

**BOATING SAFETY  
ADVOCATE**

**Newsletter**



FLOTILLA 3-10



CALLAO, VA



April • 2017 • Erik Amato FSO-PB



**2016 FLOTILLA 3-10 AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR  
GARY L. PALSGROVE**

**T**he Flotilla 3-10 Auxiliarist of the Year Award is a noteworthy award in the scheme of all the awards that a member may achieve. The Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander for the year of record present the award to the member whose activities, accomplishments, dedication, and service to the Auxiliary and the Flotilla and its programs merit special recognition.

The award is named the “Carl and Jane Vogt Award” in honor of two charter members of the Flotilla whose service over the years was exemplary.

Gary Palsgrove was selected as Auxiliarist of the Year for 2016 and presented the engraved plaque honoring his place amongst the long list of recipients over the flotilla's 40 year history of service to the boating public on behalf of the United States Coast Guard. This was Gary's second such award.

Gary's accomplishments included donating a total of over 800 hours to the activities and missions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He conducted 175 vessel safety checks -- the most in the Division; contributed 80 hours conducting 11 safety and regatta type patrols aboard his boat, “C-Song”, plus 10 hours performing search and rescue activities; contributed his superb teaching and administrative skills during over 40 hours as an Instructor of boating safety classes; and spearheaded a renewed recruitment program as the Flotilla Human Resources Staff Officer.

Each of these activities and accomplishments are noteworthy in their own right. But they and Gary's “always there” and “always willing” attitude warranted special recognition as “Auxiliarist of the Year-2016”.

## FLOTILLA 3-10 RECOGNIZES 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Pictured (l to r) Glen Thomason, Erik Amato, Andy Baltins, Sal Puglisi, Fred Woodard, Julian Everly, Ed Gray, Gary Palsgrove, Jack O'Neil, Dave DeGrazia, Dave Brack, Joe Riley, Alvin Lynn, Charlie Thomas, and Ollie Knight. (Phil Landry not in photo)

A total of 34 individual awards were presented to 16 members of Flotilla 3-10 for their outstanding performance and contributions made within a multitude of missions they were qualified to participate in during 2016

It's been somewhat of a tradition that each year Flotilla 3-10's March Flotilla meeting is set aside as a very special event for the members, spouses and retired members.

It's not only a meeting where all the previous year performance and contributions of the members are recognized, but also a time for fun and fellowship featuring a Saint Patty's Day style meal and a unique "Treasures" auction.



Once everyone was settled in the meeting hall, a short invocation was given by Jack O'Neil and the evening moved to everyone enjoying the Saint Patty's Day meal that had enough corn beef and cabbage, multiple side dishes and dessert to feed twice as many people that were in attendance. As everyone began to mellow with satisfied appetites, a short break ensued just prior to the beginning of the business meeting.

New member Karen Whelan led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Country and the meeting was called to order by Flotilla Commander Ed Gray. Only one guest was in attendance, BM2 James Bonner, our Auxiliary Liaison from Coast Guard Station Saint Inigoes, who was introduced and later addressed the membership.

Previous meeting minutes were approved, staff reports waived, and the business portion of the meeting got underway.

## FLOTILLA 3-10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2016 (cont)



Karen Whelan was sworn in by taking the oath as a Provisional Member, shortly to be in AP status. Soon after – Sal Puglisi received his FINGERPRINT TECHNICIAN qualification certificate from Joe Riley.



(l to r) Andy Baltins VFC, BM2 James Bonner - Auxiliary Liaison Station St. Ingoes, and Ed Gray FC

Flotilla 3-10 is a relatively small flotilla in membership, but accomplishes a very high volume of mission hours per member and as a unit when measured across the District. A synopsis of the awards presented during the meeting follows:

### Certificate of Member Activity (200 or more hours)

**Julian W. Everly - 203**  
**Carroll F. Barrack - 207**  
**Oliver M. Knight - 272**  
**David F. DeGrazia - 286**  
**Philip K. Landry - 347**  
**Charles B. Thomas - 389**  
**Andris Baltins - 458**  
**Salvatore J. Puglisi - 555**  
**John F. O'Neil - 790**  
**Gary L. Palsgrove - 815**  
**Erik H. Amato - 1,032**  
**Ed Gray - 1,431**  
**Joe Riley - 1,996**

### Member Outstanding Achievement Award

(For 40 or more hours in operations; 100 or more Vessel Exams; 20 or more hours as lead Instructor in PE or MT; 40 or more hours as Aide or Combination; 20 or more hours in PA; 40 or more visits as PV)

**Erik Amato - Public Affairs**  
**Donald Chamberlain - Operations**  
**Carroll Barrack - Public Education**  
**Gary Palsgrove - VE, Operations**  
**David DeGrazia - Program Visits**  
**Sal Puglisi - VSC, PV**  
**Ed Gray - Operations and Public Affairs**  
**Joe Riley - PE, PV**  
**Oliver Knight - Operations**  
**Charles Thomas - Operations**  
**Phil Landry - PV, Operations**  
**Fred Woodard - PE**  
**Alvin Lynn - PV**



