

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 11 Issue 3

Fall 2019

Judged 5SR the Division Publication of the Year 2018

Thank You for all you have completed



Division 23 has had a busy summer. On the water, as well as shoreside activities, were supported throughout our AOR's. Thanks to all our members for their efforts and support.

PA and PE events continue to be the springboard for our educating the public on Safe Boating activities. I want to thank Margaret Butler for leading the 20 July, 3 August and 24 August events at the Bowie Baysox, including the highlight day of 24 Aug. that was designated as Coast Guard Appreciation Day by the Baysox. Additionally, thanks to Roy Culley, Willie Witters, Mark Bertacchi, Mark Campbell, Dorothy Neiman and Don Parker for staffing the Auxiliary's booth during the three games. The announced attendance for the 24 August game was 8,473 including 324 Coast Guard and Auxiliary fans. USCG Capt. David Obermeier, USCG Yard Manager - Curtis Bay and our own Roy Culley (SO PA) threw out First Pitches - GREAT SLIDER Roy!!!

The total gate for the 20 July, 3 August and 24 August events was 19,772. Lots of Baseball fans had an opportunity to receive brochures and other safe boating literature. This was a tremendous opportunity for the Auxiliary to deliver the safe boating message to many people at one venue. The Baysox are looking forward to participating again with the Auxiliary in 2020 in order to assist our promoting boating safety.

Dorothy Neiman and Don Parker (co- Division 23 Sea Scout Coordinators) organized the Sea Scouts to be present at the Auxiliary booth for the 24 Aug. Bowie Baysox game. The Sea Scouts did a great job talking to passing by fans about sea scouting. A new "Auxiliary – Sea Scout" banner was displayed at the game. The banner identified the Auxiliary and Sea Scouts as one organization. This was an excellent opportunity to introduce the public to the Auxiliary's partnering with the Boy Scouts of America - Sea Scouts.

The Coast Guard will host a Safety at Sea - Sea Scout Day at Curtis Bay on 7 Sept. Sea Scouts will

have an opportunity to receive shoreside and on the water training from the Coast Guard and Auxiliarist. Division 23 will have two OPFAC participating in the waterside training.



The QE testing of initial boat crewmembers and 3-year re-certifications for 16 Auxiliarist was conducted on 17 August using four OPFAC.

Congratulation to the new and re-certified boat crewmembers for passing your QE test. We look forward to your getting out on patrol – do not be a member of the 12-hr. club!

Operations is experimenting with creating electronic SAR patterns. On the water exercises were conducted in the Chop Tank River on 3 August using three OPFAC and an airplane. Subsequent to that there was a GOTOMEETING on -line presentation on 20 Aug. about how the new AUXSAR software can assist SAR units to find missing objects (persons or boats) when on a search mission. Interested boat crewmembers can learn how to use AUXSAR at the class to be held on 8 Sept. at Curtis Bay – Berry Hall. Interested Auxiliarist should contact Ray Feller to sign up for the class.

Division 23 election for 2020 Division was held on 3 October at the Division meeting. Willie Witters was elected to the DCDR position and Marie Squillace was elected to be the Vice Division Commander. John Fewer presided over the election.

John Fewer
DCDR

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2019 Board & Staff

DCDR: John Fewer
VCDR: Willie Witter
IPDCDR:

23-1 - Annapolis

Marie Squillace, Flotilla Commander
Michael Adams, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

Earl Kaufman, Flotilla Commander
Gary Smith, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 – West Annapolis

Dorothy Neiman, Flotilla Commander
John Wilson, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 – South River

Michael Whitman, Flotilla Commander
Bruce Petro, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 – Drum Point

Mark Campbell, Flotilla Commander
Steve Birchfield, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-7 – Herring Bay

