

Chesapeake Chatter

75th Anniversary Edition



75 years dedicated to our missions—
Operations, Public Education, Vessel
Safety Checks and Marine Visits and
fellowship

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Judged 5SR Runner-Up Division Publication for 2011

Division 15-23 – Lower Chesapeake

In January of 2000 I was DCP of Division 15. At our 25th anniversary dinner and COW I was fortunate enough to have been presented a box of Division 15 minutes dating back to 1975. I know many of **you would say “that was fortunate?”** The answer was definitely yes and I would like to thank Carol Nimmer Palmer for that gift. When I was asked by DCO Steve McElroy in 2008 to be a committee member for the 70th history I knew I would also work with my division and my flotilla to update their records. This box proved to be invaluable. We were able to document all the Division Captains and all but two Vice Captains from 1975 until today. We have also been able to document who the staff officers were during our 34 years except for the same two years. I also found out that in the early years of the Auxiliary there was a position entitled DIVWAC which stood for **Division Women’s activity coordinator.** Who would have ever thought that! As you can tell from this writing I am once again working with Steve McElroy, now PDCO, on the 75th history. Because there are so many changes in the membership since the history was last printed for the 60th anniversary I have included information from earlier years in this article. The 50th history has been scanned and is available on line at the district website.



Division 15 was originally part of Division VII and was chartered on 17 January 1975. The first division meeting was held on 28 Feb 1975 at

Douglas Elementary School in Upper Marlboro. The original flotillas were 15-1 (originally Flotilla 76), 15-2 (originally Flotilla 73), 15-3 originally (Flotilla 78), 15-4 (originally Flotilla 79) and 15-5 (formerly Flotilla 7-12). On 1 May 1978 Flotilla 15-7, formerly Flotilla 77 was chartered. Flotilla 15-6 was chartered on 8 November 1980 with a core of the membership coming from Flotilla 15-1 who lived in the Drum Point area. Flotilla 15-5 was disbanded in 1980 and the original Flotilla 15-4 disbanded on 12 Feb. 1987.

Following is the highlights from Division 15/23 history taken from the Chatter issues I have on file.

1986

On 29 June, Auxiliarists Bob Miller, FC 15-7; Delores Presnell, VFC 15-7 on *Sea Imp*; and Bud and Islay Kesecker, 15-7 on *Instead* were **requested to ‘stand by’ for a mid-Bay rendezvous**



with the tall ship *Danmark* from Denmark for a transfer of passengers and equipment. The *Danmark* was enroute to New York

Harbor for the celebration of the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty. Walter Cronkite, his producer, camera-man, and sound and recording **man were on board the Danmark.** Cronkite’s crew and hundreds of pounds of equipment were transferred to Auxiliary facility *Instead* for **transport back to Solomon’s where a van was waiting to take them to National Airport.**



During the 100th birthday celebration in New York Harbor, 220 Auxiliary facilities and 700 Auxiliarists worked with the Coast Guard maintaining order and security zones

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during the relighting of the torch on 3 July, the Tall Ships parade and fireworks on 4 July. Hank Bischoff, Izzie Hayes and Carol T. Miller were honored to be the guest of the Commanding Officer of the *USCGC Dallas*, Captain Karl Luck. In **Izzie's words, "Almost too much to absorb... For the three Southern Auxiliaries, the spectacular sights and sounds of the event were enhanced by the opportunity to serve in an 'OPS-NOT-QUITE-NORMAL' situation.**

1987

Auxiliary Radio Cove Point was placed in service during the summer of 1987. Samuel



"Woody" Schwartz was a member of 15-6 and was the original operator of Radio Cove Point. The procedures for activating the radio

were written by a Chief Warrant Officer from Group Baltimore and Woody. Woody served as Staff Officer for Communications (SO-CM) from 1988 to 1997 when Ellsworth Naill took over. In 1998 John Cosgrove took over the SO-CM position.

1988

A special PA project was set up and directed by Bob Hammond. This project was known as the **"ice bag project. Through Bob's effort the bags of ice distributed through Woodfield's Ice House** during 1988 and 1989 carried the 12 Rules of Boating Safety. Isabelle Hayes and Hank Bischoff also participated in this project.

1989

Solomons was among the stops on the 50th anniversary celebration cruise to Portsmouth. Division 15 hosted a similar stop in 1993 with a fish fry for boats cruising south to Portsmouth for a district conference.

In the fall of 1989 Division XV was the host of a District conference at the Holiday Inn in Solomons, MD. This conference was the start of John Burroughs making many training aids, which went

on to win Krill awards at the District and several of them taking National honors. Division 15 also hosted a conference at Solomons in 1996.

1990

An Award of Operational Merit was presented to Dean Worcester, Vernon Schottroff and Al Sushko for heroism and outstanding performance of duty on 25 October 1989. They saved a lone swimmer without a PFD at Great Egg Inlet, NJ. The man had fallen from a 20 foot vessel.

1991

In 1991, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asked the Auxiliary to set up the display case in the Tawes Building in Annapolis for National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). **John Burrough's training aids** were used. DNR also sponsored the first Boating Fun Fest at Sandy Point State Park that year for NSBW. Members of Division 15 helped other divisions in the northern area to man the five activities that were set up for children. One of **the activities included John Burrough's** navigational training aids. This event grew over the years and has been a joint effort by multiple divisions under Sector Baltimore. It has grown to include demonstrations by Coast Guard rescue swimmers, life jacket and other demonstrations and 30 minute classes on GPS and other safety topics.

On 30 August, Auxiliary vessel *Captain Crunch*, was on patrol in the Patuxent River. Doug Yeckley was the operator with Horst Mueller, Don Gall, and Tom Doyle as crew. While on patrol a person jumped from the Thomas Johnson Bridge and was pulled up by a good Sam who called the *Captain Crunch* for assistance. After *Captain Crunch* delivered the victim to the dock he was flown to a hospital where he made a full recovery.

1992

In April the 17th Annual Educational Seminar was sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council, and was held in Annapolis. During the seminar training aids were entered for judging from boating agencies from across the country. John Burroughs entered his training aids and won Best of Show.

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1993

In January, Auxiliaries were asked to work on the Inaugural Committee. Aline and Al Meschter, Jim Danzig, and James Walsh all participated. They received the Coast Guard Group Action award.

During the summer of 1993, members from Division 15 worked with the Navy by training the Boat Division from Patuxent River. The BS&S class was taught with extra training in navigation, charting, and on-the-water drills in towing.



On 1 July a plane that departed St. Mary's Airport was reported lost and presumed crashed. After weeks of searching, on July 18, Sam Leach a pilot with 15-6 located the downed plane.

The *El Toro*, a fishing vessel out of Point Lookout, sank on 5 December with 23 people on board. All were rescued alive but two later died. Isabelle Hayes, FSO-PE for 15-6 was given credit by two of the survivors for them being alive. One of the survivors was a 12-year-old boy who took the state course from Isabelle. While in the water, he reminded his father of the training they had received on hypothermia. Isabelle was runner-up **in the Governor's Award for Volunteerism.**

1994

Members from the division participated in a multi-agency water rescue drill on 14 September. The drill was to test the communications between agencies should another disaster like the *El Toro* sinking occur. Congressman Steny Hoyer had pressed for such an exercise following the *El Toro* accident. Agencies involved were Maryland Natural Resource Police, US Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Maryland State Police, US Navy from Patuxent River, Dive teams from Charles and Calvert County, Prince Frederick and Solomons **Fire and Rescue, St. Mary's EMS and the USAF** from Patuxent River. Auxiliary facilities used in the drill were Robin Marie, coxswain Phil Wentz; CarpetBagger, coxswain Phil Hildebrandt; and a Captain Burke, coxswain Frank Ferril. Auxiliaries

from 15-3, 15-6, 15-7, Division 1, and Division 7 participated in this exercise.