## FLOTILLA 3-10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2016 (cont)

### Member Mission Award

David DeGrazia  
Gary Palsgrove  
Erik Amato  
Phil Landry  
Carroll Barrack  
Joe Riley  
Phil Landry  
Charles Thomas

Most Program Visits - 170  
Most Vessel Safety Checks - 175  
Most PA Hours - 620  
Most PE Instructor Aide Hours - 30  
Most PE Instructor Hours - 26  
Most MT Instructor Hours - 24  
Most Crew Underway Hours - 65  
Most Coxswain Underway Hours - 91

### Auxiliarist of the Year (Recipient of the "Carl and Jane Vogt Award")

Selected by the Flotilla Commander and the Flotilla Vice Commander of the year of record (2016) the award is given to the member whose activities, accomplishments, dedication and service to the Auxiliary and to Flotilla 3-10 and its programs for the year merit this special recognition.

**GARY L. PALSGROVE**  
Flotilla 3-10 Auxiliarist of the Year – 2016



Special recognition also presented were awards sent by Commodore Rob Sersen to acknowledge his appreciation of all the time and efforts of Flotilla 3-10.

Best of the Best Award - Veteran and Auxiliarist

Best of the Best Award - Significant Contribution  
to District 5 SR

Best of the Best - 100% Member Training Award



# And Then The Fun !





Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

**R**ecently my brother attended a fishing seminar where there was an Auxiliary presence and Bob told me one guy “had enough ribbons to have fought in the Great War”.

Recently a fellow Flotilla Commander said “the image of the Auxiliary

while in Trops is that of 'retired ribbon collectors'”. This got me to thinking. Why do we wear those ribbons?

At a class I once attended a former Commodore said “It is amazing what people will do for a \$.69 ribbon.” How true that statement is.

I will speak only for myself when I say I have seen people with so many ribbon on their uniform that I have to wonder if they know what they are all for. I have also seen 'senior' people with only a very few ribbons and wondered what their problem was. Ribbons mean different things to different people.

We in the Auxiliary earn ribbons for many reasons. Some are for being around for awhile. Others are for classes we may have taken. Many wear ribbons that were earned while serving in the military service. Some are for positions we may fill or qualifications we may have. There are many reasons and everyone considers and wears their ribbons differently.

I have spoken with people who only wear a very few ribbons and their statement was “these are the ones that are important to me.” How do you argue with that? Some feel the more you earn and wear the more you have accomplished. Right again. My question is “what do they mean to you?”

As a Flotilla Commander there is little more rewarding than to award a new ribbon for whatever reason. Recognizing accomplishment is rewarding on several levels. The smile of the recipient and the hand shake of congratulation are great and then seeing the ribbon displayed proudly at the next Auxiliary event shows pride in your own accomplishments.

Wear your ribbons with pride because you earned them. Strive for that next \$.69 ribbon but know it is worth much more than that amount. It is worth your dedication to a cause. You know what you had to do to earn that recognition. You also know others will look at the ribbons you wear with pride and know what you have accomplished.

Oh by the way, my brother retired as a Richmond Police Lieutenant and he wore six ribbons, of the 19 he had earned, because they were the ones most important to him.

*Ed*

## FLOTILLA MAY CALENDAR

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

**May**

**13 - ABS Class (Boating Safety), Callao, VA, 0900-1600 GSLC**

**15 - Flotilla meeting - Snacks, Gary Palsgrove**

**17 - Kids N Water Class; Northumberland County**

**18 - Kids N Water Class; King William County**

**20 to 26 - National Safe Boating Week**

**30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due**

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

## CHANGES COMING TO LIFE JACKET CLASSIFICATIONS

During 2014 the Coast Guard announced that beginning in 2016 life jackets would no longer be categorized by “type”. Newly introduced life jackets are to be classified by their “Level”, which corresponds approximately to their buoyancy in *Newtons(N)*. These levels closely follow the ISO standard known as ISO 12402, and the new North American standard is known as UL 12402.



Typical “TYPE” I, II, III wearable life jackets classified in today’s standards

This change has caused a lot of confusion, but the Coast Guard’s goal was to begin the process of “harmonization” between life jackets made to the ISO standard (Europe and the rest of the world) and those made to US standards. As of today, the UL 12402 North American standard for life jackets has **not** been finalized. Once completed the lawyers will have to revise the Code of Federal Regulations to reflect the changes.

The move from life jacket “type” to the new Level system serves several purposes. It moves away from the confusion that boaters have trying to figure out what “type” of life jacket they should buy and have onboard, to a decision of buying for function with specific consideration to the kind of boating activity they will be doing. Then selecting the appropriate unit by their individual size and weight (buoyancy). You will note that as the life jacket size increases, so does the buoyancy and is consequently a better match to the wearer. The additional benefit is that it opens up the manufacturers to worldwide markets and potentially better products being developed and becoming available to us.

Although these changes do not impact us today, we should become aware of what the future “Level System” classifications will look like.

Without going into a lot of detail, future life jackets will be referred to as Level 50, Level 100, Level 150 and Level 275.

