

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 8 Issue 2

Summer 2016

Judged 5SR Runner-Up Division Publication for 2011



I grew up in Mississippi and enlisted in the Navy in 1966, serving as a communication technician. I graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and went to work for NASA as a management intern.

NASA moved me to Washington, D.C. where I also worked for the Departments of Commerce and Interior. My last job was working in support of the White House as a procurement officer. I retired from there in 2002.

I joined the Auxiliary in 2003. I stand watch at Station Annapolis and enjoy serving as boat crew. I have served in staff positions in PA and HR and have served previously as FC for Flotilla 23-03.

My wife Ellen and I have 3 children all of whom live on the west coast, so we enjoy travelling to see our children and grandchildren. I work part time at the USNA as a tour guide. I also volunteer at the USNA chapel and museum.

I look forward to working with division staff and flotilla commanders. Please feel free to share any ideas or questions you might have for division activities.

Dale Helms

Division Commander



New Members

The following have become members since the last Chatter. Please offer them your assistance.

- 23-1
Douglas Roberts,
- 23-2
Earl Kaufmann
- 23-3
Timothy Clarke
- 23-7

John Leben receives gifts of appreciation

John Leben, Division Commander resigned from the Auxiliary as of 3 May for health reasons.

At the May division meeting Dale Helms, Vice Division Commander presented John with a



certificate of appreciation and a Weems and Plath chart weight with compass.

Al Romero, DSO-PA presented John with a framed certificate of appreciation and a miniature brass sextant from the district.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB



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2015 Board & Staff

DCDR: Dale Helms

VCDR: vacant

23-1 - Annapolis

Ron Price, Flotilla Commander

Wendy Norwitz, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

Lawrence Butts, Flotilla Commander

Theresa Gray, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 - West Annapolis

Bryan Teague, Flotilla Commander

Dorothy Neiman, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 - South River

Michael Whitman, Flotilla Commander

Lauri Lindqvist, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 - Drum Point

Mark Campbell, Flotilla Commander

Willie Witters, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-7 - Herring Bay

Christopher Jensen, Flotilla Commander

John Fountain, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-CM -	John Cosgrove
SO-CS -	Wendy Norwitz
SO-DV (Diversity) -	Margaret Butler
SO-FN -	Robin Ouellette
SO-HR -	Dave Keyser
SO-IS -	Ronald Hillard
SO-MA -	Theresa Gray
SO-MS -	Ronald Price
SO-MT -	Ray Feller
SO-NS -	Robert Glenn Wright
SO-OP -	Phil Wentz
SO-PA -	John Leben
SO-PB -	Connie Cosgrove
SO-PE -	Kevin Davis
SO-PV -	Christopher Jensen
SO-SR -	Debbie Cranford
SO-VE -	Dale Cranford

Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safeguarded and the page clearly labeled. The publication of these rosters, addresses and telephone numbers on any computer on-line service including the Internet is prohibited by the Privacy Act of 1974.

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Cover Photos

Top left: Dale Helms, Division Commander, takes oat of office from DCO Rob Sersen. Bruce Johnson, District Captain SM-NCR read the prologue. Photo by Stephen Banea, SO-PA Div 25

Top Right: John Johnson captivates Mark Van Deusen's family at Heritage Festival. Pictured left to right: than (7), Beth (Wife), Gabrielle (12), Robert (13) Van Deusen

Middle Left: Sophie and Graciela Matzzie receive coloring books at VSC at Herrington Harbor. Photo by Theresa Gray

Bottom Left: Ready Set, Wear It campaign photo taken at the spring RFO in between rain drops.

Bottom Right: The Blue Angels performing in Annapolis. Photo by Jim Beyea

15 September



Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to: cjcosgrove@earthlink.net

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Awards

The following awards have been earned by the members since the last issue of the Chatter. Congratulations to all:

Trident Award

Wendy Norwitz, 23-1



Instructor

Dale Cranford, 23-1



Sustained Auxiliary Service Award

23-2: Fred Camp, 5250 hours, 7th Award; and Gary Smith, 6759 hours 9th Award
23-6: William E Smith Jr., 3750 hours, 5th award.

