

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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December

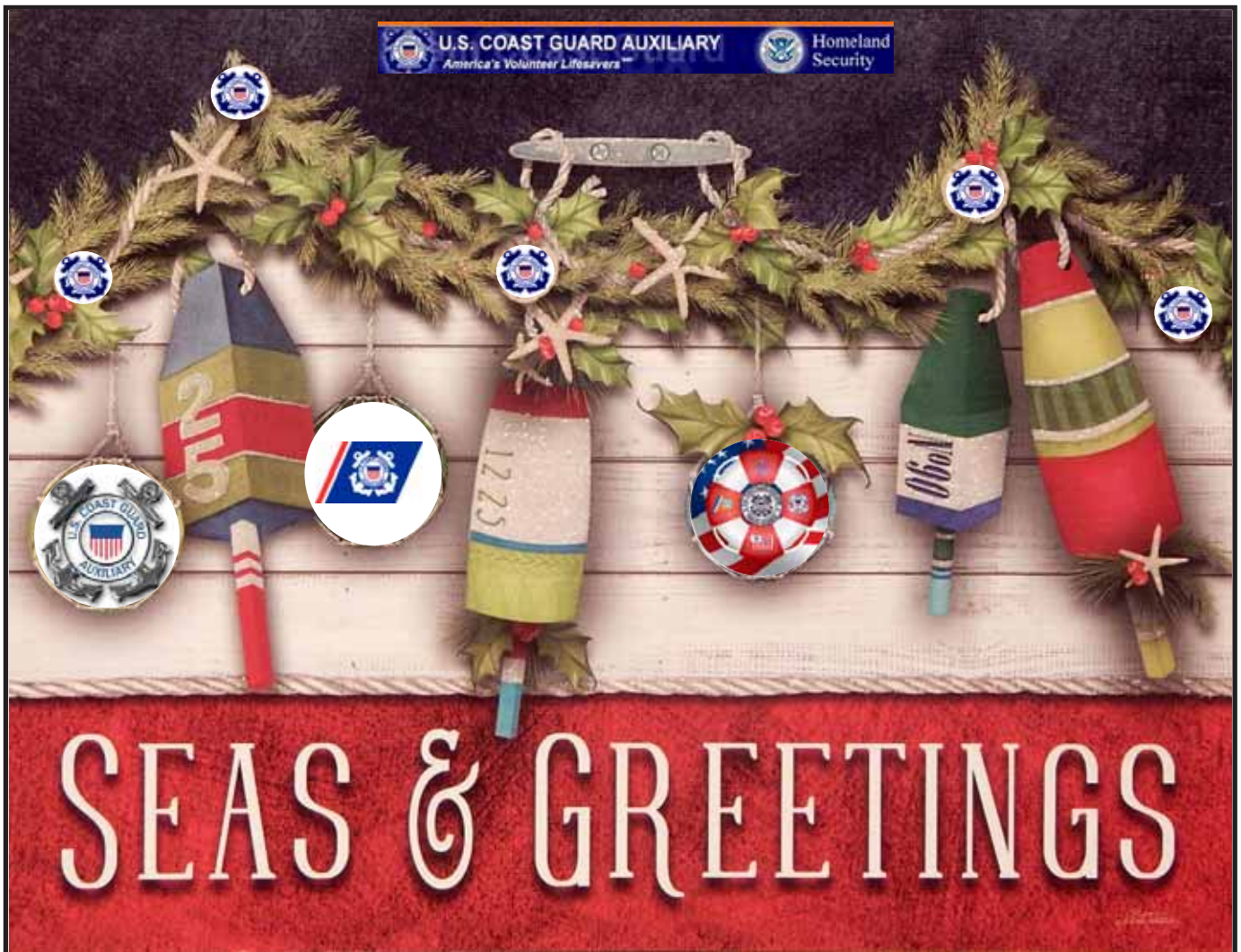
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2017

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CALLAO, VA

Erik Amato FSO-PB



*May the peace and beauty of this Christmas season be
with you and your loved ones throughout the coming year*



Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

My monthly article submissions to the *Advocate* have never been easy but this one is particularly difficult and there are several reasons why.

In no particular order – we have lost a proud member and friend, we have a retiree in Hospice Care, this is my last contribution as the Flotilla Commander and this may well be our last *Advocate* Newsletter. On each of these I pause to reflect, take a deep breath and go forward.