In the fall of 1994, Flotilla 15-6 worked with Group **Baltimore, Taylor's Island 55 foot IMARV and Station St. Inigoes to find the "bad spots"** in communications in the Patuxent River. Auxiliary vessel *Carpet-Bagger* was the platform used for the operation. Auxiliaries involved were Phil Hildebrandt, coxswain; John Cosgrove and Woody Schwartz as crew.

1995

On 19 June a 35 foot Owens wooden boat exploded near Thomas Point Light. A Good Samaritan was within 50 feet of the burning boat. The captain of that vessel pulled three persons to safety aboard his boat while the fourth person swam to safety on another boat. One of the three people was severely burned. There were three Auxiliary facilities on patrol at the time and which arrived on scene in minutes. Two of the facilities were from Division 15. *Chinook* was the first on scene. Harry Daugherty was coxswain; Ellsworth Naill, (the facility owner) and Dr. Richard Lavy were crew. Dr. Lavy was immediately transferred **to the Good Sam's vessel. Based on the evaluation and recommendation of Dr. Lavy, a plan to transfer the injured man to University of Maryland Shock Trauma was initiated.** The other Division 15 facility on scene was *Irish Wake*, Floyd Martin, coxswain; Donald and Maria Hutter as crew. The third vessel was *Sunshine II* captained by Larry Truesdale of Division 7. RADM Ecker presented Dr. Lavy with a Letter of Appreciation at the 1996 winter conference.

On 14 August Ron Hillard, 15-7, boarded the buoy tender *Red Birch* for a four day tour of duty with the active-duty Coasties. Ron observed first hand what is done to replace and repair Aids to Navigation and the hard work it is. This would be the first of many tours of duty Ron would take aboard Coast Guard Cutters.

During the summer of 1995 Auxiliary vessel *Star of the Sea* answered a May Day call. The coxswain **was Jim Walsh with John Ferman as crew. A 37'**

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Sea Ray had run over a 15' rental boat with four people on board. One appeared to be severely injured. *Star of the Sea* kept the scene clear of on-lookers until the police and Coast Guard arrived. The victim was transferred to the 41 footer from Station Annapolis for transfer to an awaiting ambulance.

John Cosgrove was elected to Rear Commodore, Northern Area at the September conference. He served in this position for two years and became a member of the Activities Baltimore (currently Sector Baltimore) staff at the weekly staff meetings. He was instrumental in establishing a closer working relationship between the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary in the Northern Area (now called Sector Baltimore). This tradition continues today in the position of Sector Liaison Coordinators.

1996

The year began with our Change of Watch being cancelled due to the blizzard of 1996. Everything was ready to go but thankfully Andrews AFB was closed due to the weather. We lucked out and were able to reschedule without any additional cost. After much deliberation between Floyd Martin, the DCP; Aline Meschter, DCP-elect and myself, VCP elect; we decided the lesser of the evils on an alternative date was Super bowl Sunday, 28 January. When the 28th came the weather was great and the Mardi Gras decorations helped get the crowd in a festive mood for the evening. Several members even brought a small hand size TV to keep up with the game!

During the summer of 1996 four members from Division 15 received high honors. Samuel Woody Schwartz was honored by RADM William Ecker, 5th District Commander by being among 17 Auxiliarist he named as Volunteers of the Decade. Isabelle Hayes-Bischoff was inducted into the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Hall of Fame for Safe Boating Instruction. John Burroughs won the Krill Award in the Krill Training Aids competition sponsored by the Past Captains Association and Richard Lavy took second place. Division 15 won the NOAA award for the most ATONs completed in 1995 with a total of 103 completed.

Division 15 hosted the District conference in Solomons from September 27-29. Among the activities at the conference was a cookout on Friday evening with a Fantasy Island theme. Our on finance officer, Lillian GaNun performed the hula with DCO Sherman Lubman, and Steve GaNun came disguised as a gorilla.



1997

Members of Division 15 participated in air/surface exercises held by Activities Baltimore on 14 May. The exercise was to test the abilities of both the Auxiliary and the Comms room at Activities during a time when there was more than one case going down. The exercises were conducted in three areas of the Activities AOR; the Patuxent River, the Potomac River and the Annapolis area. The same scenario was used in each location.

Members of division 15 were among 30 Auxiliarist from the Northern Area who served as tour guides on the UCCGC Willow. The Willow was one of the newest buoy tenders in the fleet and was open for public tours in the Baltimore Inner Harbor from 28 August to 1 September.

The Chesapeake Chatter won best division publication in the district for the first time. Each year the Past Captain's Association judges flotilla and division newsletters for the best publication of the year award.

1998



One of the larger accomplishments for Division 15 was their participation in Whitbread - The Around the World Race for the Volvo Trophy. John

Cosgrove, IPRCO-NA, was the 5th District Whitbread Coordinator working with Activities Baltimore. Division 15 had 16 boats and

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approximately 60 people participating in the event. All members who participated in Whitbread received the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation award.

Until August of 1998 Radio Cove Point consisted of a small medal cabinet with radio equipment. Communications with facilities was difficult at times. Commencing on 11 August and running for a couple of weeks a refurbishment project was undertaken for the purpose of improving communications capability and making it a more useful and friendly location for the Auxiliarists who volunteered their time at Radio Cove Point.



Improving communications was a job that required and received the cooperation of Coast Guard and Auxiliary personnel

working together. The 60 foot mast was lowered and secured to enable cleaning, sanding, and painting. This was no small task. Once the mast was lowered in addition to the cleaning CG personnel welded an additional horizontal yardarm from which a second communications antenna was mounted. Improvements also included a complete radio console, direction finder, flooring, an air conditioner and charting area. Auxiliarist who participated in the project were: Jim Burton from 15-1; Steve GaNun and Phil Wentz from 15-3; John Cosgrove, Ron Sauer, Woody Schwartz, and Jim Wilbar, 15-6; Greg Askew and Peter Kelly from 15-7. The OIC of St. Inigoes was instrumental in this project. The OIC was BMC Howard Hathaway.

1999

On 17 January 1999 plank owner certificates for Cove Point Radio were presented to Woody Schwartz (1987-1996), Ellsworth Naill (1997) and John Cosgrove (1998—present) by Senior Chief Howard Hathaway, Station St. Inigoes.

On 14 June Division 15 hosted the first stop-over for 12 facilities heading south to Portsmouth for

the 60th anniversary cruise. State Delegate Tony O'Donnell presented Connie Cosgrove, DCP, with a resolution from the House and Senate of Maryland congratulating the Auxiliary on its 60th anniversary. The division was also presented with a proclamation from the Calvert County Commissioners. The event was held at Calvert Marina in Solomons with a picnic dinner.

Events in Portsmouth included a boat parade which passed in review before RADM J. Timothy Ricker, Deputy Commander, 5th Coast Guard District. The *USCG Cutter Escanaba* was the reviewing platform.



Three 15-1 members participated in the official National celebration of the Auxiliary's 60th anniversary held in Washington DC on 15 June. Art Torf, Rick Odato and Ellsworth Naill were members of the Auxiliary detail who served as side boys for the *USCG Cutter Diligence*.

