

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 9 Issue

Spring 2017

Judged 5SR Runner-Up Division Publication for 2016



## Plusses and Problems

In reporting to Sector and District, we have been asked to list three plusses and three problems. Our three plusses include a successful transition to a new VCDR, John Fewer. John has been a great help in reaching out to flotillas and overseeing the business of the division. Kirby Garland stepped up to fill the vacant Staff Officer position for Vessel Exams. Our flotillas are on track to improve reporting and fill key vacancies with new personnel taking on leadership positions.

Our three problem areas include:

1. The still vacant Secretary Records position.
2. We all need to work on timely reporting.
3. Finally, we continue to struggle to get our bylaws approved.

My goals for the division include:

1. Cutting accidents to zero. We will work toward this by scheduling two boat training with the gold side to improve proficiencies.
2. We need to fill several critical vacancies at the flotilla and division level as well as preparing members for higher level leadership positions.
3. Finally, we plan to provide training at every meeting. Each Flotilla Commander and staff officer have been tasked with providing goals for their flotillas and staff positions. Progress will be tracked at each division meeting.

There are a number of upcoming events that will require everyone to step up and help. These include a paddle craft event on April 29, the Bay Bridge boat show April 21-23 and the Blue Angels for USNA commissioning week in May.

Let's get some underway time!

*Dale Helms*  
DCDR



## Safe Disposal of old Flares

The Annapolis Fire Department is now offering a safe way to dispose of your old flares and flare guns. According to an article in *The Capital* on 15 February, Annapolis Fire Chief David Stokes invited the public to drop off these devices at any Annapolis City fire station or at the fire headquarters at 1790 Forest Drive in Annapolis.

The articles states that any questions should be directed to the Fire Marshall's Office at 410-260-2202.

*John Fewer*  
Vice Division Commander

## Cover Photos

**Top**— Nancy Gardner and Jose Peña de la Guardia at Sandy Point State Park . See story on page 9

**Middle**—Calvert County Board of Commissions presented a National Safe Boating Week Proclamation to member of 23-6.

Pictured left to right:

Top Row: Commissioner Mike Hart, Commissioner Pat Nutter, Commissioner Tom Hejl, President; Commissioner Steve Weems

Bottom row: Commissioner Evan Slaughenhaupt, Vice President; Connie Cosgrove, FSO-PA 23-6; Mark Campbell, Vice Flotilla Commander, 23-6; Bill Smith, 23-6; Ray Feller, Staff Officer for Member Training, Division 23; and John Cosgrove , Staff Officer for Communications, Division 23-6. Photo was taken by Angela Waters Small.

**Bottom**—County Commissioners display T-shirts presented to them from Flotilla 23-6.

L-R—Commissioners Mike Hart, Patter Nutter, Tom Hejl, Evan Slaughenhaupt and Steve Weems. See story on page 13.

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## 2016 Board & Staff

**DCDR:** Dale Helms

**VCDR:** John Fewer

### 23-1 - Annapolis

Christian Converse, Flotilla Commander

Marie Squillace, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-2 - Solomons

Greg Askew, Flotilla Commander

Theresa Gray, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-3 - West Annapolis

Bryan Teague, Flotilla Commander

Timothy Clarke, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-4 - South River

Paul Feinberg, Flotilla Commander

James Regensburg, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-6 - Drum Point

Willie Witters, Flotilla Commander

Mark Campbell, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-7 - Herring Bay

John Fountain, Flotilla Commander

Christopher Jensen, Vice Flotilla Commander

## Division Staff

SO-CM - John Cosgrove

SO-CS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-DV (Diversity) - Margaret Butler

SO-FN - Robin Ouellette

SO-FS - vacant

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Ronald Hillard

SO-MA - Theresa Gray

SO-MS - Ronald Price

SO-MT - Ray Feller

SO-NS - Robert Glenn Wright

SO-OP - Phil Wentz

SO-PA - Dale Helms

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Kevin Davis

SO-PV - Christopher Jensen

SO-SR - Ordice Gallups

SO-VE - Kirby Garland

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GET YOUR ARTICLES IN . .



1 July 2017

NEXT DEADLINE DATE IS . .

