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BOATING SAFETY

ADVOCATE

Newsletter



FLOTILLA 3-10

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CALLAO, VA



June • 2017 • Erik Amato FSO-PB



Flotilla 3-10 is Honored by inclusion in Riverside Tappahannock Hospital's Tribute to First Responders. Representing Flotilla 3-10 are (l to r) Phil Landry, Ed Gray and Charlie Thomas Coxswain, beside Charlie's Operational Facility. This photograph will hang in the Emergency Room area of the Riverside Tappahannock Hospital along with many other Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula Virginia First Responder photographs. Quite an honor!

FLOTILLA 3-10 HONORED BY INCLUSION IN “FIRST RESPONDERS” PHOTO DISPLAY AT TAPPAHANNOCK RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL

This event started somewhat by surprise when I received an email from Jackie Nunnery on 17 February at the Riverside Tappahannock Hospital, stating that she obtained my contact information from a copy of our ADVOCATE newsletter (she never did tell me how she found a copy, perhaps online). Her email was asking if our Flotilla would like to participate in a project she was putting together for the hospital recognizing “First Responders”.



Professional photographer Mike Taylor capturing images of Flotilla 3-10 OPS crew and facility

Jackie sent along additional information of a similar project that had been done at the parent Riverside Newport News hospital as background information. As you know we follow a preset “chain of communication and command”, and after a little preliminary research I sent all the information to our Flotilla Commander Ed Gray the following day. Ed followed up with numerous phone “tag” calls until he was able to set up a meeting at the hospital on 28 February with Jackie to get the full scope of the project and our possible involvement. The project images were to be handled by a professional contract photographer Mike Taylor.

The following day, Mike Taylor contacted Ed, discussed his “vision”, which would be: near the end of the day, at the dock, with several crew members standing by a boat. Two dates were tentatively set, 15 March or 5 April. The earlier date was selected, only to be canceled by threat of high winds, cold temperatures and snow. As we know, early spring can be challenging when trying to plan outside activities.

The fall back date of 5 April was a go, even though the day was dark, cloudy and windy, the photographer



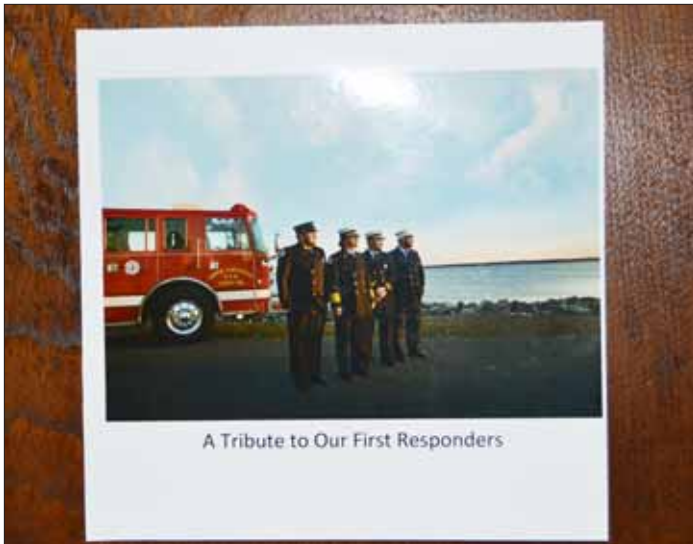
Hospital spokespersons and photographer Mike Taylor spoke to the large crowd of attendees at the unveiling and reception

was able to get the pictures he wanted. Charlie Thomas as coxswain provided his facility, and Phil Landry and Ed Gray filled the slots as crew. The results are now in the history books, and the photo selected hangs in the Emergency Room at the Riverside Tappahannock Hospital, where doctors, nurses, patients and families all interact with various “first responders” as their needs are being taken care of.



Flotilla 3-10 member Phil Landry viewing the displayed photograph at the unveiling reception

FLOTILLA 3-10 HONORED AS A “FIRST RESPONDER” (cont)



A commemorative “Tribute to Our First Responders” booklet was presented to all participants and many of the guests attending the reception. Flotilla 3-10 shares a two-page spread with Smith Point Sea Rescue, another local well known organization which self supports 3 rescue boats on the Chesapeake and promotes boating safety

On 6 April, Ed communicated with Jackie Nunnery confirming that the photo “shoot” was complete, and Jackie extended a verbal invitation to attend the special unveiling event planned for 24 May 2017. On 3 May Ed received a “formal” invitation, which Ed, Charlie and Phil responded to.

