOR and several beyond.

Congratulations and thanks to George Edward Gray, Jr and Andris (“Andy”) Baltins who were sworn in as FC and VFC respectively for 2017 by Amy Thomas, DCDR, at The Inn at Montross. Ed and Andy are committed to the awesome challenge of carrying on the legacy of excellence that has been the hallmark of Flotilla 3-10 since its inception. Their team of dedicated Staff Officers will play an important role in that challenge. Just as will every member -- as always.

Our Change of Watch is a time honored opportunity for members past and present and supporting partners to join together during the holiday season to both participate in the long tradition of transfer of authority and responsibility of elected officers and celebrate the holiday season with fellow ship-mates. It is a time for coming together to celebrate one year and envision yet another - our 40th - of sincere commitment to the core values of the Auxiliary.

It has been a privilege to have served the members of Flotilla 3-10 over the past two years. The Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty demonstrated by our members have been in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Very Respectfully,  
Joe

## CHESAPEAKE BAY MAGAZINE RESPONDS TO JOE RILEY



### Belly Bust

I hope the many friendly folks in the Chesapeake Bay area will help Julianne Laird find a suitable "padding community" [Mail Call, Oct 2016]. I hope they might also share their understanding/expertise of how to wear an inflatable life jacket.

The inflatable life jacket that Ms. Laird is pictured wearing appears to be a belly-pack device which she is wearing as a fanny-pack. If she reaches back and pulls it ("jerk to inflate"), she will have the wrong end aimed toward the air. It needs to be on the front. When opened, these things literally explode full. They are horseshoe shaped like a Type 2 and have to be pulled over the head and tied together after inflation.

It would be a shame for other readers to use Ms. Laird's "fanny pack" method as a role model.

I have attached a picture that demonstrates why the proper place to wear the inflatable bag is as a belly pack. These are demonstrated by Gary Palsgrove, another Boating Safety Instructor. Gary has inflated the belly pack inflatable for hundreds of boating safety students over the past several years.

Joe Riley  
Boating Safety Instructor  
Montross, Va.

The November issue of Chesapeake Bay Magazine featured an article in their "mail call" section concerning the proper wear and use of the "waist pfd" or sometimes called "belly pack".

The response was triggered by a question from a "Stand Up Paddleboarder" (SUP), where Joe Riley, with the help of Gary Palsgrove, responded with a detailed explanation of the proper wear and use of this type of life saving device.

Kudos to Joe and Gary for taking the extra time and effort to present a clear and concise explanation along with detailed photos depicting each stage of the life saving device as it deploys, taking away all the question marks and misunderstanding among recreational paddle sports users.

A great public service – Thanks again Joe and Gary!



Shipmates,

Carole's radiation oncologist says "the mass" is under control but to follow up with a C-T scan in 3 months and a P-T scan in 6 months. No metastases anywhere.

We are truly thankful for your thoughts and prayers, inquiries, cards, and flowers throughout this 11 month ordeal!!

Fondly,  
Joe and Carole



Ed Gray Flotilla Vice Commander 3-10

**D**uring my business life in sales we were always judged by “what have you done lately” and I never thought it was a fair way to evaluate anyone. I always thought a much fairer way would be “what are you accomplishing long term”?

Erik Amato stated earlier this year that “we are a mature but very active flotilla”. That hits the nail on the head. We get more mature (older) ever year but we continue to perform. Joe quoted numbers that show our dedication to task and they are amazing.

Our membership is small and we need to work on that, together, but active. We have different people who love to do what they do and they do it well. We have members who love to do PVs, we have members who love to do VEs, we have members who love to teach and we have members who love to do Ops and the numbers show it. This performance shows we are dedicated to all tasks and we do them well.

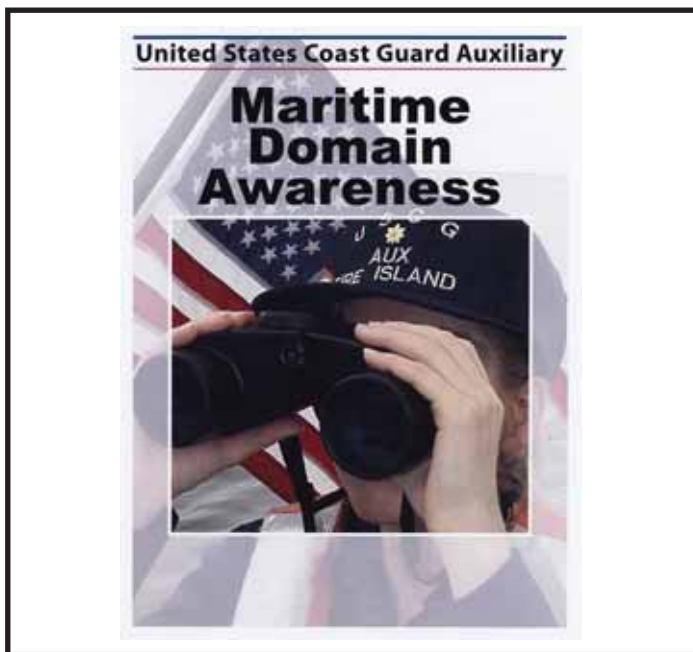
Another thing I learned in sales was “it is a new year, do it again.” We face the same objectives. The Coast

Guard asks us to do those VEs, PVs, PEs, etc. again and do them well. I am confident we will. We are the Coast Guard’s Recreational Boating Safety experts, and they rely on us to bring the safety message to the public.

I am very proud to be the new Flotilla 3-10 Commander and I look forward to working with Andy and all the membership to do all we can do to continue to drive us onward. We need new members, we need new coxswains and we need new facilities. Did anyone ever think getting new members might be the easiest of all the tasks? How do we do these things as a TEAM?