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to: Connie Cosgrove, SO-PB at [cjcosgrove@earthlink.net](mailto:cjcosgrove@earthlink.net)

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## Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following have received award. Congratulation to all

**The George Fox Award** (An award given annually by 23-1) - Christian Converse

**The Carl Tross Award** (An award given annually by 23-1) - Marie Squillace

**Leo Daly 2016 Outstanding Auxiliary Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner of the Year**

This award was presented at the commercial fishing vessel conference in Ocean City and it came with a plaque and a Leatherman tool.

Wendy Norwitz, 23-1

**Certificate of Appreciation** from CGD5 Chief of Inspections and CGD5 Commercial Fishing Coordinator

This award was presented at the commercial fishing vessel conference in Ocean City and came with a shirt and certificate.

Wendy Norwitz and Ron Price, 23-1

### AUXNAV-B

Tim Strissel and Bryan Teague, 23-3

### Instructor

Anthony Wisniewski

**Solid Commitment to Service above Self and Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty from PDCO Sersen. Certificate reads:**

Your Generous, Significant, and Lasting Contributions in Support of our Members & Missions are Appreciated.

Over \_\_\_\_\_ hours of Times, Talent, & Tireless Work Ethic; \_\_\_\_\_ years of Dedicated Service to Team Coast Guard, the Recreational Boating Public, and Our Nation.

You are truly an Inspiration to All. Thank you for Caring Deeply and Giving Greatly."

### 23-3:

Dale Helms and Anthony Wisniewski

**23-6:** Bill Smith, Harry Scott, Dan McConnell, James Jefferson, John Cosgrove, Connie Cosgrove

### Retirement

Stan Sweikar, 23-6

### Sustained Service Awards

1500 Cumulative Hours

Anthony Wisniewski and Bryan Teague, 23-3



### Auxiliary Annual Operational Service Performance Awards

Don Parker, Dorothy Neiman, Jeff Conopask, and Bryan Teague, 23-3



## Crossing the Bar

### Peter Helmut Meyer

Peter was an Auxiliary Member from 2005-

2016. He was a member of Flotilla 25-12 the entire time. He also received the Certificate of Appreciation Award on December 2015 for serving as an USCG Auxiliary Member for more than 10 years of dedicated Service. Valerie Roundtree, a new member of 23-6 was his wife.

### Leonard Klaver

Len crossed the bar on 26 April. He joined the Auxiliary in April 1975 and was a member of 23-1. Over his years in the Auxiliary he held staff positions as FSO-CC, FSO-CM, FSO-IS, FSO-MA, FSO-MS, FSO-MT, FSO-OP, and FSO-VE. He held the elected office of Flotilla Commander and Vice Division Captain now known as Vice Division Commander. He was a qualified Watchstander and stood watch at Station Annapolis. He was also a qualified finger print technician. He was active in the boat crew program, and an instructor and vessel examiner until 2015. Len was the liaison with Station Annapolis for Auxiliary watch standers. He also was the lead trainer for both Auxiliary and active duty personnel.

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## Appropriate Civilian Attire Prior to Uniform Wear Approval

This policy letter provides guidance to Fifth Coast Guard District units regarding the civilian attire to be worn by Auxiliary members during the 90-day pre-provisional membership observation period.

1. Prior to uniform wear approval, Auxiliary members shall wear the following civilian attire when participating in Auxiliary training, missions or functions:
  - a. Pants/Skirt - Navy colored, no blue jeans or shorts, skirts should not be above the knee;
  - b. Belt - Black or brown;
  - c. Shirt - Plain, collared light blue polo or button front, short or long sleeve;
  - d. Socks - Black;
  - e. Shoes - Black or brown appropriate to the mission; and
  - f. Headgear (optional) - Plain navy ball cap.
2. Standard Auxiliary personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be worn over the prescribed civilian attire when conducting operations.
3. Questions or concerns regarding this policy should be forwarded up the appropriate chain of leadership/chain of command to the respective Director of Auxiliary's office.

Editor's note: The above was received through the Auxiliary chain of leadership



## New Members

Since the last issue of the Chatter to following have joined the Auxiliary. Please welcome these new members and offer them any assistance you can.

Nelson Morais, 23-3  
Elaine Griffin, 23-6  
Sherry Marnell, 23-7



## Auxiliary Public Affairs (AUXPA) Competency Realignment -005/17

In order to align Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs (AUXPA) program competencies with Coast Guard Public Affairs Petty Officer ranks, the following changes in AUXDATA became effective March 31, 2017. They shall be utilized throughout the AUXPA program immediately:

Auxiliarists who held the "AUXPA I" competency (the lowest competency level) now have a competency label of "AUXPA3."