16 April, a detachment of Flotilla 15-1 was officially established with the swearing in of 18 new members during the monthly meeting. John Ferman, FC 15-1 and John Bush, VFC 15-1 administered the oath of office to the new members. Commander Dennis Sens, Director of the Auxiliary, participated in the activities and said "the swearing-in of such a large number of members at one time is a truly unique and rewarding experience for me and the Auxiliary.



The detachment was chartered as 15-4 on 5 December 1999 at Paul's Restaurant on South River. Captain Mark Kern, Chief Director of the Auxiliary and Commander and PNACO (then DCO) Gene Seibert were on hand for the ceremony.

1 May 1999 the *USCG Cutter James Rankin* was commissioned in Baltimore Harbor by VADM

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Roger T. Rufe. Auxiliaries from Division 1, 2, 7, 13, 14 and 15 supported the events surrounding the commissioning for three days during Spring Fest by staffing a public affairs booth and serving as tour guides to the *USCGC James Rankin*.



On 3 May Auxiliaries were given the opportunity to cruise on the *USCGC James Rankin* when they placed the Francis Scott Key buoy into service for the year. The buoy marks the spot where the British vessel was thought to be anchored when Francis Scott Key wrote the poem which was set to music as our National Anthem.

Connie Cosgrove is elected as Vice President of the **Past Captain's Association for the Northern area** (now Sector Baltimore) on 25 September.

An Auxiliary facility is used for the first time as a chase boat during the **Governor's Cup Sailing Race**. John Bush, VFC 15-1 with his crew Marjorie Bush and Richard and Jewell Wunderlich followed the **fleet of 162 boats from Annapolis to St. Mary's College**.

2000

On 15 January, Division 15 celebrated its 25th anniversary at the annual Change of Watch. An invitation was sent to all members who had retired from the division, many of them had served as elected officers. We were honored to have several guests from the early years of Division 15 including 3 former Division Captains.



On 13 June Ron Hillard departed for Kiel Germany where he would board the *USCGC Campbell* to work in food services during his tour of duty. His son, Jay Morgan, was assigned to the *USCGC Campbell*. His rating was

FS1. Ron knew before he accepted the mission that he would be working in the galley under his **son's direction**. **Ron spent 40 days and nights** aboard the *USCG Campbell* visiting seven different countries. The *USCGC Campbell* made port in Klaipeda, Lithuania; Riga Latvia; Aalborg Denmark; Pembroke, Wales; Zeebrugge, Belgium; Casablanca, Morocco. Ron served on the *Campbell* until 24 July.

Tall ships from around the world converged on Baltimore on 21 June during OPSAIL 2000. The



first of the ships arrived in the Harbor before 0800. Greg Askew, FSO-PE for Flotilla 15-7 was on patrol with Shawn Moore, Vice Flotilla

Commander on Auxiliary facility 23391. Greg said **"the waves were averaging four foot and we had an occasional six footer"** The winds were blowing at about 25 knots. **"At about 0900 we saw two of the ships passing by. We escorted the Denmark through our AOR under full sail."** Other Auxiliary coxswains for the three days were Bill Noyes, Phil Wentz, Ken Massey, Floyd Martin, Robert Gittings, and Michael Prokopchak.

Cove Point Radio was manned for communications by Robert Miller, 15-3 and Peter Kelly, 15-7 from 21-23 June and then again on 29 June.

29 June was the Parade of Sail from Baltimore to Annapolis. Division 15 had 10 surface facilities working with multi-agencies to make the event safe and incident-free. Coxswains for these facilities were Huck Eltonhead, Greg Askew, Shawn Moore, Ellsworth Naill, John Ferman, Richard Lavy, Robert Riggins, Ken Massey, John Bush and Alan Kamerow. They were used to patrol the lines of the Regulated Navigational Area, to carry law enforcement officials from both the Coast Guard and the Department of Natural Resources, and as escort vessels for the tall ships. Several facilities were assigned the duty of passing out flyers with the hours that the harbor would be closed and

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were stationed at marina entrances to keep any recreational boater from entering the exclusion zone.

I was on board the *USCGC Harriet Lane* working with the public affairs staff from Activities Baltimore for viewing the Parade of Sail. John Cosgrove, Auxiliary OPSAIL Coordinator was working in the Command Post.



Revenue Marine Service cutter "*C. W. Lawrence*".

Nineteen Auxiliarists from our division were among the 63 who manned a public affairs booth for the nine-day event and served as tour guides on the "*Californian*", a full-scale re-creation of the nineteenth-century

For the first time in the Auxiliary we had a national electronic newsletter. As DSO-PA I was given orders for the entire event and was required to write stories for the SITREP on the events and email them daily.

September proved to be another busy time for the Division in operations. The US Windsurfing National Championship was held at Drum Point,



MD from 25-30 Sept. Contestants came from 17 states (Hawaii was the furthest), Ontario and Quebec Canada, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Australia. Four

Auxiliary facilities performed the regatta patrols starting on Thursday, September 27 and ending on Saturday, 30 September. There were two boats out each day. Participating Auxiliarists were Huck and Joan Eltonhead, 15-3; John Cosgrove, Walter Whilden, William Noyes, Ike Williams, Benny Benson, Bob Earnshaw, 15-6, and Tom and Betty Johnson, 14-04.

On 31 October 31 Cove Point Lighthouse was officially transferred to Calvert County and its new owner, the Calvert Marine Museum. The museum oversees visitation and maintains the property. The Coast Guard maintains the support building which houses Auxiliary Radio Cove Point, backup electrical generation plant, sensor equipment, and Cove Point Light monitoring device. VADM John Shkor, Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area and Captain Roger Peoples, CO of Activities Baltimore represented the Coast Guard.



Before the official transfer started John Cosgrove, SO-CM and Dave Keyser from 15-6 gave VADM Shkor and

Captain Peoples a tour of Auxiliary Radio Cove Point facility. They were very impressed with the work the Auxiliary had done in the radio room and thanked them for their dedication and hard work. VADM Shkor remarked it was one of the best radio rooms he had seen.

At the invitation of Everett Tucker, National Immediate Past Commodore, Division 15 established an ongoing relationship with Her Majesty's Coastguard Auxiliary GORLESTON Station. Gorleston expressed a desire to establish such a relationship with a unit of their American and Canadian counterparts. The fact that the British unit mans a coastal radio station and we guard Cove Point Radio made for a good match. HM Coastguard GORLESTON Station is located on the East Coast of England, County of Norfolk, Borough of Great Yarmouth.

The Chesapeake Chatter was chosen best division publication in the district for the second time.

2001

VSC decals for VIPs were introduced in 2001. John Cosgrove, Past Rear Commodore – Northern Area and Richard Lavy, 15-1 presented Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta with VIP VSC decal #3. Dave Keyser presented VADM Joseph W. Dyer Jr., Commander, NAVAIRSYSCOM with VIP VSC decal #5.

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11 September 2001 – None of us will ever forget where we were that day and what we were doing following the terrorist attacks on our cities. For me I was working at Patuxent River Naval Air Station when one of the employees walked by my desk saying a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. Like others I went to the TV and could not believe what I saw. I began talking with my bosses who were on temporary duty on the west coast, contacting other employees who were about to depart for airports and telling them the airports were closed and making sure the office was secure before leaving. A normal one-hour drive turned into two. The phone was ringing when I walked through the door and it was Larry Hill, ADSO-CM asking if John was home and could he open Cove Point Radio. John was in VA in the bilge of our boat with no means of communication, including cell phone. I assured Larry that I and Joan Eltonhead would open Cove Point Radio and that we would be sure the Station was manned as necessary for the coming days.