Membership Service Award

5 years

Michael VanDeven, Carolyn Jensen, 23-1

Dorothy Neiman, Robert Glenn Wright, 23-3

John and Brian Leben, 23-4

Ray Walsh, 23-7

10 years

Douglas Robinson and Helen Yurevitch

Pete Schaecher, RT West, 23-6

Casey Lee McAllister, 23-7

25 years

Tom Hardisty and Stan Sweikar, 23-6

35 years

Carl Smith, 23-1

Jeffrey Conopask, 23-3

Program Visitor

Douglas Robert, 23-1



Auxiliary Annual Service Award for over 30 Public Education Hours

Ray Feller, 23-6

Above and Beyond

Event – Bay Swim Regatta, June 12, 2016

Conditions – Sustained winds 18-25 mph, gusts up to 35 mph, Waves 3-4 ft.

I want to report an action that took place during the Bay Swim. **CARMA**, a 26ft Shamrock Auxiliary OPFAC, became disabled heading home after being relieved from the Bay Swim regatta. The automatic bilge switch was not operating causing the bilge to fill with bay water. The water was coming over the cabin from the 3-4 ft. seas in the operating area. The inboard motor's electrical system eventually failed and they were dead in the water near Greenbury Point. This was a very dangerous situation given the sea state conditions. The coxswain, Art Murray, contacted Station Annapolis for assistance. He was informed that all Coast Guard assets were deployed on distress situations and no help was available. A second Auxiliary OPFAC, **Tinker Toy**, also returning from the regatta heard the call. Although more than half way home the coxswain, Walt Discenza, turned back to assist **CARMA**.

They found **CARMA** near the shipping channel being battered by the full fetch of the Severn River. The wind was gusting at 35 mph. The soaked crew on **CARMA** was bailing water manually from the bilge. The crew on **Tinker Toy** prepared to take **CARMA** in tow. After bailing enough water to un-submerge the electrical system (an estimated 12-18 gallons) they were able to restart the motor. **Tinker Toy** followed **CARMA** to its home port on Chase creek on the Severn just in case the motor failed again.

The coxswain (Walt Discenza) and crew (Carolyn Jensen, Dale and Deborah Cranford, 23-1) on board **Tinker Toy** are to be congratulated. They made the decision to help a team member in need over the need to continue home and be safe and dry. After spending several hours of fighting heavy seas I'm sure they were very tired. Their unselfish decision was rewarded by the relief shown on the faces of the **CARMA** crew.

Jim Farrell

FSO-OP 23-01

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AUXPAD Program Training Weekend

Truxton Heights, Annapolis, Md. - Shipmates of Coast Guard Auxiliary District 5, Northern and Southern, team up to launch the Auxiliary Paddle Craft (AUXPAD) Program with June Training Weekend.

The primary mission of the AUXPAD Program is to extend within the paddle craft community boating safety outreach, promote life jacket wearing and operator's compliance with the United States Coast Guard required safety equipment .

Auxiliarists who participated in the training included (pictured from left to right): Joey Taguding, Don Goff, Rob Sersen, Joe Smith, KC Murphy, Laurie Huselton, Doug Roberts, Ron Price, and Wendy Norwitz. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Penelope Soteria.



Bill Smith shows appreciation to program visit clients

On April 26, 2016, Bill Smith along with other members of Flotilla 23-6 recognized the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for its participation in the Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program. Each year the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Drum Point Flotilla, places their boxes containing pamphlets in establishments throughout Calvert County. The program is designed to promote recreational boating safety on the waters in our area. It provides the boating public with safety information, up-to-date Federal, State and Local requirements and schedules for local Boating Safety Courses and Vessel Safety Check stations that are offered by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Other members of 23-6 who participated were: Ray Feller, John and Connie Cosgrove.

Connie Cosgrove
FSO-PA



Bill Smith presents certificate of appreciation to Lt. Brett Parrot.