Our Change of Watch is a time for reflection and change. We reflect on what we have done for the past year and plan on what we will do in the coming year. New leadership gives us the opportunities to look at things differently. What have we done well in the past, what needs our attention, what can be changed, what can be improved upon and where are our new members going to be found? The old adage of “the only constant in life is change” is well reflected in these two paragraphs.

I will reflect on the total year in my December Flotilla Commander's report but please know I am proud of each member and what they have contributed to the community, to the Auxiliary, to Flotilla 3-10 and to each of our fellow members. We are truly a TEAM. I so enjoy getting everyone together at our March Pot Luck Dinner, our annual Picnic and the Change of Watch because we include our significant others. Without the support of our significant other where would we be and what would we be doing? In 2017 we pledged to do a job and for the most part we did exactly that. Could we have done better in some areas? Certainly but we were successful and safe for the year and when you consider the number of miles we have all driven, the number of hours spent on the water and the many tasks we have performed we can be proud. My thanks and admiration to each and every one of you.

On behalf of my Admiral and myself I wish everyone a very Safe and Happy Holiday Season. We hope Santa will visit all with Health and Good Will and maybe a gift or two. We hope 2018 will be another safe and productive year for you and your families. Most of all we look forward to seeing everyone next year at our Flotilla events.

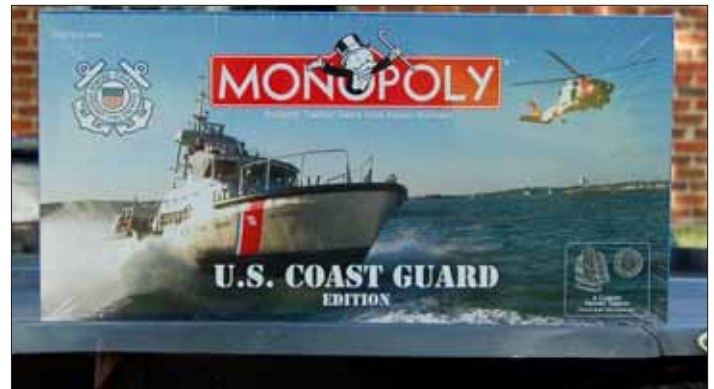
Respect and Regards,

Ed



DID YOU KNOW!

Did you know that you can purchase a **MONOPOLY** board game designed for/by the Coast Guard. Looks like a lot of fun!



CARROLL BARRACK PASSES THE BAR

A TRIBUTE TO A SHIPMATE



I got a text message on Tuesday morning from Fred Woodard clearly stating that Carroll Barrack had passed in the night. Of course knowing of Carole Riley's situation I read Carole. Then I reread the message and lost my breath. **Shock? Dismay? Disbelief?** That and then some.

As we age and our friends do too it is inevitable we will lose friends and shipmates but that does not lessen the pain. I think we should take a minute to grieve.....Ok time is up. Now let's celebrate the life we have lost.

Carroll loved to teach boating safety. His goal was to save as many people as he could never knowing who he may have saved. Carroll, Fred Woodard and Alvin Lynn had for some time taught the Kids N Water safety class in Essex County. I asked one day why not other area schools and they jumped on the idea. Carroll loved teaching the kids. He was a gruff looking presenter but the kids listened and learned. I always thought of him as a grandfather teaching his own kids and the kids loved to learn from him. We will never know how many lives he saved by reaching out to those kids. When I spoke with his wife Mary yesterday I told her all the kids he taught will miss him the most and not even know it.

Can you think of Coastie and not think of Carroll? I cannot. He would sit under the tent at "Rivahfest" and banter with the kids and parents through Coastie, as they walked by. He was in his element. I learned another thing you best **not** do is challenge his knowledge of the boating safety materials. He knew it and would quote chapter and verse in a heartbeat.

I challenge everyone to remember Carroll in your own way but one thing will always stand out for me. In October I announced to the membership, via email, the fact that I was putting my name in for VCDR. It took Carroll little time to reply "I am surprised!!! I am more ecstatic that you would consider the opportunity. GO FOR IT. You have my full support." To me that very short reply is priceless.

Thornton Wilder was once quoted as saying "THE HIGHEST TRIBUTE TO THE DEAD IS NOT GRIEF BUT GRATITUDE." Thank you my dear friend and smooth sailing.

Ed



Thank You Flotilla 3-10, It's been a pleasure to serve you and the flotilla as your Publication Officer and editor of the **ADVOCATE** Newsletter.

After 24 consecutive issues, many articles, stories, photos and countless keystrokes it's time for me to step down and let someone else step up to carry the boating safety message and showcase the great things the members of this flotilla do for the Community, the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.