The unveiling event date finally arrived with our three OPS members attending. There were presentations by hospital representatives along with comments by Mike Taylor the photographer. The multiple “First Responder” pictures were unveiled as they hung throughout the reception area. There was ample finger food snacks, gift book presentation to each participating unit along with an 8 x 10 photo of the unit as displayed at the event.

Quite an honor for ALL members of Flotilla 3-10.

You've seen first responders before.
But never like this.

Join us as we view our first responders in a whole new light.

You are cordially invited to a “special photographic exhibit” honoring the men and women who provide first responder services in our region. This collection of powerful images is part of our appreciation and support for all first responders and gives us a special look into their world.

**Wednesday, May 24, 5:30 p.m.
at Riverside Tappahannock Hospital**

Short program to begin at 6 p.m.
618 Hospital Road, Tappahannock

Refreshments & heavy appetizers will be served.

RSVP at riversideonline.com/rxvp
or call 804-443-6015 by May 19, 2017.

RIVERSIDE
Tappahannock Hospital



Flotilla 3-10's photo as it hangs today in the Emergency Room right beside a life saving “crash cart”



Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

Brenda and I were asked to babysit our 5 year old granddaughter, Mackenzie, over an early June weekend and we looked for something to do to entertain her. With Bobby Powell swimming down the Potomac and our facilities helping out

on patrol it presented an opportunity to see him swim, and use the boat to entertain her. Gary Palsgrove, the coxswain on the patrol, was great in giving me an estimate of where I could find them on Saturday morning. Mackenzie and I sat down Friday night and plotted our course. Saturday (6/10) was beautiful and Mackenzie was up and ready to go early. With my expert seamanship, Mackenzie's navigation abilities and a working GPS we had no problem finding the swimmer. We communicated by radio with Gary and Don Chamberlain and Mackenzie had a million questions about what was going on. This became a USCG Auxiliary recruiting trip for me and Mackenzie was fascinated.

We coasted by the swimmer and discussed what Gary and Don were doing. Mackenzie asked why they did it. Easy answer: with Gary and Don, they love the water, they have a true dedication to task and it needed to be done. She was impressed. She stated she would like to do that some day and said "they are good guys, aren't they?" Yes they certainly are. I knew the "excitement" of floating near a swimmer, at his/her speed. I understood the dedication it took to do that job on such a beautiful Saturday when anything or everything else was beckoning.

Needless to say Mackenzie got bored so we waved farewell to all and blasted down the river. The water was smooth as glass and Mackenzie's hair was blowing and she said it was the best day in her whole life. I figured I had at least 1 USCG Auxiliary recruiting hour booked. Give her 12 years and she would be a member.

We came back to the marina, put the boat to bed, had lunch, worked in the yard, played and we all took naps.

At 1600 we went to a neighbor's for happy hour and while sitting on the porch I pointed out Gary and Don coming into the marina for fuel at the end of their mission. I told Mackenzie it was the same men we saw in the morning and she said "they have been out there all day, why?" "Well dear, that was the job." She asked if they got tired or bored or hungry or thirsty or hot and I explained yes they did but they were doing a necessary mission for the USCG Auxiliary. She asked if I did those things and I said yes as well. She smiled at me and said "I don't think I want to do that" and went on about her business. I gave back my recruiting hour.



Ed's granddaughter Mackenzie intently watching the Auxiliary activity assuring the safety of Bob Powell as he swims the Potomac River

We do these jobs because they need to be done, we truly enjoy doing them and we volunteer to work as needed. Gary and Don get the credit for this day but others were involved as well. Thank you Gary and Don for a job well done. You entertained a 5 year old along with doing a very important task. Mackenzie, Brenda and I salute everyone who steps up and does something that needs to be done.

Ed





Andy Baltins Flotilla Vice Commander

In a recent conversation with Ed Gray our Flotilla Commander, speaking of proper uniforms and the proper wearing of the uniform brought to mind The United States Marines. No one will ever dispute their motto or their relationships with one another. Phrases such as, Once a Marine, always a Marine. Sprit de Corps, all are rooted deep in the Battle Cry of the Republic.

Hoorah! What does one have to do with the other you may ask? Many years ago I was invited to a Marine Wedding in Virginia Beach. We were there for the entire weekend. I witnessed about 12 Marines spend several hours preparing for and dressing in their Dress Blue uniforms. During that time they

helped one another, critiquing to be sure everyone was 100% correct. No one was upset that they had been corrected on this or that, but everyone sought each other's advice. Fully dressed to the "T" as they entered the banquet hall, without any exaggeration, several young ladies collapsed to the floor amid the gasps and shouts!