Christopher Jensen, Flotilla Commander
Paul Manicone, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-CM - Jim Welday
SO-CS - Wendy Norwitz
SO-DV - Margaret Butler
SO-FN - Michael Taylor
SO-FS - Ron Hillarad
SO-HR - Dave Keyser
SO-IS - Ronald Hillard
SO-MA - Christopher Jensen
SO-MS - Ronald Price
SO-MT - Ray Feller
SO-NS - Jeffrey Conopask
SO-OP - Phil Wentz
SO-PA - Le Roy Culley
SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove
SO-PE - Margaret Butler
SO-PV - Christopher Jensen
SO-SR - Elaine Griffin
SO-VE - Kirby Garland



20 January 2020

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor: Connie Cosgrove at cjcosgrove@earthlink.net

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Cutline for front cover

Top right: John Fewer presents Brian Shallcross Bowie Baysox general manager with plaque and certificate

Top left: Roy Culley waits to throw out the first pitch at he Bowie Baysox game

Middle left: John Fewer and Willie Witters present Connie Cosgrove with the Best District Publication award

Bottom left: John Johnson teaching sea scouts marlinespike

Bottom right: Sea Scouts demonstrating their marlinspike skills

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The Chesapeake Chatter wins Best Publication

The Chesapeake Chatter won the best division publication for 2018 at the recent D-Train.

I thank everyone who has contributed pictures, articles and information for articles in the past. Without this help, I could not put together an award-winning publication. It takes attending the events to get the information and pictures that make a newsletter.

Each year the Past Captain's/Commanders Association judges division and flotilla newsletters for best publication of the year. The Chatter has won the best publication for 5DSR six times. The first time was for 1997. It was chosen best division publication again for 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2018. It won runner up in 2004 2012, and 2017.

I would like to write a little history on the Chesapeake Chatter since it has not been published in many years.

The name Chesapeake Chatter was chosen for the name of the division newsletter in August 1979. There were 60 names submitted for consideration. Carol Nimmer published the first issue in August 1979.

From all records I have reviewed, there have only been three editors since the Chatter first went to print. Editors were Carol Nimmer, Delores Presnell, and myself. I took over the position from Delores in 1988. Al Heim, the Division Captain at the time and friend, asked me "since you work at the local newspaper, do you think you could become the editor of our division newsletter?" Being new to the Auxiliary, I joined in the fall of 1987, and naively I said "I guess so". That is how my tenure of editor began.

Over the years with changes in technology, the layout process changed. The first issues of the Chatter were typed on a computer in Word Perfect in column format. It was then printed, cut, and



pasted onto a formatted page. Richard Merryman, who was a division staff officer, offered to copy the Chatter at his work place to save the division money. After seeing how it was put together,

he offered me the software package for PageMaker-- a desktop publishing program.

I graciously accepted his offer and proceeded to read the manual and teach myself how to use this new Adobe program. It was not easy, and I lost the issue I was working on more than once. My house was not a happy place when that happened.

As time went on, I took classes while working for the Navy in Microsoft Word and Publisher to help meet the 40-hour training requirement. I went through much the same learning curve when I switched programs. Today I still use Microsoft Publisher for the Chatter.

In the days before email, I printed and prepared over 200 copies for mailing. This took me about 4 hours. Today I mail about 50 copies to members who do not use email or prefer a paper copy. The Chatter can also be found on the 23-6 website. <http://www.uscgauz.info/content.php?unit=054-23-06&category=chesapeake-chatter>

Connie Cosgrove
Chatter Editor

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Vern
Schottroff,
23-1
crosses the
bar

Vernon Ennis Schottroff, 93, of Crownsville, MD, passed away on August 13, 2019. He was born on March 5, 1925.

Vernon worked as a Procurement Officer- US Coast Guard for 20+ years. After 20+ years of service, He retired from NSA.

He enjoyed 35 years of active service with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Vern was a member of 15-2. He was the Flotilla Auxiliarist of the Year in 1991 and 1996. Vern was Vice Flotilla Commander of 15-2 in 1985. He held the office of Flotilla Commander in 1995. Vern held the offices of FSO-MS and FSO-VE.

In 2018, Vernon earned the Lifetime Achievement for CG for Continuous years of service. Other awards included four CG Unit Commendations, three CG Meritorious Team Commendations, CG Bicentennial Unit Commendation, DOT Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB



New Members

The following have become members since the last issue of the Chatter. Please welcome them and give them any assistance you can.

