

# BOATING SAFETY **ADVOCATE** Newsletter



FLOTILLA 3-10



CALLAO, VA



October



2017



Erik Amato FSO-PB



## BOATING SAFETY **ADVOCATE** SELECTED

### “BEST FLOTILLA NEWSLETTER - 2016” IN THE DISTRICT

Surprise and Congratulations to the members of Flotilla 3-10 for providing the activity platform and articles for editor Erik Amato FSO-PB to create the award winning publication during 2016.

The ADVOCATE brings forth information *for* and *about* our members and other items that may be of interest to the membership. Bravo Zulu everyone!



Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

**R**ecruiting is the life blood of any organization that wants to grow its membership and its intellectual base. New members bring new ideas and new enthusiasm.

I once had a boss who was always stuck with me was “in order to know where you are going you have to know where you are and how you got here.” That slogan is so true and one that fits new members as well. New members help us look at where we are, consider how we got here and decide where we are going and how we are going to get there.

We are very proud to have 5 NEW members over the last year and most of the credit goes to Gary Palsgrove FSO-HR. He does a great job of talking up our Flotilla. How does he do it? Ask him. I know he would be happy to share his methods.

You might be surprised where potential new members can be found. Recently we were out on a night training patrol when the boat decided to stop working. We anchored, we tried to find the problem to fix it without success and then we called Charlie Thomas to come and tow us back to port. While we were doing all this a boat stopped to offer us help. His first words were “are you playing or do you have problems?” We had problems. Kirk Downing came aboard and offered mechanical assistance and we talked up the Auxiliary. Since that night I have talked with Mr. Downing and I am hopeful he will be at our meeting in October. Sometimes, in a moment of need, a potential new member comes to you.

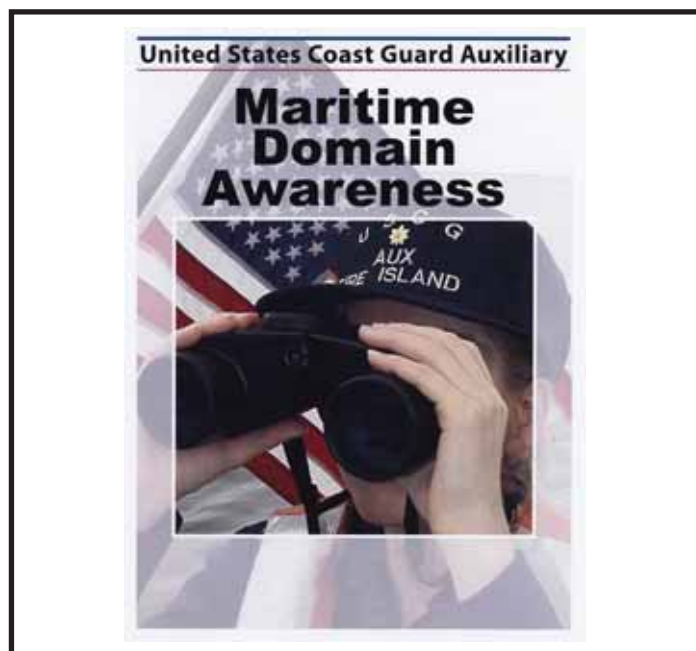
Bottom line here is let's recruit every opportunity that comes our way. Increased membership means more opportunities for all.

President Kennedy once said “ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country.” With Bridge elections coming in November we must ask ourselves a very similar

question. Who is going to be the Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander for 2018? These are two very important positions and positions most of our membership could fill if they would just step forward. It is not that difficult. It does call for some organizational skills, it calls for some planning and it does require a training course that is easily taken on line at your own pace. The only requirement beyond those just mentioned is the willingness to do the job. I will not ask WHO will fill the positions but I will ask “WHY NOT YOU?” Remember - no leadership; no Flotilla.

