

# Chesapeake Chatter

## Division 23 5SR

The USCG HQ Band "The Capitol Cu ers" provided the music recently for the USCG "Flag/SES Hail & Farewell", held at the O Club at Joint Base Anacos -Bolling. Paul Deafenbaugh (back row – second from right) is the only Auxiliarist who plays with the Capital Cu ers. Paul is a member of Flo lla 23-3. The director is Steve Wolf, USCG LCDR (Re red) - trumpet player on the right, next to the two sax players. The remainder of the Capitol Cu ers are long-me members, some s ll ac ve duty CG, and some HQ civilians, some re red. Paul has played with a few of them



Pictured le o right

Front row: Commissioner Tom Hejl, James Je son - Flo lla S Officer (FSO) for Program Visits; Reid Sprague - Vice Flo a Commander, 23-6; Harry Sco - FSO for Human Resources; William Smith – Flo a S cer for Publi ons

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The spring me boat crew quali on classes are winding down. Request for QE shore-side oral and underway check rides have been conducted during July. Once again, special thanks goes out to Jim Farrell and John Sill for teaching the

boat crew classes. Equally, we thank all the instructors that assisted Jim and John. Coxswains and boat crew members are reminded to check with their FSO-OP when their three year reception check ride is due. Don't wait until the end of the summer to request a QE.

The Maryland summer that we all know finally arrived and boaters are out on the water everywhere. Unfortunately, as of this morning, twelve paddlers / boaters have lost their lives in water-related accidents. Statistics reveal that a higher percentage of Spanish language boaters are being involved in boating accidents. An extra effort is needed to remind boaters to wear their life jackets – mom and dad as well as the kids. Vessel Examiner's are urged to discuss with boat owners the need for wearing life jackets when they are away from the dock.

Division 23 is partnering with Sandy Point State Park (Nancy Gardner) and the Department of Natural Resources (Julie Brown) to promote boating safety at Sandy Point State Park and the surrounding waters. The month of August will be dedicated to onshore as well as on the water distribution of safe boating literature on weekends throughout the month. Margaret Butler – SO-PE & DV is coordinating the onshore distribution of safe-boating literature – printed in English and Spanish. It has recently been brought to my attention by the Gold Side that Auxiliarists need to pay closer attention to how they wear the Coast Guard Auxiliary Uniform. Observations include our wearing al, faded and frayed uniforms.

We should all be proud and honored to be authorized to wear the Coast Guard uniform. While some of us may not be as young and fit as the Gold side, we should I assure that we pay attention to the condition of our uniforms when we are wearing them.

Check your uniform and don't be embarrassed to tell a shipmate that the uniform they are wearing needs attention - when you see it!!

*John Fewer*

DCDR

## Voluntary Request for Certification Termina

Life happens to us all and sometimes it helps to take a step back. Now you have a form to help with that step. There are many personal reasons we have for doing what we do in the Auxiliary. Sometimes we just know that some values move beyond our abilities and we need to make a change.

There is now a voluntary request form for termination of certification which allows each individual member to decide for themselves what their level of participation should be and to make the necessary changes. The form is posted to the D5S website - members only - District Documentation section.

The Document Routing Guide has been updated with this and the training request form.

Editor's Note: The above was received from District Chief of Staff Michele Thornton through email

## Editors Note

I would like to apologize for the tardiness of this Issue of the Chatter. Since the beginning of June my life was taken over with my aunt having a stroke and then at the end of June her sister, my Mom was taken seriously ill and passed away on 11 August. I plan to have the next issue out on September. I will go to press by the middle of October. All events that were sent to me from August will appear in that issue.

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## 2017 Board &

**DCDR:** John Fewer

**VCDR:** Willie Wiener

**IPDCDR:** Dale Helms

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Michael Adams, Vice Floila Commander

### 23-2 - Solomons

Greg Askew, Floila Commander

Earl Kaufman, Vice Floila Commander

### 23-3 – West Annapolis

Dorothy Neiman, Floila Commander

John Wilson, Vice Floila Commander

### 23-4 – South River

Paul Feinberg, Floila Commander

Bruce Petro, Vice Floila Commander

### 23-6 – Drum Point

Mark Campbell, Floila Commander

Reid Sprague, Vice Floila Commander

### 23-7 – Herring Bay

Ray Walsh, Floila Commander

Christopher Jensen, Vice Floila Commander

## Division Sta

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SO-DV (Diversity) - Margaret Butler