Richard Thompson, Nancy Hasselback Hames, and Richard Wolentowicz – 23-1
Joel Campbell, 23-3
Lisa Norwood, 23-6

Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter, the following members have received awards:

District Member Excellence Award – this award was given to one member of each division
Bill Smith, 23-6 was chosen from Division 23



Vessel Examiner

David Sire, Rita Shapiro, and Juan Aguilar, 23-1

Sustained Auxiliary Service Award



James Jefferson, 2250 hours, 3rd award, 23-6

Willie Witters over 3000 hours, 4th Award, 23-6

Membership Award

10 years

Coral A Hoffman, 23-6



AUXPAD PDLO

Leslie Nicholas, 23-3

Save the date

The annual Change of Watch (COW) will be held on 18 January 2020 at the Renditions Golf and County Club. The reservation form can be found on the last page of this issue.

Our Division will turn 45 years young in 2020. The Division was chartered on 17 January 1975.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be there to celebrate 45 years to the Coast Guard and the boating public.

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB and COW Committee

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Bill Smith receives Commandant Challenge Coin

Bill Smith's brother Robert O. Smith is Retired Coast Guard 28 years . His nephew, LCDR Justin Smith, is one of the Commandant's aides. Bill's brother asked to see a picture of the District Excellence award he received. As a result the two of them worked together to surprise Bill with a letter and challenge coin from Admiral Schultz, Commandant for earning this award.

The letter reads: *Congratulations on your recent "Member of Excellence Award." Your commitment to our Service and willingness to volunteer as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for over 16 years are sincerely appreciated, and embody the tenets of my guiding principles of Ready, Relevant, and Responsive.*

The hours you spent conducting member training and vessel examinations significantly increased boating safety in the Chesapeake Bay area. Your legacy of service continues through the contributions in-kind by your nephew LCDR Justin Smith, a key member of my front office team. Thank you for your dedication to the United States Coast Guard and our Nation.

Signed

Karl L. Schultz, Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard



Annual CCNPP Safety Fair

On 3 October, Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP) held their annual Human Performance, Health and Wellness Fair from 10:00 - 2:00 pm. Flotilla 23-6 once again participated in the event.

About 50/75 Vendors from different parts of the United States and about 100/150 employees attend the event. There was live music and lots of food. The vendors all had give-away items and at CCNPP held drawings for items donated for door prizes. Flotilla 23-6 donated a fire extinguisher.

Employees asked questions about Safe Boating and Classes. Lots of safe-boating literature was passed out at the event.

Members from 23-6 were Bill Smith, Ray Feller and R.T. West.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PA



Bill Smith and Ray Feller at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Safety Day
Photo by RT West

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John Johnson, a true volunteer

Recently Flotilla 23-02 celebrated the 55th year of Coast Guard Auxiliary membership of Auxiliarist John A. Johnson. This significant anniversary of dedicated service was commemorated by a presentation of a letter of congratulations from Admiral K. M. Smith and commemorative plaque from Commander Eric S. May, the Director of the Auxiliary for Division 5 South.

John, originally from Chicago and an Eagle Scout (1952), has been a standard bearer for Flotilla 23-02 for many years. His roots in the Auxiliary run deep, beginning when he first learned of the Auxiliary and the US Power Squadrons from hearing sea stories from a retired Air Force Master Sergeant who had served as a WWII Air-Sea Rescue PT boat coxswain he met in Hampton VA in the 1950's since he was a member of both.

