

**BOATING SAFETY**  
**ADVOCATE**

**Newsletter**



FLOTILLA 03-10



CALLAO, VA

February

• 2016

• Erik Amato FSO-PB



**FLOTILLA 3-10 ASSISTS CG EVALUATING  
PUBLIC SAFETY USES FOR  
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**



Joe Riley FC 3-10 (right) and Gary Palsgrove IPFC 3-10 holding two of the sUAS "drone" aircraft being evaluated by the Coast Guard for the RAMPS program

# BRIDGE TALK



Joe Riley Flotilla Commander 03-10

**H**ave you ever wondered what the Flotilla Commander does? Or why anyone would want to be the Flotilla Commander?

Of course the “official” answer is; the Flotilla is like a small station command and the FC is the OIC, the “officer in charge”, and is in the “chain” of accountability within the organization.

But in the reality of the everyday world, the Flotilla Commander is the “Chief Cheerleader” for the unit. Who wouldn’t want to do that job?

The other part of the reality is that it’s a bit more than just running a meeting and being the presenter of recognition and awards for member accomplishments

So what does it mean . . . being the Chief Cheerleader?

- It means leading the cheer for personal accomplishments and when new qualifications are achieved.
- It means empathizing with a member's decision to give up a qualification or to “step down” from a job or perhaps choose to retire from active membership.
- It means cheerfully recounting a member, active or retired, who has crossed the bar.
- It means “fighting” to get recognition for members. (Knowing the process is key -and SIMPLE)

***Cheerleading is all about encouraging and remembering all the members of the “home team”.***

So if the FC is the Chief Cheerleader, who are the “other” cheerleaders? They are every Officer; every Mentor; every Ship Mate–TEAM FLOTILLA!

The Flotilla Commander's not-so-secret weapon is encouraging all of the other Flotilla cheerleaders to support every member to bring home their individual “gold”, whatever their individual goals might be.

You should set your sights on being the Flotilla Commander! Suiting up easy; leading the cheering section is pure FUN!!

## FLOTILLA TRIVIA

Things you didn’t know about your shipmates!

**DID YOU KNOW?** . . . That Wayne Ploger (3-10 retired) and Erik Amato both attended DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, MD way back in the 1950’s, graduating a couple years apart? Small world.

**Editors Note:** Send me your little trivia items about yourself (or spouse/family) that others probably don’t know about you. It’s fun to share.



Winter at the River

# FLOTILLA 3-10 ASSISTS CG EVALUATING ROBOTIC AIRCRAFT FOR MARITIME PUBLIC SAFETY

Callao, VA Flotilla 3-10 5 SR has been providing mission readiness support to the Coast Guard Research and Development Center (RDC), CG Station St. Inigoes and US Navy during the testing and evaluation phase for small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.



AUXFAC 25331 prior to getting underway

versions that can be deployed and recovered from Cutters. The Auxiliary facility provided Thermal Oscar (TO) deployment, Environmental oil spill simulation (Peat Moss & Orange), LE mission Go/Fast with simulated weapons support, and air vehicle retrievals, and provided Line of Sight (LOS)

The CG mission need focuses on obtaining a “better understanding of the risks, benefits and limitations of operating existing Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) technology in a maritime environment for cutter forces other than the National Security Cutter (NSC).”

tracking for the AV.



AV hand launch

Thermal Oscar waiting deployment

One member of the CGRDC team was assigned to the AUXFAC to launch and retrieve the sUAS “drone” aircraft, and direct the Auxiliary crew in the handling of the small aircraft once back onboard the vessel, along with proper handling of the thermal Oscar.



Phil Landry drying off the AV shortly after it's retrieval from the Potomac River

This particular CG project is termed RAMPS. The new acronym stands for **Robotic Aircraft for Maritime Public Safety**. “The RDC is considering only technically mature, flight-proven vehicles with fully integrated sensors for this evaluation. There will be 5 different vendors scheduled to provide UAV groups to evaluate and demonstrate current capabilities in support of 11 mandated Coast Guard missions. “

It was most gratifying to realize that due to the continuing up-grading of skills and constant training the Coast Guard Auxiliary is ready and has a valuable role to play in the development, testing and evaluation of the latest maritime public safety programs such as RAMPS.

