

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 10 Issue 2

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USCGAUX Paddlecraft Training Held

Ron Price of Flotilla 23-01, Annapolis, organized and led a three-day paddle-craft training class from 8-10 June for ten participants from the 5th Southern District. Wendy Norwitz from 23-1 and Roland McDevitt from 16-07 assisted. Ron started by going over the need for more Auxiliary paddle craft operators to be on the water and visible to the public.

Paddle sport participation has grown dramatically in recent years. Low entry cost, easy storage, less maintenance and flexibility are some of the reasons many people have decided to become paddlers, compared to power or sailing craft.

Paddle sports are on the rise, setting a record for the number of participants. About 22 million Americans — 7.4 percent of the population — enjoy paddling. Kayaking, Stand up Paddle boarding, and kayak fishing have grown dramatically. Between 90,000 and 105,000 canoes and 350,000 kayaks are sold annually, according to industry figures.

However, all of this growth in paddle sports has a dark side. Unlike power boats, with the growth in paddle sports, the number of fatalities has gone up. In the most recent reporting year, 2015, 29% of boating deaths were related to paddle craft. In 2016, fatalities climbed even higher. Current efforts to reach the paddling public have fallen dramatically short. The Coast Guard Auxiliary

Strategic Plan for 2017 focuses Auxiliary efforts on addressing the problem by expanding outreach to the paddle craft community.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary **AUXPAD** program helps fill the knowledge gap for novice paddlers. **AUXPAD** consists of two components, **AUXPAD** Ashore and **AUXPAD** Afloat. **AUXPAD** Ashore includes all of the traditional methods that the Auxiliary uses to reach the boating public, including public affairs events, public education classes, marine dealer visits, and vessel -safety examinations. All of these tools are available to approach the paddling public.

AUXPAD Afloat places qualified **AUXPAD** Operators in direct contact with recreational paddle craft users on the water. It promotes paddle craft Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) via personal example and gives Auxiliarists an opportunity to interact with the paddle-craft community to share RBS messages.

Before class started, trainees were given the option to purchase bright orange shirts with USCG Auxiliary printed on them. Wearing orange is a highly effective way for kayakers to be spotted on the water by larger boats.

The class covered a wide range of issues starting with learning how to get in a kayak safely, the various types of strokes needed to maneuver the

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craft properly, how kayaks can gain access to shallow areas for search and rescue not accessible by larger boats, and many tips and suggestions on how to conduct mission safely. Examples include keeping a close eye on changing conditions, weather and waves, taking both a marine radio and cell phone for communication, and always having a spare paddle.

One of the most important features of the class was learning how to recover and re-enter the kayak in case you accidentally fall overboard. Class members quickly learned this could be an arduous and exhausting task, especially in deep water with wind and currents. This exercise also stressed the need to have all your items in the boat properly secured to avoid loss.

Another exercise was learning how to properly tow another paddle craft when needed and how to help another paddler recover and re-enter their kayak.

Overall, it was a highly successful event and all trainees are now well on their way to having their vessels certified and gaining their credentials to conduct RBS missions.

Robert Garmin

FSO-PB 23-1



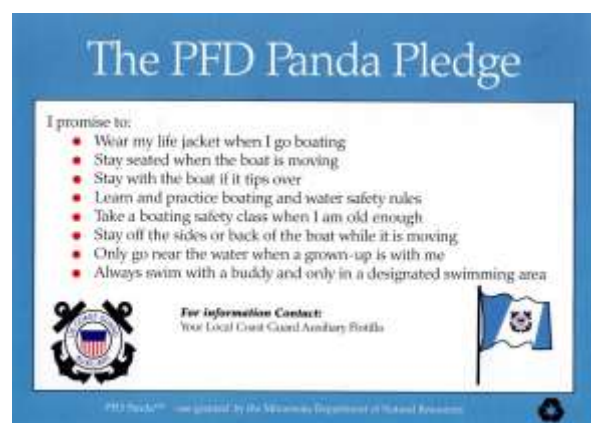
Joey Taguding practicing re-entry

23-03 Safe Boating Week Events

On Friday May 18 we celebrated Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day with 65 Hillsmere Elementary 2nd graders. We emphasized the importance of wearing a life jacket, even for dogs. The children were very engaged and eager to tell stories about their dogs and the water.

