

History of Herring Bay, Flotilla 23-7



On April 16, 1999 a Detachment of Coast Guard Flotilla 15-1 (Annapolis, MD) was officially established with the swearing in of twenty-two new members at the Elks Lodge located in Deale, Maryland. At the time; this was the largest single swearing in program held in the 5th Southern U.S. Coast Guard District. The new members were the result of a concentrated promotional effort in the area from Galesville to Chesapeake Beach. The local Auxiliary introduction meeting was in the Tri State Marine located in Deale, Maryland with twenty-six local residents in attendance.

Immediately following the meeting, twenty-four of the twenty-six signed up for enrollment in the CG Auxiliary. To meet the requirements for being chartered as a Flotilla; the Detachment members, under the leadership of Bob Gittings (Detachment Officer in Charge), embarked on a highly accelerated schedule of qualification and training programs to meet the goal set for December, 1999.

On December 5, 1999 the Herring Bay Detachment was awarded a Charter as Herring Bay Flotilla 15-4 in the 5th Southern Coast Guard District. The 26 members of the new Flotilla were designated as Flotilla 15-4 Plank Holders and Bob Gittings was appointed Flotilla Commander and Jim Burton Vice Flotilla Commander. Of the original 26 members, 11 remain in the Auxiliary with 8 still members of the Herring Bay Flotilla.

In 2008; the organizational structure of the CG Auxiliary in the 5th Southern Coast Guard District was reviewed and altered. As a result of this reorganization on January 1, 2009 the Herring Bay Flotilla was reassigned to the newly created CG Auxiliary Division 23 and assigned the identification of Herring Bay Flotilla 23-7.

During the past 11 years, the Flotilla has contributed approximately 50,000 hours of volunteer services in support to the Coast Guard and to local South Anne Arundel communities. Using the average value of \$20.00 for a volunteer hour the Flotilla has provided approximately \$1 million dollars in labor to the Coast Guard. While this total is very impressive, this figure does not take into account the amount of property or lives that were saved as a result of the Flotilla's efforts.

The volunteer time has been in many mission areas including: Operations, Vessel Safety Checks, Public Education Classes, Marine Dealer Visits, Legislative Outreach, Member Training, as well as Fun and Fellowship.

Bob Gittings, Author