Auxiliarists who held the "AUXPA II" competency (the middle competency level) now have a competency label of "AUXPA2."

Auxiliarists who held the "AUXPA III" competency (the highest competency level) now have a competency label of "AUXPA1."

These competency label changes shall also be incorporated in any AUXPA program material revisions, and shall be memorialized in the next CG Auxiliary Manual change. CG-BSX respectfully sends.

Editor's Note: the above was received through the Chief Director's list server



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## Welcome to Ready, Set, Wear It

Ready, Set, Wear It! aims to break the world record for the number of life jackets worn on one day. In addition, this event is a great opportunity to gather with friends and family while educating others at the same time about safe boating practices.

On May 20, 2017, boating safety educators, marine enforcement officials, politicians, media, and the public will gather across North America and throughout the world to try to beat the world record of 10,917 life jackets worn and inflatable life jackets inflated. Ready, Set, Wear It! Life Jacket World Record Day aims to raise public awareness about general boating safety practices placing emphasis on the importance of life jacket wear.

You can also visit the North American Safe Boating Campaign website at [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com) for more resources to help with your safe boating outreach efforts.



## Earth Day at Severna Park High School

Dale Helms, Division Commander provided Public Affairs support for Earth Day Event at Severna Park High School. Students and parents were very receptive to information on

serving in USCG, to supporting environmentally safe boating, and safety while kayaking or paddle boarding.

Severna Park HS has welcomed Auxiliary support for several events in recent years.

*Dale Helms*  
SO PA 054-23



## Fisherman's Flea Market

For some, fishing is typically a sunny day past time spent on the Bay in the spring and summertime. For many others, it is a passion that knows no season and is done in any weather. Both camps of participants turned out for the annual Tri State Marine Fisherman's Flea Market on February 11 located on Deale- Churchton Road in Deale, MD.

Tri State has been holding their winter fisherman's flea market for many years with just one exception a while back when a snow storm forced a cancellation. Vendors from the surrounding states set up their tables in the spacious indoor boat showroom and plied their wares to a number of attendees who started arriving as early as 7am. Flotilla 23-7 manned their usual Public Affairs table through the help of Chris Jensen, Steve Gershman, Jose Pena, Ray Walsh, and Frank Voltaggio.

Members passed out both Coast Guard and Auxiliary brochures covering a wide variety of topics from Federal Regulations to how to use a VHF radio to make a call on Channel 16. In addition, they responded to questions from the public on boating safety issues as well as signing up a number of the show participants for the Auxiliary boating safety class that was later held at Tri State on March 11 and 18.

*Frank Voltaggio*  
Editor of the Life Line  
FSO-PB 23-7

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## Auxiliary Build (AUXBUILD) Program - 007/17

The following authorized Auxiliary activity description is effective immediately. It will be included as part of the next change to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual, section 2.B. Programs/Activities Authorized for Auxiliarists:

1. Coast Guard construction, renovation, and repair projects require continuous monitoring. Many Auxiliarists possess specialized skills and experience in shore-side construction-related industries. When coupled with prescribed training and certification, the Coast Guard may leverage such Auxiliary skills and experience to monitor and report on its shore-side construction projects through the AUXBUILD program. Auxiliarists are authorized to pursue and achieve designation in the AUXBUILD program in order to assist Coast Guard Civil Engineering Units (CEU) with monitoring and reporting on their shore-side construction projects as described in the accompanying AUXBUILD Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). AUXBUILD designation and assignment to duty may only be achieved pursuant to successful completion of the AUXBUILD Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) contained in the SOP. Commodore Vin Pica (vincent.pica@cgauxnet.us) shall serve as the Auxiliary's AUXBUILD program manager under the direction of the Auxiliary National Commodore and shall report to, and be supervised by, the Vice National Commodore. The regional AUXBUILD program manager shall be the District Directorate Chief for Logistics (DDC-L). In the absence of a DDC-L, the cognizant District Captain (DCAPT) for a CEU shall provide such managerial support. An Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC) shall be appointed for a CEU in accordance with provisions of section 1.C.8. of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual (COMDTINST M16790.1, series) in order to coordinate AUXBUILD support throughout the CEU's area of responsibility.