We had the children try on life jackets and showed how to check for proper fit. The girls were especially eager to try on the PINK ones. Some of the children were surprisingly savvy about boating safety. For example, we demonstrated extending a boat hook to someone in the water and asked what else you could do to retrieve a person from the water. A little boy suggested floating a rope out to the person and a little girl responded that you should be careful not to let the rope get caught in the boat propeller.

When asked what you should do if you fall in the water one 2nd grader explained that it was important to stay calm. In response to our questions about setting a good example, several children said you need to look out for things in the water. The children all took the "PFD Panda



Pledge" and received a signed PFD Panda Award card. Boating and Water Safety coloring books, whistles, and safe boating literature for family and friends were distributed and we encouraged the children to ask their family and friends to wear their life jackets too.

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On Saturday May 19 we supported the kickoff of Safe Boating Week at Hillsmere West Marine. We had three stations: Boating Safety & Vessel Safety Check Sign-up (Dale Helms and Walt Discenza); paddlecraft safety (Lynn Disque and Dorothy Neiman); and Lines & Knots How To (John Fewer and



Don Parker). We distributed a lot of good safety literature and had many productive discussions, especially regarding paddlecraft safety.

On Wednesday May 22 Dale Helms gave a presentation at MD Yacht Club on Rock Ck off the Patapsco. Students from Chesapeake High School helped with the event for Jacobsville 3rd graders. The HS students organized a PFD race where 3rd graders put on, took off, and passed on the PFD to the next student. Everyone was involved and grateful and the teachers were great.

Vessel Safety Checks were also performed during week by Kirby Garland and John Fewer.

Dorothy Neiman
Flotilla Commander, 23-3
Photographer

23-6 Receives NSBW Proclamation

On 8 May members of 23-6 received an annual National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) Proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners. In the proclamation the Commissioners "Proclaimed that the week of May 19 – 25, 2018, be known as NSBW in Calvert County". The Proclamation further proclaimed by this action we advocate year-round efforts to promote safe boating and urge all those to "Wear It" and practice safe, smart, boating habits."

Reid Sprague, Vice Flotilla Commander of 23-6 told the BOCC about the Auxiliary and about our missions. Ray Feller, Division 23 Staff Officer for Member Training (SO-MT) talked about our public education classes, the upcoming class for 21, 22 and 24 May and the Maryland requirement for having passed an 8-hour boating class if you were born after 1 July 1972.

Members of Flotilla 23-6 in attendance were Bill Smith, Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Publications, Ray Feller, SO-MT, James Jefferson, FSO for Program Visits, and Harry Scott, FSO for Human Resources.

Connie Cosgrove
FSO-PA



Stan Greene received a rose and blessing during the blessing of the fleet in Solomons

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Diversity Comes in Many Forms

Diversity comes in many forms, sometimes we need to take a step back and examine the presence of diversity in our world culture and explore why it's important to promote it in our role as U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist. The benefits of demonstrating diversity in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary includes increased productivity, contributing globally, introspective alignment, growing in acceptance and a richer life experience.

Productivity. As U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist, we bringing together people of various backgrounds with different life experiences that can generate ideas or perspectives that others may not have ever considered or been exposed to. Everyone has their own way of viewing a problem, shaped by the individual experiences that they have had. When tackling an issue, wouldn't it be better to have multiple interpretations and approaches, rather than everyone contributing the same thoughts and conclusions?

Becoming a World Citizen. If you experience diversity in your everyday life, you will have



regular exposure to people, cultures, traditions, and practices that are

unlike your own. As we develop the skills to communicate and interact in the boating communities we serve, we will gain a world-wide view and gain increased understanding of the world.

Perspective. Hearing about another's experience can shed light on a life different than your own and provide you a new perspective. When you compare your struggles, priorities, and values, you can really begin to comprehend where an individual is coming from and understand his or her actions and behaviors. Perhaps talking to

someone new will change your mindset and priorities, or at least make you appreciate another's motivations and hardships.

Growing Acceptance, Diminishing Discrimination.

Promoting diversity is the first step to not just "tolerance," but true acceptance. Through growing contact with, exposure to, and communication between new people with unique ideas, individuals may see that they may have more in common than they thought. Or, they may still be remarkably different, and that is okay, too! Increasing familiarity with these differences can alter perspectives to facilitate acceptance, and diminish the misconceptions and prejudices that fuel discrimination.

Richer Life Experience. Diversity is colorful! What if everyone who surrounded you was exactly like you, in every way? Where is the fun in that? The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary needs new ideas, views, and practices to stimulate and inspire us to accomplish the mission of the U.S. Coast Guard. Together, we can make a differences in our community. Even in the face of intolerance, we must not forget to demonstrate the importance of diversity and to respond with celebration of our differences --"We are different, but the same".