Erik Amato FSO-PB 3-10

A FINE AUXILIARIST, GENTLEMAN AND GOOD FRIEND



The following are a few recollections of a fine Auxiliarist, gentleman and good friend.

Soon after I purchased a house in the Maryfield, VA development, I became aware that 3 of my neighbors were members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. One in particular, Carroll Barrack, mentioned to me several times that it was a great organization and while the nearest Flotilla met in Callao, VA they were forming a sub-group (Detachment) in Tappahannock, VA and if it got enough members might become a Flotilla.

Alvin Lynn, Dick Flaherty and Carroll Barrack were the only current members of the group. The three of them convinced me to attend a meeting, take a boating safety class and then to fill out an application for membership. For better or for worse Carroll was responsible for me becoming a member of Flotilla 3-10.

It was my observation that Carroll found that being a Boating Safety Instructor very fulfilling. His qualifications as Crew, Vessel Examiner and Instructor combined with his passion for boating safety made him an effective instructor. I enjoyed working with him and soon became qualified to join in.

I think Carroll found serving as Crew a satisfying experience and he seemed to particularly enjoy going out with Charlie Thomas on his boat. As Carroll's health declined and he felt that his presence might jeopardize the mission, he reluctantly withdrew from this mission but he continued to participate in the

Recreational Boating Safety mission.

For Carroll, there were three basic elements to the Recreational Boating Safety mission:

The **ABS Boating Safety Classes** that resulted in the state issued Boaters card and is focused on saving lives.

The **Public Awareness Activities**. This is where he reached out to deliver the boating safety message by piloting "Coastie" at Rivahfest and other local events. One of my memories of Carroll will be the smile he had as "Coastie" bantered with children and always asked "Do you always wear a life jacket". The approach to adults was "Let's talk about boating safety. Have you taken a boating safety class?"



The **Water Safety Program** for young elementary school students. I came to understand that this was his greatest passion. The program we used was an extension of the "Wear It" message using "Coastie" to deliver that message. The program started at one school and grew to 10. Sometimes doing 100 or more students at a time.

The hundreds of adults and more importantly, the hundreds of children who have been introduced to safety on the water, will be part of his legacy along with his kind, helpful, friendly demeanor.

Fred Woodard FSO-PE 3-10



(l to r) Fred Woodard, Alvin Lynn and Carroll Barrack at a local elementary school teaching Water N Kids safety class

FLOTILLA 3-10'S VSC CHAMPION



Gary Palsgrove VFC elect 3-10

PERSISTENCE is only one of the many words we could use to describe Gary Palsgroves tenacity and dedication to our Vessel Safety Check RBS mission.

Beginning in 2004 and continuing each successive year, Gary has accumulated a total of one thousand three hundred and thirteen (1,313) Vessel Safety Checks. His lowest annual VSC count was 39 and increased steadily through 2017, where he achieved his highest annual count of 198 vessels inspected.

A superior accomplishment, and one that we should all be proud of, having this level of RBS leadership within our flotilla.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY INFLATION – THEY ARE STILL FREE

In 1947 when the Courtesy Marine Examination program began, and eventually evolved into today's Vessel Safety Check program, \$10.00 had about the same buying power that \$92.81 has today. And while the cost of everything has gone up, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary can proudly proclaim one thing definitely has not – our **FREE** Vessel Safety Checks. Although free, the value of the life that may be saved by taking advantage of a Vessel Safety Check is priceless.

We now stand at the end of 2017, saying goodbye to a few old friends and shipmates, enjoying our Change of Watch, selecting new staff officers and begin preparing for 2018 and the challenges ahead. Before

we know it Memorial Day weekend (the traditional start of the recreational boating season) will be just around the corner. **NOW** is a great time to begin making plans and continue to remind boaters to take advantage of a free Vessel Safety Check.



It is also a perfect time to remind boaters to take advantage of one of the many boating safety courses offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, both on-line and in the classroom. In addition, the ideal time of year to become acquainted or even reacquainted with basic boating skills, seamanship and the most current rules and regulations that may also save a life or prevent an accident.