2. To facilitate Auxiliary engagement in the AUXBUILD program, the accompanying AUXBUILD Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be

posted on the CG-BSX-1 website (<http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/default.asp>) and the Auxiliary national website (<http://www.cgaux.org>). Auxiliarists interested in participating in this program should thoroughly review this SOP before contacting their respective regional AUXBUILD program managers.

3. An AUXBUILD competency and accompanying task (PQS completion) have been established in AUXDATA.

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the Auxiliary Communication Chain

## Make your D-Train Reservations

D-Train is scheduled for 15-17 September in Williamsburg VA at the Doubletree Hotel.

You can now make your reservations by calling 800-222-8733; or you can make online reservations at [www.Williamsburg.DoubleTree.com](http://www.Williamsburg.DoubleTree.com).

If you call in your reservation, please refer to the group name 'US Coast Guard'.

If you make your reservation online: –

- On the left side of the page, enter the dates you will be attending
- Select the "Group Code"
- Type I USG
- Click 'Check Rooms and Rates'

You will get a list of the type of rooms to choose, and the cost will be \$91.00

If you choose to go early this rate is good beginning on 12 Sept.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
SO-PB

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## Auxiliary Financial Educator (AUXFE) Program Establishment

The following authorized Auxiliary activity description is effective immediately. It will be included as part of the next change to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual, section 2.B. Programs/Activities Authorized for Auxiliarists:

### AUXFE PROGRAM

1. Implementation of the military Blended Retirement System (BRS) is a stated initiative under the Commandant's Human Capital Strategy that has been described in ALCOAST messages 222/16, 445/16, and 034/17 (<https://www.uscg.mil/announcements/>). It has significant long-term implications for many Coast Guard military personnel that will require them to make well-informed personal financial decisions through 2018. Auxiliarists are authorized to pursue and achieve designation as an Auxiliary Financial Educator (AUXFE) in order to educate Coast Guard military personnel about their available BRS options. AUXFE activity shall be limited to this scope of employment until appropriate Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary programmatic review deems otherwise. AUXFE designation and assignment to duty may only be achieved pursuant to successful completion of AUXFE Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) established by the Coast Guard Office of Reserve Affairs and Blended Retirement System (CG-131). The Assistant National Commodore-Chief Financial Officer (ANACO-CFO, Commodore Robert Bruce, [robert.bruce@cgauxnet.us](mailto:robert.bruce@cgauxnet.us)) shall serve as the Auxiliary's AUXFE program manager under the direction of the Auxiliary National Commodore and shall report to, and be supervised by, the Vice National Commodore. The ANACO-CFO shall be the only authorized source for AUXFE PQS. The ANACO-CFO may issue the AUXFE PQS only after interviewing an AUXFE applicant (i.e., the ANACO-CFO may deny PQS issuance based upon the outcome of the interview).

2. The Coast Guard has a strong need and desire for prompt Auxiliary support of the campaign to educate its military personnel in their Blended

Retirement System options. To facilitate Auxiliary engagement in the AUXFE program, the accompanying AUXFE Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be posted on the CG-BSX-1 website (<http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/default.asp>) and the Auxiliary national website (<http://www.cgaux.org>). Auxiliarists interested in participating in this program should thoroughly review this SOP before submitting an AUXFE program application. The SOP's requisite Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) sign-off sheet must be obtained from the ANACO-CFO.

3. An AUXFE competency and accompanying task (PQS completion) have been established in AUXDATA.

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the list server.



## Auxiliary Celebrates Contributions by Culinary Specialist First Class, Ryan Tan.

Lorraine Colleta, Ron Hillard, and Dale Helms met with CS1 Tan at Station Annapolis on April xx to recognize his contributions in support of Auxiliary Food Service Specialist training and participation in the Galley at Station Annapolis. Ryan has been very open to having Auxiliary help and in training Auxiliary Food Service Specialists.

We will miss Ryan as he moves to the Dry-dock at Curtis Bay.

*Dale Helms*  
SO-PA



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## Sandy Point State Park Adjusting to Changes in Demographics

Sandy Point State Park is a 786-acre public facility, owned by the state of Maryland located on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; it serves thousands of visitors on any given summer weekend. The park offers extensive recreational facilities, including 22 boat-launching ramps, 6 finger piers and 6 hp boat and kayak rentals. In addition, there are 12 pavilions with picnic tables and grills available for rent which hold from 140 to 300 persons each. There are likewise dozens of grills and picnic tables throughout the park and near the beach that are available, first come, first serve. It also features hiking trails, fishing and crabbing areas, a marina store, and a nature center.