AUXFAC 25331 was utilized for this particular multi-day mission with Gary Palsgrove CXN, Joe Riley and Phil Landry crew. The 3-10 team arrived at Station St Inigoes the evening prior to the exercise and was able to participate in the preparations and briefings leading up to the full days scheduled events.

During 2015 a number of Flotilla 3-10 Facilities, Coxswains and Crew have been used in multi-day multi-task evaluations of a series of drones varying in size from the smaller “Wasp” to the over six foot



Flotilla 3-10 will stand ready to provide facilities and well-trained and highly skilled members when called on again.

**H**ello Shipmates! At our CoW meeting we stated that 2016 was going to be an important year for us as a Flotilla. Well we launched and got “underway” very quickly



Ed Gray Flotilla Vice Commander 03-10

At our Division meeting Julian Everly was selected as our Div 3 Auxiliariist of the Year. We took 1st Place in Vessel Exams **and** Public Affairs with Gary and Joe leading the way respectively and Sal and me coming in second in each category. We placed 2nd in hours per member and overall PV visits and Erik received a lengthy DCO Letter of Recognition. What a foundation to build on.

Currently we have our PE class schedule set and distributed to the local papers, class flyers have been prepared and are being posted throughout the area and on local county government web sites as well as Glen Thomason publishing it in his community newsletter.

Carroll and Fred suggested we reach out to the schools in King William County to teach a Boating Safety Class to the young kids and they have accepted. Now we will do the same in Northumberland, Richmond, King and Queen and Westmoreland Counties.

Dick Cobb, a new transfer member will be coming to our February meeting and David DeGrazia has passed the RBS PV exam, the first step to become a qualified Program Visitor. Alvin Lynn has been reinstated as a PV as well. We are also scheduled to have a long lost member attend our next meeting. In addition I have spoken to several new potential members and I know others have done the same.

Thanks to our entire flotilla TEAM for developing this momentum starting off 2016. Joe and I will do our best to keep everyone focused on our multiple missions. It looks to me like 2016 can be another banner year for us but, as always, it is up to US to make it happen.

Ed Gray VFC 3-10



**WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

You are just completing a VSC on a 17 foot inboard/out-board power boat. The safety check has gone extremely smooth, the vessel is in excellent shape, and the owner has been very receptive to your safety talk. As you are about to place the decal, you notice a crack in the port side windshield glass.

The owner tells you that he’s going to get the glass replaced next week and he’d like to put the decal on after the new glass is installed.

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Say “sure, take the decal, put it here when you get the glass fixed!”

**OR**

Say “sorry, but I’ll be happy to recheck your boat and apply the decal when the glass has been repaired.”

The answer is elsewhere in this issue.



Patiently Waiting for Spring

## COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AND BOAT/US PARTNER IN ON-LINE NAVIGATION COURSE

Imagine a typical new boater. They excitedly buy a boat and dream of taking it to fun, maybe even exotic, places. But they soon realize that they don't know how to get there, they don't know how to navigate. They want to learn navigation skills, they may even know about the Coast Guard Auxiliary, but they may not have time to attend classes.

Now we have a win-win opportunity to offer boaters a new world of boating opportunities, promote boating safety and open up a new source of revenue for flotillas.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, in partnership with the Boat US Foundation, is launching a new educational program for boaters, an on-line, self-study course called *Modern Marine Navigation*. Boaters that enroll in this course will learn, using their own computers or tablets, in the comfort of their own homes.

Auxiliary instruction to the boating public has been declining for several years. At the same time the use of on-line self-study instruction has been steadily increasing. Leveraging this trend, the Auxiliary has authored and developed a stimulating new interactive online course called Modern Marine Navigation, with Web implementation and hosting by the Boat US Foundation.

This is the only navigation course offered anywhere that has been completely vetted by the US Coast Guard Navigation Center. It will be the gold standard of navigation courses. This course opens a new market to Auxiliary boating education and it offers a direct financial benefit to flotillas.

Each person who enrolls in the course, using your Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla number\* as a "promo

code" on the Modern Marine Navigation course website, will receive a discount of over 10% off the purchase price. And for each of those enrollments, the Flotilla will receive a revenue share of \$5.00.