As the year comes to a close we have a lot to be thankful of, not the least of which is we are all here doing what we love to do. We truly are a family that cares about each other. Brenda (my Admiral) and I extend our sincerest wishes for a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years to everyone. We hope Santa is good to one and all. I extend my thanks to everyone for the support you have shown me and I pledge, to the best of my ability, not to let anyone down.

Ed Gray



**KEEP A VIGILANT WATCH**



## DO YOU REMEMBER?

**D**uring this Christmas season many of us remember how much we loved to play “Engineer” with our electric train sets. Sometimes setting them up under the Christmas tree, or we would set them up on plywood boards and configure their layouts, add switches, stations, landscaping and

sometimes build tunnels for them to disappear into.

I know that I had many wonderful “play” hours with my old American Flyer train sets, and each year my Christmas list always had the “wish” for some new part, engine, or train car.



## FLOTILLA 3-10 HAS THE “REAL DEAL”!

**A**lthough our own Charlie Thomas is a retired manager from the Norfolk Southern Railroad, he was also a fully qualified “Engineer” to operate trains along any of Norfolk Southern’s rails. Pretty cool don’t you think! Living many young boy’s dreams when they were kids.



Charlie Thomas FSO-NS 3-10



## THANKS 2016 ADVOCATE CONTRIBUTORS



photo by Joe Riley

A special thanks to everyone who contributed thoughts, ideas, articles and photos for Flotilla 3-10's *ADVOCATE* Newsletter. As this December issues gets distributed the tally for the year is:

Total Issues published - 12  
Total Pages published - 136  
Total Photos published - 458

I hope that during 2017 each of you will consider contributing many articles about your Auxiliary activities for the full membership, friends and Coast Guard to enjoy.



Practice and Preach . . . *Maritime Domain Awareness* and  
*America's Waterway Watch*



## ANNUAL CoW BRINGS US NEW LEADERSHIP



Taking the helm of Flotilla 3-10 for 2017 are the newly elected Flotilla Commander Ed Gray (l) and Flotilla Vice Commander Andy Baltins (r)

**T**he annual Flotilla 3-10 Change of Watch was held on December 10, 2016 at the lovely “The Inn At Montross”. The attendance was excellent and a quorum was present to conduct the necessary business of relieving the current Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander, and swearing in of the newly elected bridge.

Amy Thomas, Division 3 Commander was present and presided over the ceremony. Once FC Ed Gray and VFC Andy Baltins took their oath of office, the program continued with comments, awards, great fellowship and an excellent meal.



Left to right - Amy Thomas DCDR 3, Ed Gray FC 3-10, Andy Baltins VFC 3-10, and Joe Riley IPFC 3-10 / PDCDR 3

# CHANGE OF WATCH FELLOWSHIP





## MARINA FIRE



HENRICO, Va. (AP) -- Authorities say a fire at a Virginia marina has destroyed about a dozen boats. No injuries have been reported.

**T**he fire broke out Friday December 9th morning at the Richmond Yacht Basin along the James River in Henrico County, which surrounds the capital of Richmond.

Fire Capt. Taylor Goodman says the blaze destroyed 12 to 15 boats and caused part of a building to collapse at the marina. Goodman says a neighbor reported the fire about 7 a.m. and alerted people who were staying on their boats.

Marina president Max Walraven said late Friday morning that some of the burning vessels drifted down the river and some sunk. It's not yet clear what started the fire.

**FIRE** strikes fear into the hearts and minds of boaters because it always occurs suddenly and unexpected, and far too often is deadly.

We should use this article as a reminder that when we speak to boaters that we meet at local marinas to advise them to choose their boat heaters carefully.

Most boats have compact areas where it is difficult to allow proper "safety" air space around heating units. There are some "boat specific" heaters that are recommended for boat applications. BoatUS is a good resource for choosing the right heater, along with their "Seaworthy" publication.

The right selection can avoid disaster.



# LOOKING BACK . . .

# MAKING PLANS . . .

# MOVING FORWARD!



**REMINDER:** The Flotilla Web Site is alive and well!  
All Newsletters, Press Releases and PE Class  
Flyers are now posted – Check it out!  
**[www.Flotilla3-10.org](http://www.Flotilla3-10.org)**

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES AND  
PHOTOS OF AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES  
AND ITEMS OF INTEREST TO:  
**ERIK AMATO FSO-PB 3-10 5SR**  
**[trawler@wildblue.net](mailto:trawler@wildblue.net)**  
  
(Editors Reminder - all that you do is significant and  
important! Share it with others in this publication.)

<b>Fifth Southern Flotilla 3-10 Elected and Appointed Officers 2016</b>	
Flotilla Commander . . . . .	Joseph C. Riley
Flotilla Vice Commander . . . . .	G. Edward Gray, Jr
Communications . . . . .	Donald Chamberlain
Communications Services . . . . .	Erik H. Amato
Finance . . . . .	Oliver M. Knight
Human Resources . . . . .	Gary I Palsgrove
Information Services . . . . .	John F. O'Neil
Materials . . . . .	Glen R. Thomason
Member Training . . . . .	Julian W. Everly
Navigation Systems . . . . .	Charles B. Thomas
Operations . . . . .	Joseph C. Riley
Public Affairs . . . . .	G. Edward Gray, Jr
Publications . . . . .	Erik H. Amato
Public Education . . . . .	Vacant
RBS Program Visitor . . . . .	Philip K. Landry
Secretary/Records . . . . .	Andris Baltins
Vessel Examinations . . . . .	David J. Brack