In past years, the park would quickly reach capacity and close on holiday weekends. Beginning in 2015, the park reached capacity on many weekends, forcing it to stop admitting further visitors several times during the season.

Sandy Point State Park was acquired in 1950 and opened to the public in 1952, and it was the first park in the state of Maryland to be desegregated in 1955. In the 1970's, park visitors were mostly White and African American. In the late 1970's and 80's, the visitor population transitioned to mostly Asian immigrants, a result of the changing demographics in the region from political unrest in Asia. During the late 1980's and early 90's, the population shifted once again to a greater number of Hispanics. The current visitor population consists of 82% Hispanics on weekends during the season.

This change in demographics has posed unique challenges to the Park Rangers of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resource Police (NRP). It became evident that, in addition to dealing with logistical issues related to a significantly increased number of visitors, there was also a need for Spanish-speaking personnel, and the development of Spanish-language resources and instruction, particularly in boating-safety education.

In 2014, Park Ranger and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member Nancy Gardner of Flotilla 22-05, pioneered a multi-faceted plan which included Spanish translation of the standard boating safety course, obtaining Spanish speaking instructors, creation of new safety related signs in Spanish in key locations in the park, provision of free loaner life jackets, and securing a Spanish speaking translator for the summer months.

Nancy engaged the cooperation of her park co-workers, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, DNR, and the NRP. In collaboration with the Auxiliary, she also reached out to various Hispanic churches, seeking their support and promotion of the boating-safety program.

The need for these actions was underscored when, in the summer of 2016, several disabled vessels with Hispanic crews had to be towed back to the park. Tragically, that same summer, a Hispanic boater that launched his boat from the park became a casualty not wearing a life jacket.

Since Nancy implemented her plan, much has been achieved. Members of the Auxiliary and DNR translated the State Boating Course, as well as the signs in the park. The DNR provided various brochures in Spanish for distribution. The Auxiliary agreed to provide Spanish-speaking instructors along with Auxiliarists to promote on-ramp boating safety education and support. To further improve boating safety, a 20-foot Mako is now available to enable rangers to conduct safety patrols along the shore. Additionally, a jet ski and an 18-foot Boston Whaler motorboat are also available to lifeguards to further support the boating and beach safety effort.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Nancy Gardner for her ability to develop and lead an impressive inter-agency cooperative effort in the pursuit of a common goal. Others who made significant contributions to the efforts to promote boating safety among Hispanic visitors at Sandy Point State Park include Auxiliarists John Fountain and Jeff

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(Spanish—continued from page 9)

Snyder, Recreational Specialist Julie Brown from the Department of Natural Resources, and Dorna Cooper, Manager, and Jay Kenty, Assistant Manager of the Sandy Point State Park.

The author is a summer hire at Sandy Point State Park performing as a bi-lingual Interpreter which includes working with and talking to the boating public about boating safety. He is also a registered volunteer of Sandy Point State Park and has donated his time to work on translations and the Hispanic Outreach program at the park.

*Jose Peña de la Guardia,*

FSO-MA

054-23-07

both the U.S. and international commercial shipping industry to solve regulatory issues. Now, as your Chief Director, I look forward to learning more about your missions and working with National Commodore Washburn and his staff to carry out the Auxiliary Strategic Plan goals laid out for us by Admiral Zukunft and Commodore Washburn.

When I'm not at work, I'm a devoted family man and I enjoy spending quality time with my wife, Tamara, and my five children that are between the ages of 18 and 6. We recently moved to a 40 acre estate in Stafford, Virginia and are learning the hard way just how much time and effort goes into starting a farm. To find out a little more about me, please visit my Biography page at: <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/cginfo/johnson.asp>

Ladies and gentlemen, you have my commitment that I will strive to work with you and lead in a way worthy of our mission, of your respect, and of the sacrifices that so many of you have made and continue to make to keep us safe and worthy of the public trust.

Thank you for your dedicated service and your commitment to our nation.

