

BOATING SAFETY ADVOCATE

Newsletter



FLOTILLA 3-10



CALLAO, VA

September

• 2017 •

Erik Amato FSO-PB



In the July issue of this newsletter, it was reported that our Flotilla Navigation Aid Verifiers (AV) were having difficulty getting out of REYR due to changes in the requirements. I'm happy to report that Aid to Navigation Verifier- PQS Certifications were awarded to those who recently completed the Aid Verifier Performance Qualification Standard. The Operations ribbon and miniature medal is awarded; a bronze star is authorized since these recipients are already Operations qualified as Coxswain or Crew.

Pictured above are the reinstated AV's (l to r) Joe Riley, Gary Palsgrove, (Ed Gray FC presented the qualification letters), Ollie Knight, Charlie Thomas and Glen Thomason.

Great Job Team!



Ed Gray Flotilla Commander 3-10

Over the last week or so many have been involved in Flotilla, behind the scenes, activities that 'go with the territory' so to speak. Some might say necessary evils of the Auxiliary but I think it is playing a part in our success.

The planning for our December Change of Watch meeting is going well. The last two years we have been to the Inn at Montross and enjoyed their support. They are now under new management, again, so we started over. After some negotiations we got the price and menu to a point with which I think we can be happy.

We spent a day on the water with Ollie Knight doing 2 boat training with Karen and Gary Whelan as they continue to train for crew. Of course it was not just us on Ollie's facility but also Charlie, Joe and Phil as the victim boat. We had a team involved helping each other.

The planning of a night patrol for Tom, Karen and Gary on 10/1 is progressing. It has taken Ollie Knight, Charlie Thomas, Gary Palsgrove, me, Karen and Gary Whelan and Joe Riley to pull this together. I know all who participate in operations recall their first night patrol.

Tom Panther attended D-Train in Williamsburg over the weekend of September 16th. He flew in from work on Friday night, checked into the Williamsburg hotel, gave his presentation on Saturday morning and left to get his wife and fly to South Carolina on vacation. His presentation was given to a spell bound group of about 40. He did himself, our flotilla and the Auxiliary very proud. (What you may not know is the hotel costs and his meals came from his pocket.)

I sat in the back of the room as spell bound as anyone and afterwards was very pleased to accept the congratulations for a great 'pick up' for our flotilla.

I sat through several sessions of D-Train and was impressed with what I saw. I can report that there are some things happening and don't be surprised to see some changes. I accepted well deserved awards for the flotilla and will be proud to give them out at our September meeting.

On Saturday September 16th our PE team conducted our last ABS Class of the year. I do not, as yet, have a report on that but I am very confident it went well as always.

Just look at the list of things we did 'over the last week or so' and know these are just what I am aware of. We certainly did some VEs and PVs. I am confident people read their many emails about the hurricanes and other activities throughout the Auxiliary. On an added note, we also had an article printed in all three Northern Neck Newspapers.

Thank you to all for your participation in the many tasks we do as a TEAM. Please be sure to give yourself credit for the hours you did and I look forward to doing it all again, in some manner, in the next week or so.

Ed



AWARDS PRESENTED TO MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Century Club Awards . . .

are presented each year to members who conduct at least 100 Vessel Safety Checks and/or Program Visits in one year. The performance period was from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.



The Century Club Award recipients (l to r) Salvatore Puglisi–122 PV + 37 VSC = 159, Joe Riley–95 PV + 7 VSC = 102, Phil Landry–126 PV + 56 VSC = 182, David DeGrazia–185 PV, Flotilla Commander Ed Gray presented the awards, and Gary Palsgrove–135 VSC's. Congratulations to these five high performing members.

Facility Awards . . .



“Facility Awards” are presented annually for underway boat hours between 30 and 65 and for more than 65 hours. The 2016 silver awards were presented to Charles Thomas (r) and Gary Palsgrove(l) in recognition that their boats “SYZYGY” and “C-SONG” were underway for 94.8 and 71.2 hours respectively. Flotilla Commander Ed Gray presented the awards.