Learning about other cultures helps us relate to one another and opens us up to different perspectives or ideas. I challenge you to find differences to embrace the diversity of those around you.

If your flotilla would like a briefing at your next meeting please email Margaret Butler at DiversitySODiv-23.5SR@usa.com for more information.

Margaret Butler
SO-DV

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Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) Policy Changes

1. **AUXCT replaces AUXMT:** Pursuant to provisions of 14 U.S. Code § 831 which deals with Coast Guard Auxiliarists' assignment and performance of duties, the Coast Guard is required to ensure that its Auxiliarists are appropriately trained, tested, and found competent before they can be assigned to duty. Over the past few years, the Coast Guard has required Auxiliarists to complete a battery of specified training courses to impart a minimum baseline of organizational familiarity and expectation in support of this requirement. This has been comparable to the placement of similar requirements on all other Coast Guard active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel. The value of this training has formed the core of every Auxiliarist's pledge and commitment to support the Coast Guard and abide by its governing policies. Based upon the insight and advocacy of Auxiliary leadership at national and district levels, this training shall hereafter be referred to as Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) in lieu of Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT). Appropriate changes to AUXDATA, the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS), and related training materials to reflect this training program title change have begun.

2. **AUXCT Course Changes:** The Coast Guard recently completed several changes to its inventory of core training courses for its workforce. These changes affect the composition of AUXCT. Specifically:

a. The Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the Coast Guard course (502379) has been combined with the Sexual Assault Prevention/Response course (810045) into the new Workforce Resilience Training course (502379; NOTE – although carrying the same course code number, this is a new course that incorporates material from the now-defunct Sexual Assault Prevention/Response course). This new combined course is estimated to take about

30 minutes to complete, has a test-out feature, and retains its need to be completed once every five years.

b. The Influenza Training course (502290) has been deleted as an AUXCT requirement.

3. **AUXCT Course Requirements:** As a result of these changes, AUXCT is now comprised of the following repeatable and one-time courses:

a. Repeatable Courses: To be successfully completed by the end of the first full year of enrollment and then once every five years thereafter:

(1) Workforce Resilience Training (502379)*

(2) Security Fundamentals (810030)

(3) Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information (810015)

(4) Sexual Harassment Prevention (810000)

(5) Civil Rights Awareness (502319)

* Auxiliarists who have yet to complete AUXCT because they had not completed the Sexual Assault Prevention / Response course (810045) must now complete the new Workforce Resilience Training course (502379). This holds true even if they already completed the Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the Coast Guard course (502379) because the new version now contains material from the old Sexual Assault Prevention / Response course (810045).

b. One-time Courses: To be successfully completed only once (new enrollees must complete them by the end of the first full year of enrollment):

(6) Ethics 1 / Personal Gifts (502306).

(7) Intro to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 (IS-100.b).

(8) Intro to National Incident Management System (IS-700.a).

And the recently added:

(9) Basic Qualification Course II (BQ II)**

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** This AUXCT requirement only applies to Auxiliarists enrolled as of February 1, 2018.

4. AUXCT Course Change Impacts: The following impacts of these changes have been completed or are under development:

a. In AUXDATA:

(1) Auxiliarists who have already achieved the AUXMT competency will now show as having achieved the AUXCT competency instead.

(2) The Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the Coast Guard course title has been changed to Workforce Resilience (502379). The short title remains SP so those who completed the Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the Coast Guard course now will be shown as having completed Workforce Resilience.

(3) The Influenza Training course (502290) is no longer attached to the Mandated Training competency (it will still show in a member's Training Record report and in AUXINFO).

(4) The seven BQ II modules that must be completed in order to achieve the BQ II competency now feed into the AUXCT competency. They must all be completed by any member who has enrolled since February 1, 2018 in order to achieve the AUXCT competency.

b. In the AUXCT section of the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS: <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/Default.asp>):

(1) The Sexual Assault Prevention/Response course (810045) has been removed. The Workforce Resilience Training course (502379) is available and will automatically provide credit toward the AUXCT competency in AUXDATA.

