



Flotsam & Jetsam

Vol 2, Issue 2. March 2016

**Coast Guard Auxiliary
Outer Banks Flotilla 1607**



Al Douglass, FSO-PB

Email: aid1945@yahoo.com

Mobil Phone: 215-605-7312

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Ron Diefert, FC 16-07



Congratulations to the best flotilla in the 5th Southern District. That's right, we are Number 1. The top flotilla out of 82 flotillas in hours in Ops, and 2nd overall in hours of service in 2015. As this year starts, we are on our way to another successful year of Ops hours and service to the Coast Guard and our community. Bravo Zulu!

A special thanks to our VFC Met Lewis, for conducting our March Membership Meeting In my absence. Also to Frank Spruill for standing in for Craig Betts as Ops Officer while Craig heals.

Our April Membership Meeting on Wednesday April 27th, will be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 13 MP in Nags Head, starting at 1730 hrs. This will be a covered dish dinner meeting, very popular with our membership. Our Auxchef, Al Douglass, will cook chicken breasts as the main dish. All members' last names starting with A through H, please bring a food dish supporting chicken. All remaining members please bring a dessert. Naturally, spouses are welcome.

In order to know how much chicken to cook, PLEASE, PLEASE, e-mail or call me, if you are coming to dinner meeting by APRIL 24th at latest. This is a very important request. Thank you.

There will be a short training session at meeting. With summer approaching, and hot weather forecast, the training will be on Hyperthermia, and Proper Hydration.

We have a number of members ill, needing surgery, recovering from surgery, or treatment of illness. Please keep all in your thoughts and prayers. Let them know we care about them.

We have finished the H60 Helo Stans held this March. Thanks to all our winter warriors for their service and many hours on the water, Bravo Zulu. You are the best of the best!

April starts the C-130J Stans, and once again, our members rise to the challenge proving our membership is a dedicated, highly skilled, and devoted group of people. Again, congratulations for your service.

Flotilla 054-16-07 receives Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award



Members of the Outer Banks Flotilla present at D Train receive Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award from Commodore Steven M. Fachko, USCG, Director of Auxiliary Fifth District Southern Region. *Photo courtesy USCGAUX 054.*

The nomination for this District Award noted total Recreational Boating Safety Mission hours (Public Education, Vessel Examination, Program Visitation and Public Affairs) of 9,134 hours. We provided twenty Elementary School Education Programs reaching nearly 1,500 Second and Fifth Graders. We taught Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) courses in both Spring and Autumn encouraged those boaters interested in more than cursory classroom education about boating safety. We had Eighteen Public Affairs events ranging from Blessing of the Fleet, March of Babies, Kids' Fest, and several parades kept the Auxiliary in the public eye throughout the year. The Outer Banks Flotilla's contribution in the areas of Coast Guard Operational, Administrative, and Logistical Support Efforts Missions (more than 200 missions) is the flotilla's crowning achievement. Flotilla 16-07 operates a specially configured vessel in direct support of aircrew training for the Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City. Seventy-six missions supported helicopter rescue hoist and rescue swimmer training underway including 17 during the cold weather months of January, February, and March. The Cold Weather Operations boat crews were comprised of approximately 20 of the flotilla's more stalwart members. Fifty-two missions supported fixed wing aircrew training by retrieving rescue equipment dropped from HC-130J and HC-27J aircraft, again operating year round. Including RBS Safety Patrols, QEs, support for Coast Guard Station Oregon Inlet boat crew training, and SAR the flotilla logged 3,372 patrol hours during 2015.

During 2015 the Outer Banks Flotilla deployed their well trained and proficient membership in promoting Recreational Boating Safety Missions (9,134 hours) and supporting CG Operational, Administrative and Logistical Support Efforts Missions (3,372 hours). Diversity of Missions is well documented by the number of hours

members served as Instructors, Vessel Examiners, Program Visitors, Watchstanders, AUXFS, Coxswains, Boat Crew, QEs and Aid to Navigation Verifiers. Over the course of 2015 the 60 members of the flotilla logged a total of 13,821 hours or nearly 7 man years. The hours and resources volunteered by the membership saved the Coast Guard hundreds of thousands of dollars and acted as a force multiplier for Station Oregon Inlet. This is especially true of the support provided to the air station where the cost of training flight hours exceeds several thousands of dollars per flight hour. The availability and flexibility of Outer Banks Flotilla boat crews enabled air station flight crews to maximize training time by minimizing transit times and the need to compete for scarce active duty boat assets.

Outer Banks Flotilla 054-16-07 is comprised of 60 men and women dedicated to the Team Coast Guard concept. Led by a strong cadre of elected leaders and a particularly proficient operational boat crew team the flotilla consistently answers the call to augment and support the Gold Side. Outer Banks Flotilla 054-16-07 stands Semper Paratus. (Adapted from nomination written by Craig Betts)



Commodore Steven M. Fachko, USCG and Master Chief Christopher Hinote, USCG present Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award, including ribbon and metal to Flotilla at regular meeting. Met Lewis, VFC, has received his certificate and awaits his ribbon.



Gold side officers from Air Station, Elizabeth City enjoying the March General Membership meeting at The Pitts Center. Photo by Al Douglass

Kelly's St Patrick's Day Parade



Nine of our Auxiliary Members rolled up their sleeves, (having special permission from Station) along with three gold side Guardsman from Oregon Inlet to march down Beach Road representing one of the great assets available to folks on the Outer Banks, Team Coast Guard.