Our membership is strong and we always work as a TEAM. We are lucky to have a membership that always steps up and gets the job done. Right now is the time to take a deep breath and step up. I promise you will survive, thrive and achieve a great satisfaction of leading such a outstanding group of dedicated Auxiliary members.

*Ed*



## KEEP A VIGILANT WATCH



## AWARDS PRESENTED TO MEMBERS THIS MONTH

### 2017 Operations Awards



These awards are presented to members with outstanding performance in Operational Hours during the year 2017. Gary Palsgrove (l) contributed 42 hours underway, and Charlie Thomas reported 84.8 hours underway for the year. Both received boat hooks for their efforts, presented by Ed Gray FC 3-10



Also receiving recognition for his underway 25.2 Operational Hours was Julian Everly (r), receiving boat fenders for his efforts from Ed Gray FC 3-10

## EXPANDED FELLOWSHIP

When I first joined the USCG Auxiliary I read that "Fellowship" was one of the primary cornerstones of the organization. This had little meaning to me until, shortly after joining I learned that I had throat cancer and would require regularly scheduled radiation treatments.

Caring and Fellowship was the Flotillas immediate response to me when, at the next meeting, the then Flotilla Commander Wayne Ploger, handed me a schedule showing how a variety of Flotilla 3-10 members would be driving me to Richmond for my treatments. That was my introduction to Fellowship Auxiliary style.

Another more recent example of Fellowship took place when seven Flotilla 3-10 members gathered at the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Range in White Stone, VA to do some sport shooting. Included were Don Chamberlain, Julian Everly, Ollie Knight, Phil Landry, Gary Whelan, Ed Kirkly and myself. A

common interest in sport shooting had been uncovered as we talked at various Flotilla functions.

Several hours of pistol and rifle shooting, commonly called "paper punching" took place, and later we discussed our successes and examined each others armament. Sort of like fishermen talking about their days catch, and admiring special lures and rods.

After the "gunsmoke" cleared and all the hardware was secured, the group met up at the Corner Restaurant in Lively, VA to stretch out our "Fellowship" time and perhaps embellish our successes a little.

All other Flotilla Members who might have an interest in shooting and safe firearm handling are invited to make their interest known for future fellowship activities.

Gary Palsgrove FSO-HR



Gary Palsgrove tries out his defense shooting stance



Gary Whelan walking away from punching out a fifty yard "hole" in his target



Ollie Knight contemplates the results of his practice



The fellowship group (l to r) Ed Kirkly, Ollie Knight, Phil Landry, Gary Whelan, and Gary Palsgrove with Julian Everly seated



Don Chamberlain and new member Ed Kirkly try out their relative shooting techniques while Julian Everly reloads



## “HONOR FLIGHT” SELECTS TWO OF OUR MEMBERS

**B**ack in May, Alvin Lynn made a presentation to the Flotilla about *Honor Flight*. It is an organization that honors Veterans for their military service. It is aimed at WW II and Korean Vets but because of the decline in their numbers it has been expanded to Viet Nam vets as well. That is how I qualified.

I took the information from Alvin, sent it off and received an application to attend. I was embarrassed to have never heard of Honor Flight but nothing ventured nothing gained. To my surprise I was invited to participate on October 7. It was a day I will remember forever.

We met at the VFW in Mechanicsville at 0630 where we received our Green Wind Breakers identifying us as the Honored Vets. There was a large crowd that included the Boy Scouts who gave each Vet an American flag, a handshake and a warm thank you. We were assigned Guardians who escorted each of us all day. We started the day with the presenting of the flags by the VFW, the Pledge, a few speeches and breakfast. Then we boarded the buses and started down the road. I was shocked to see people lining the road waving, saluting, applauding and waving flags. A police escort and a parade and we were just starting.

Our first stop was the US Marine Corps Museum where we met up with two buses from Williamsburg. Aboard one of those was Phil Landry who also took the lead from Alvin, applied and was accepted. We were met outside by kids, adults, service members in uniform and others who shook our hands, said thank you and acknowledged our military service.