(2) The Influenza Training course (502290) remains listed and available. It can be taken if desired, but it will not provide credit toward the AUXCT competency in AUXDATA.

c. When taken via the AUXLMS, successful completion of the AUXCT courses described in paragraph 3 will reflect achievement of the AUXCT competency in AUXDATA. The seven

BQ II course modules are not currently available via the AUXLMS. They can be taken via the Auxiliary Online Classroom (www.classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/).

d. The Auxiliary Training Directorate Mandated Training portal (<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=mandated-training>) addresses options for completing the seven non-ICS AUXCT training courses. An updated version of the Workforce Resilience Training course (502379) for classroom training and self-certification purposes is under development and will be posted when completed. Additionally, the two ICS AUXCT training courses can be accessed via the ICS course link on the Auxiliary National Testing Center site (<http://ntc.cgaux.org/>) as well as directly at the FEMA training web site (<https://training.fema.gov/nims/>).

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the communication chain

DIRAUX Visit

At the June 11th flotilla meeting, our special guest was Commander Eric May, the new Director of the Auxiliary who took the opportunity to meet our membership. CDR May has spent over 30 years in the Coast Guard in a variety of positions with five tours in Alaska.

Harry Scott - Flotilla 23-6 FSO-HR - gave the presentation he put together on the history of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Willie Witters, VCDR of Division 23 was also in attendance.

CDR May discussed a number of topics including the upcoming policy of expedited security clearances and answered questions from the members.

Phil Wentz capped off the meeting with a training presentation on the new USCG Afloat Risk Assessment procedure which will replace the old GAR method.

Frank Voltaggio
FSO-PB

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Static Helicopter Training held



On July 14 Station Annapolis held “Static” helicopter training with helicopter 6503 from Air Station Atlantic City for the station personnel and Auxiliarists. After a brief introduction, the Pilot, Co-pilot, Flight Mechanic, and Rescue Swimmer all discussed their individual responsibilities as part of the crew and the helicopter's capabilities. The crew then explained what they expect from the boat crews when working with the helo during hoisting and rescue-swimmer operations. Safety concerns for the boat crew were discussed by the crew and the emergency features were pointed out on the helicopter to extricate the flight crew in case the helicopter crashes in the water. After a brief question-and-answer session, all were invited to take a look in and around the helicopter as well as to examine any of the equipment on board.

Editor's note: I apologize to whomever sent me this article and picture for failure to include you as contributor. I tried to find who sent in to me and could not find the original email.

23-1 Kicks off National Safe Boating Week

Flotilla 23-01, kicked off the Safe Boating Week with a “Friends & Family Day” themed launch of its 2018 Maryland Safe Boating courses this month. Margaret Butler, Public Education Staff Officer (FSO-PE), has five more courses planned during 2018 boating season.



Beaming with happiness, Sophia Heartman (17) and younger brother Graham (12) passed the Maryland Safe Boating course with a 96% success rate! As the FSO-PE for Flotilla 23-01 and SO-PE for Division 23, “it gives me great satisfaction to see a younger generation so passionate about safe boating. I’m even prouder of their mom Kristina Heartman, who took the initiative to ensure that her children are equipped with basic boating knowledge this summer.” The Department of Natural Resource eight-hour, safe boating course given over three days, equips participants with navigation, proper life jacket (PFD) wear, first-aid, emergency procedures, knot tying, radio, as well as safe boating instruction. The state of Maryland requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 to complete a safe boating course.

The boating season has already gotten off to its deadliest start in six years, with four deaths in three incidents on Maryland waterways. Since April 4, there have been fatal incidents on the Potomac, Chester and Severn rivers. The four victims included a laborer, a vacationer and two fishermen, said Col. Ken Ziegler with the Maryland Natural Resources Police. Their boats ranged in size from a kayak to a 43-foot cabin cruiser. “They all had one thing in common,” said Col. Ken Ziegler. “None of them was wearing a life jacket.” Let’s do our part to keep everyone safe.

Margaret Butler
FSO-PE 23-1

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Nationwide Blue Green Algae Issues (Cyanobacteria)

What are Cyanobacteria?

Cyanobacteria, also referred to as blue-green algae, naturally occur in all freshwater ecosystems. However, too many nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen in the waterway can result in conditions that lead to cyanobacterial blooms. These blooms can often be identified as floating mats of bad-smelling, decaying and gelatinous scum.

Health Risks

When cyanobacteria degrade, they may release algal toxins that can be harmful to aquatic and human life. Exposure to cyanobacteria or their toxins may produce allergic reactions such as skin rashes, eye irritations, respiratory symptoms, and in some cases gastroenteritis, liver and kidney failure or death. The most likely pathway to exposure for humans is through accidental ingestion or inhalation during recreational activities in the waterbody.