John received a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering degree from the University of Virginia and received Navy pre-flight and flight officer training at Pensacola FL in 1960. While serving in the Navy he was first stationed at the Naval Missile Center, Point Mugu CA, where he served as an airborne test conductor and photo navigator for three years. His next assignment was with the Navy Plant Representative staff, McDonnell Aircraft, in St Louis, 1964-1963, where he was active in the procurement of the F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft for U.S. and foreign military customers as well as the Gemini spacecraft for NASA. It was here he first joined the Auxiliary and was active on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. He has been a continuous member of the Auxiliary since then regardless of duty station. Even when he attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey he found time to volunteer in the Auxiliary, serving as the Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 44. His first tour of sea duty found him aboard USS America, CVA-66, making its' first combat deployment to Viet Nam in the Tonkin Gulf, where he served as an Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Division Officer. On his final active duty tour, he found himself in Boca Chica Naval Air Station, serving as the Assistant

Maintenance Officer of an F-4 Phantom squadron, VF-101. It was here, in Key West that he heard tales of Ernest Hemmingway, who was an early, 1940s, member of the Auxiliary patrolling the waters off the Keys.

John was released from active duty in 1972 and then used his GI Bill, taking courses at Embry Riddle until, in 1974, was offered an engineering position at Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, where he served in both the Naval Reserve and Navy Civil Service. John retired in 1998 but did not shed his responsibilities nor his Auxiliary uniform. He has also managed to maintain continuous membership in the Civil Air Patrol, since 1953, The U S Power Squadrons, since 1963, and as a Red Cross Disaster Volunteer and Instructor since 1959, responding to numerous search and rescue and disaster missions racking up thousands of volunteer hours.

An active Amateur Radio Operator, WA3ZGD, he has served as the Flotilla Staff Officer for Communications for many years and is an accomplished Instructor.



He is also a Vessel Examiner, Coxswain, and marlinspike-knot master. John Johnson has dedicated his life in the service of his Country, in many uniforms and

organizations, giving his all and epitomizing the term "Volunteer".

Lawrence Butts

FSO-PA 23-2

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Safety at Sea 2019

On 7 September a Safety at Sea Activity was held at CG Yard Curtis Bay for the Sea Scouts. It was a fun action-packed day of hands-on exposure to Coast Guard rescue tools and equipment. Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region (MD-NCR) sponsored this event jointly with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Northeast Region Area 6 Sea Scouts. Lead points of contact were BOSN4 Christopher Runt, SMD-NCR; Auxiliarist PJ O'Neill, 22-01, Bruce Johnson, DVC-HY, 22-02, District Sea Scout Coordinator, and Todd Skiles, National Capital Area Council Sea Scout Commodore.

The purpose of Safety at Sea was to give Sea Scouts a chance to actually participate in activities such as conducting overboard drills aboard Auxiliary facilities, manning a fire hose, lighting flares, trying to keep a damage control trainer "afloat", seeing a Coast Guard rescue helicopter, and learning more about the various missions of the United States Coast Guard.

Activities for the day included: Fire hose buckets, Mustang training, Live flare training, P-6 dewatering pump, Man Overboard Drill (boat ride in Curtis Creek), Marine radiotelephone, Helicopter operations, Fire control simulator, Marine environmental protection and Coast Guard & Coast Guard Auxiliary recruiting & public affairs.

The day began with an opening Flag Ceremony and briefing of the day's events/ground rules. The activities were set up at different locations on the base. Each activity involved a team of up to eight participants. Each activity lasted about 30 minutes. There was an opportunity for each Sea Scout to do eight to ten different activities.

The Auxiliary provided three facilities for the training. Coxswains were John Fewer on OPFAC 23569 and Don Parker on 34292 from 23-03, and Jeff Foreman, 22-01. Crewmembers were Willie Witters and, Mace Coleman, Joe Espino and Dorothy Neiman. Lorraine Colletta, 22-01 was in charge of registration. Tim Welsh, 22-01 headed up the firefighter activities with Bruce Becker's

help (22-08). Larry Truesdell, 22-01 worked with the Aids to Navigation and radio activities. Holly Johnson, 22-02 spearheaded recruiting and public affairs. Gary McGinnis, 22-02 was in charge of photography. Jim Sams, 22-05 gave a presentation on a Ditch bag of what you would include in a ditch bag if you had to abandon ship in a hurry. John Johnson from 23-2 demonstrated and taught the Sea Scouts marlinspike. Phil Wentz, 23-07 and Lorraine Colletta did mustang and cold-water training.