The picture of eleven of these fine crewmembers was taken by the twelfth member; that stalwart Auxiliarist, Sammy the Sea Otter seen riding in Auxiliary Vessel "Relentless." Sammy was a hit among parade watchers.



Sammy the Sea Otter, aka Larry Ashton.

The Parable of the Two Explanations

by Al Douglass

So this guy goes into his bank and presents his pay check from a well-known local firm asking it to be cashed. The teller, his daughter, asks him to endorse it. He answers, "You know me, you know the firm, I don't need to endorse this check." Patiently, the teller explains why he must endorse the check but he won't listen. Finally he says, "I'll go across the street to the other bank, they'll cash my check," and leaves.

Shortly he comes back, cash in his hand, blood coming out of his nose, bruises on the side of his head, exclaiming, "I cashed my check!"

What happened?" his daughter – the teller, cries, "how did you get your money without endorsing the check?"

"When I told the teller what I told you, he picked up a bat and whopped me upside the head and told me to endorse the check or he'd hit me until I did, so I endorsed it and here's my money!"

"Why didn't you endorse it for me, it would have saved you a lot of pain?" his daughter asked.

“You didn’t explain it to me the way he did.”



Of the 54 members of the Outer Banks Flotilla tracked by the District 5 Southern, 38 have completed their mandated training. Of the 16 who have not, two are teasing us with only 2 more to do, one active member has 4 more to accomplish, and only two have all ten.

You can go to the mandated training link: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=auxmt> and find a way to get this done. Never have so many tried so hard to help so few to get this little thing completed as easily as possible. On the other hand, you can wait for the bat. If you don’t get this done, this is what happens according to the above site:

Consequences: Mandated Training cannot be taken lightly. The following policy incentives and consequences related to AUXMT have been approved by Auxiliary national leadership and the Chief Director of Auxiliary, and shall be effective on January 1, 2016. Completion of Mandated Training and currency maintenance has the following general policies:

- All Auxiliarists who have a Base Enrollment Date (BED) prior to 01 January 2016 must complete AUXMT by 31 December 2016 to qualify, re-certify, and avoid REYR status, as applicable, in any competency.
- All Auxiliarists who have a BED after 31 December 2015 must complete AUXMT by the end of the first full calendar year after their BED to qualify in any competency.
- For all Auxiliarists, events occurring after 01 January 2016 such as eligibility for certain awards, elections, Auxiliary ID cards, C-Schools, and augmenting the Coast Guard will require AUXMT to be completed prior to those events regardless of their BED.

Why do it easy if you can make it hard?



COAST GUARD "EVERYONE IS A RECRUITER" CAMPAIGN

At the Auxiliary National Training Conference in St. Louis, MO in January, Captain Matthew Bell (Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center) and Captain Rob Smith (Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Recruiting Command) delivered a presentation to the Auxiliary's National Board that emphasized the importance and value of Auxiliary support of the Coast Guard's recruiting program. The Coast Guard's "Everyone Is A Recruiter (EIAR)" campaign is now underway to help identify and recruit the best candidates for the best military service - the U.S. Coast Guard. The targeted age range for these candidates is 17 to 27 years of age. The Auxiliary is an integral part of this campaign, and is being turned to for help in generating Coast Guard recruitment leads and referrals.

In general, the best direction that Auxiliarists can lead prospective Coast Guard recruits is toward the Coast Guard recruiting web site: www.gocoastguard.com As part of the EIAR campaign, Auxiliary flotilla, division, and regional leaders are also strongly encouraged to reach out to proximate Coast Guard recruiting offices in order to get to know each other, possibly receive limited recruiting literature and incentive items that help recruit new Coast Guardsmen, and to collaborate with regards to public outreach opportunities. Coast Guard recruiting office locations and contact information can be found in the "Find a Recruiter" section of the Coast Guard recruiting web site: www.gocoastguard.com

The Coast Guard Recruiting Command has also advised that there are still many outdated recruiting materials in circulation, specifically items with a "1-800" or "1-877" telephone number on it (e.g., pencils, tablecloths, etc). The Coast Guard Recruiting Command no longer uses any such telephone numbers...just the www.gocoastguard.com web site. Any legacy recruiting materials with phone numbers on them must not be distributed but rather disposed of.

The Coast Guard is calling on all members of its family to support the Everyone Is A Recruiter campaign...and the Auxiliary is a vital and cherished member in this effort!

We Went to the Movies



Watching the lifeboat going into the 60' wave and thinking of the Albemarle Sound

When the movie, "The Finest Hour" was released at our local movie theater, members of our Flotilla were there to greet viewers and tell the story of the Outer Banks Flotilla. We had excellent support for our display. Fourteen of our members served one or more watches. We provided 35 hours of Public Affairs duty. Pete Markland reported three folks who showed interest in the Auxiliary that he followed up. We have neither new members nor identifiable enrollments in our programs from the outreach, but people who attended the movies in the Outer Banks while the Finest Hour was playing met members of the Finest Volunteer Uniformed Service Group in the World. (a little Hollywood Hype)



Bob Mason and Ron Diefert, FC greeting movie goers *Photo by Al Douglass*

Keep in your thoughts and prayers: Dave Butscher, Ron Diefert, Met Lewis, Tom Marra, Susan Mason, Ed Overton, Charlie Votaw

Thanksgiving for: Craig Betts and Keith Bernstein