The Northern Area Auxiliary Radio Net, including Auxiliary Radio Stations Cove Point and Choptank Radio, as well as most of the Northern Area Radio Stations, were activated to assist with communications as cellular and land line phone systems were jammed for the first two days. Auxiliarists maintained Radio Watch at one Coast Guard Station 24/7 (24 hours a day/7 days a week) for numerous days.

Also within hours, Auxiliarists had surface facilities **on the way to back up and provide "B-0" vessels** for three Coast Guard Stations. Other Operational Patrols were performed at the request of ACTBALT to fulfill their missions.



Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle* was scheduled to be open for public tours on October 6, 7 and 8, less than a month following the terrorist attacks.

The Coast Guard decided to try to regain some sense of normalcy and open the *Eagle* for the tours. Auxiliarists were asked to provide assistance during this time. There were 14 Auxiliarists from Division 15 who participated over the three days. Jobs included answering questions from the public taking the tours, assuring safe passage up and down the ladders, checking handbags and packages as the public boarded, or as line handlers when the *Eagle* arrived and departed. Those participating were Richard and Numa Lavy, Rick Odatto and Alfreda Smith-Hurst, 15-1; Bob Gittings and Joe and Peggy Barry, 15-4; John and Connie Cosgrove, Ron and Ginger Sauer, Bob and Janet Earnshaw; and Monty Pugh from 15 -6.

2002

Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes hosted a meeting of the various water-related first-responder agencies in the Middle and Lower Potomac River on 23 March. Nineteen members from six organizations participated in the Search Patterns for on the Water Search and Rescue training. Participants included Auxiliarists from Flotilla 3-10 and 15-7, 10th District (Marbury) Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), Cobb Island VFD, Culpepper Water Rescue, Quantico Fire and Rescue Department, and Maryland Natural Resource Police. Auxiliary facility, **Greg's Gin** was used during the exercise. Shawn Moore, Greg Askew and Ginger Newman Askew from Division 15 participated in the exercise. Because the exercise was a full-day event everyone was glad to have the galley open for breakfast and lunch. Ron Hillard and Theresa Gray helped staff the galley.

On 16 April the Volvo Ocean Race (formerly Whitbread) completed Leg 6 of the Volvo Ocean Race in Baltimore. On 26 April the racers made their way from Baltimore to Annapolis in a Parade of Sail for a short stay before the restart of the race. Division 15 facilities *M&M Again* and *Final Answer* had the patrol for this event. Mike Prokopchak was coxswain on *M&M Again* with Bob Leek and Paul Miller as crew, plus Paul Flanagan as a trainee, were on patrol. Bob Riggins was coxswain on *Final Answer* with crewmembers Carol Riggins, Edith and Harry Stewart.

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The restart of the race was 28 April just north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. All Auxiliary facilities were on station along the regulated navigational zone (better known to the Auxiliary as the box) at 9 a.m. It was the Auxiliary's job (along with the Coast Guard, Department of Natural Resource Police and many other police and fire units) to



keep the spectator crowd out of the "box". About 1,000 spectator boats from 14-foot inflatables to the World War II *John Brown* turned out to watch the eight 64-foot racers leave the Bay on their way to La Rochelle, France for the end of Leg 7.

Auxiliarists participating in the restart were: Floyd Martin, Christopher Pariseau, Frank Voltaggio, Virginia Rohrbaugh, Dave Staples, Don Jameson, Karen Jameson, Bob Gittings, Joe and Peg Barry, Barbara Fouty, Vicki Marsh, John and Majorie Bush, George Darcey, Joe Crabtree, Ken Miller, Wade Cansler, Betty Fotheringham, Mike Prokopchak, Bob Leek, Paul Miller, Paul Flanagan, Jeff Opel, Brian Higgins, Jerry Ricks, Bob and Carol Riggins, Harry and Edith Stewart, John Osterday, Dawn and Paul Miller, Huck Eltonhead, John Cosgrove, David Keyser, Walter Whilden, Connie Cosgrove and Gaither M. Pugh, James Test, Richard Odatto, Alfreda Smith-Hurst and Paul Deafenbaugh.

In the summer of 2002 Flotilla 15-2 received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. In a continuing effort to expand flotilla 15-2's public information outreach to include marine safety issues, they applied to the Bay Trust for a grant for \$500.00 and received it. The purpose of the grant was to purchase supplies such as fuel-recovery containers, oil absorbent pads, and environmentally friendly bilge cleaners to be used

as giveaways while promoting proper bilge care and fueling procedures.

John Ferman, 15-1, was elected as Rear Commodore of the Northern Area at the September board meeting. John served two years as RCO-NA.

2003

Flotilla 15-6 applied for a grant from BOATUS to produce fueling decals to be given out to boaters in PE classes, during VSC and at PA booths. The paperwork was submitted in the fall of 2002. The Flotilla was awarded a grant for \$440 on 25 February.

The Coast Guard and Auxiliary were reorganized into the new Department of Homeland Security. John Bush, Dick Lavy, and Art Torf represented the Auxiliary at the Change of Command Ceremony when the USCG Flag was passed from the Department of Transportation to Homeland Security. The ceremony was held on 26 February in the D.C. Armory.

Flotilla 15-7 celebrated their 25th anniversary on 12 May.



On 25 July after being closed for numerous years the Liquefied Natural Gas terminal at Cove Point MD was reopened. The first LNG tanker, *Norman Lady*, arrived at Cove Point from Trinidad carrying 22 million cubic feet of liquefied natural gas. Three facilities over 30 feet were needed to transport members of the media out close to the LNG docking site to cover the story. Two facilities from Division 15 and one from Division 3 answered the call. They were *Missy Meg II* owned by Bill and Maxine Noyes, 15-6; *Elsie D* owned by Tom Doyle, 15-7 and *Da's Dream* owned by Jean and Julian Everly from 3-10.

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18 September Hurricane Isabel came calling on Chesapeake Bay. Many members of our Division received flood damage to their homes, damage to their vessels, piers, and sea walls. 15-4 lost their meeting place to Isabel. Cove Point Radio was also affected. On 19 September John and I attempted to reach Radio Cove Point but found the road closed and a deputy sheriff keeping people out. After a call on 20 September from Phil Wentz saying he heard the road was open, we once again drove down to see how well Radio Cove Point had fared. Although Radio Cove Point, the Lighthouse and cottages received no structural damage, they were flooded. The bench that was placed at Cove Point in memory of PDCP Ellsworth Naill was moved out to the first gate. When we opened the radio room door we were greeted with the unpleasant odor left behind from the water of the Chesapeake. It had made its way into the radio room leaving behind about a half-inch of mud on the carpet. The radio equipment was not damaged and worked fine thanks to the foresight of the rehab team in 1998. On Monday, 22 September, John Cosgrove met personnel from ACTBALT and ANT Potomac who tore out the carpet, removed all the furniture to the duplex for storage, and started the process of getting rid of the odor. Radio Cove Point remained off the air until the spring season in 2004.

In late September Joan and Dennis Conti rescued three from a capsized sailboat in South River. There were 4 people on board – three adults and **one teenager. The Conti's pulled the teenager and two adults on board their boat and a boat from Station Annapolis picked up the third adult making the transfer to the Conti's facility.**

The Chesapeake Chatter was chosen the best division publication in the district for the third time.

2004

17 April the Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard and Drill Team and a crew from Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes along with 5 members from Flotilla 15-6 participated in the Calvert County parade celebrating its 350th anniversary.