FLOTILLA 3-10 ABS CLASS GRADUATES 17 – TWICE!



ABS Class in session at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Callao, VA



Three ABS Class graduates were members of the Colonial Beach Fire Department

Flotilla 3-10's PE team conducted another successful ABS class on August 26th at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Callao, VA. There were 17 in attendance, all of which successfully graduated, 3 of whom were current members of the Colonial Beach Fire Department.

I wanted to express my thanks to each of you for your role in providing Boating Safety instruction to our community. Our final ABS class held Saturday, September 16th at Bella Pizza in Tappahannock, VA was also attended by 17 and not only did they all pass but the average score on the Virginia exam was 94 complemented by 93.5 on the About Boating Safely exam.

Thank you

Fred Woodard FSO-PE 3-10

FLOTILLA OCTOBER CALENDAR

October

16 - Flotilla Meeting @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Callao, VA

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**

THE COAST GUARD ENSIGN – HOW IT CAME TO BE . . .

The initial job of the first revenue cutters was to guarantee that the maritime public was not evading taxes. Import taxes were the lifeblood of the new nation. Smuggling had become a patriotic duty during the revolution. If the new nation under the Constitution were to survive, this activity needed to be stopped.

Working within a limited budget, cutters needed some symbol of authority. Neither officers nor men had uniforms. How could a revenue cutter come alongside a merchant ship during an age of pirates and privateers and order it to heave to?

The solution was to create an ensign unique to the revenue cutter to fly in place of the national flag while in American waters. Nine years after the establishment of the Revenue Cutter Service, Congress, in the Act of March 2, 1799 provided that cutters and boats employed in the service of the revenue should be distinguished from other vessels by a unique ensign and pennant.

On August 1, 1799, Secretary of the Treasury, Oliver Wolcott, issued an order announcing that in pursuance of authority from the President, the distinguishing ensign and pennant would consist of, "16 perpendicular stripes, alternate red and white, the union of the ensign to be the arms of the United States in a dark blue on a white field."

The ensign was poignant with historical detail, inasmuch as in the canton of the flag, there are 13 stars, 13 leaves to the olive branch, 13 arrows and 13 bars to the shield. All corresponded to the number of states constituting the union at the time the nation was established. The 16 vertical stripes in the body are symbolic of the number of States composing the Union when this ensign was officially adopted.

This ensign soon became very familiar in American waters and served as the sign of authority for the Revenue Cutter Service until the early 20th century. The ensign was intended to be flown only on revenue cutters and boats connected with the Customs Service. Over the years it was found flying atop custom houses as well. President William Howard Taft, however, issued an Executive Order June 7, 1910, adding an emblem to the ensign flown by the



Revenue cutters to distinguish it from the ensign flown from the custom houses, which read: "By virtue of the authority vested in me under the provisions of Sec. 2764 of the revised Statutes, I hereby prescribe that the distinguishing flag now used by vessels of the Revenue Cutter Service be marked by the distinctive emblem of that service, in blue and white, placed on a line with the lower edge of the union, and over the center of the seventh vertical red stripe from the mast of said flag, the emblem to cover a horizontal space of three stripes. This change to be made as soon as practicable."

At about this time, cutters began flying the U.S. flag as their naval ensign and the revenue ensign became the Service's distinctive flag.

When the service adopted the name Coast Guard, the Revenue Cutter Service's ensign became the distinctive flag on all Coast Guard cutters as it had been for the revenue cutters.

The colors used in the Coast Guard ensign today, as in the Revenue Cutter Service, are all symbolic. The color red stands for our youth and sacrifice of blood for liberty's sake. The color blue not only stands for justice, but also for our covenant against oppression. The white symbolizes our desire for light and purity.

As it was intended in 1799, the ensign is displayed as a mark of authority for boardings, examinations and seizures of vessels for the purpose of enforcing the laws of the United States. The ensign is never carried as a parade or ceremony standard.

YOU STILL HAVE TIME 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 by Joe Riley

A local couple setting their crab traps on the Lower Machadoc Creek

**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

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.)