Tom Glassman, 22-01 was the Sea Scout coordinator. Ted Roberts and Dion

Mulvihill, 24-01, Bruce Pringle, 22-07 and David Grieco, 22-08, Willie Witters, 23-06, Mace Coleman, Joe Espino, and Dorothy Neiman, 23-03 helped with man overboard drills in addition to while Arthur Von-Pieschel, 24-08 helped by filling in the gaps as needed.

Safety at Sea went very well, with very positive comments coming from Sea Scouts and their



leaders, Coast Guard Auxiliarists, and active duty Coast Guard personnel. Bruce Johnson, Division Chief, Youth Programs (DVC-HY) noted that while the Sea Scouts learned a lot, they also had a great time.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

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Auxiliary and Bowie Baysox partner to promote boating safety

Once again this year the Bowie Baysox sponsored outreach events on 20 July, 3 August and 24 August. All events were spearheaded by both Margaret Butler, Public Education Staff Officer and LeRoy Culley, Public Affairs.

Public Education events at the Bowie Baysox, included the highlight day of 24 Aug. that was designated as "Coast Guard Appreciation Day" by the Baysox.

Additionally, Willie Witters, Mark Bertacchi, Mark Campbell, Dorothy Neiman and Don Parker staffed the Auxiliary's booth during all three games. The announced attendance for the 24 August game was 8,473 including 324 Coast Guard and Auxiliary fans. USCG Capt. David Obermeier, USCG Yard Manager - Curtis Bay and our own Roy Culley (SO PA) threw out First Pitches - GREAT SLIDER Roy!!!

The total gate for the 20 July, 3 August and 24 August events was 19,772. Lots of Baseball fans had an opportunity to receive brochures and other safe boating literature. This was a tremendous opportunity for the Auxiliary to deliver the safe boating message to many people at one venue. The Baysox are looking forward to participating again with the Auxiliary in 2020 in order to assist our promoting boating safety.

Dorothy Neiman and Don Parker (co- Division 23 Sea Scout Coordinators) organized the Sea Scouts to be present at the Auxiliary booth for the 24 Aug. Bowie Baysox game. The Sea Scouts did a great job talking to passing by fans about sea scouting. A new "Auxiliary - Sea Scout" banner was displayed at the game. The banner identified the Auxiliary and Sea Scouts as one organization. This was an excellent opportunity to introduce the public to the Auxiliary's partnering with the Boy Scouts of America - Sea Scouts. Sea Scouts that participated in the Bowie Baysox event were Pascal Couch and Nicole Garg.

Margaret Butler

SO-PE

Auxiliary inclusion in American forces travel service

1. A recent All Coast Guard Personnel Service Center message (ALCGPSC 074/19) announced the inclusion of Coast Guard Auxiliarists for access and utilization of the American Forces TravelSM service (<https://www.americanforcestravel.com/>). American Forces TravelSM is a new Morale, Well-being and Recreation (MWR) program arising from a joint military service initiative combining the efforts of each of the five branches of service (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) and the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community & Family Policy.

2. The American Forces TravelSM site's back story indicates that because the Internet is now the most popular way to research and book travel, the branches of military service chose to evolve their travel offering. They have contracted with a world leader in travel, Priceline®, to deliver high value travel benefits to the U.S. military community. American Forces TravelSM is transforming the way MWR provides online leisure services to military service members and families, empowering them to revitalize, reconnect, be well, and most importantly, be mission-ready. In addition to dramatically enhancing quality of life for the military community, American Forces TravelSM will inject critical revenue into MWR programs by providing commissions from every booking made. The American Forces TravelSM site offers travel deals and benefits just for active military, National Guard, Reserve, military service retirees, eligible family members...and now Coast Guard Auxiliarists. This includes access to a wide selection of discounted rates on hotels, airfare, rental cars, vacation packages, cruises and much more.

3. For access purposes, Auxiliarists will be prompted to validate their Auxiliary membership upon clicking any "Get Started" button. Please read the ALCGPSC 074/19 message for more details.