1 May was the opening of the Maryland Maritime



Heritage Festival and the transfer of the Thomas Point Lighthouse to the community. Harold Cramer, FSO-PA and Dr.

Richard Lavy had been planning and preparing for months for this event. A patriotic tribute to the Coast Guard was planned as the focal point of the opening ceremonies. Presentation of Colors was by the Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard from TISCOM in Alexandria, VA. Following the National Anthem by the Naval Academy Band; the Coast Guard provided a low-level helo fly-over by HH-65A from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City. The US Coast Guard Ceremonial Drill Team from TISCOM performed for crowd. Flotilla 15-1 has participated in this festival for many years and continues to do so.

After three years of corresponding by email and newsletters the Coast Guardsman from HM Coast Guard Gorleston visited Division 15. Connie Cosgrove as SO-PB and John Ferman, RCO-NA and Robert Riggins, DCP had received emails on their visit. On 24 April Graham Joel, his brother Maurice, Dennis Beacom and James Goldspink arrived from England into Baltimore Washington International airport. Both Graham and Dennis are members of HM Coast Guard at Gorleston. John Ferman and Bob Riggins had made arrangements for several activities for them while **visiting Division 15 including a ride on the 41' UTB at Station Annapolis.**

Bob Riggins was elected Rear Commodore Northern Area at the September conference on 18 September. Bob was RCO-NA for one term.

The Chesapeake Chatter was chosen runner up for division publication in the district.

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2005

Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on 29 August as a category 4 hurricane with winds reaching 175 miles per hour and massive storm surges which left a trail of devastation unprecedented on United States soil. David Siviter, VFC 15-2 volunteered through FEMA and was responsible for running a satellite emergency operations center as US Coast Guard Auxiliary for FEMA. Dr. Richard Lavy deployed to New Orleans in response to the Hurricane Katrina emergency as a physician with the Maryland Defense Force.

The Chesapeake Chatter was chosen the best division publication in the district for the fourth time.

2006

On 25 May, at the Commandants Change of Command ceremony, President Bush presented the Presidential Unit Citation (puc) to the U.S. Coast Guard for meritorious achievement and outstanding performance in action from 29 August to 13 September 2005, in preparation for, and response and recovery to devastation wrought by hurricane Katrina. Since the response to Katrina was an all-hands effort, all CG Active Duty, Reserve, Auxiliary, and Civilian personnel who were affiliated with the Coast Guard at any time from 29 August 2005 - 13 September 2005 were eligible for the award.



The Volvo Around the World Race returned to Baltimore for the third time on 17 April in Leg 5 of the race. Activities included an In Port Race on 29 April. Members from Division patrolled this event as well as the restart on 7 May. Members who participated in the Volvo Race received the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Award.

Division 15 participated in a joint DOD/Homeland Security Counter Marine Improvised Explosive Device Demonstration (CMIED). The exercise was held in the St. Mary's River near USCG Station St.

Inigoes and Patuxent Naval Air Station's Webster Field. The demonstration was conducted 13 through 17 November using Station St. Inigoes as a staging area for units afloat. Division 15 vessels participating were *Duet* of Flotilla 15-7, manned by Ron Hillard, Doug Yeckley, Gary Smith, and Ron Fields; and *Liz Reece* of Flotilla 15-6, manned by Bill Noyes, Harry Scott, Bill Smith, and Ray Feller.

The Chesapeake Chatter was chosen the best division publication in the district for the fifth time.

2007

Exercise Nautical Shield 2007, a joint Federal/State/Local first responder and private maritime industry full-scale exercise was held on 8 September in Baltimore. The exercise was



designed to implement the Area Maritime Security Plan, Area Contingency Plan and the Coast Guard's mass rescue plan. The

objectives of Nautical Shield 2007 were to exercise notification procedures, establish a unified command, keep the public and media informed, deploy resources to conduct on-water oil spill recovery operations and implement protection strategies outlined in security plans. Five members from Division 15 participated in the exercise held in Baltimore as actors/victims on a cruise ship who was taken over by terrorists. Members were Ray Feller, Bill Noyes, Willie Witters, and Dan McConnell, Flotilla 15-6; and Caryl Weis, 15-2



On Saturday, 8 September, Auxiliarists from Division 15 participated with members from three other divisions and Coast Guard personnel

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from Station Annapolis and Sector Baltimore in a training event for Sea Scouts from several area Sea Scout Ships. Auxiliaries provided hands-on training in recognizing and treating hypothermia, operation of the P6 dewatering pump, execution of man overboard drills, and protection of the environment.

On 5 October, Ike Williams while serving as a **volunteer to the community in the 'Meals on Wheels' service to home-bound clients** delivered much more than a meal to one of the clients, a 61-year-old lady with multiple sclerosis. At first, he could not find the client in her home, but with diligent searching she was discovered in a great deal of distress. The woman was very ill. He immediately summoned an ambulance, which transported the seriously ill client to the hospital. Had it not been for his prompt action at that time, she would have passed away. Ike received the DCO Award of Excellence on August 7, 2008.

2008

Paul Deafenbaugh, FC 15-2 participated in one of the non-traditional missions of the Coast Guard since becoming a member of the Auxiliary. Paul is a skilled trumpet player and has been included in the Coast Guard Band as one of their own. As a result, Paul has played taps at many military funerals and is now included in the CG Honor Guard as their trumpeter.

This non-traditional mission allowed Paul to travel to Hawaii in January with the Honor Guard to perform at a very special dedication. The dedication was the United States Coast Guard Pacific Veterans Memorial held on 18 January. While there, Paul had the honor of meeting Commandant Thad Allen.

Coastie received an invitation to the White House Easter Egg Roll traditionally held on Easter Monday. Coastie operators were Robert and Carol Riggins from Flotilla 15-2 and David Adams from 14-7.

The first National Security Cutter, USCGC Bertholf (WMSL-750), built under the Deepwater

acquisition program, paid a visit to Baltimore on 27-29 June. The Auxiliary was asked to provide four large patrol boats to ferry distinguished guests from Coast Guard Station Curtis Bay, the assembly-point for the ceremonies on Friday, to the Bertholf. Three of the Auxiliary boats served as transport boats to carry the distinguished guests. The fourth served as a platform for the patrol commander of the exercises, LTJG Shannon Frobel, USCG, who was on the staff of Sector Baltimore. One facility used was *Emmax*, 42-foot Onset, call-sign 42003 owned by Len Klaver from Flotilla 15-4. Len was coxswain with John Fountain (15-04); Robert Gittings (15-04); and Carl Smith (01-06) as crew. Phil Wentz also participated in the event as crew for Fred Burnham, Division 7, *Gal from Cal*.



Operation Joint Venture 2008 was a joint exercise that was sponsored and organized by the Incident Management Division, Coast Guard Sector Baltimore. The exercise was conducted out

of Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes, MD from 27 through 29 May. Participants in the exercise were Coast Guard personnel from Sector Baltimore and Station St. Inigoes; U.S. Army 32nd Civil Support Team from Ft. Meade; Maryland Natural Resources Police; the Coast Guard Auxiliary; and Miller Environmental Group, a private contractor that specializes in hazardous waste cleanup and containment. Two Auxiliary facilities were used in the exercise as recreational vessels. The facilities were *Voyager* owned and operated by Joe Jenkins and *Missy Meg II*, owned and operated by Bill Noyes. Other Auxiliaries participating were Dan McConnell, Jack Margolis, Ray Feller, Tom Hardisty, and Bill Smith, 15-6.