Auxiliary Issues

Missions that occur near affected waters may be hazardous. Use your GAR assessment and be aware of the exposure as an environmental hazard. Symptoms of illnesses that you or a health care provider associate with exposure to algae blooms while assigned to duty must be reported to your Order Issuing Authority as soon as possible. In the event that medical treatment is sought, advise the provider that the illness was a consequence of your employment by the United States as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Advise all health care providers treating you for the exposure that they should submit their bills for services to the United States Department of Labor as a federal worker's compensation case.

Editor's Note: the above was received email through the communication chain

Lieutenant Commander Justin C. Smith Military Aide to the Commandant of the Coast Guard



Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Justin C. Smith is the current aide to the Commandant of the Coast Guard. He has held a variety of shore side and afloat naval engineering positions throughout his

career, including two Coast Guard Cutters, a Naval Engineering Support Unit (NESU), and Surface Forces Logistics Center (SFLC) Patrol Boat Product Line.

LCDR Smith's afloat assignments were as Engineer Officer of the cutter VALIANT (WMEC 621) and as Damage Control Assistant and Assistant Engineer Officer on the cutter HARRIET LANE (WMEC 903). His shoreside assignments include NESU Miami, as a Port Engineer, where he facilitated the stand up of the High Tempo High Maintenance dual-crewed patrol boat initiative in District Seven. He subsequently served as Availability Project Manager, in a newly established Patrol Boat Product Line, following the largest reorganization in the history of Coast Guard surface fleet support. He most recently served as the SFLC-Patrol Boat Product Line Projects Branch Chief where he shepherded the Coast Guard's newest cutter class, the Fast Response Cutter, from acquisitions into sustainment and maintained the long-term strategy for the Patrol Boat fleet.

LCDR graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2005 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 2012, he

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completed graduate studies at the University of Florida, earning a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration of Solid Mechanics and Machinery Design. Additionally, he has a Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering and a Graduate Certificate in Engineering Entrepreneurship from the University of Florida.

LCDR Smith's personal awards include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and Commandant's Letter of Commendation. He has also earned multiple unit awards including, the Coast Guard "E" Ribbon and Coast Guard Unit Commendation Award. He was also the 2014 Black Engineer of the Year Award recipient.

LCDR Smith is married to Dr. Rachel L. Smith (Turner) of Bradenton, FL. They have one daughter, Sophia. Lcdr Smith's uncle is William E Smith, Jr., Staff Officer for Training, U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23-6 of Drum Point, Maryland.

23-6 Alumnus Qualifies for Boat Force Operations Device



At the 2 May Flotilla 070-12-10 meeting former Flotilla 23-6 Flotilla Commander Jack Margolis, was presented with the Coast Guard Pewter (basic) Boat Force

Operations Device by BMCS Justin Pickler, Officer In Charge (OIC) CG Station Georgetown, SC, for having satisfactorily completed the Boat Force PQS at CG Station Georgetown.

Jack actually began this qualification at Station St. Inigoes between October 2009 and August 2012 completing several 6-month periods as Coast Guard Boat crew, the first requirement in the Boat Force Operations PQS. While a member of Flotilla 23-6 and working with Station St. Inigoes, he was able to complete the CG Boat Crewmember Training Program and earn his CG Boat Crewmember certification presented to him by BMCM Daniel Kilbourne, OIC when he completed the CG Boat Crew PQS for certification on the 41' Utility Boat (UTB). He previously had qualified as Boat Crewmember on the CG 25' Response Boat (R/B-S).

During his time working with Station St. Inigoes, performing as a CG Boat Crewmember, he amassed over 370 Coast Guard Operational Support hours. He participated as a crewmember during AOR and Security patrols, and training support missions out of CG Station St. Inigoes and West Basin.

After Jack's retirement, he and his family relocated to Myrtle Beach, SC. For the past several years he has been volunteering his time in direct support to the CG by working with the Detached Duty Office (DDO) Myrtle Beach which comprises an MSSE4 (CWO4) and MST2. They are responsible for Annual inspections of the 50+ commercial tour, parasail, and fishing vessels, investigating casualties and pollution incidents. He assists with the commercial vessel inspections and is in training for a qualification as an Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) Inspector to be able to off-load the current OIC of the DDO.

Jack continues to support the CG Auxiliary missions as a Coxswain, PE Instructor, and Vessel Examiner.

Jack sends his warmest regards to his former Flotilla 23-6 shipmates.