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Flotilla 23-6 supports National Night Out

This year members of Flotilla 23-6 supported four communities during National Night Out. There were 24 held in the County. We had more requests for the Auxiliary participation than we could support this year, even though we supported the most communities ever. The events are sponsored each year through a partnership between the local communities, the Sheriff's Office and the Calvert Alliance against Substance abuse.

Bill Smith supported the event held at Carroll Western Church in Adelina MD. Connie Cosgrove and James Jefferson supported the Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth event held at the Harriett Brown Center on Dares Beach Road. El and Dave Keyser supported the Long Beach/Calvert Beach community where we have participated for many years. Harry Scott and Ray Feller supported an event held in Lower Marlboro. We were able to cover both ends of Calvert County with this support.

There were many activities for all ages at every event. The Volunteer Rescue and Fire Departments participated as did law enforcement. This is a great time for the communities to get to know their police firemen, and for children to learn that they are good people and not to be afraid of them and to ask them for help when they need it.

In the Lower Marlboro community, they had a Kiddie Cove, bean toss, and moon bounce for the children, other vendors like the Auxiliary as well as music by the band House Blend.

Long Beach had the usual dunking tank, face painting, door prizes donated by local businesses, snow cones, and lots of pizza.

At Carroll Western Church they had Hot Dogs/Hamburgers/Soda/Water/ Snow Cones. The Animal Control, Heath Dept., Prince Frederick Library, Prince Frederick Fire Department, Prince Frederick Rescue and Calvert County Sheriff's Office were represented.

At the Harriett Brown Center, there was a fire truck for the kids to explore, a room set up for playing and teaching chess as well as activities for the children. County Commissioner Steve Weems and Earl Buddy Hance paid a visit and drew the door-prize tickets while there. Scott Travers from Senator Van Hollen's office also paid us a visit,

During each event, the Auxiliary gave out flying disk, coloring books, crayons, bookmarks and safety literature. We stressed wearing your Life Jacket to all who visited the booths. Approximately 50 attendees stopped by each of the four booths.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PA



Top: Lauren, Alexander and Oliver Gaylord.

Bottom: Deputy Roscoe Jones and his daughter Sophia Jones.

Photos taken at the Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth event. Photos taken by Connie Cosgrove

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Smith and Scott honor Gilroy and Spence

Harry Scott and William Smith from Flotilla 23-6 decided they would like to honor Donna Gilroy and SK2 Karen Spence at DIRAUX for all the help and support they have given Flotilla 23-6 and the Auxiliary over the years.

On 13 August Scott and Smith, along with 23-6 member Ray Feller traveled to Portsmouth VA to present the plaques to Gilroy and Spence.

Gilroy's plaque read, "With the appreciation of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for you Outstanding Commitment and Dedication in assisting its members. Your professionalism has been Instrumental in allowing the organization to achieve its Mission. 2019"

Spence's plaque read, "With appreciation for your outstanding commitment and dedication in assisting the Coast Guard Auxiliary Members. 2019"

While at DIRAUX, Donna gave them a tour of her office and talked with them about what it took to work with AUXDATA.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PA



Pictured above left—right:

Front row— SK2 Karen Spence and Donna Gilroy

Back Row— Ray Feller, Harry Scott and Bill Smith

Cell phone use onboard Auxiliary facilities

There are some major changes to the communication policy -- specifically the use of cell phones, texting devices, and phone applications:

Auxiliary Patrols. A facility must have two-way communications with any Coast Guard unit; any Auxiliary Station or Detachments; any federal, state, or local agency (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers, police, fire department, etc.); or any local marina that agrees to maintain the scheduled communication guard and relay official information between the Coast Guard and Auxiliary facility. Local marinas must understand and agree to report a loss of communications with the Auxiliary Patrol immediately to the Coast Guard when the reporting period is exceeded.