On 3 August operational facilities from Flotilla 15-07 participated in a joint training exercise with the **Station St Inigoes' 25-foot Defender-class response boat**. The exercise was to conduct a multi-facility search pattern for a simulated person in the water. The simulated search covered an area from Cedar Point light to Hooper Island light. Two Flotilla 15-07 vessels and the USCG response boat

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covered the search area in one-third the time required for a single-vessel search. James McGrath, FSO-OP of 15-7 organized the training.

On 12 October a 38-foot Formula Fastech racing boat barrel rolled in the Patuxent River near day marker #8 at Point Patience ejecting its 4 passengers. Fisherman in the area had rescued 3 from the racing boat *Hot Licks*, but its captain was still unaccounted for. Ron Hillard, 15-7 and his crew Robin Ouellette on *Duet II* were on safety patrol when they heard the report of the boating accident. *Duet II* was the first Coast Guard boat on scene and immediately began running a search pattern looking for the missing boater. They ran the search pattern for about an hour. As darkness approached they shifted into a traffic control pattern along with the Coast Guard facility from Station St. Inigoes to keep the flow of boat traffic away from divers and dive boats. Auxiliary facilities were used to help in the search for Mr. Reiter until 17 October when the body was recovered.

Phil Wentz, operations officer, said the time spent by the five Auxiliary facilities and 14 Auxiliaries equated to 170 underway man hours assisting the Coast Guard in the search for Mr. Reiter. Facilities involved were: *Duet II*, and *Splash* from Flotilla 15-7; *Missy Meg II* and *Defiant*, from 15-6 and *Robin Marie*, 15-4. Auxiliaries who participated were: Ron Hillard, Robin Ouellette, Gary Smith, Doug Yeckley, Tim Pannone, Don Parker, Bill Noyes, Harry Scott, Bill Smith, Don Haskin, Jack Margolis, Dan McConnell, Phil Wentz and Clarence Caesar.

The last two months of 2008 proved to be quiet months for the division as it prepared for the reorganization of the District. Under the reorganization each Sector in the District was restructured to have an equal number of divisions in their area of responsibility. Division 15 stayed intact and picked up two additional Flotillas. The Flotillas were 1-06 and 11-4.

The new number for our Division is 23. Flotillas as of 1 January 2009 will be:

23-1 – formerly 1-6 Annapolis
23-2 – formerly 15-7 Solomons

23-3 – formerly 15-1 West Annapolis
23-4 – formerly 11-4 Silver Spring
23-5 – formerly 15-2 Thomas Point
23-6 – formerly 15-6 Drum Point
23-7 – formerly 15-4 Herring Bay

2009

We began the year as a new division with new leadership titles. David Keyser was our Division Commander (DCDR) and Paul Miller our Vice Division Commander (VCDR).

On 20 April, the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards were presented at a ceremony hosted by the **Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism**. The Auxiliary was one of 39 winners of this prestigious award chosen from 311 nominations. Ordice Gallups, SO-MS Division 23, sent in the nomination.

Division 23 Auxiliaries participated in Operation Guardian Eagle from 15 through 23 January. **Division 23 responded to Sector Baltimore's call** for Auxiliary Inaugural Support to be deployed to the US Coast Guard Incident Command Center set up at USCG Station Washington located at Bolling Air Force Base.

Auxiliaries manned the check-in station around the clock performing the critical function of keeping track of the whereabouts of over 400 marine security personnel supporting the inauguration. Auxiliary also took radio communication watches at Station Washington as well as other local Stations. Ordice Gallups was one of two Auxiliaries who served in the Incident Command System Documentation Unit. Auxiliaries had been scheduled for patrols, but because of ice and other weather conditions, the patrols were cancelled.

Seventeen members from Flotilla 23-6 gathered at Solomons on 8 May to practice their rescue skills during a training patrol. What made this patrol different from other training patrols was that the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners **and the media had been invited to "ride along"** to see first-hand what the Auxiliary was all about.

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Commissioners Linda Kelley and Susan Shaw took the opportunity to see what the Auxiliary capabilities are. BM1 Patrick Logan from Station St. Inigoes represented the Coast Guard. Reporter Rick Beckrich and photographer August Selckmann from the Calvert Independent were also on the ride-along.



On 11 October, the CG Honor Guard from Alexandria VA joined members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23-6 in the Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) parade. Sammy the Otter, riding in the 25-foot safe boat from Station St. Inigoes reminded

all viewers that they "oughter boat safely".

2010

Caryl P. Weiss, FSO-PA, 23-1, won two photo awards from Sector Baltimore for 2009. The pictures were included in the Sector Baltimore 2010 calendar. This is the second time Caryl won a photo award from the Sector. In addition, Caryl was the only Auxiliarist receiving such distinctions on both occasions.

Auxiliarists afloat and ashore contributed to Coast Guard's temporary security zone in the National Capitol Region for the State of the Union address Wednesday, 27 January. During this period, security zone enforcement prohibited navigation by commercial and recreational waterway users.

On 26 March, Auxiliarist Paul Deafenbaugh and fellow members of the Ceremonial Honor Guard paid their last respects to retired Lt. Herbert Collins during a memorial service. Collins, who passed away 14 March, is remembered as the last surviving crewmember of the all African-American



Life Saving Station in Pea Island, N.C.

Photo: Auxiliarist Paul Deafenbaugh and fellow members of the Ceremonial Honor Guard pay

their last respects to retired Lt. Herbert Collins. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Brazzell

On the 14th and 15th of October Coast Guard Auxiliary facilities Bianca, Knight Hawk, Liz Reece, **Missy Meg II**, and **Da's Dream** participated in a series of demonstrations in support of the Coast Guard at Station St. Inigoes. Their function was to serve as targets for the Fire Scout demonstration.

2011

On 26 March, the Auxiliary sponsored PaddleFest at the Annapolis Maritime Museum. The three safety vendors (Coast Guard Auxiliary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police, and American Canoe Association) and three commercial vendors (West Marine, Annapolis Canoe and Kayak, and Backyard Boats) displayed the latest in the boating laws, classes, programs, boats, and equipment. Station Annapolis brought a 25-foot rescue boat to the docks, and allowed the public to tour the vessel.



On 25 June the Dragon Boat Races were held in Baltimore. The dragon boats have about 20 rowers, plus a "steersman" in the stern

steering with a long paddle, and a coxswain who beats out the strokes on a drum situated at the bow of the boat. One facility, Emmax 11, owned by Len and Irene Klaver, with Nelson Lowes, Carl Smith, Paul Deafenbaugh, and Caryl Weiss as crew patrolled the event to keep the sailboats, powerboats, and kayaks out of the marked race course.

Seventeen Sector Baltimore Auxiliarists, including 5 from Division 23, participated in a full scale Sector Baltimore, Nustar Energy, and Vane Brothers led oil spill exercise in the Port of Baltimore on 4 - 5 May. The first day of the exercise saw the initial notification and equipment deployment in Baltimore Harbor near the Nustar

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Terminal. The second day was an all-day exercise of the Unified Command Center (UCC). The command center was manned by Sector Baltimore, 65 active duty USCG and civilian staff; industry representatives, representatives of the City of Baltimore, Federal emergency management and environmental protection agencies. The purpose of the event was to exercise the Upper Chesapeake Bay Estuary Area Contingency Plan, Facility Industrial Oil Spill Response Plans, as well as the coordination of response partners under the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program Guidelines.

