

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

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CALLAO, VA



March • 2017 • Erik Amato FSO-PB



Four Flotilla 3-10 members receive the prestigious
COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION
for their outstanding work of presenting *Kid's and Water Safety* to **670**
young students at several community elementary schools during 2016

(l to r) Ed Gray, Carroll Barrack, Alvin Lynn, and Fred Woodard

COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

31 December 2016

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the
COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION to:

FLOTILLA 054-03-10 2016 KIDS 'N WATER EDUCATION TEAM

for services as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from January 2016 to April 2016, while serving on Flotilla 054-03-10's 2016 Kids 'n Water Education Team. With a goal of delivering an important boating safety message to youngsters, the Team fostered a positive relationship among multiple public and private schools in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Team then leveraged this quickly gained partnership with school officials, who easily embraced the "Education Starts Young" initiative. The Team's efforts directly introduced 670 elementary students, as well as several teachers, counselors and parents, to the inherent value of and skills to correctly size life jackets, maximizing their benefit while boating with families and friends. Your message resounded with the enthusiastic audience, who were energized to further spread the boating safety message to their respective classrooms. Your Life Jacket Awareness program at the elementary school level represents a major initiative in the "Wear It" campaign, essential to lifesaving among area boaters of all ages. Your teamwork as Recreational Boating Safety Advocates achieved a force multiplier effect for the Coast Guard and boating public. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the 2016 Kids 'n Water Education Team are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary."

For the Commandant,



S. M. FACHKO

Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Director of Auxiliary, Fifth Southern Region



Receiving the award (l to r) Ed Gray, Carroll Barrack, Alvin Lynn and Fred Woodard

THE REST OF THE STORY - TEACHING 670 KIDS

There was a very popular book years ago that was titled "All I Ever Needed To Know I Learned In Kindergarten." Several of our members took that title to heart and put it to good use.



Flotilla 3-10 members (l to r) Fred Woodward, Alvin Lynn and Carroll Barrack

For the last seven years Carroll Barrack, Alvin Lynn and Fred Woodward had been teaching a boating and water safety class in the Essex Elementary School to the students in kindergarten. Every year they taught approximately 75 students how to be safe around the water and in a boat. I heard about these classes but until this year I never took the time to attend and observe what they did. What a job they do.



In 2016 we were able to reach out to other area school systems and make presentations to their classes as well. It was decided to teach to both kindergarten and

first graders and the reception was outstanding. Our three instructors taught 237 students in Westmoreland County, 189 in Richmond County, 168 in Northumberland County and 76 students in Essex County. Although we reached out to King & Queen County and King William County as well they declined. Those counties do not know what they missed.

It is amazing to see 3 Auxiliary Instructors structure a class to youngsters. Kids with an average attention span of 30 minutes sat still for 45. They participated

in the class and obviously learned quite a bit. They all wanted to volunteer to try on a life jacket and they all walked away with the knowledge of the importance of wearing that life jacket. Carroll, Alvin and Fred were also able to involve the teachers and other attendees and more than once I heard teachers say they were going to go purchase an inflatable for themselves or their spouses.



Carroll, Alvin and Fred dedicated their time, during the school day, to impart their knowledge on the

kids so they could be safer. 670 kids that otherwise would not have been reached. 4 school systems that have already asked them to return in 2017. Each of us get our 'own things' from our Auxiliary membership. These three guys get to know they have made a difference in young lives and they very well may have saved a life or two.....or more. Thank you gentlemen, for your membership as well as your dedication. We will never know how many of those kids may have been saved from your instruction but we all know it was a job well done.



Ed Gray VFC 3-10



Reprinted from the May 2016 edition of the ADVOCATE Newsletter



Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

I was watching March Madness basketball and the announcers kept talking about the coaches *Motivating* their players. That comment got me to thinking so I looked up the word. *Motivation* is the act of motivating or offering an incentive. My thought was maybe if playing a game you love on National TV for a possible National Championship does not motivate you maybe nothing can.

marveling at the job they do. As we left Fred said “Ed, in case you cannot tell, I love doing this with these kids.” I could tell. Fred, Carroll and Alvin are amazing in how they hold the attention of these young students as they teach them how to be safe around the water. The kids are their motivation and knowing they did a good job is their incentive.

All of us are motivated differently. Some of us are motivated by recognition, others by the additional ribbons we earn and wear, some by the uniform, others by doing a civic task and some just by being a member and the fellowship that offers.

Then I reflected on *motivation* in my life. When I was in school I was motivated to get out. When in the service I was motivated to get home. In my business life I was motivated to get as many sales and compensation numbers to the left of that decimal point as possible. At home I was motivated to provide for my family and to keep everyone safe. Now I am motivated to do the best job I can for the Auxiliary.