Sincerely,  
Captain Scott L. Johnson, U.S. Coast Guard  
Chief Director of Auxiliary

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the Chief Director's list server



## New Chief Director

It is my distinct honor to relieve the watch as your Chief Director. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has a myriad of ever-evolving missions that

includes our ultimate responsibility to promote and improve Recreational Boating Safety as well as provide the Coast Guard with high quality operational, administrative, and logistical support. This is an awesome and humbling responsibility to shoulder, and one that requires unflinching accomplishment of the mission. I look forward to partnering with you in this endeavor.

Over the past 22 years, I've had the privilege to serve my country and the Coast Guard as both a cutterman and prevention officer. I've led Coast Guard personnel in both operational and staff assignments and also worked extensively with



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## Marine Safety Program

If you are looking to help the environment while supporting the Coast Guard and do something a little less strenuous than a patrol, the Marine Safety (MS) program is for you! Although Marine Safety sounds like operational support such as patrols, vessel examinations, and public education it is actually part of the Prevention group and focused on protecting the marine environment and supporting the Coast Guard's environmental missions in addition to other Prevention programs.

Your first thoughts might be: "Marine Safety - Isn't that the Trident program? ", "I can't commit to the hours required to qualify." Well good news, you don't have to. Marine Safety is so much more than just the Trident Qualification with many opportunities to participate. Unfortunately Marine Safety is often used synonymously with Trident implying you have to earn the qualification to be a part of Marine Safety. There are many other ways you can participate depending on your interests and the time you have to commit.

### America's Waterways Watch

One of the easiest ways to participate is through the America's Waterway Watch program, <http://americaswaterwaywatch.uscg.mil/Home.html>. This program is a Coast Guard outreach program to engage the public in observing and reporting suspicious activity on and around our waterways. Very simply you go to the website and take the time to read and understand what constitutes suspicious behavior and how to report it. So when you are on or near the water you just need to be aware. After you are familiar with the program, you can go a step further and order pamphlets, flyers, DVDs, and posters to use at public affairs (PA) and public education (PE) events to engage the public. Supplies are ordered through the flotilla materials officer (FSO-MS), Jose Pena de la Guardia. They are item number 3026 in the Auxiliary National Supply Center catalog (ANSC) (<https://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/misc/DCAT.pdf>).

## Sea Partners

The Coast Guard is responsible to enforce the environmental pollution prevention regulations on navigable waterways and coastal areas. So in 1994 they founded the Sea Partners program and then expanded it to the Auxiliary in 1997. It is an outreach program to educate the public on marine environmental issues. I think the best description of their mission comes directly from the website (<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg544/seapartners.asp>):

Sea Partners messages include:

1. The effects of oil, hazardous chemicals, waste and debris on the marine environment.
2. How marine environmental protection laws and regulations apply to various marine users.
3. Ways groups and individuals can take action to protect the marine environment.

Sea Partners is an active duty program overseen by an officer located at Coast Guard Headquarters. Each Sector is encouraged to have a Sea Partners team that plans events and activities and uses Auxiliary to augment the team. Those events might be a booth at a local boating or environmental event or visits to local schools. There is also Auxiliary training for Sea Partners through the Auxiliary Prevention Outreach Specialist (AUX-MEES) PQS. However, you don't have to become qualified to present materials at PE, PA and other auxiliary outreach events. A good way to get started is to become familiar with the environmental materials which are available from the ANSC (catalogue number 4000) and can be ordered through our materials officer Jose Pena. Also available on the Sea Partners web site is a training manual (<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg544/docs/Sea%20Partners%20Training%20Guide.pdf>) which is full of all sorts of good information.

The thing I like about Sea Partners is that you can be a little creative about how you engage the public. For example, some flotillas in the area have been making used fishing line recycling containers

(Continued on page 12—see Marine Safety)

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(Marine Safety—continued from page 10)

to put at their local marinas and boat ramps. Others have applied for Boat U.S. grants to make fuel overspill kits to give away at marina fueling stations. The sky (or perhaps the sea) is the limit. As my mother use to say, put your thinking cap on and see what you can come up with.

## Trident Program

The Trident program has two opportunities, the Marine Safety Training Ribbon and the Marine Safety Insignia. Details about these two programs can be found at the following website after you log into the members only area, <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT&category=marine-safety>.