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-FS—vacant

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Ronald Hillard

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SO-MT - Ray Feller

SO-NS - Robert Glenn Wright

SO-OP - Phil Wentz

SO-PA - Dale Helms

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Margaret Butler

SO-PV - Christopher Jensen

SO-SR - Vivian Gallups

SO-VE - Kirby Garland

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1 October 2018

Artes and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor, Connie Cosgrove at [cjcosgrove@earthlink.net](mailto:cjcosgrove@earthlink.net)

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## In Memoriam

On May 30, 2018 Commodore Robert J. Birrane, Sr. crossed the bar after serving thirty-one years in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Bob was twice elected Commodore and was a well-known figure to those in the 5<sup>th</sup> Southern District. He contributed an immense number of hours over his career in support of the Auxiliary and its missions.

Commodore Brianne, along with his brother Ed Birrane and John Cosgrove were responsible for the MD reduction on income tax being given to Auxiliarists who are over 50 years of age with a minimum of 50 points and who has been a member for 36 months. He and John Cosgrove organized the first dinner cruise out of Annapolis for Auxiliarists in what was known at that time as the "Northern Area".

Bob was not only the DCO but he was our friend. I am glad to have known Bob and enjoyed all the good times we had at public events, change of watches, and District conferences.

A funeral mass was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Fullerton, Maryland on Tuesday, 5 June and he was laid to rest at the Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens in Timonium, Maryland

*Connie Cosgrove*

Editor

*Frank Voltaggio*

FSO-PB 23-7



Left to right—John Fewer, DCDR; CDR May; Paul Feinberg, FC; Paul Mills and Willie Wilers, DVCDR

## US Coast Guard Auxiliarist is Awarded the 50 Year Service Award

As Florida Commander, I recently had the privilege to award one of my members the 50 Year Service Award along with my District and Division leadership. His name is Paul Mills, and he joined the Auxiliary on 06/23/64 when we were still part of the US Treasury Department. What an opportunity, I thought, to get some true historical perspective on the Auxiliary.

You could say that Paul Mills' story began with a man named Larry Vita who started a company that designed houseboats. He partnered with Frank Sinatra and drove a blue Cadillac with the top down according to the Union Tribune (Knight Ridder Newspapers). In 1959, Vita happened to pilot a boat he made called the D Wood down the Intracoastal and docked it near the Fontainebleau hotel in Miami Beach. A Warner Bros. producer happened to be in town, scouting locations for a new TV series called "Surfside 6" that ran on ABC from 1960 to 1962.



Continued on page 5—see Mills



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Vita then started a line of these Houseboats and named them after the “Surfside 6” TV series. The houseboat design was unusual. Instead of a bulk headed hull, he built a series of interlocking, airtight boxes from plywood, which were then coated in fiberglass. If one box got punctured, the others maintained buoyancy and stability. This was a good thing because the hull had to support a fully furnished ranch house, sometimes with a full bathroom and kitchen, a dining room table and a vanity in the bedroom.

So, how does this relate to our friend Paul Mills? Well, Vita got credit and built 20 ongoing missions for the US Coast Guard. In fact, the New York Times reported on May 11, 1963 that two search and rescue missions were launched as part of a Coast Guard experiment to save thousands of dollars. They described the ongoing missions as double decked 60 feet long and 28 feet wide to accommodate ten men. Each mission included a 30-foot, high-speed patrol and a 16-foot with trailer for rescue work. The two were put to service in July of that year, one at Fort Myers, Fla., and the other in Virginia.

It was the ongoing mission from Virginia that ended up landing at the end of 2nd Street (Back Creek side) in Eastport Annapolis (Vosbury’s Marina), and the one on which Paul Mills served. Vosbury’s Marina, by the way, was founded by Richard F. Vosbury and operated from 1961 to 1972.

The \$45,000 ongoing mission was to replace the equivalent of a \$200,000 USCG land based unit. “We simply are experimenting with the missions now,” Capt. R. R. Smith, Coast Guard Chief of Inspections, said in 1963. “We don’t know if these two will work out to our benefit.” Each boat included galley, recreation room, officers’ quarters, crew’s quarters, radio room, laundry room with washer and dryer and two bathrooms.

In 1964, during the time the ongoing mission was in Annapolis, the Washington Post reported that USCG Floila 2-10 was assigned to patrol and rescue duty during West River Sailing Club’s

Annual Labor Day Weekend regatta. In describing the Auxiliary, the author (Aubry Graves) wrote “their pleasure came in protecting the lives and property of fellow human beings who share with them a love of the water.”