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Classic Boat Saved

While on patrol on Sun Room on Saturday, June 4th in the South River; Jim Farrell - Coxswain, Irving McConnell – Crew and Trainees – Marie Squillace and Mike Adams were able to save a classic boat.

The vessel was disabled due to mechanical problems. Jim said “We were concerned when the operator drifted between the concrete support columns of the Riva Road Bridge. The trainees were able to use the procedures for towing which they practiced earlier in the day. We towed the vessel to it’s nearby marina where the owner paddled the remaining few feet to the dock where he received assistance. The assist was less than 30 minutes therefore was not an official SAR case.”

Irving McConnell,
Photographer



Flotilla 23-2 and 23-6 participate in Annual Maritime Heritage Festival

May 7 began as a cool and dreary day but the sun came out and though a few black clouds passed over head the rain held off for the 11th annual Maritime Heritage Festival held at Calvert Marine Museum.

Antique boats and marine engines, master maritime carvers, crafts and cooking demonstrations, traditional music, and boat rides were some of the activities for everyone to enjoy. Children were given an opportunity to make their own model boat.

Theresa Gray from 23-2, Connie Cosgrove and



James Jefferson from 23-6 staffed a safety booth during the festival. Coloring books and crayons were the hot item for the

children while the boaters in the crowd took advantage of safety information, oil pads, whistles and the opportunity to find out where they could get a vessel safety check or when the next public education class was being held.

John Johnson from 23-2 was on hand with his marlinspike demonstrations and kept both the kids and adults alike entertained.

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB



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Promoting Boat Safety Amidst Purple Rain

No Rain! No Rain! None of the volunteers apparently were yelling this during the torrential downpour on Saturday, 23 April while picking up litter along the Anacostia River at the Annual Earth Day Cleanup organized by the Anacostia Watershed Society. Instead they forged through the rain on this Earth Day 2016.

We were part of a different group, promoting our organization's Earth Day messaging at tables in the RFK stadium parking lot, also part of this Anacostia Watershed Society's event. We had a booth representing the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Safe Boating was our message, with a reminder that wearing a life jacket saves lives which was especially important after last year's 17 fatalities on Maryland's waterways due to boating accidents, according to Maryland's Natural Resources Police. The USCG Auxiliary's goal is to see boaters enjoying themselves on the water rather than to answer distress calls about boaters stranded in heavy seas, sinking vessels, or fire related disasters. By educating the public, these situations could be largely avoided. The Auxiliary provides public education on a wide-range of boating topics including seamanship, navigation, first-aid, and even fun programs for KIDS.

I was one of the first on scene setting up my tent in the rain when out of the blue appeared the Cub Scouts (Wolf Den) of Pack 380 based out of Capitol Hill who helped me set up even though it required trudging through puddles and mud. They were ready to assist anyone showing up on this wet, windy day.

Other organizations represented were Terra Tech, DC Water (with Wendy the Rain Drop), Metropolitan Council of Governments (MWCOC), Aquatic Resources Center, WSSC, Whole Foods, EarthShare and, of course, the Anacostia Watershed Society who coordinated the event.

Whole Foods drew a good crowd of youngsters with nature printing which involved giving fish a

good swash of paint and pressing them against paper – an artform called *Gyotaku*—which according to Wiki dates back to the mid-1800s. They did this to help kids get use to touching fish. The Department of Energy and Environment were represented by the Aquatic Resources Education Center who had a tank full of wildlife in the Anacostia River. They had all sorts of fish, frogs, turtle shells, etc. Capitol Hill United Methodist Church worked with the event's organizers to offer complimentary lunches to the volunteers who helped in the cleanup process. The leftover food was donated to the soup kitchen.

One of the highlights of the event was the Rise Band and Show playing on stage for those attending the exhibits. An exquisite band if you enjoy R&B, Motown, and the classics. Appropriately enough, Prince's Purple Rain turned out to be part of their repertoire!