DIGGING INTO OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES-REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS



NATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD - 2004

Then Flotilla Commander 3-10 Joe Riley receiving a National Public Affairs Award (2004) at a District Conference. Fifth Southern Commodore Joe Hendricks (r), Joe Riley (c) and a National Rear Commodore-East name unknown



AUXILIARY MEDAL OF OPERATIONAL MERIT (2011)

Presented to Monica C. Benton for outstanding operational performance on 28 June 2010 as crew aboard OPFAC 29064, assisting kayakers in the water in adverse weather conditions. District Commander RADM W. Dean Lee making the presentation, COMO Robert J. Birrane, Sr. assists

DIGGING INTO OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES-REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS



(l to r) Gary Palsgrove CXN, Don Chamberlain and Ollie Knight wrestle a 20 foot pointed piling from the Potomac River, securing it to a waterman's gill net structure for future use.

A serious hazard to navigation secured



Coast Guard CAPT Edward Gibbons, acting Fifth District Chief of Staff, presents Elsie Tolnitch a Letter of Commendation from RADM W. Dean Lee, USCG Fifth District Commander

Elsie Tolnitch was a charter member of Flotilla 3-10

DIGGING INTO OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES-REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS



NATIONAL BEST DISTRICT PUBLICATION

Presenting the Award for Best Auxiliary Publication in the Nation—1989
to *BLINKER* editor Erik Amato is CAPT Bob Melvin (l) and
Rene DeBois National Rear Commodore-East (r)



Photo of District Leadership, late 1980's – (l to r) John Davison— Division Captain III, Ken
McIntyer— Division Captain IX , James Smith—Rear Commodore Central Area, and Bob
Platt (CAPT USCG ret) District Administrative Aid

DIGGING INTO OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES-REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS



BEST DIVISION PUBLICATION - 1988 *THE PORTHOLE* Division III Pim Baker (Montgomery) editor, receives the award from COMO Gerard Dobrindt



Joe Riley receiving **OPERATIONAL MERIT AWARD** (2009), from COMO AI DeJean and RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara

RECALLING A PAST SURFACE PATROL

For quite awhile I had been looking forward to spending some patrol time from my newly adopted flotilla in Callao, VA. My schedule finally opened up on August 17th, and Gary Palsgrove FC 3-10 graciously invited me along on what was to be a routine Potomac River safety patrol.



The other crew members for the patrol were Don Chamberlain and Jack O'Neil, both from 3-10. Having spent most of my 20 Coxswain years patrolling on Lake Anna and Smith Mountain Lake, this was an exciting day for me, getting more familiar with the area I normally boat in.

The patrol day began as most do – meet the crew and CXN, ready the boat, pre-underway check-offs, set GAR risk level and check in with Station St. Inigoes, set the watches and get underway.

The initial plan was to patrol south from our departure point, and bring me up to speed with various creeks, inlets and marinas. About two hours into the patrol we received a phone call from Charlie Thomas FSO-AN 3-10, reporting that he had received a request for photographs of a non-charted small harbor entrance and community on the Maryland side of the Potomac River.

After receiving information on the photo mission objectives and the approximate location of the inlet, we plotted a course that would take us just north of the Piney Point fuel terminal. Being this harbor inlet was not on any charts or navigation software, finding it's exact location took the observations skills of all onboard. Once located, our objective was to document the exact coordinates of the entrance, photograph the entrance detail, including markers, depths as we travelled through the channel, logging all information.

This information was later transferred, along with digital photo images to Charlie Thomas, to be pushed up the the chain, where the updating process would take place.

After our photo session, data logging and tour of the community harbor, we continued our patrol with the



objective of moving south again to Station St. Inigoes to further my knowledge of the AOR. As we moved from the Potomac River into St. Georges Creek we came upon a vessel with major engine problems. After a brief exchange with the boater, we contacted Station St. Inigoes and were issued a case number, and we took the 17-foot runabout into a stern tow, and proceeded to the headwaters of St. Georges Creek and the boaters marina dock.



17 foot runabout in a stern tow on St. Georges Creek

Once the distressed vessel was secure, our patrol time frame was nearing it's end, so we cancelled our agenda to stop at Station St. Inigoes and proceed north back to our patrol facility's home dock.

When the facility was secure, the entire crew participated in a debriefing session, with full consensus that all had gone well, our risk level was always at an acceptable level, and that we provided a valuable service to the boating public, the Coast Guard and to NOAA. In addition, I had gained valuable local information for future patrols in the area, and the fellowship and camaraderie was outstanding.

HAVING FUN . . .

SERVING THE U.S. COAST GUARD and

THE RECREATIONAL BOATING PUBLIC



Memory of past Operational Patrols, Jerry Zaccaria (l) and Erik Amato CXN (both from Flotilla 82) providing a spectator safety zone during a wake board competition at Smith Mountain Lake, 2007

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

(Editor's 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 Montgomery |