VHF-FM is the primary method for communications during ordered patrols. The use of mobile phones and phone applications aboard Auxiliary Surface Facilities (vessels) is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Coxswain and only case by case. The Coxswain should take into consideration a variety of factors using risk-management principles before allowing the use of mobile phones. When a crewmember is allowed to use a mobile phone, the Coxswain will assure that there is a proper lookout posted and the rest of the crew are attentive to their duties. The helmsman is prohibited from using a cell phone.

This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliary personnel and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the CG

Questions concerning this policy letter should be directed to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division COMDT (CG-BSX-1) at CGAUX@uscg.mil. This policy letter and other policy documents are posted on the CG Auxiliary website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=risk-mgt>

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Flotilla 23-6 supports Annual Patuxent Appreciation Days (PRAD)

On 12 October, the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons hosted the annual PRAD festival. This year the festival was held for one day only and there was no parade.

The weather was warm and sunny with a breeze. However this year the area had unexpected flooding due to water being pushed in from the

We answered many safe-boating questions for adults, advertised our boating classes for next spring, and passed out identification stickers for kayaks and canoes. We had a display board of safety gear such as a die marker, flares and flare gun, strobe light, distress flag, and whistles. We distributed coloring books, crayons, iron-on tee shirt logos, and flying disks to the kids.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PA



Bay and Patuxent River. Many of the activities were cancelled because the tide was in the spot where the activity was being held. During the peak of the high tide, the Drum Point Light house looked like an island with the docks under water.

There were environmental exhibits, a kid's zone, free admission to the museum, pony rides, as well as our Boating Safety booth.



Top: RT West and Ray Feller answer Jesse and Lillian Yeatman's question.

Bottom: James Jefferson talks with Brian Zabler and gives his son Benjamin coloring books, crayons and flying disk.

Photo by Connie Cosgrove



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Boating at Night

In order to take my qualifying exam for boat crew, I needed to have one last element signed off on the night patrol. As a sailor, I thoroughly enjoy sailing at night and was looking forward to getting underway aboard John Fewer's, DCDR< 23 foot center console operational facility.

With a crew of three and our coxswain, we carefully went through our pre-departure checklist and then set out on our mission to check private aids to navigation up the Severn River. We slowly made our way as far upriver as we could go before finally making our way back around dusk. This is when our mission changed. We noticed a powerboat approaching without running lights. We signaled the vessel to stop and instructed him to turn his running lights on which he did. As we carried on, several other boats required signaling including a sailboat motoring in the dark with no running lights. As we approached this vessel, I was surprised to see the crewmember at the helm was a woman with a newborn baby strapped to her chest! They managed to get their stern light on however; their forward running lights did not work. Even as we made a pass through the busy Annapolis harbor, we had to signal an unlighted powerboat underway in the dark. Fortunately, their lights worked and they gave us a wave and said 'thank you' as they made their way out into the Bay.

As I reflected on this experience, two points stuck with me. First, the importance of the pre-departure checklist and its potential value for recreational boaters like the ones we encountered. Included in this list are the running lights, which we are required to confirm are operational before getting underway. Reviewing the pre-departure checklist diligently is a critical safety practice. It has made me a more informed crewmember, and as a recreational boater, it has made me a better captain in ensuring a safe experience for my crew. Secondly, the failure to exhibit navigational lights while underway is not only dangerous but illegal. This past August, the

wife of the 'Shark Tank' star, Kevin O'Leary, was involved in a fatal boat collision in Canada that left two people dead. His wife, Linda O'Leary was operating their boat at a high rate of speed after dark and collided with another boat that did not have navigation lights exhibited. She is being charged with careless operation of a vessel and faces 18 months in prison or a \$1 million fine. The other boat owner survived and is being charged with failing to exhibit navigation lights while underway. It is likely that if even one of these boats was being operated properly, this tragedy could have been averted.

The second point that stuck with me is the importance of our public education efforts as instructors. This too matters. Although we can never know the impact we have in terms of prevention of mishaps, we must continue in our educational mission.

This summer a married couple died on a personal watercraft (PWC) being operated at 1:45a.m. on the South River. The PWC struck a buoy and both victims drowned. They were not wearing Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). Our safety course not only emphasizes the importance of PFDs over and over again, but we specifically instruct our class that operating a PWC after dark is illegal.