As I look at our membership and all of our composite accomplishments I am proud of everyone and everything that’s being done. The awards presented at our last flotilla meeting just show the kind of job we do as a TEAM. I don't think anyone needs to be motivated by me because we do that for ourselves and for each other. I have always heard the one constant in life is change and I see motivation changes too.

I was with Fred Woodard and Carroll Barrack this past week at one of the Kids N Water classes

Ed

FLOTILLA APRIL CALENDAR

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

April

1 - Winter Dress Uniform back into the closet

3 - DGIF State Instructor Workshop (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.)

6 - Kids N Water Class; King and Queen County

17 - Flotilla meeting - Snacks, Joe Riley

22 - 2nd Quarter Division Meeting, Vinny’s Central Garage (limited to 40 participants)

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

All Month Give thanks to all spouses and friends for their support



Andy Baltins Flotilla Vice Commander

As I sit here looking for the snowstorm that fortunately missed us, enjoying working on another CGAUX recommended study course, I have come to the grand conclusion that this is the perfect time and opportunity to prepare for, brush up and explore the previously unexplored.

Spring will be here before we realize. There is so much more to get done, the house chores, honey-dolists, taxes – we seem to never get them finished, and the need to start the seasonal maintenance on the boat. Soon the warm weather that Don and Phil will be bringing back from Florida with them settles upon us we will be overwhelmed. We will want to be outside, the evenings will be longer and the time for study will have escaped us.

Seriously, I would like to suggest that we should reflect on what we as individuals or as a group can do in order help grow our flotilla. As the saying goes “when we stop growing we start dying”.

Now is the time to embark on that journey down the path that we don’t travel often enough. The Auxiliary opportunities will grow and open up to us as we learn more through these online courses and become qualified. The reports concerning proposed changes will certainly put more demand on us as individuals and flotilla, yet we will be expected to continue to perform for the Coast Guard and general public.

Will we be ready, willing and prepared? SEMPER PARATUS!

Andy



Practice and Preach . . . Maritime Domain Awareness and America’s Waterway Watch



BoatUS eMagazine



SOME BASIC SMARTPHONE INFORMATION



Your editor is constantly looking for subject articles that you, the reader, might find useful, informative or just nice to know. The following is reprinted with permission from the *ACTIVE CAPTAIN* newsletter that I receive on a regular basis.

• • •

From our informal polling, about 95% of boaters have one or more smartphones onboard today. In 2007, finding someone using a smartphone was rare.

Much has changed in 10 years. We now take that powerful technology we have in our pocket for granted with few of us giving it much thought. But there is something that often causes us problems when using our smartphone apps and even making calls. The most common symptom is unexplained crashes. Fortunately, it's trivial to fix it.

Most software today is written with what's called object oriented technology. Objects are created in memory with associated parameters and functions to perform a particular task. Objects can reference other objects. When an object is not needed any longer, it is removed from memory in a process called, seriously, garbage collection.

Garbage collection is a very complex part of software systems. You see, because one object can reference another, something needs to keep track of all the references to determine if an object is no longer needed. If an object is deleted too soon, something else referencing that object will cause a crash.

Garbage collection issues are part of a class of software problems called memory leaks. As software runs, memory is used. When a particular task is complete, all memory used should be given back for use with the next task. But often, it isn't. A little bit is used up, leaking memory from the system.

When you purchased your smartphone, you selected the amount of memory it had. 32 GB to 128 GB is common today. But that's storage memory - a place to store apps, pictures, video, and data. There's also program memory, the memory used to actually run the apps. For smartphones and tablets, you typically don't have an option about program memory. It's usually built in and today it's 500 MB to a couple of gigabytes.

Now we're ready to get to the problem...

Our smartphones and tablets are computers. They feel like appliances that we just turn on for instant use whenever we want. So they happily chug along for weeks or months at a time always running even though the screen is off. And while they're running, all those memory leaks are building up, stealing valuable program memory. Eventually, an app or process starts that needs a lot of program memory and wham, it's not available. It crashes or does something strange.

There's a simple fix. Reboot your phone or tablet every few days. Don't let it go a week or more. We like to reboot our smart devices the night before heading out to make sure they are all fresh and ready for use.

It's a simple thing. Every device has a way to completely turn it off. Let it sit for a few seconds, and turn it back on. Let it walk through it's boot up and you've got a completely fresh system.

Many of you can't think of the last time you did a full shut down of your phone. For you, do it now!

Jeff and Karen Siegel - Active Captain

GIMME FIVE IS STILL ALIVE!



*TRY THIS CONCEPT
AND
WATCH THE VSC NUMBERS
GROW*



**EVERY VESSEL EXAMINER
GIVE US 5 FULL DAYS DOING VSC's
THEN SPEND THE OTHER 360 DAYS ON OTHER
AUXILIARY MISSIONS**

MORE CELL PHONE CONFUSION – INTO FOCUS

Another small article reprinted with permission from the files of the *ACTIVE CAPTAIN* Newsletter.