The chain is only as strong as its weakest link, came to mind. Not that we are fresh recruits just out of Advanced Individual Training. But, we are not so old not to accept and ask for critique from our fellow Coast Guard Auxiliary Members. Semper Fidelis is not to distant from Semper Paratus. We need to remember, we are all one and one for all! We should wear which ever uniform is prescribed for our mission, proudly and correctly. Semper Paratus.

Andy

FLOTILLA JULY CALENDAR

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

July

17 - Flotilla Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Callao, VA

24 - ABS Class (Boating Safety), Montross, VA, 0900-1600

30 - FSO Reports and Calendar additions due

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

LOCAL MARINA IN FLOTILLA 3-10's AOR CHANGES HANDS



In the past month, the owners of Port Kinsale Marina in Kinsale, VA, just off of the Yeocomico River, gifted the title of the marina property to Christopher Newport University. It will operate under the business name Westmoreland Marina Company, and as of now will retain it's operating name as Port Kinsale Marina.

A shop/yard manager and office manager remain. No future plans have been announced, and the restaurant remains closed.

FLOTILLA 3-10 MAINTAINING THE GUARD ON THE POTOMAC RIVER

Everyday across our beautiful nation soldiers and veterans quietly deal with PTSD and contemplation of suicide. These brave service men and women served so that we can enjoy our freedom. It's time to give back. Bobby "Boog" Powell will be doing just that by swimming 220 miles down the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. This 220 miles represents the estimated 22 veterans we lose each day to suicide. So Please join us with encouragement, participation and donations to aid in Bobby's journey.

The Fitch Foundation



Bobby "Boog" Powell stroking his way across the Potomac River

In the Middle and Lower portions of the Potomac, Bobby "Boog" Powell, a retired Navy Rescue Swimmer, plied his way from Colonial Beach, VA across the Potomac River to Colton Point, MD, then



Bobby Powell's dedicated escort kayak paddler Travis Reep

down the Potomac to Piney Point, on to Point Lookout and then back across the mouth of the Potomac to Smith Point, VA on the edge of the Chesapeake Bay. Fl 33 from Kilmarnock, VA took the hand-off from Fl 3-10 at Smith Point.



Powell taking a rest onboard one the the AUX facilities with Phil Landry (l) and Julian Evely (r)

Colonial Beach to Smith Point, VA

Members of two Divisions in the Middle and Lower Potomac River maintained guard over the "Cross Country Swimmer" as he made his way from the Pentagon to Norfolk. It was planned to take 15 days to swim the 220 mile course from the Pentagon to Norfolk. This swim was "in-training" for a planned swim from Denver to New Orleans in 2018 to raise more awareness to active duty and veteran suicide issues and prevention awareness.



MORE 2016 DELAYED AWARDS



AUX Operational Facilities “ghosting” along keeping up with Bobby Powell as he continues to swim the Potomac River

The 52 mile swim in the Middle and Lower Potomac took 4 days -- June 9th through June 12th --and involved four separate Auxiliary Facilities from Flotilla 23-02 and Flotilla 3-10 taking turns on each of the four legs of the journey. James Moore's “Corvina” of Fl 23-02 and Gary Palsgrove's “C-Song”, Charlie Thomas's “Syzygy”, and Julian Everly's “Tee-Time” of Fl 3-10 comprised the “swim flotilla”.



A quick rest break onboard “syzygy” with Charlie Thomas (c) and Ollie Knight (r)



Bobby Powell at the end of one of his “legs”, brought ashore by Don Chamberlain (l) and Gary Palsgrove (r)



Bobby Powell taking an “energy” break onboard Gary Palsgrove’s Operational Facility C-Song

Each day Bobby “Boog” Powell and kayak safety paddler Travis Reep went in the water between 0730 and 0800 and ended at the day's scheduled destination 7-9 hours later. Two Auxiliary boats were required in turn for the longer legs due to having to use some of their own their own “fatigue policy” hours getting to the swimmer's launch site across the Potomac and back to their home ports in either Maryland or Virginia. In total, the Auxiliary devoted twelve members on four boats over four days or a total of 131 hours. Not to mention the many hours of planning and coordinating through emails, phone calls, and marine radio to ensure the integrity and continuity of the guard.



SPRING TRAINING MOVES AHEAD



Joe Riley FSO-OP 3-10 presented the annual 1 hour TCT refresher course to Flotilla 3-10 members Gary Palsgrove, Monica Benton, Andris Baltins, Charlie Thomas, Phil Landry and Ollie Knight in preparation for this seasons activities.