On the second day of the exercise, the Auxiliarists reported to the UCC at the BWI Westin Hotel to play the role of volunteers responding to calls for help in dealing with the simulated oil spill. Arriving **“volunteers” were processed as they arrived and assigned to a variety of tasks such as manning stations to process and brief additional volunteers. Some of the “volunteers” were assigned to help clean up wildlife affected by the spilled oil, simulated in the exercise.** Caryl P. Weiss, 23-01, William E. Smith and Jack Margolis, 23-06, John and Lynn Fountain, 23-07 were Division 23 participants.

For the second year Bill Smith, FSO-VE 23-6 set up a training exercise where members of Flotilla 23-6 and 23-7 demonstrated their on-the-water skills to the Calvert County Board of Commissioners. This exercise was scheduled just prior to National Safe Boating Week to demonstrate to the Commissioners the training required for assisting boaters on the water and to let them know the importance of boating safety in their area. Commissioners Susan Shaw, Patrick Nutter, Evan Slaughenhaupt and County Administrator Terry Shannon accepted the Flotilla’s invitation. Carol Harvat, reporter and Darwin Weigel, photographer from the Calvert Recorder were also present.

Prior to getting underway, Jack Margolis, FC 23-6 briefed the Commissioners on the Auxiliary missions. Four facilities participated in the exercise. They were Liz Reece, 25331; Missy Meg II, 32774; Bianca, 39222; from 23-6 and Splash,

29665 from 23-2. Each crew member was assigned a specific task and showed how they worked as a team during each of the drills. Drills conducted were assisting with pre-underway check-off, man-over-board, and a stern tow. CG 25700 demonstrated the maneuvering capabilities of the Coast Guard Response boats. CG 41453 also participated. Vessel Safety Checks were also conducted prior to the exercise.

PaddleFest 2011 was a boating-safety event sponsored by the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) and conducted by Drum Point Flotilla 23-06 on 10 September. The primary purpose of the PaddleFest was to increase safety awareness among paddle sports enthusiasts.

Auxiliarist Dan McConnell, Division Commander presented a Paddlesports America Class with the assistance of Doug Smith. This boating-safety course was adopted by the Auxiliary and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to promote safety for paddle boarders, kayakers, canoeists, and row-boaters. Coxswain BM2 Ramirez, Fireman Graham, and MK3 Porras arrived at the CMM dock in their patrol craft, a 25 ft., Defender B Class, Response Boat representing the Coast Guard. They provided a flare and emergency signal demonstration including hand-held red flares, orange smoke, emergency flag, and hand signals.

NAS Patuxent River honored 100 years of naval flight during an air show on 3 and 4 September. Construction of Naval Air Station Patuxent River began 4 April 1942 with the first flight to the base in 1943. During the week leading up to the air show, Mother Nature decided to test the Southern Maryland area with a 5.8 earthquake on Tuesday, **23 August, followed by Hurricane Irene’s arrival on 27 August.** Despite the weather the show was able to go on and the Auxiliary was able to support Station St. Inigoes with the requested patrol facilities for the full time.

The 2011 Solomons Offshore Grand Prix was held on 25 Sep as thousands of spectators lined the boardwalk, area beaches, and boats to witness

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this fast, thrilling, water sport. The National Championship Race was presented by GEICO and sponsored locally by Bayside Toyota/Chevrolet. Boats ranging in lengths up to 50 feet, and traveling at speeds in excess of 150 mph took to the Patuxent River to compete for a \$30,000 purse, as well as a National Championship.

The Auxiliary was called upon to support Station St. Inigoes with regatta patrols during race-testing and on race day. Saturday began with a briefing at West Basin at 1000. Practice runs were conducted between 1200 and 1500 during which time the race course was closed to boating traffic. Auxiliary facilities were assigned an area on the course to keep traffic out and away from the racers.

On race day, the assignment for the Auxiliary was the same; keep spectators and other boating traffic out of the course. There were eight different races run, and during one race one boat flipped over. The crew was uninjured.



On 9 October, the Coast Guard Color Guard and a Drill Team from TISCOM, personnel from Station St. Inigoes along with facility 25426 and six members from Flotilla 23-6 participated in the PRAD parade. Facility 25426 led the Coast Guard contingent followed by the Color Guard, the drill team and then the members of 23-6. Station Personnel and members of 23-6 passed out candy to those along the route. Auxiliary members marching were Bill Smith, Harry Scott, Coral Palmerton, Jack Margolis and Connie Cosgrove. Bill Noyes rode on 25426.

2012

The year began with 23-5 being disband. Members from the Flotilla were transferred into 23-3 and 23-7.

A celebration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812 was held in Baltimore from 12-19 June. The event was entitled Sailabration 2012 and involved several tall ships as well as US and foreign

warships (gray hulls) arriving in the area for 8 days of events.

While faced by potential water side safety and security issues throughout its area of responsibility Coast Guard Sector Baltimore, relied on the Auxiliary and all of its other governmental partners - federal, state, and local agencies, to carry out its maritime missions. About 190 Auxiliarists, close to a third from Division 23, answered the call, afloat and ashore.

The afloat missions performed by Auxiliarist such as Marine observation, safety, search and rescue, regatta patrols, transporting USCG Law Enforcement Boarding Teams, were not new or unusual. However, the intensity of the activity was way out of the ordinary; 175 patrols performed by 45 boats, 14 from Division 23, in a period of just over seven days. The patrol areas included Smith Point to Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Operations consisted of several phases: Inbound and outbound transits of tall ships and gray hulls; regatta patrols enforcing safety and security zones for the Navy's Blue Angels' practices and air shows; and a fireworks display.

Ashore activities ran apace, with Auxiliarists assigned to the Incident Command Center, 1812 special projects, Vessel Liaisons, Field Observers, Public Affairs/Recreational Boating Safety Exhibit, CG Yard Fire Department, Shore side standby, and AUXCHEF.

About a third of the Auxiliary vessels participating were trailered to CG Yard Baltimore, launched there, and then proceeded to the harbor patrol areas. The remaining vessels proceeded from their home docks to Baltimore or patrol areas. Temporary floating docks were installed at the Coast Guard Yard to accommodate the Auxiliary armada. At the peak of operations, 25 Auxiliary vessels and other government vessels were moored at the Yard often nested three deep.

Four Auxiliary members (one from Division 23) had the pleasure of serving as Vessel Liaisons providing a direct point of contact between Sail Baltimore

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staff and their assigned visiting ships: USCGC Eagle and Norway Navy Frigate HNoMS Thor Heyerdahl.

Supporting USCGC Eagle were Bruce Johnson and Bruce Rowley (Pikesville MD Flotilla 054-22-02), and supporting HNoMS Thor Heyerdahl were Allan Rex (Aberdeen MD Flotilla 054-22-07) and Glenn Wright (Annapolis MD Flotilla 054-23-01). The liaisons acted as ambassadors for Sail Baltimore, Baltimore City, the state of Maryland, the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. They provided **ships' officers and crews with daily schedules**, detailed information about the local area, where to obtain needed services and parts, help direct crew and officers to important meetings and special events, and ensuring constant communication between Sail Baltimore staff and their designated vessel. Auxiliaries Johnson and Rowley spent most of their time as shore side **'interpreters' for the thousands of Sailabration** visitors.

At the September D-Train, the Chesapeake Chatter was presented with the 2nd Place Division Publication Award for the second time.

For the third year, offshore racers arrived in Solomons on 14 September for the Solomons Offshore Grand Prix race. Solomons has been the final stop of the Offshore Powerboat Association National tour which features race sites from



Maryland to Michigan and Canada. This race is the culmination of the season-long grind for the AMSOIL Offshore

Powerboat Series. The Auxiliary was called upon to monitor the course by keeping spectators in the safety zone. The practice was held on Saturday, 15 September, with five Auxiliary facilities participating. Race day was on Sunday with seven Auxiliary facilities participating. Several of the facilities and many of the crew participated on both days.