Paul Feinberg

FSO-PA 23-4



WASHINGTON DC - Auxiliarist Paul Feinberg and Zach Knowlton of EarthShare attending their exhibits at the Anacostia Watershed

Society's Earth Day Cleanup Event. Dwayne Grimes, Anacostia Watershed Society photographer



WASHINGTON DC – Volunteers from the Earth Day cleanup enjoy exhibits, complementary lunch and an R&B band after a morning of hard work. Dwayne Grimes, Anacostia Watershed Society photographer

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County Commissioners proclaim National Safe Boating Week

On 10 May, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23-6 received an annual proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners proclaiming 21-27 May as National Safe Boating Week.

Commissioner Hart read the proclamation which highlighted that an average of 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the US. The proclamation stated in part, "A vast majority of accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors. A significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn a life jacket. Modern life jackets are more comfortable, attractive, and wearable than styles of years past and deserve a fresh look by today's boating public.

The Commissioners further "proclaimed that all who use our County waterways and our National waterways are urged to acquire the knowledge and skills essential to their own safety and the safety of others and to apply these skills carefully. Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Wear It"

Connie Cosgrove, Past Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs thanked the Commissioners for their concern and appreciation of the importance of safe boating. Connie reminded everyone in attendance at the Commissioner's meeting that if you operate a vessel and were born after 1 July 1972 that you must have taken and passed a boating safety course. Cosgrove stated that the Auxiliary conducts vessel safety checks, marine safety patrols, works with the marine environment and is always looking for new members. The meeting was broadcast on Comcast the following evening so Connie gave out the information on the upcoming boating class.

Members of the Flotilla who received the proclamation were: Bill Smith, Flotilla Member Training Officer; Harry Scott, Flotilla Human Resource Officer; James Jefferson, Flotilla Staff

Officer for Program Visits and Connie Cosgrove, Flotilla Staff Officer Public Affairs, Secretary of Records and Division Publication Officer.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PA 23-6

Pictured left to right: Front Row: Bill Smith,, Connie



Cosgrove, Harry Scott, James Jefferson, Commissioner Mike Hart. Back Row: Commissioners Pat Nutter, Evan Slauchenhaupt, Tom Hejl and Steve Weems

Inspection of PPE Maintenance Procedure Card Location

The CG Rescue and Survival Systems Manual (R&SS Manual) requires periodic inspection and maintenance of your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The Maintenance Procedure Cards (MPCs) required for this work are located on the Response Directorate's Member Zone: <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=R-DEPT&category=MEMBERSONLY>. You will need to log in with your member ID # and member zone password.

The CG R&SS Manual requires these MPCs to be followed while performing inspections and maintenance on PPE. Due to the classified information contained on the cards, they are no longer included in the Rescue and Survival Systems (R&SS) Manual so we have been authorized to place them in the Members only Zone for easy access by our members. Please read the warning language on the bottom of the MPCs.

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

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Chief Director Final Action on National Board Recommendations at NTRAIN 2016

At the 2016 Auxiliary National Training Conference (NTRAIN) in St. Louis, MO in January, the following recommendations were placed before the National Board for vote. They are summarized with the Chief Director's final determinations below:

Recommendation: Proposal to modify COMDTINST M16790.1G, Chapter 11, A.11.c. Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award. The Auxiliary Recruiting Service award is awarded for recruiting seven or more new Auxiliarists into the Auxiliary as determined and credited through the FC. A new Auxiliarist must have been issued a Member Identification Number, have their Personnel Security Investigation (PSI) in process, and have successfully completed the Basic Qualification Course within 180 days of the enrollment date.
n p

Discussion: The existing requirements for the Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award are extremely unlikely to be able to be achieved in the current environment. Members that process into the Auxiliary, are most likely, not going to have their PSI returned in the same calendar year. The unintended consequence is that tracking of these new recruits, in accordance with the current language, can span multiple calendar years, and perhaps eliminate the possibility that the seven (or more) new members will process out of AP status in a single calendar year. The proposed language eliminates award eligibility based upon PSI completion and replaces the requirement with completion of a training requirement within six months for each new member. The current and existing AUXMAN language is provided for reference and comparison: The Auxiliary Recruiting Service award is awarded for recruiting seven or more new Auxiliarists into the Auxiliary as determined and credited through the FC. A new Auxiliarist must be fully processed through completion of their favorable PSI determination and be shifted out of AP status before being

credited towards this award. The year in which the date of the new Auxiliarists shift from AP status to IQ or BQ status shall be the year to which the new Auxiliarist shall count toward recruiting award recognition.

