

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

5
S R

CALLAO, VA



July • 2017 • Erik Amato FSO-PB



photo by Erik Amato

The Francis Scott Key Star Spangled Buoy, which is maintained by Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay, has been placed in the Patapsco River each year since 1914 by the US Coast Guard to mark the approximate spot where writer and poet Francis Scott Key viewed the massive bombardment of the port of Baltimore and Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814.

A UNIQUE BUOY REMINDS US OF A SPECIAL TIME IN OUR NATIONS HISTORY

The stars and stripes of the American flag are painted on the “Francis Scott Key” buoy, which is now bobbing up and down in the Patapsco River. It marks the spot, where 203 years ago, Key was inspired to pen, what was later to become, the national anthem. The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter James Rankin, homeported at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, ceremoniously set the buoy there to continue a tradition that dates back to 1914.

The buoy doesn't serve any navigational purposes, but rather, it is a reminder of an important moment in the nation's collective history.



“The Star-Spangled Banner is America's pride,” said Scott Sheads, a National Park Service Ranger and historian at Fort McHenry. “It was the first time anyone wrote down what the flag represented to the country.”

On Sept. 14, 1814, Key was a prominent Georgetown attorney, and he was aboard a flag-of-truce vessel, trying to secure the release of William Beanes, a Maryland doctor imprisoned by the British for arresting English soldiers near his home. It was then that 25 British ships began their bombardment of the port of Baltimore and Fort McHenry. Through the night, Key witnessed cannon and gunfire pummeling the fort, and, when he saw the flag still flying at dawn in an unbeaten defiance, he immortalized the scene in a four-verse poem.

Originally titled “Defence of Fort M'Henry” by Key's brother-in-law, a commander of a militia at Fort McHenry, the Star-Spangled Banner was printed and distributed to Fort McHenry soldiers, and later published in Baltimore newspapers. Sheads said, by

the end of 1814, the song had reached every newspaper throughout the country.

Key set the words to the tune of an old English song written by John Stafford Smith called “To Anacreon in Heaven,” and in 1931, it officially became the national anthem.

“From then on the flag became a treasure,” said Sheads.

“The buoy is a landmark for many sailors and recreational boaters in the summer and fall months,” said Lt. Ashley Crouch, commanding officer of the James Rankin. “Many harbor cruise tourist companies use the buoy as one of their attractions.”

The buoy drop is just one of several events to commemorate the anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner and the end of the War of 1812, which Sheads said was the real end of the American Revolution.



The Coast Guard will remove the buoy in the fall to protect it from the ice and winds of the harsh Northeast winter and set it again the following spring.

“I am honored to be part of this long tradition of commemorating the spirit of Baltimore's fighting citizens and our National Anthem with the Francis Scott Key Buoy, and I hope the Coast Guard continues to be involved in this historic event for the next 100 years, too,” said Crouch.



Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

My Admiral and I were at the river for the weekend of the 4th of July hoping some fireworks would be set off on Saturday night. The 4th being on a Tuesday meant the Admiral had duty on Monday so this was our only opportunity. We set

up chairs in the yard and practiced our “ooooo’s” and “aaahhhh’s” in preparation of the big show. If you were on the Potomac on Saturday you know what happened next. If you weren’t the Good Lord decided to put on his own fireworks show. It boomed, it flashed and it rained so we retreated to the porch and watched what he had in store for us. The colors were not as pretty as our anticipated fireworks but it was still quite a show.

Brenda and I got to talking about the 4th and the fact the year is now half over. Where did it go? We talked about the fact it is now time for the nettles to come in. It is also time for it to get hot. We talked about her pending retirement, our planned Panama Canal Cruise and starting our Christmas shopping. We talked about the fact the family is growing up and it is now more difficult to get them all together. We talked about our lives together, we just celebrated anniversary number 7, and how things have changed for us. Bottom line we shared this time together.

In my now seven years of marriage to My Admiral I have been a member of the Auxiliary for five of them. Where would I be without her but also what would I have done without the Auxiliary?

I think I am a better person for having joined. I am certainly a better and more skilled boater. I have met outstanding people who have taken an interest in me and helped me learn much about many things. I hope others might say the same of me. If the year is half over that also means the Auxiliary year is half over. I pledged to all in December last year that I would give my full efforts to be the best Flotilla Commander I could be. I can look myself in the

mirror and be satisfied with what we have and are doing as a TEAM. My thanks to all of you.