“The Auxiliary men’s services are voluntary. For the wear and tear on their boats, they receive no compensation. No income tax benefits are derived. The U.S. Coast Guard pays them for the gasoline they burn and the meals they eat while on duty but beyond that they reap no financial rewards.”

Floila 2-10 that the article referred to was Paul Mills’ Floila at the time. In fact, Mills noted that his Floila would patrol a sailboat race in West River every year. He said the Coast Guard sent a regular Coast Guard person to his house on South River to be on his boat the day of the race. On this one particular race, the regatta involved small sailboats (1 or 2 person boats) and about the time they would pass Thomas Point Light [the boats would] turn over by the heavy winds at the time. Mills said “I think we righted over 20 [that day] and got the crew back in [each]. Saturday they raced all day in the West River and at night they would have a chicken dinner at the West River Sail Club. Sunday it was back to racing.”

Mills became Communicator, so he was on patrol almost every weekend. Sometimes the Coast Guard mission in Baltimore would send a CG Cutter down to West River and put CG personnel on Floila 2-10’s boats to patrol any given event. Back then Mills said they only had 3 radio frequencies.

“I [also] used to go out to Thomas Point Light House before 1986 when it was manned and talk with the CG personnel. They would ask me if I would take them ashore to buy food and I would, but I think they just needed cigarettes.”

By 1 February 1967, Mills was transferred into Floila 11-04, referred to as the Middle Western

(Continued on page 6—see Mills)

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(Mills—continued from page 5)

Shore Division. In 1968, he became Commander of Flo 11a.

"We were all out looking for tow jobs that we could tow to the nearest marina. All the Auxiliary boats had tow lines already made up. We would use the 2 stern cleats on the CG Aux vessel and the bow cleat of the boat being towed."

When asked what motivated him originally to join the Auxiliary and how different were things in those days, Mills said, "I would see a group of US CG Auxiliary vessel examiners go to different marinas and do vessel inspections. I would also watch the CG Auxiliary tow disabled vessels and this impressed me enough to join." As for things that are different, Mills said uniforms were khaki, dues were \$20 by 1990 and there seems to be fewer females in the Auxiliary these days."

Paul Mills' health has prevented him from being on the water as much these days, but he dutifully pays his dues each year and remains active. We are proud to have him in Flo 11a 054-23-04, South River, as is the District who awarded him his 50-year service award. In fact, our new Director of the Auxiliary of District 5, Southern Region, CDR Eric May, was present as Flo 11a 23-04 celebrated his 50 years of service.

Bravo Zulu, Auxiliarist Paul Mills!

*Paul Feinberg*

Flo 11a Commander 23-4

*I would like to thank Mr. Matthew J. Boylan, Senior Reference Librarian, at the New York Public Library who was able to help me find some of the rare material used in this release, not available on the web. For more information, got to ASK NYPL.*

## Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following members have earned awards. Congratulations!

### 50 Year Service Plaque

Paul Mills, 23-4

### Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award for service in excess of 30 Public Education Hours for the Year 2017

Lynn Disque – 23-3

Ray Feller, 23-6

### Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards

750 hours, 1<sup>st</sup> award

Raymond (RT) West, 23-6

2250 hours, 3<sup>rd</sup> award

Lynn Disque and Dorothy Neiman, 23-3

Willie Waters, 23-6

3000 hours, 4<sup>th</sup> award

John Fewer, 23-3

Mark Campbell, 23-6

3750 hours, 5<sup>th</sup> award

John Fewer and Mark Bertacchi, 23-3

4500 hours, 6<sup>th</sup> award

Don Parker and Dale Helms, 23-3

Bill Smith, Dave Keyser, 23-6

15,000 hours (since October 1987), 11<sup>th</sup> award

Connie Cosgrove, 23-6

### Membership Service Award

5 years

Muriel Garmen, Patricia Napoli and Kathleen Sullivan - 23-1

Joseph Espino, 23-3

10 years

Leonard Butler, 23-1

Ryan Hancock, 23-2

Bruce Petro, 23-4

Reid Sprague, 23-6

15 years

Walt Discenza, Dale Helms and Timothy Connor, 23-3

Bill Smith, 23-6

20 years

Dave and Eleanor Keyser, 23-6

25 years

Kent Holmes and Shawn Moore, 23-2

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## The Great Chesapeake Bay Swim

Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> saw the running of the Chesapeake Bay swim event held over due to rain storms the previous Sunday which forced the postponing of the event

The Great Chesapeake Bay Swim is an annual occurrence that is usually scheduled for the second Sunday of June and consists of a 4.4 mile free swim across Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. The race starts from the shores of Sandy Point State Park and extends eastward between the two spans of the William Preston Lane, Jr., Memorial Bridge (U.S. Highway 50). It then ends at a small sandy beach on Kent Island



immediately south of the bridge next to Hemingway's Restaurant.