The recommendation was amended as follows: Deleted the text, "...and have successfully completed the Basic Qualification Course within 180 days of the enrollment date."

National Board action: Adopt as amended.

Chief Director final action: Concur and approved, effective immediately. The Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award nomination form (AUX-RSA) posted on the Auxiliary forms web site will be amended accordingly. The Auxiliary Recruiting Service award shall be awarded for recruiting seven or more new Auxiliarists into the Auxiliary within the same calendar year as determined and credited through the FC. A newly recruited Auxiliarist must have been issued a member identification number and have had their Personnel Security Investigation (PSI) initiated during the award year in order to be credited toward the award. Accurate Flotilla Commander validation that an Auxiliarist has met these revised award criteria is crucial and must be clearly communicated using the AUX-RSA form submitted up the regional chain to the cognizant Director of Auxiliary.

Recommendation: Establish the position of District Staff Officer-Food Service (DSO-FS). Given the growth of the Auxiliary Food Service Program and the increasing dependence upon Auxiliarists to augment active duty Food Service billets and special events across the country, the proposal is to establish the position of a District Staff Officer-Food Service to implement, manage and further develop this critical program.

Discussion: Auxiliary Food Service (AUXFS) has matured dramatically over the past few years and is now similar in nature to Communications, Operations or Public Affairs. Currently part of the

Continued on page 10—see recommendations

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(Recommendations—continued from page 9)

Human Resources Department, the program has developed to a point where it needs to have the recognition it deserves, but far more importantly, AUXFS needs to have the parallel Chain of Leadership and Management to function fully and develop further. Originally regarded as a qualification for individual members to serve independently under an Active Duty Food Service Specialist, the program has become an Auxiliary recruitment destination requiring greater oversight, education and health requirements, extensive scheduling and professional-level menu planning in addition to the obvious cooking and meal preparation skills. AUXFS qualified members provide professional-level service aboard cutters, at stations and bases, at TRACENs, Sectors and private facilities providing catering for Coast Guard events often having hundreds of guests-providing relief for active duty personnel. As the AUXFS program develops it is suffering from the lack of the same COLM structure that other departments have to go about their daily business in an organized, controlled and standardized manner. Establishing an AUX Food Service District Staff Officer COLM to include Assistant District Staff Officers and Division Staff Officers would provide the managerial hierarchy and control that the program needs to properly augment active duty personnel while maintaining the standards required to fulfill the varied and essential missions.

National Board action: Adopt.

Chief Director final action: Concur and approved, effective immediately. AUXDATA changes to recognize DSO-FS, ADSO-FS, and SO-FS appointments will be made in the next two weeks. It is important to note that the number of qualified AUXFS, as is consistent with the Auxiliary marine safety (Trident) program, is closely tied to clear and defined Coast Guard needs for food service program support at Coast Guard units in localized areas.

NACO All Hands L² Message Clearing Backlogged Auxiliary Personnel Security Investigations (PSI) and Establishing New Provisional Membership Procedures

1. This L² message is to notify all Auxiliary members of efforts underway to clear the backlogged Auxiliary PSIs (a/k/a, "background checks") submitted by new members over the past two years, and to announce a new program of soon to be released improvements in our membership processes.

2. Clearing Backlogged Auxiliary PSIs.

a. A multi-pronged effort to reduce the backlog of Auxiliary PSI packages awaiting Coast Guard Security Center (SECCEN) adjudication has been underway for almost a year:

(1) A cadre of Auxiliarists has been performing quality control screening of Auxiliary PSI packages at SECCEN since last summer. Another cadre, composed of members of the Chief Director's staff, a Reservist, and Auxiliarists, has also been working to reduce the backlog at SECCEN.