US Marine Corps Museum



Ed Gray at the Viet Nam Memorial Wall

We next boarded the buses to go to the USAF Memorial and we had another police escort. As usual 95 was bumper to bumper but the Virginia State Trooper parted the cars for us. We had box lunches at the AF Memorial and then we went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for the changing of the guard. I am sure most have seen it but regardless of the number of times I find it always moving. Next we went to the WW II Memorial and then to the Korean and Viet Nam Memorials. Each Vet in attendance had their own memories and/or moving moment I am sure. I found the name of a high school classmate killed in Viet Nam, I think the only person I know on the wall. I thanked him for his sacrifice.

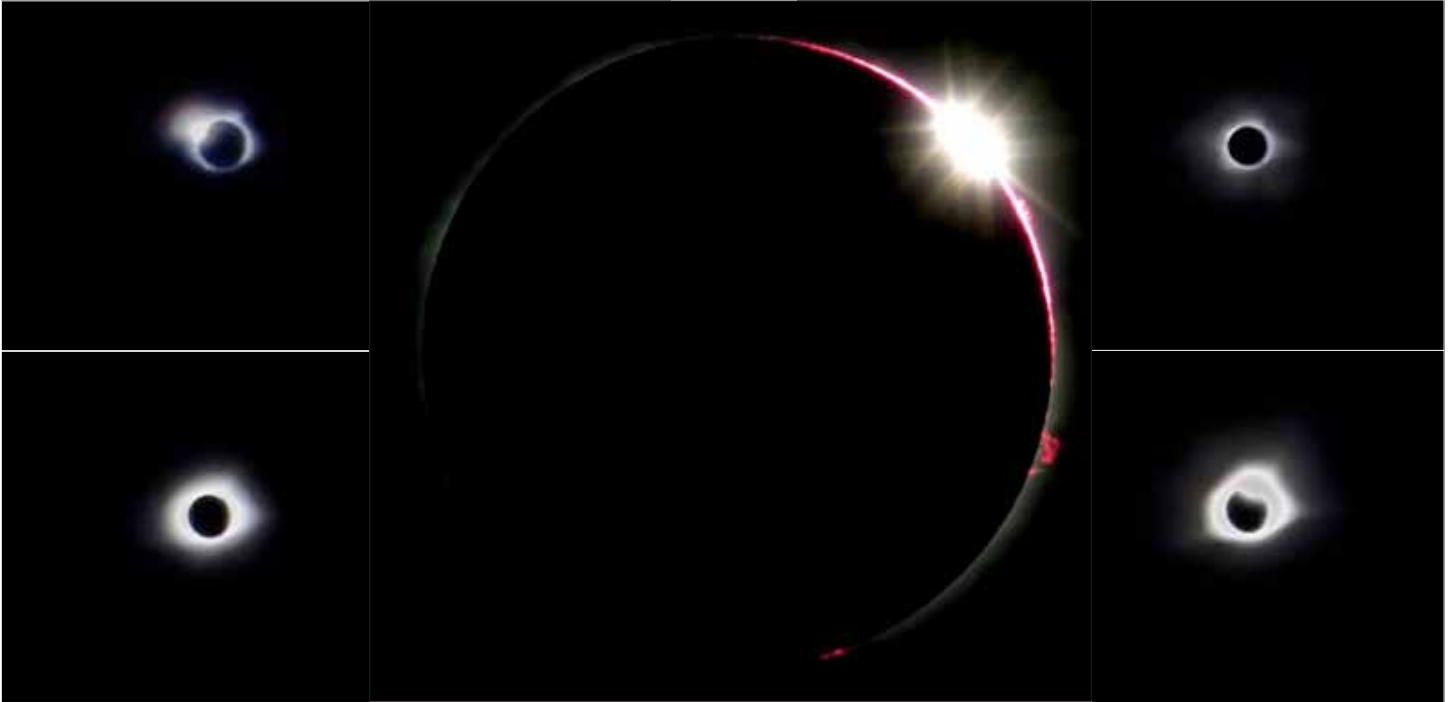


Ed Gray (l) with his assigned "Guardian", US Army Staff Sgt Chad Vertz

Next we got back on the buses and went through downtown Washington DC with another police escort. I cannot believe Mr. Trump goes through traffic much quicker than we did and we were on 4 buses. The cops stopped traffic and we ran red light after red light. We were on our way back the USMC Museum where we were served dinner.

On the ride home we hashed over the day with our Guardians and most of us napped. I got home at 2115 and was beat but WHAT A DAY.

## THE ECLIPSE WE DIDN'T GET TO SEE



Photos from the MTOA web site with permission, taken at Georgetown, SC



Flotilla 3-10 member Tom Panther, setting up to give his presentation – ***“HOW THE 9/11 ATTACK ON THE PENTAGON WAS MANAGED BY FIRST RESPONDERS”*** to the members, spouses, and visitors at the October Flotilla Meeting held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Callao, VA.

Tom was a key player in the Incident Command System that was utilized during the National tragedy that occurred in Northern Virginia on that day.

## FLOTILLA NOVEMBER CALENDAR

### November

**20 - Flotilla Meeting @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Callao, VA – *ELECTIONS***

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

**All Month . . . . Complete all reports due, plan Winter Training and RBS events**

**Give thanks to all spouses and friends for their support**

**Attend important Flotilla Election Meeting**



## BOB WARING ECLIPSES 45 YEARS OF AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

On the 14th of October Bob Waring turned 90 and celebrated with friends and family at Bob and “Mickey's” river home on the Lower Machodoc. It was a fitting setting considering Bob's love of the water he has patrolled as a longtime member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary – 45 years long or half of a lifetime.