If the year is half over that means there is still half to go. Our Auxiliary jobs are not over yet and as we all know our job is never over it just seems to recycle. Please evaluate what has been done around you as well as what you have done. More importantly evaluate what future service you might want to consider. Now is the time to plan for next year and beyond. It is a fact that “he who fails to plan plans to fail.” Let us plan together for the future of Flotilla 3-10 and how we can continue to serve the Coast Guard, our community and the recreational boating public.

Ed

ICS 200 COMPLETION



Andy Baltins VFC (right) receives his ICS 200 Course completion certificate from Ed Gray FC 3-10

SPOTLIGHT: BOATING FUN • ADVENTURE ON THE WATER

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary boating courses provide instruction to boaters at all levels, from the fundamental to the advanced. Classes are taught by experienced and knowledgeable instructors committed to the highest standards of the U.S. Coast Guard. For several years members of Flotilla 3-10 have been traveling around the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula of Virginia, sharing the **“WEAR IT”** message. The primary vehicle used to deliver this message is a Program titled **“Boating Fun - Adventure on the Water”**.



The story line is that a brother and sister are taking a boat trip with their aunt Wendy. This provides a opportunity to provide boating safety tips and lessons.

Learning objectives are:

1. Learn to swim.
2. Always swim with a buddy, never alone.
3. Always swim where there is adult supervision.

4. When riding in a boat, wear a properly fitted, brightly colored, Coast Guard approved Lifejacket.

5. When riding in a boat, watch for things in the water that the boat could hit.

This year the program was presented to:

King William County	Cool Springs Primary	142
New Kent County	George Watkins Elem.	214
K & Q County	King and Queen Elem.	25
Westmoreland County	Cople Elementary	123
Westmoreland County	Washington District	129
Richmond County	Richmond County Elem.	100
Northumberland County	Northumberland Elem.	90
Essex County	Tappahannock Elem.	96
Private	Aylett County Day School	8
Total Students		927

The star of the presentation is none other than, the wonderful Ambassador for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Coast Guard, Coastie The Safety Boat. At The end of each segment Coastie appears with a loud Siren and flashing lights, and declares things like “Coastie Says “reach or throw but never go” or “Stay with the boat”.



During the presentation the room is decorated with Life jackets of all types and the students often ask to put them on. At the end of the slide presentation the teachers select 2 students each to gather in the front and select a life jacket to put on. There is a discussion regarding why one should wear a life jacket while boating. The students answers include “because we don't know how to swim, because we might fall out, because the boat might roll over, etc.” once the jackets are on there is conversation about how a life jacket should fit.



Almost always a small child will put on a large life jacket providing an opportunity to lift at shoulders and show how the child can slip through it. This draws good natured laughter from the group. They are always shown how it should be fitted correctly. They are told about wearing a jacket that is a bright color like yellow or orange (rather than a dark color) so that it can be seen in the water.

At the close of the presentation the teachers are provided material useful for follow up activities. The **Boating Fun - Adventure on the Water** activity book

SAFETY • BOATING FUN• ADVENTURE ON THE WATER (cont)

is provided when and if available. (It has not been this year and a digital version is provided).



Inky the whale coloring books (This is a true story about a Pygmy Sperm Whale that was stranded on the US coastline in 1993. Her belly was full of plastic bags, a result of human pollution).

This year the AquaSMART activity book has been provided.



This is from . . .

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
California Natural Resources Agency
California State Parks
Division of Boating and Waterways
www.dbw.parks.ca.gov

. . . and is available to Partners /Members of the boating community who distribute large quantities of boating information to the public including Law Enforcement and the USCG Auxiliary.

In it animated characters – **Splasher, Diver and Surfer** – guide students through ten lessons on how to be safe in and around the water. The AquaSMART Stunt Dummies, Joe and Charlie, show what can happen if you don't follow the water safety rules. These 10 lessons on water and boating safety help young students develop safety habits to practice when enjoying water activities. (Available in English & Spanish).



Fred Woodard FSO-PE 3-10

FLOTILLA AUGUST CALENDAR

All Month Complete all reports due, plan Summer VSC and RBS events

August

21 - Flotilla Picnic @ Charlie Thomas Home, 1700

26 - ABS Class (Boating Safety), Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Callao, VA 0900-1600

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

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

AID VERIFIERS STRUGGLE TO GET OUT OF REYR

Six of Flotilla 3-10's Navigation Aid Verifiers and about 60% of AV's in the Division went into REYR in February of this year.

To become recertified, current members who were participating in the program – among other things – must now pass the new AV-PQS based on a 57 page

ATON study guide, and be signed off on 70 some odd tasks by an AV-PQS verifier. The tasks are spelled out in a separate 20 page document.

Meanwhile there are many discrepant Aids to Navigation within our AOR waiting for our members to return to the mission.