(2) Both cadres will remain in place through the summer or longer to help transition to a long-term Auxiliary PSI processing system at SECCEN. Local units should ensure thorough form review and quality control to help speed the processing of new Auxiliary PSI packages.

b. The Chief Director of the Auxiliary anticipates that within the next 90 days screening of the remainder of the OS PSI packages, that have been awaiting adjudication, will be completed.

c. As of January 1, 2016, Auxiliarists in AP status whose PSIs have been fully adjudicated must complete all Auxiliary Mandatory Training (AUXMT) before their membership status will be changed from AP and before they will be issued an ID card. Those Auxiliarists who have completed all Mandated Training and who have

Continued on page 11—see message)

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Message—continued from Page 10)

had their PSI package adjudicated at SECCEN will have their membership status changed from AP to Initially Qualified (IQ), Basically Qualified (BQ), or AUXOP (AX) and will receive their ID card.

3. Establishing New Provisional Membership Procedures.

The Coast Guard has established a program that allows Auxiliarists who meet certain criteria to become "provisional members" while awaiting completion of their PSI. **This is not a new membership status nor does it exempt or short-circuit the Auxiliary PSI process.** Rather, it will facilitate ID card issuance and shorten the time for the Auxiliary PSI process to be properly completed.

Additional detailed information on the Provisional Membership Program procedures will be published shortly.

NOAA terminates the Chart Updating website



As of April 19, 2016 the USCG Auxiliary Chart Updating Reporting Webpage (CUWeb) has been shut down

permanently. NOAA's letter to the Auxiliary explains that because of increasing levels of federal IT security both the Auxiliary and US Power Squadron websites have been identified as security risks that could allow hackers to gain access to Government internal network. Because of this NOAA will not be bringing the sites back online.

The shutting down of CUWeb does not spell the end to the Auxiliary Chart Updating (CU)

program. CU still plays a vital role in promoting safety on the water. We can still teach CU techniques and stress quality. The same information that was being provided through CU Web can still be sent to NOAA, however without the aid of the structured CU Web report format web page. Chart corrections and discrepancies can be submitted to NOAA through the Inquiry and Discrepancy Report System (IDRS) at <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx>.

Your reports are still important to NOAA and CU training is still a vital link in promoting safety. The Auxiliary and the new NOAA program administrator will begin collaboration that should resolve the issue of giving credit to the Auxiliary for future CU activities.

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

URGENT USCG MARINE SAFETY ALERT#03-16

Kannad Marine has issued a recall of all SAFELINK EPIRBs due to a possible defect that could result in the beacon not operating in emergency situations. If you own or use a SAFELINK EPIRB automatic or manual model as identified in the referenced SAFELINK Recall Safety Notice you should NOT use it as a primary Search and Rescue beacon onboard your vessel.

Kannad recommends that all owners of SAFELINK EPIRBs register their ownership, location and contact details via the dedicated website: <http://www.safelinkepirbsupport.co.uk>. The website will first ask you to enter your SAFELINK EPIRB's CSN number which is located on the EPIRB's label. (See image on attachment.) Once the CSN is entered an additional webpage will open where more detailed owner information is entered to arrange provision of a replacement EPIRB.

The Coast Guard strongly recommends that all owners and users of the Kannad SAFELINK EPIRBs

Continued on page 12—see EPIRBs

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EPIRBs—Continued from page 11

seek replacement devices as soon as possible and NOT to use it as a primary Search and Rescue beacon onboard your vessel....

Please read the USCG MARINE SAFETY ALERT 03-16: URGENT KANNAD SAFELINK EPIRB RECALL located on the V-Directorate website at: <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=dir-v-says>

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

Fifth District Commander's Direction

I relieved RADM Metruck as the Fifth District Commander in April. I want to acknowledge and recognize RADM Metruck's achievements and leadership as he led the men and women of the Fifth District these past two years. I wish him and his wife Peggy all the best as they embark on their next adventure.