This \$5.00 per enrollment can be earned just by using personal contacts with boaters to inform them of the course, all without the time, space and outlay of flotilla funds required to put on a class.

Your promotion of this project is critical to the success of Modern Marine Navigation. You are the face of the Auxiliary and you are the people that are in daily contact with the boating public.

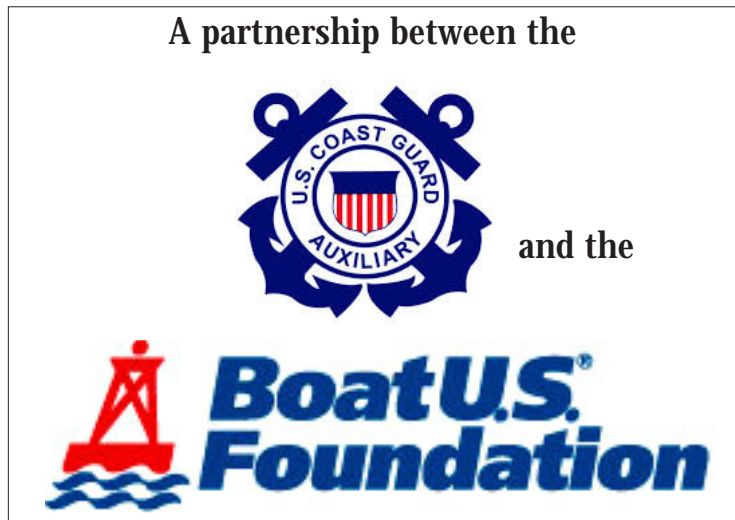
The Modern Marine Navigation online interactive self-study course will cost \$39.99 and will be available on the Boat US Foundation website on or about 01 March. However, with a promo code (your flotilla number\*),

the cost will be \$34.99, and your flotilla will receive \$5.00.

The National Marketing staff is working with the E-Directorate to provide down-loadable materials and support for this project. More details about all of those things will be provided in upcoming emails.

Recreational Boating Safety is the primary core mission of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Whether getting on the water with a boat or a personal watercraft, the Modern Marine Navigation Online Course can help boaters be safer and more knowledgeable. By promoting Modern Marine Navigation at every opportunity, you help boaters who need education, you help your Flotilla, and you help make boating safer for everyone.

\*Flotilla number as in AUXDATA, no dashes -



# COAST GUARD APPROVES OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC CHARTS

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. Coast Guard published guidance that allows mariners to use electronic charts and publications instead of paper charts, maps and publications.

The Coast Guard published Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular, NVIC 01-16, on Feb. 5 to provide uniform guidance on what is now considered equivalent to chart and publication carriage requirements.

Combining the suite of electronic charts from the U.S. hydrographic authorities and the Electronic Charting System standards published this past summer by the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services, the Coast Guard believes official electronic charts provide mariners with a substitute for the traditional official paper charts.

This technology will also allow mariners to take advantage of information and data to enhance situational awareness during voyage planning and while underway.

“After consultation with our Navigation Safety Advisory Committee, the Coast Guard will allow mariners to use official electronic charts instead of paper charts, if they choose to do so. With real-time voyage planning and monitoring information at their fingertips, mariners will no longer have the burden of maintaining a full portfolio of paper charts,” said Capt. Scott J. Smith, the chief of the U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Navigation Systems.

The new guidance applies to vessels subject to U.S. chart, or map, and publication carriage requirements codified in Titles 33 and 46 CFR and provides a voluntary alternative means to comply with those requirements.

“Mariners have been requesting the recognition of this capability for some time,” said Smith. “When you combine the new expanded Automatic Identification System carriage requirement and the capability that an ECS provides, it should provide a platform to move American waterways into the 21st century.”

“Together, with our industry and international partners, we are leveraging modern technology to contribute to the safety, security and prosperity of our nation,” said Smith.

View NVIC 01-16 at:  
[http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC\\_01-16\\_electronic\\_charts\\_and\\_publications.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC_01-16_electronic_charts_and_publications.pdf)



Tidal Snowdrift in Tidwells



## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

**Please use this as a reminder for all VE's**, the VSC Decal **always** goes on the port side window glass (we know this isn't always possible, some boats don't have windshields at all, so occasionally we need to be creative). Whenever possible, the decal should be visible when the vessel is viewed from the Port side.