Several of the Aid Verifier study group (l to r) Eric Perkins, Ollie Knight, Charlie Thomas and Gary Palsgrove (not photographed - Glen Thomason and Joe Riley) at the home of Charlie Thomas



Navigation Aids in Flotilla 3-10's AOR needing attention and service



WATCH YOUR TOES!!



These two Bull Sharks were caught in a net by Maryland Department of Fishery workers at the Point Lookout State Park where the Potomac River meets the Chesapeake Bay. They were approximately 200 yards from a popular swimming spot.

From the "Predator Tackle" web blog

NEW FLOTILLA 3-10 VE



David DeGrazia (l) receives his certification being the newest qualified Vessel Examiner in the Flotilla from Ed Gray FC

ANCHORING TUTORIAL

TIDE AND ANCHOR SWING

The effect of tide upon anchor swing is another one of those surprising results that many people don't think about. Let's assume the tide swing is 10 feet. If you anchor at dead low tide, it sure feels like you should move 10 feet closer to your anchor at high tide, right? OK, maybe 8 feet instead?

Those feelings aren't even close. Tide has surprisingly little effect on your swing. It's easy to show using real numbers and the Pythagorean theorem to measure the changes to the triangle at low and high tide.

Using some real numbers, let's say we're anchoring in 10 feet of water at low tide and your rode is attached to the boat 5 feet off the water line. You put out 75 feet of rode. That makes a triangle with a side of 15 feet and a hypotenuse of 75 feet. Solving for the distance along the sea floor from the anchor to your bow gives 73.48 feet. That's how far your bow is from the anchor when fully pulled back at low tide.

Fast forward to high tide and you're now in 25 feet of water. Solving for the distance along the sea floor gives 71.71 feet.

So the difference with 10 feet of tide is a whopping 1.77 feet. That feels all wrong but it's right. Tide has very little effect on changes to swing distance.

But...

Tide can have a big effect on scope. And scope provides confidence in the anchor set and the amount of force you can withstand before dragging.

At low tide in this situation, your scope would be 75:15 or 5:1 which is a pretty good scope for the night.

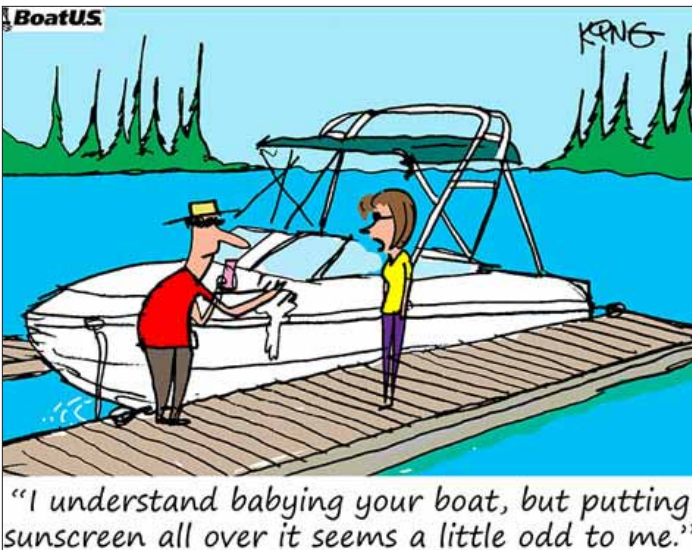
Now switch to high tide and you're at 75:25 or 3:1 which is significantly less and might not hold if the wind comes up.

So when anchoring, ignore the swing effect of tide but always consider the reduced scope you'll experience at high tide.

Reprinted with permission from ACTIVE CAPTAIN



REMEMBER . . .
STAY PREPARED –
IT'S HURRICANE
SEASON!



"I understand babying your boat, but putting sunscreen all over it seems a little odd to me."

SAFE BOATS SAVE LIVES



give me



*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**

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE COAST GUARD HAS A CANINE CORPS?



FLOAT PLANS ARE ALWAYS IMPORTANT



photo from BoatTest.com web site

It doesn't matter what type of boat you have - large, small, sail or power, filing a float plan is an important aspect of safe boating.

Especially if you have youngsters wanting to spread their wings and experience a little more independence on the water with exploring new places and adventure the young are so good at pursuing.

It's prudent to insist that anyone in your family venturing out onto the waterways leave a float plan with you or some other designated family member.

HAVING FUN . . .



SERVING THE U.S. COAST GUARD and

THE RECREATIONAL BOATING PUBLIC



Pirates patrolling the Yeocomico River

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
Camaraderie Captain	Pim Montgomery