The Fifth District has a well earned reputation for effective and efficient operations protecting the people, environment and economy of the mid-Atlantic region. My goal is to continue this proud legacy. I know all of us-Active Duty, Reserve; Civilian and Auxiliary work hard to accomplish our missions in an environment of high operational tempo and tight budgets. I know there will be times when you will feel challenged; I have trust and faith that you will strive to always do your best and I am very proud and honored to lead this great team.

I ask that you keep these watchwords in mind as you prepare for, perform and return safely from your duties.

First - People. Take care of each other-shipmates, families, friends and yourselves. We can't succeed without you.

Second - Partnerships. We cannot do our myriad of missions without the support and cooperation of our partners inside and outside government.

Finally - Professionalism. We need to be trained and resourced to do our missions. We also need to foster a culture of respect for all people in and outside of the Coast Guard.

I look forward to working with and for the Commands and people of the Fifth District as your advocate.

Thank you for the hard work and support you gave to RADM Metruck. I challenge you to continue your high level of performance. I will be visiting units in the coming months and I look forward to meeting with you and learning your challenges and concerns, as well as seeing your great work first hand.

Semper Paratus.

RDML Meredith Austin, District Five Commander

Still Spots Open, Spread the Word, AUX-MEES Class August 13-14 @ Curtis Bay

Spread the word still spots open for the AUX-MEES class in August. What is this? This is one of two Auxiliary only, the gold side does not have these, PQS's that we have for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

The class offered in August is very special. It is interactive and set at a pace for the class. This is dependent on the class interaction. On Sunday, we will walk from Barry Hall to the Grove and perform a beach clean-up. If we have enough 3 qualified individuals present on Sunday we will have the oral board.

What are the requirements? The only three requirements that you need in order to get the qualification are the following:

FEMA 5b and two test from the Auxiliary National Testing Center, Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, and the Good Mate Course.

If you are interested in attending or can only attend a partial day please let me know.

Jessica Allard, A DSO-MS

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Upcoming Awards

There are a number of awards that will be presented in the coming months. Now is the time to start thinking about who should be recognized and take the appropriate steps.

District Lifetime Achievement Award

The award is intended to honor a District Auxiliarist for lifetime achievement as a member of the Auxiliary.

Eligibility: Anyone who has been a member of the Auxiliary for at least 15 years is eligible for the award. The award is not intended to reward Auxiliary members upon their retirement. Sitting members of the District Executive Committee are not eligible.

Criteria: The award will honor a member of the District for sustained performance and excellence in service to the Auxiliary of a period of several years.

By 01 September, Flotilla Commanders may send their Division Commanders the name of one nominee from their Flotilla, along with a detailed description of the person's contributions and achievements. Negative responses are required.

By 01 October, Division Commanders will choose one nominee and forward the name of the nominee and the detailed description of the person's contributions and achievements to their District Captain.

Commodore Charles S. Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award

This award recognizes the most exemplary performance by an FC during the calendar year. Only those FCs who demonstrated sustained, exceptional standards of proficiency and conduct, and whose appearance and bearing were consistently impeccable, shall be considered for nomination.

Nomination packages must originate at the Flotilla level and may be submitted by any member directly to the DCDR. Packages must be able to be electronically forwarded and processed. Packages should adhere to the minimum requirements prescribed by the sample format in Appendix F. **The DCDR must submit the**

Division's selection to the DCO by 15 October.

Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award - 2016

•This award is given annually to one flotilla in each district or region. The winning flotilla is subjectively judged by the DCO and Director to have made the most significant contributions to the Auxiliary program that year.

Deadline for submission to DCO and DIRAUX is **15 January 2017**

End of term awards

All award packages need to be submitted to the District Awards Chair no later than 01 December for presentation at this season COWs.

Bruce Johnson

District Captain, SMD-NCR



BM 2 Burr and Sr Chief Krukowski on board 45640 during the Blue Angels patrol. Photo by Jim Beyea.



Auxiliarist brave cold rain and wind during May RFO. Photo by Bill Smith.

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