To earn the Marine Safety Training ribbon you must complete the following:

1. Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protections
2. Good Mate Course
3. Incident Command System (ICS) 100/200/700/800
4. ICS 210 (Coast Guard taught) or ICS300 (FEMA or Coast Guard taught)
5. Complete one Auxiliary marine safety program PQS.

To earn the Marine Safety Insignia (Trident pin) you must complete the following:

1. All of the same course requirements for the Marine Safety Training Ribbon
2. Complete four Auxiliary marine safety program PQSs
3. Complete at least 96 hours of program activity per year for five years

This is probably a good time to explain the acronym PQS. It stands for Performance

Qualification Standard and is the criteria you must follow in order to be qualified in a particular task. The PQS training opportunities are dependent on the needs of the sector you support. There are 22 Auxiliary Marine Safety PQS, but you are only allowed to do those in which your Sector requests assistance. Recently Sector Maryland National Capital Region (MNCR) updated the list of areas they could use Auxiliary support:

1. Auxiliary Assistant Waterways Management Representative (AUX-WM)
2. Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder (AUX-ED)
3. Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner (CFVE)
4. Auxiliary Uninspected Passenger Vessel Examiner (AUX-UPV)
5. Auxiliary Assistant Container Inspector (AUX-EC)
6. Auxiliary Assistant Contingency Planner (AUX-ACP)
7. Auxiliary Assistant Facility Inspector (AUX-EU)
8. Auxiliary Port State Control Dispatcher (AUX-PSC).

In addition to this list of eight PQSs there are 2 additional PQSs that are specific to the Auxiliary. One is the Auxiliary Prevention Outreach Specialist (AUX-MEES) PQS in support of Sea Partners and the other is Auxiliary Administrative and Management Specialist (AUX-MSAM) PQS. What is meant by Auxiliary specific is that you can be trained and signed off by an Auxiliarist rather than active duty personnel and once you are signed off you will not be working with active duty.

If you are interested in Marine Safety, I encourage you to peruse the Marine Safety Website (<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT&category=marine-safety>) and look at the PQSs to see what interests you and if you have any questions just let me know!

*Dawn Miller,*  
FSO-MS

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Don Goff and Rob Sersen on kayaks at AUXPAD event at Sandy Point. (photo by Bill Thorn 24-08.)



## Paddlers Wanted

Participation in paddle sports has grown dramatically in recent years. Low entry cost, easy storage, less maintenance and flexibility are reasons many have decided to become paddlers, compared to power or sailing craft. In the past, would-be paddlers often went to specialty stores to get information and advice from retailers who were paddlers themselves. The majority of boats sold now come from general merchandisers and "big box" outlets whose staff may not be knowledgeable about the details of the sport. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Paddlecraft Safety program AUXPAD helps fill this gap for novice paddlers.

If you are a paddler and would like to actively participate in AUXPAD, we would like to hear from you about your skills and training. You can make a major difference in helping to reduce fatalities and serious incidents among paddlers.

If you are interested in the AUXPAD program, please contact Don Goff at [don.goff@cgauxnet.us](mailto:don.goff@cgauxnet.us). Send a brief, one page bio outlining your Auxiliary and paddling experience and particularly whether you hold any paddling certifications and from what body. If you have experience but no certifications, please don't hesitate to step in. There may be opportunities ahead this year for you to become further qualified.

Please contact me as soon as you can so that we can get going this boating season. You will receive further instructions following receipt of your email.

Thanks and please Paddle Responsibly.  
Don Goff, N-PC

Editor's note: The above was received through the Auxiliary messaging system

## 23-6 Receives NSBW Proclamation

On 9 May members of 23-6 received an annual National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) Proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners. In the proclamation the Commissioners "Proclaimed that the week of May 20 – 26, 2017, be known as NSBW in Calvert County". The Proclamation further proclaimed by this action we advocate year-round efforts to promote safe boating and urge all those to "Wear It" and practice safe, smart, boating habits."

Vice President of the Commissioners Evan Slaughenhoupt presented the proclamation to Connie Cosgrove, Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs. Bill Smith, member of 23-6 presented the County Commissioners with a T-Shirt from the Flotilla wish



read on the front FISH Don't Need Life Jackets "YOU DO". On the back was "U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 23-6, Drum Point, MD.

The Commissioners thanked the members for the T-shirts and thought it send a very good message about wearing life jackets.