Unlimited Limitations >>>

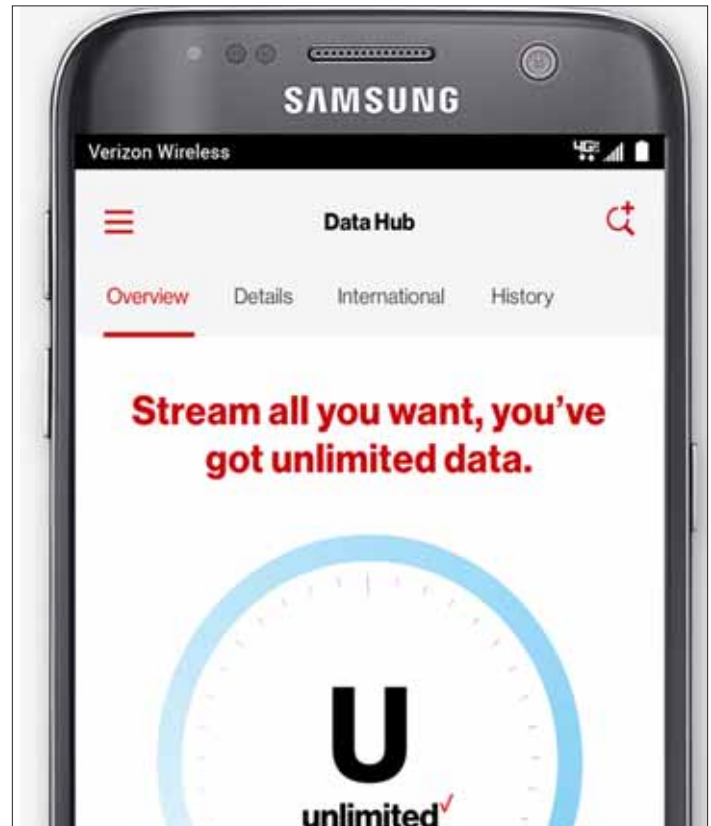
Last week there were major new mobile plans introduced from the two largest US carriers: Verizon and AT&T. If one word could be used to describe these new plans it would be, "**Unlimited.**" If we were to describe these new plans in a single phrase it would be, "**Not so much.**"

A true cellular plan capable of unlimited data use would be excellent for boaters who leave home for days to years at a time. The new 4G/LTE networks provide high speed and reliability, certainly all along the US east coast waterways from Maine to the Keys, around the Gulf, and up the major rivers to the Great Lakes. Unfortunately, none of these new plans are really unlimited in ways that make sense for boaters' use.

It's easy to get pulled into the advertisements. So mid-week, we entered a Verizon store to talk to the manager about the new plans. We made it very clear how we wanted to use the unlimited data plans. We'd put the plan on a low cost / free Android phone and treat it like a hotspot on the boat. Our laptops, tablets, phones and TV's would all connect to it to get on the internet. And with the unlimited data plans, we explained how we'd be streaming Netflix, and downloading large updates, apps, and charts. Cellular allows all of these capabilities while moving so all of this would even be possible while underway.

Mr Verizon Manager agreed that the new plan would give us all of that. There was one small limitation - once you reached 22 GB per month, your traffic would be set at a lower priority. If the tower you were using became busy, your traffic might slow down. Once the tower was clear, or during off times, we'd experience the full LTE data speeds we were used to.

It all sounded too good to be true. And of course, it was. You see, Mr Verizon Manager didn't know himself about another "unlimited limitation" that



kicks in when you've used only 10 GB of data via tethering. Tethering is when you're using the phone as a hotspot, our exact and clearly described intent. Once 10 GB is reached, all additional traffic over tethering for the remainder of the month is lowered to 3G speeds which eliminates the joy of Netflix and large downloads.

This isn't to pick on Verizon. The new AT&T unlimited plans have the same limitations. Many store salespeople and managers just don't understand their own plans.

For some families, these plans will save some money as long as they're not expecting a lot of tethering use. But for many of us, these new plans are worse and more expensive than what we already have today.

Sprint and T-Mobile have similar unlimited plans with these same types of limitations. Be very careful switching to those carriers as a boater in the US because there are a lot of complaints about connectivity along the waterways with them.

**PAST FLOTILLA 3-10 COMMANDER
CROSSES THE BAR**



Richard Maynard Holcombe
February 2, 1920 - February 16, 2017

**Callao Flotilla 3-10 Commander
1996 and 1997**



**SAL PUGLISI EARNS
NEW QUALIFICATION**



Sal Puglisi (l) receives his **FINGERPRINT TECHNICIAN** qualification certificate from IPFC Joe Riley at the March Flotilla 3-10 business meeting.

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

**Maritime
Domain
Awareness**



KEEP A VIGILANT WATCH



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"