Boating at night can be a wonderful experience but it also requires additional safety measures, many of which the average recreational boater does not employ.

So whatever the mission, be it patrols, vessel safety checks, public education or public affairs, know that the public will listen to us, learn from us, and benefit from our work.

Paul Manicone

Vice Flotilla Commander 23-7



Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 11 Issue 3

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Judged 5SR the Division Publication of the Year 2018

Survival at Sea

A little after sunset on December 22, 1971, I was sailing north, towards Miami, Florida in an old 17 foot sailboat that I had spent a great deal of time on. I was surprised when the lighthouse to the northeast disappeared from sight and maybe 20 seconds later the wind went from 12 to 15 mph from the SE to 55 mph from the NE, in about a minute, and I couldn't get the sails down in time. The boat went over and lay sideways in Biscayne Bay, full of water, awash but afloat. The sea turned white as milk, the air was full of spray, and it was hard to catch a breath. The Personal Flotation Devices were instantly gone. (This is why good sailors WEAR them!)

After the initial panic, and a heartfelt appeal to the Almighty, sense set in, and I cut an available line and tied myself to the boat. Then the wind came down a little, darkness fell, the waves built, and came hissing out of the darkness to knock me off the boat from time to time. To this day, I always carry a good piece of line and a knife. If I hadn't tied myself to the ship I wouldn't be around. I felt the lightning hit the water many times, and was glad when it finally faded off. I found the Ray O Vac™ searchlight and tied it to me, sat on the boat and blinked out SOS's at anything, everything, for hours. I started singing, and sang every song I knew, and was very surprised to realize that way back in my memory I recalled Ipana™ toothpaste ads from when I was three.

Eventually I saw the lights of a large vessel, fairly close, to my west, and blinked a series of SOS's. Their big searchlight came on, but didn't find me...then, seconds later from the northeast came Coast Guard boat 40605 which I thought was going to run me over but then went past me. I thought she would keep going. When BM2 Rick Dohen, the coxswain, went to throw his cigarette over the side he saw me, and came up downwind, and told me to swim over.

The ring buoy with the most beautiful white light on earth landed close by, but when I went for it I

was driven deep by a large wave and had to fight for the surface and the buoy light which all seemed to happen in slow motion and seemed very funny at the time. (Be very wary of stuff happening in slow motion that seems funny!) I made it home! Three others, only a few miles from me, did not. The CG40605 was looking for a sinking trawler and found me, but no one found the trawler's cook.

The next morning a 38 foot sailboat went down, three people got off but one did not. Another poor fellow was washed off a jetty ashore and disappeared. It blew hard for three days. Forty minutes before it all hit the fan, the radio had predicted fair weather.

Chris Jensen

Flotilla Commander 23-7



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CHANGE OF WATCH UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY CENTRAL CHESAPEAKE DIVISION 23



WHERE: Renditions Golf Course, 1380 West Central Avenue,
Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-798-9798 or 1-888-451-4144.

WHEN: Saturday, 18 January 2020, from 1400 to 1800 (2PM to 6PM).
Uniform of the Day: Service Dress Blue or Business Attire (See graphic below)

SOCIAL TIME CASH BAR: 1400-1445
COW: 1445 – 1800

BUFFET MENU: House Salad, Roast Prime Rib, Chicken Parmesan and Cheese Ravioli, with California Medley Vegetables, Herb Roasted Potatoes and Warm Rolls with butter.

DESSERT: Choice of Chocolate Layer Cake or Strawberry Shortcake layer cake with Coffee, Tea and water service.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: **30 DECEMBER 2019.**

PRICE PER PERSON: **\$40 INCLUDES GRATUITY.**

CHECKS MADE OUT TO - USCGAUX DIV 23

NAME _____ FLOTILLA _____ DESSERT
NAME _____ FLOTILLA _____ DESSERT

Email _____

Phone Number _____

MAIL RESERVATION AND CHECK TO:

**CONNIE COSGROVE
1105 DAN BOWEN RD
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678.**