Commissioner Pat Nutter said he was raised on the water and it still surprised him to see the people on the water with no boating knowledge nor life jackets or anything else on the boat but themselves. He told the audience a story of being on the water one day when he was approached and a 10-year boy approached his boat and asked if they were correct in their head for Chesapeake Beach. They had no life jackets or anything on board and were heading in the wrong direction. He suggested they follow him in.

Members of Flotilla 23-6 in attendance were John and Connie Cosgrove, Mark Campbell, Bill Smith and Ray Feller.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
FSO-PA 23-6

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## Photos Wanted

The Auxiliary's Instagram has now reached 1,500 "followers!" Is a photo from your District among those favored?

The Coast Guard Auxiliary's official Instagram account is: <https://www.instagram.com/uscgaux/> (If using the Instagram app: #USCGAUX )

Why not ensure that your unit is included to showcase outstanding photographs and short video clips of member activities, missions and operations to a broad audience. Instagram has more than 500 million active users.

Members who are accomplished photographers are encouraged to submit their superb Auxiliary photographs.

- Photo submissions should be emailed to POTW@cgauxnet.us
- SEND only one photo per email message, do not send multiple photos in one email.

The best photos may also be used in the Auxiliary's PHOTO OF THE WEEK (POTW) website.

### Photographer Reminder:

Your imagery represents you and your subject. Carefully review your photograph to ensure it does not negatively reflect on you, your subject, or the activity taking place.

Pass the word to follow us and "like" us on Instagram

Thank you,

*Joseph Giannattasio, PA III*  
Branch Chief, Photography Branch  
Public Affairs Directorate  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Editor's note: If you have pictures you would like to submit please email them to me for review at [cjcosgrove@earthlink.net](mailto:cjcosgrove@earthlink.net). Please pay particular attention to the uniform to make sure everyone is in the correct uniform for the event including hats.

## Coast Guard Auxiliary Strategic Plan 2016-2022

The National Commodore and the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard are pleased to present the 2016-2022 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Strategic Plan to the 25,300 plus member volunteer force and to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The plan was signed by both Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul F. Zukunft and Auxiliary National Commodore Rick Washburn in St. Louis, MO at the annual national training conference on 26 January 2017.

The Strategic Plan charts the course for Auxiliary administration and program management. It outlines the duties, responsibilities, and expectations of Auxiliarists as they deliver vital services and assist the Coast Guard in shaping, preparing, and applying its mission capabilities to the 21st century mission challenges.

It is posted on the myCGAux Portal National Leadership website at <http://my.cgaux.org/national/leadership> and on the web at <http://www.cgaux.org/leadership/>.

All members are encouraged to take a look and send any comments or questions up the chain of leadership and management.

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## NACON to be held in Orlando

Coast Guard Auxiliary 2017 National Convention will be held from August 23rd-26th in Orlando, FL. This year's National Convention is at the Rosen Centre and as always, has a lot going on:

- Attend informative workshops where you can hone your skills, learn new ones, and consider best practices from around the country and around the world.
- Take advantage of outstanding networking opportunities with your Auxiliary and Active Duty shipmates.
- Attend the open meeting of the National Board of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for a behind-the-scenes view of your Coast Guard Auxiliary Senior Leaders at work.

You will have opportunities to meet and talk with our partners from Australia, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, and many others who are frequently in attendance, along with some of the Coast Guard's Admirals who genuinely appreciate the many valuable contributions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The workshops will have something for everyone. If you want to improve your teaching or public affairs skills, there will be sessions for you. If Paddlecraft or Personal Watercraft activity is what floats your boat, NACON 2017 will deliver. Want to improve your leadership skills so that you can help your unit in many different ways? Leadership training is on the agenda.

It's not all work and no play. Fellowship is huge part of NACON and Auxiliary life, with two major social events planned:

- Friday night's informal Fellowship Dinner's theme is "Team Spirit" with music provided by the Bahia Dance Band. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones, and put a face to that voice on the telephone you've been working with. Come and join the fun.

- Saturday night is the National Commodore's Banquet – share a formal dinner, see major awards presented, learn about issues of importance to the Coast Guard and Auxiliary, and talk with your colleagues and old and new friends.

Orlando is a destination for the whole family, so don't hesitate to bring them along and join us. Great hotel rates are available from August 18 to 29, 2017.

### Seize the date and see you there!

Editor's Note – the above was received through the Auxiliary messaging system.



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Coast Guard

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