Flotilla 3-10 members Don Chamberlain, Gary Whelan, Karen Whelan, Tom Panther, Julian Everly, Ed Gray, Andris Baltins and Glen Thomason attending the 4 hours TCT class

It's that time of year again—time for Operations members to TEAM up to refresh our awareness of the risks in conducting Surface Operations and the methodologies to assess and minimize those risks. For Crew trainees it is also an opportunity to work alongside seasoned Coxswains and Crew to complete their first exposure to Auxiliary Team Coordination Training (TCT).

Five members of Flotilla 3-10 completed the 1-hour 2017 Refresher TCT session with Gary Palsgrove and Joe Riley as TCT Facilitators. Four days later Gary and Joe facilitated the 4- hour Initial and Recurrent TCT for

five more seasoned members and three Crew trainees.

The “sea stories” in each of the two sessions provided opportunities to stress the importance of the risk assessment methodology to problematic scenarios and the application of the General Assessment of Risk or GAR model. And to discuss alternatives to the way the scenarios played out. They also provided the opportunity to “map” the seven components of Team Coordination to the five elements of the GAR model.

Now, its time to get onto the water and apply lessons learned to our own live scenarios.

Joe Riley FSO-OP 3-10

REPEATING A STRONG RBS MESSAGE



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**

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS REVIEW

This message is intended for all members even though it primarily focuses on Operations.

June 1 marks the beginning of Hurricane Season and a 6 month period of heightened awareness of storm warnings, preparedness measures, and post-storm operations policies. Officially the season ends November 30th .

Preliminary forecasts calls for an expected 11 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher) during this Atlantic hurricane season. Of those, researchers expect four to become hurricanes and two to reach major hurricane strength.

These preliminary forecasts mean that 2017 hurricane activity may be about 85 percent of the average season, but it takes only one to wreak havoc and destroy lives.

Any storm, no matter the category can be devastating –remember Ernesto in our immediate area!!

“Hurricane conditions” define the time before hurricane force winds are expected in a particular area. These are set by the Coast Guard (probably at the Sector level) and might be announced throughout the Auxiliary via the AIM system (via email, telephone, and/or text messages) depending on your recorded preference. Follow-up via the AIM system is even more likely in order to account for members and families. This is mandated by the Coast Guard.

Hurricane conditions established and set by the Coast Guard are:

Hurricane Condition 5 - A seasonal condition automatically set for all Auxiliary Units between June 1- November 30.

Hurricane Condition 4 - The alert condition when hurricane winds are probable to reach landfall within 72 hours.

Hurricane Condition 3 - The readiness condition when hurricane winds are probable within 48 hours.

Hurricane Condition 2 - The warning condition when hurricane winds are probable within 24 hours.

Hurricane Condition 1 - The danger condition when hurricane winds are probable within 12 hours.

Post Hurricane Recovery - The storm is no longer a threat to the area; however, major damage has occurred and recovery operations are required.

Preparedness measures prescribed for Auxiliary Facilities track to the above conditions as follows (also recommended for members boats):

Hurricane Condition 5- Surface facility owners fill and maintain fuel tanks at a minimum capacity of 90%. Fill water tanks to 100%.

Hurricane Condition 4- Check previously determined method of protecting their facilities from possible storm damage. (i.e. consider trailering of boat out of storm area; storing boat on land; mooring in a hurricane hole; remaining in slip with additional lines; etc.)

Hurricane Condition 3- Members who are trailering boats out of the storm area, storing boat on land, or mooring in a hurricane hole should commence necessary action.

Hurricane Condition 2- Members should complete their method of protecting facilities from possible storm damage.

Hurricane Condition 1- Maintain safe conditions for family; keep a weather watch; prepare to assess damage/injury; prepare necessary supplies to include food water, fuel for vehicle, identification as an Auxiliarist, chain saw with oil and fuel to provide assistance to others.

Post Storm Recovery -Ensure the safety of family and property. Maintain readiness at least at Condition 2 until advised to revert to an operational status. For example, at the request of the Coast Guard, verify Aids to Navigation but only if safe conditions permit. Be especially attentive to weather and sea conditions, including floating debris.

As each Hurricane Condition is set by CG authority, absent an AIM alert, the Flotilla Commander advises the membership and similarly advises the Division that the condition has been set in the Flotilla. The Administrative calling Tree may be used to alert and account for members pre- and post-storm.



HAVING FUN . . .



SERVING THE U.S. COAST GUARD and

THE RECREATIONAL BOATING PUBLIC



CXN Gary Palsgrove and Don Chamberlain patrolling in the Potomac 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.Flotella3-10.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