**Level 50** – Intended for active watersports like water skiing and wakeboarding, these minimize bulk and restriction. They may also be used by dinghy sailors. Regulatory changes will have to be made in the U.S. and Canada for these to be legal, so their introduction may be years away. They will provide 11.2lbf of buoyancy.



**Level 100** – These vests will have greater buoyancy for rougher waters, either inherently buoyant or inflatable in design. Around 22.4 lbf of buoyancy.



**Level 150** – These vest will most likely be similar to our current offshore inflatable life jackets and may have integral harness built in. There will also be inherently buoyant versions and each should provide around 33.7 lbf buoyancy.



**Level 275** – These inflatable life jackets will be for extreme conditions, especially when the wearer might be carrying gear that adversely affects his/her buoyancy (such as tools). They are generally intended for commercial users.



## THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

### ***Did You Know?***

**S**tand-up paddleboards (SUP) are now no different than vessels in the eyes of the U.S. Coast Guard.

This new classification means that SUP users - when outside surf or swim zones or bathing areas - are required to carry a life jacket, or Personal Floatation Device (PFD), a whistle and, if out after dark, a flashlight to give fair warning to other boaters that they're in the area.

Paul Newman, the Recreational Boating Safety Program Manager for the 11th Coast Guard District (which encompasses California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah) explains. "The Coast Guard was responding to a query from the Director of the Oregon Marine Board about the status of 'paddleboards.' Apparently, there's been a huge influx of SUPs on Oregon's rivers and inland waterways. This was causing a safety concern because of the mix of boats on the water. Oregon law enforcement officers wanted to know whether SUPs were subject to boating regulations.

The current determination does not apply to racing

paddleboards like Jaime Mitchell might use in the Molokai race. Those paddleboards are hand-paddled in a kneeling or prone position.

"If you operate on flat water, outside a swimming or bathing area you become just like a kayak. That means the operator has to carry a Coast Guard approved lifejacket and a whistle or other sound-producing device to warn other boaters of his or her presence. You're also required to follow the navigation rules. If you're on a SUP after sunset you also need a flashlight to warn other boaters. I was in Channel Islands Harbor last week after sunset and there were several SUPs paddling around. You could hardly see them from our boat.



"The Coast Guard waived the usual requirement for a manufacturer to put a Hull ID Number (HIN) on the 'vessel,' so no new requirements for manufacturers." Nate Burgoyne, editor of Stand-up Paddle Surfing magazine, thinks, surprisingly, that the SUP community should thank the U.S. Coast Guard for its recent measure.

(excerpt from swimsafe.com website)  
Erik Amato FSO-PB 3-10



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



# 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**

## VESSEL EXAMINER ALERT !

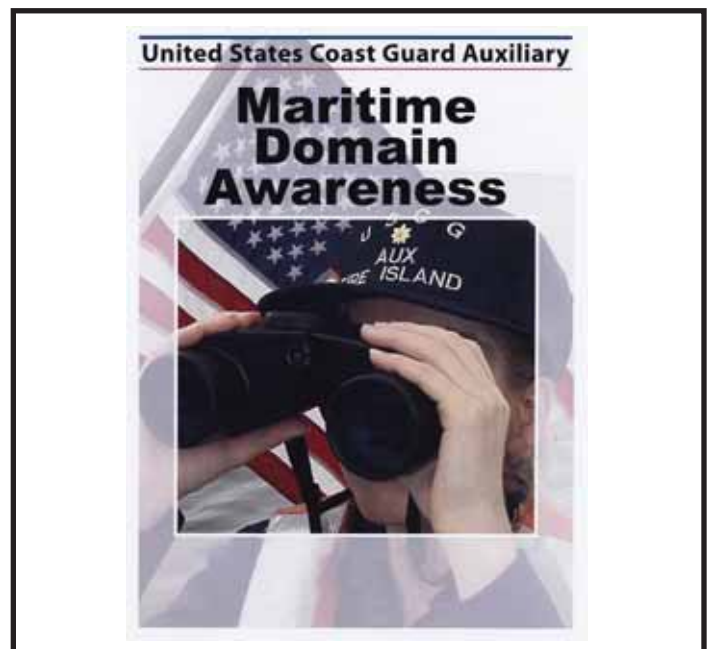
Recently, while thumbing through a new Marine Supplier catalog, I was taken by surprise that there were so many Life Jackets listed for sale that were **not** Coast Guard Approved.

Although they look similar to many of the standard life jackets we see all the time, these are for specific waterski, wakeboard and jet ski competition.

Vessel Examiners need to be extra diligent when inspecting vessels, that these don't get mixed in and counted with the standard "approved" jackets during a VSC.

We need to be sure that when we have our safety talk with a VSC receipt that we point out that these "specialty" vests could pose a "risk" if one was mistaken for an approved life saving device during an emergency.

Erik Amato FSO-PB 3-10



KEEP A VIGILANT WATCH

**HAVING FUN . . .**



**SERVING THE U.S. COAST GUARD and**

**THE RECREATIONAL BOATING PUBLIC**



Photo by Joe Riley

Flotilla 3-10 – Enjoying the Beauty of the Northern Neck

**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](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.)

**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
Camaraderie Captain . . . . .	Pim Montgomerly