

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



February

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2017

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Erik Amato FSO-PB



FLOTILLA 3-10 RECOGNIZED FOR 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

This week I went to the Richmond Boat Show just to see what boats I could not afford this year and I was not disappointed. Big, fast and beautiful goes without saying. The #1 adjective that stood out though was expensive.

The cost of a new boat today made me shake my head.

As I walked around I could not help but feel the juices begin to flow. I have always liked the word opportunity and it certainly exists with all the potential new boat owners. Have they taken the boating class yet? Do they know how to operate these machines they are buying? We know all the safety equipment must come with the new boat so a VSC might be out of the question, but then again maybe not. That VSC sticker would certainly look very nice on a new boat and we always talk more than just required safety equipment. We take the opportunity to educate and to teach.

As I made the rounds of the show I came upon the USCG Auxiliary booth and stopped and watched the guys talking boating safety. Every time I passed they had people 3-4 deep and they were talking up our story. I was not there to work the booth but I was proud to know the Auxiliary was there doing the jobs we do.

If the boat show is here that means spring is not far behind. People soon will be getting their boats out of storage and assuming they are ready to go. Now is the time to begin those VSCs and helping to prepare the boat owners to boat safely again this year. We all know that just because they did not have a problem last year, or the year before, does not mean it cannot happen this year. How do we help?

My Admiral promised me if we won the lottery last night she would buy me any boat at the show that I wanted. I had narrowed my choices down to two but this morning when I checked my lottery numbers I again came to realize the Old Jaime G II is just fine for another year.

Ed

FLOTILLA MARCH CALENDAR

All Month Complete all reports due, plan 2017 VSC and RBS Events

March

4 - Sector SM-NCR Winter Workshops at Southern High School Harwood, MD. Mandatory for all crew and coxswains receiving orders for operations in MD waters/Potomac River
OR

4 - Sector HR Winter Workshops TRACEN Yorktown. Mandatory for all crew and coxswains receiving orders for operations in all D5S waters including the Potomac River (OTO requesting 3-10 to attend this workshop-will assure all SM-NCR information is covered)

18/19 Sat/ Sun Sector Boat Crew/Coxswain Qualification (BCQ) Starts

20 - Flotilla meeting - Pot luck dinner

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

All Month Give thanks to all spouses for their support

2017 GETS UNDERWAY WITH JANUARY DIVISION MEETING

The 2017 Division 3 Change of Watch and 2016 Awards presentations were held on January 21st at the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries offices in Richmond, VA.



The 2017 DCDR Amy Thomas (l) with CDR Kate Higgins-Bloom Response Chief SHR, 2017 VCDR Eric Perkins, and BOSN2 Jack Williams OTO 5 SR

Amy Thomas of Flotilla 33 was sworn in for her second term as Division Commander; Eric Perkins of Flotilla 31 was similarly sworn in as the Division Vice Commander. Division 3 generally covers the Richmond, Petersburg, Kilmarnock and Callao/Montross areas. There are 123 members in the Division spread among those areas in Flotillas 31, 32, 33, and Flotilla 3-10

This ceremony was followed by a mix of award presentations, comments by CDR Kate Higgins-Bloom, Response Chief for Sector Hampton Roads, and BOSN2 Jack Williams, OTO D5SR from the Directors Office.



CDR Kate Higgins-Bloom



BOSN2 Jack Williams OTO

Callao Flotilla 3-10 received many of the awards and special recognition during the awards presentations. The Flotilla placed second in the average number of hours volunteered by members across the broad spectrum of Auxiliary missions on land, on the water, in classrooms, and in training to maintain or improve capabilities supporting the Coast Guard itself. Its total commitment was over 9,300 hours. It placed first in the categories of Vessel Safety Checks, Recreational Boating Safety Program Visits, and Public Affairs. The Flotilla placed second in the Division in the area of Public Education. It also placed second in Operations.



Joe Riley IPFC 3-10 receiving three of the 2016 Flotilla awards, pictured (l to r) Amy Thomas DCDR, Joe Riley IPFC, CDR Higgins-Bloom, and BOSN2 Jack Williams OTO

Individually Flotilla 3-10 members were well represented in several categories, especially for the promoting recreational boating safety. Gary Palsgrove, Montross, was first in the entire Division for his 174 Vessel Safety checks; this was Palsgrove's second consecutive award of this nature. Salvatore Puglisi, Colonial Beach, placed second in the Division close behind Gary Palsgrove with 164 Vessel Safety Checks.



Gary Palsgrove 174 VSC's



Sal Puglisi 164 VSC's

2016 DIVISION 3 AWARDS (cont)

David DeGrazia, Colonial Beach, who joined the Flotilla in October 2015, was first in the Division with 170 Program Visits; these are in-person visits to businesses that promote boating safety with a prodigious supply of informational bulletins covering all aspects of boating safety and fun.



David DeGrazia 170 PV's

Erik Amato who is Editor of "The Advocate" newsletter was first in the Division in the area of public Affairs with 620 hours reported; Erik lives in Weyers Cave, VA 180 miles from Callao. Ed Gray, of King William, placed second in the Division for his public affairs activities.



Erik Amato receiving PA award for 620 hours reported. (l to r) Amy Thomas DCDR, BOSN2 Jack Williams, Erik Amato, and CDR Kate Higgins-Bloom

Flotilla 3-10 draws members from a wide swath of Virginia; members represent a variety diverse backgrounds and experiences all of which blend together to help achieve tremendous successes over its 40 year history.