As in past years, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has supported this event by supplying picket line vessels to keep local boaters out of the exclusion area and at a safe distance from the swimmers.

The swim is a charitable fundraiser organized for the Maryland Chapter of the March of Dimes with the net proceeds going to aid the campaign for healthier babies by funding research to stop premature birth, birth defects and infant mortality.

All swimming applicants must have the proper training and open water experience to be accepted. The race is limited to 600 swimmers opening in two waves 15 minutes apart. For additional safety, wetsuits are allowed and encouraged to be worn.

This year's swim took place with swimmers from 34 states. The key winners were Patrick Donahue, 44, of Bethesda, Maryland and Kelsey Cashman, 16, of Annapolis, Maryland who was the first woman to make it to land, and 10th overall in the race.

*Frank Voltaggio.*

FSO-PB

## 23-7 Vessel Exam Day

On Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>, members of Flo la 23-7 conducted their annual Vessel Safety Exam Day with the United States Power Boat Squadron at Skippers Pier Restaurant and Dock Bar in Deale, Maryland. Auxiliarists Ray Walsh, Chris Jensen, and Travis Ball conducted VEs with Patrick and Sherry Marnell participating as trainees.

As in years past, the owners of Skippers were very appreciative of the USCG Auxiliary coming out to conduct vessel exams for the local boaters. The weather forecast was for some rain, so most owners decided to show up by car rather than risk getting caught in the storm.

All in all, the members conducted six Vessel Safety Exams that day. Bravo Zulu to all who supported this event!

*Travis Ball,*

FSO-VE



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## Flo la 23-03 graduated twenty seven

Flo la 23-03 graduated 27 through its 2018 Sailing Skills & Seamanship and Bo ng Skills & Seamanship courses. Nine students ended the 12-week SS&S course and 18 ended the 9-week BS&S course. The 3-hour sessions ran from January 31 through April 25<sup>th</sup>. Lynn Disque (FSO-PE) once again organized and led the classes. In addition to Lynn, six other Flo la 23-03 members (Walt Discenza, Joe Espino, John Fewer, Dale Helms, Dorothy Neiman, and Don Parker) assisted with the instruction. Attendance for the classes has been building over recent years with students traveling from as far as Dover, Delaware to attend. The classes attract a diverse audience with a wide age range and includes singles, couples, and families. The common motivation expressed is a desire to become a better boater.

Marlin Spike is a popular session and this year's teaching aides created by Don Parker proved effective. Three instructors worked with small groups of students to provide hands-on instruction. Navigation is a challenging session, but with four instructors helping the students most were able to successfully complete the changing problems. A Boarding for on Annapolis led a valuable session on "What to expect if you are boarded by the USCG for a Safety Inspection".



At the conclusion of the course the students provided very favorable comments and expressed their appreciation for the instruction. Lynn encouraged them to set goals to help measure their progress towards developing their bo ng skills. It was rewarding to hear some of their recent success stories, e.g., a sailor shared his excitement with his new-found ability to signal his steering intention to another boat by making an

early and ample steering adjustment. We left the students with the following advice: Be Safe, Be Courteous, Protect our Waters, and Have Fun!

*Dorothy Neiman*

Flo la Commander 23-3

## Auxiliary Life Jacket Wear Observation (AUXLWO) Program - Standard Operating Procedure Approved

1. The Auxiliary Life Jacket Wear Observation (AUXLWO) Program Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been signed by the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX). This document culminates close and extensive work between the Auxiliary, the Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1), and the Bo ng Safety Division (CG-BSX-2). It provides programmatic advice, guidance, and structure for Auxiliary participation in AUXLWO exercises.

2. The AUXLWO SOP can be found on the CG-BSX-1 website at: [http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads\\_wowII/V-DEPT/AUX\\_SOP\\_001A\\_AUXLWO\\_esigned.pdf](http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/V-DEPT/AUX_SOP_001A_AUXLWO_esigned.pdf)

3. The Auxiliary National Program Manager for AUXLWO is the Bo ng Safety Division (BSX-2).

Editor's Note: The above was received email through Auxiliary communication list server



New Members

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following have joined the Auxiliary. Please make them feel welcome and offer them friendship and any assistance they may need

Darian Pringle and Denise Collins, 23-1  
Tim Strissel, Paul E. Manicone, & Dale Walker 23-3