Bob's Auxiliary membership started on the 20th of October 1972. He retired in 2012 after 40 years of dedicated and highly active service. During his very active involvement in the Auxiliary, Bob became Division Captain (long before it was called DCDR) of Division 14 (now Division 25); in that capacity, he presided at the chartering of Flotilla 25-11 when it was formed in Colonial Beach. On that occasion he was on patrol and switched out of his operational



Past Division Captain (PDCDR) Bob Waring at his retirement ceremony in 2012

uniform and donned a dress uniform to conduct the formal chartering ceremony. Then back to work on the boat—probably called “Rusty Nail”.

Bob received numerous awards throughout his Auxiliary career. He was instrumental in the formation of “Cruise Crews”, an initiative in Flotilla 3-10 to promote recreational cruises of members and spouses throughout area waters (sometimes beyond, like to Washington, DC).

When asked if one of his awards was more important than another, Bob said he was always proud to be rewarded for his personal achievements, perhaps especially being elected or appointed to several responsible levels of Auxiliary leadership”. Of the many other awards, Bob said, “they were nice too”.

Happy birthday and Auxiliary anniversary, Bob.

Joe Riley IPFC 3-10



Bob Waring and his wife Mickey on his 90th Birthday on October 14th



Past member attends October Flotilla 3-10 meeting for Tom Panthers presentation. (l to r) Retired member Jean Everly, past member Bill Horn, Andy Baltins Flotilla VFC, and Beverly Horn.



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to our own Ed Gray  
who was elected  
Division Vice  
Commander for the  
year 2018

# NOT TOO LATE FOR MORE VSC's



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 REST OF YOUR TIME ON OTHER  
AUXILIARY MISSIONS**



**HAVING FUN . . .**

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

**THE RECREATIONAL BOATING PUBLIC**



photo submitted by Joe Riley

From “days gone by”, local watermen bring their days catch to the “buy house” on the Lower Machadoc Creek at Tidwells, VA

**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)**

(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