Joe Riley IPFC 3-10



Ed Gray FC 3-10 receiving the CG Meritorious Team Commendation (along with Carroll Barrack, Fred Woodard, and Alvin Lynn) from BOSN2 Jack Williams representing the Directors Office, for their efforts in teaching Water Safety to 670 local school children

The Immediate Past Commodore Rob Sersen developed several special awards for serving members of the Fifth Southern. One of the several presented was a special recognition for our spouses, personalized with spouses names. (photo changed for effect)



Julian Everly receiving the first special spouse recognition award for his wife Jean

2016 DIVISION 3 AWARDS (cont)



Another piece of the COMO's Red, White and Blue tribute to spouses was a certificate for each spouse that was submitted earlier by the member wanting to honor his or her person with a Big Heart



Not all, but a gathering of many of the special "gals" who help keep Flotilla 3-10 afloat (2016 photo). Certificate or not, all are truly loved and appreciated by us all

The Best of the Best: A Salute to D5SR Shipmates' Significant Contributions

I am extremely proud of, appreciative, and inspired by the significant contributions you have made.

Thank you for your continued dedicated service to our country **both as a veteran and as an Auxiliarist.**

You bring so much to our Fabulous Fifth Southern Family's table. Thank you for caring deeply and giving greatly.

Please enjoy this Toast to the Red, White, and Blue; Stars and Stripes; Silver, Gold, and You.

Thank you for your dedication; generous sharing of time, talent, and teamwork and commitment to making a difference through active participation in supporting the members and missions of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Thank you for continuing our organization's awe-inspiring 77-year legacy of dedicated Service above self.

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Theodore Roosevelt

Keep serving in the mission areas you're most passionate about with whatever time you can give and know that your efforts matter and are appreciated! **TEAM = Together Everyone Achieves More!**

Robert A. Sersen, Jr.
39th District Commodore (2015-2016)
Fifth District Southern Region

2016 DIVISION 3 AWARDS (cont)

Another of COMO Sersen's special recognition was the presentation to Veterans who served in our Military, of custom cup consisting of special candies of Red, White, Blue; Stars and Stripes; Silver and Gold.



Flotilla 3-10's Sal Puglisi (r), Air Force veteran, receives the first Commodores Veterans Cup at the Division meeting from DCDR Amy Thomas

The final District Commodore presentation was a commemorative plate that all members of the Fifth Southern will receive.



The District Commodore's commemorative plate signifying "Remember the Member", the Fabulous Fifth Southern

TWO NEW FLOTILLA POSITIONS CREATED



Pim Montgomery has been appointed "Camaraderie Captain"



Julian Everly has been appointed Flotilla Staff Officer-at-Large

FLOTILLA 3-10 BRIDGE PRESENTS APPRECIATION DONATION

On Sunday, February 12, Ed Gray 3-10's Flotilla Commander and Andy Baltins Flotilla Vice Commander delivered the Flotilla's annual donation to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church during their Sunday morning church service in appreciation for the use of their facilities as our primary meeting and training location.

The donation was accepted by the church Pastor Rev. Burce Alkire. FC Gray was given an opportunity to talk with the congregation about some of the things the Auxiliary does for the Coast Guard and the Community. He extended an invitation for anyone to join and welcomed everyone to attend one of our Flotilla meetings here at the Church.



Pictured (l to r) Ed Gray FC 3-10, Rev. Burce Alkire, Bill Horn (past 3-10 member) and Andy Baltins VFC 3-10

PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASS SCHEDULE SET

Fred Woodard - Public Education Staff Officer for Flotilla 3-10 has done all the "leg work" and initial planning for Public Boating Safety Classes (ABS) at different locations within the community we serve. Please put these dates on your calendar and dust off your teaching notes. Please call Fred with your commitment to teach specific segments on select dates at various locations.

**Saturday May 13, 2017 • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church • 1717 Hampton Hall Rd •
Callao, VA • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Saturday June 24, 2017 • Bella Pizza • 1673 Tappahannock Blvd •
Tappahannock, VA • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Saturday July 22, 2017 • Bank of Lancaster • 15648 Kings Highway •
Montross, VA • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Saturday August 26, 2017 • Bank of Lancaster • 18 Sandy Street •
Callao, VA • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Saturday September 16, 2017 • Bella Pizza • 1673 Tappahannock Blvd •
Tappahannock, VA • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

HAVING FUN . . .



SERVING THE U.S. COAST GUARD and

THE RECREATIONAL BOATING PUBLIC



REMINDER: The Flotilla Web Site is alive and well! All Newsletters, Press Releases and PE Class Flyers will be posted when available – Check it out!

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

(Editors Reminder - all that you do is significant and important! Share it with others in this publication.)

**Fifth Southern Flotilla 3-10
Elected and Appointed Officers 2017**

Flotilla Commander	G. Edward Gray, Jr.
Flotilla Vice Commander	Andris Baltins
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	Gary I. Palsgrove
Navigation Systems	Charles B. Thomas
Operations	Joseph C. Riley
Public Affairs	G. Edward Gray, Jr
Publications	Erik H. Amato
Public Education	Fred Woodard
RBS Program Visitor	Philip K. Landry
Secretary/Records	Andris Baltins
Vessel Examinations	David J. Brack
FSO At Large	Julian Everly

Pim Montgomery has been appointed "Camaraderie Captain"