We have had reports of boats showing up with decals on the starboard side window glass. This is obviously incorrect and makes us look very unprofessional.

The vessel examiner should always attempt to personally apply the decal in the proper place. It is acceptable to give the decal to the owner and have them place the decal while you supervise.

Please **never** give the boat owner the decal to take home and put it on later. We never know where it might end up.

**REMEMBER 1 - 10 - 1  
DURING THESE COLD MONTHS**

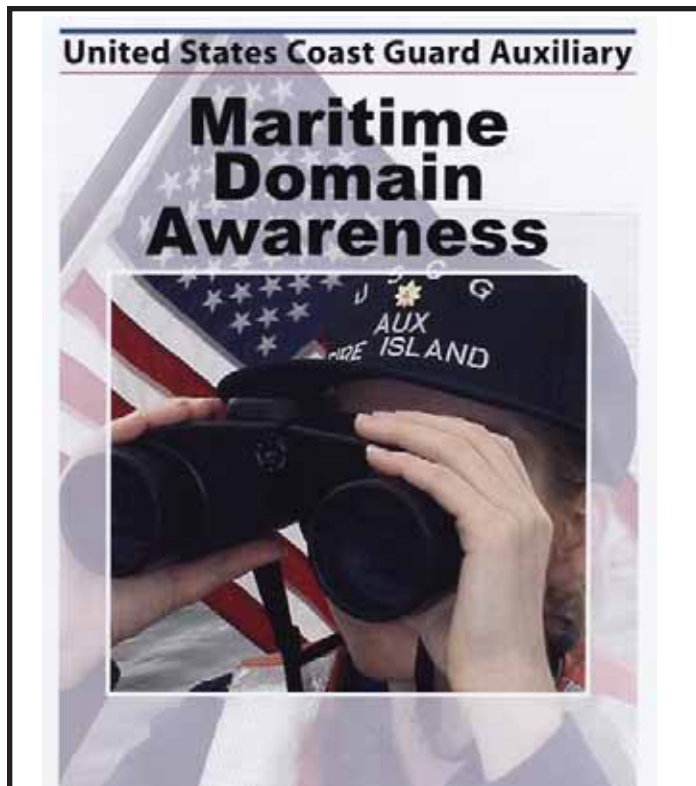
1-10-1 is a simple way to remember the first *three phases* of cold water immersion and the approximate time each phase takes.

**1 - Cold Shock.** An initial deep and sudden Gasp followed by hyperventilation that can be as much as 600-1000% greater than normal breathing. You must keep your airway clear or run the risk of drowning. Cold Shock will pass in about 1 minute.

During that time concentrate on avoiding panic and getting control of your breathing. Wearing a lifejacket during this phase is critically important to keep you afloat and breathing.

**10 - Cold Incapacitation.** Over approximately the next 10 minutes you will lose the effective use of your fingers, arms and legs for any meaningful movement. Concentrate on self rescue initially, and if that isn't possible, prepare to have a way to keep your airway clear to wait for rescue. Swim failure will occur within these critical minutes and if you are in the water without a lifejacket, drowning will likely occur.

**1 - HYPOTHERMIA.** Even in ice water it could take approximately 1 hour before becoming unconscious due to Hypothermia. If you understand the aspects of hypothermia, techniques of how to delay it, self rescue and calling for help, your chances of survival and rescue will be dramatically increased.



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



**FLOTILLA MARCH CALENDAR**

**Saturday March 12, 2016 . . . . S-Train Workshops, Harwood, MD**

**Saturday March 19, 2016 . . . . St. Patty's Day Pot-Luck Dinner-Flotilla Meeting-Awards  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Callao, VA**

**Thursday March 30, 2016 . . . . DGIF Spring Instructor Workshop, Kilmarnock, VA**



**National Safe Boating Week . . . . . May 21 - 27, 2016**



# FLOTILLA 03-10

## MAKING WAVES . . .

## HAVING FUN !



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 03-10 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.)

### Fifth Southern Flotilla 03-10 Elected and Appointed Officers 2016

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