A CG Meritorious Team Commendation award was presented to the 5th District (D5) OPSAIL 2012 & War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Planning and Execution Team in December 2012. The award was for exceptional meritorious service from February through June 2012. These two events were designated as marine events of national significance and showcased D5s ability to perform multi-unit, multi-service, and multi-agency security and law enforcement operations during a large scale historical marine event.

2013

A total of 23 Auxiliaries supported Sector **Baltimore's maritime security during the** Inaugural, with operational periods from 18 to 21 January, and for the State of the Union on 12 February. Auxiliaries manned positions at the check in/out station, did communications watch-standing, on-the-water patrols, and assisted Customs and Border Patrol surveillance by providing local area knowledge.

Joint Command security personnel from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies checked in and out each day at the station manned by Auxiliaries near the Incident Command Post at Station Washington. Communications and tracking equipment were also issued as necessary. The check-in tent was manned by Bill Smith, (23-06), Phil Wentz (23-06), John Sill (24-08), and Lorraine Colletta (22-01), Victor Nazarian (24-04), Kin Guinee (25-06), and Ryan Guinee (25-06) during the inaugural, with a reduced complement for the shorter State-of-the- Union operations.

Two Auxiliary Facilities helped maintain security by patrolling the Potomac River downstream of Washington, DC, during the inaugural operational **period. "Free Spirit", manned by Ron Price (23-01), coxswain, and crewed by Wendy Norwitz (23-01), Kathleen Sullivan (23-01), and "C-Song" – Gary Palsgrove, coxswain, crewed by Joe Riley and Robert Goley--all of Division 054-03.**

Auxiliary Paul Deafenbaugh was named Coast Guard Shipmate of the Week in May. His story originally appeared at the Coast Guard's official

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blog, *Coast Guard Compass*” and was posted by LT Stephanie Young, Friday, 3 May, 2013. Portions are copied below.

“Deafenbaugh had sounded taps exactly 936 at the time of the posting to the CG Compass. He first joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in September 1999 as a radio watchstander at Station Annapolis. When he arrived at Coast Guard Headquarters to process his paperwork for joining, he noticed a sign that said “U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters Band.” He hardly had his ID in hand for more than an hour before he was called back to music. Deafenbaugh walked in, introduced himself and before he knew it was a member of the headquarters band.



Deafenbaugh continues to play for “The Coast Guard Cutters” as a trumpeter and electric bass-guitar player, participating in dozens of performances

including several changes of command, retirement ceremonies and concerts for wounded warriors at regional medical centers. Paul continues to play **TAPS when called upon.**”

For the fourth year the Auxiliary once again supported the Coast Guard during the Solomon’s Offshore Grand Prix race. Both days began for the Auxiliary with a briefing at 0900 at West Basin of Patuxent Naval Air Station. Facilities were underway around 0800 with Cove Point Radio taking their guard. This year there were a total of five facilities participating. Three facilities: Bianca, Liz Reece, and Robin Marie participated both days with Fish Hook participating on Saturday and Splash on Sunday. In total there were 19 Auxiliarist who participated on the water with three Auxiliarists taking the guard at Cove Point Radio.

Because of the government being forced to shut down all Coast Guard Auxiliary missions were called to a halt including patrols, vessel safety checks, attending meetings, basically any mission

requiring members to travel to and from their homes. The reason was there was no funding to cover any liability. The government was shut down from 1-16 October.

To end 2013, Flotilla 23-6 and 23-2 once again took part in the Christmas party given to the children of those Stationed at Station St. Inigoes and ANT Potomac.

2014

Dan McConnell was sworn in as the Division Commander (DCDR) and Michael Raymond as the Division Vice Commander (VCDR) However, in April due to change in jobs Dan McConnell and Mike Raymond gave notice that they would have to resign their positions. An interim election was held on 20 May and Ron Price was elected DCDR. Although living in Richmond, VA Mike Raymond agreed to stay on until a replacement could be found.

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB

Division 15 Captains

1975-76	Ralph Thompson
1977	James Jones
1978	Francis Racioppi
1979	Harry Miles
1980-81	David Nimmer
1982	John Ellis
1983	David Nimmer
1984-85	George Clements
1986-87	Robert Hammond
1988-89	Albert Heim
1990-1991	Phil Wentz
1992-93	John Cosgrove
1994-95	Floyd Martin
1996-97	Aline Meschter
1998-99	Connie Cosgrove
2000	Ellsworth Nail
2001-02	John Ferman
2003-04	Robert Riggins
2005	John Bush
2006-07	Greg Askew
2008	David Keyser
See Page 20 for Division 23 Commanders	

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The Chesapeake Chatter



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

From all records I have reviewed there have only been three editors since the Chatter first went to print. Editors were Carol Nimmer (1979-1983), Delores Presnell (1984-1987), and Connie Cosgrove. I took the position of SO-PB and editor of the Chatter in 1988.

When I first took the position of editor, the articles were typed on a word processor in column format, printed and then cut and pasted to paper that was set up with a mast head. Pictures were developed as "half tones" so that they would copy when pasted into the publication. Once it was laid out it was copied, collate and mailed to approximately 200 members.

After a few years through a fellow division member I was introduced to the program Adobe PageMaker, a desktop publishing program. After some initial help in setting up a template I proceed to teach myself how to use the program, master it and put the Chatter out using that program until 2011 when I converted to using MS Publisher. The newsletter was printed and prepared for mailing up until 2010 when the first issue was sent out electronically. As you see the process has changed considerably!

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

Division 23 Commanders

2009	David Keyser
2010	Paul Miller
2011-12	Dan McConnell
2013	Marge Voith
2014	Dan McConnell/Ron Price

Memories

I have too many photos and memories from all the special events, conferences, and regular Auxiliary functions that John and I have been able to be a part over our 27 years in the Auxiliary to share in this column. We have participated in the first Whitbread Around the World Race to come to Baltimore and participated in 2 other Volvo Races, Opsail 2000, Cradle to Invasion in Solomons to react the invasion during 1812, to name of few. I have served on board two CG Cutters during Whitbread and OpSail as DSO-PA and have been tour guide aboard the Eagle and the tallship California during OpSail. I have been on CGC James Rankin when the Francis Scott Key Buoy has been deployed.

We meant a lot of great people along the way, both Auxiliarist and active duty that we will always remember fondly. It was our honor to work under Vice Commandant, Vice Admiral Sally Brice O'Hara, retired. We first met her in the early 1990's and over the many years we always followed her career and attended her many Change of Commands. It was our honor and privilege to be invited attend her retirement.



I have given a PA workshop as ADSO-PA in civilian cloths after finding out on Friday evening that my entire hanging bag was left home—no uniform—no banquet clothes. I pressed on teaching while my very dear friend Iz Hayes Bischoff went shopping for me for banquet clothes. As you see from the picture on the next page she did good!

Connie Cosgrove

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Cradle of Invasion—**Solomon's**
Island



Opsail 2000—the Danmark



Gun battle between the
Constellation and the Pride of
Baltimore—Opsail 2000



Volvo Restart 2006



Tour Guides—Opsail—Tallship California



Me pressing on with
training



Me—DCO Dick Miller, Ted Caldwell, DSO-PA
at the banquet

*I look forward to creating many
more memories!*

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