

Potomac Guardian Newsletter

Vol. 9

April/May 2025



2025 Member Offices Division 054-25

DCDR Brandon Brown
VCDR Mitchell Mutnick
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SO-CA Robert Harlan
SO-CM Julius Jackson
SO-FN James Servidea
SO-HR Susan Duke
SO-IS Barbara Allen
SO-MA Barbara Allen
SO-MS Guy Campbell
SO-MT Larry Markham
SO-NS Barbara Allen
SO-OP Mitchell Mutnick
SO-PA Carol Hostetter
SO-PB Carol Hostetter
SO-PE Peter Marks
SO-PV Joe Hostetter
SO-SR Aaron Taylor
SO-VE Joe Hostetter



Wear your life jacket to work Day

Whether you're working in the office, at home, in the air, or on the water, all boating enthusiasts can participate in Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day on Friday, May 16, 2025. This fun day is part of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

Here's how to participate:

- Wear a life jacket wherever you work
- Snap a picture
- Post the picture on social media with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday
- Tag the Safe Boating Campaign (@boatingcampaign)

Boaters will randomly be selected to win prizes from the Safe Boating Campaign throughout the day.

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in three out of every four recreational boating fatalities in 2023, and that 87 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

There are many options for boaters when it comes to choosing a life jacket. When selecting a life jacket, a boater should check that it is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for the water activity, and fits properly.

Partnership

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and West Marine have formally renewed and expanded their longstanding partnership through a Letter of Intent (LOI) signed in 2025 by the National Commodore and the Chief Director of the Auxiliary.

This collaboration, supported by the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, revitalizes a relationship that began in 2004. Following a highly successful 2024 pilot, this year's program officially launches a nationwide rollout—beginning now and building momentum through National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) and the entire 2025 boating season. As of today, many Flotillas have already engaged in multiple preparatory NSBW events for 2025.

As part of a renewed national partnership with West Marine, all Flotillas are being asked to establish or re-engage their local store managers to coordinate Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) outreach events this spring—starting immediately and peaking during National Safe Boating Week 2025.

Suggested Activities Include:•

- Vessel Safety Check Days (VE)
- Public Affairs booths or safety conversations (PA)
- Program Visits (PV)
- Public Education tables or handouts (PE)
- Recruitment efforts for the Auxiliary (HR)

West Marine will support the program through marketing, in-store materials, and customer incentives for completing a Vessel Safety Check.

Action Items:

1. Contact your local West Marine store manager
2. Propose one or more outreach events during April and May
3. Share your plans with Division Leadership and with our National RBS Outreach contacts.

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Around the Division



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Events 2025

Past Events

January 10th-12th – 2025 Fredericksburg Boat and Water Expo, Fredericksburg VA

January 11th – Boating Safety Class, Fredericksburg, VA

January 26th – Change of Watch- Mount Vernon Yacht Club, Mt. Vernon VA

February 22nd – Boating Safety Class - Hope Springs Marina

March 1st - Sector Training: Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay, MD

March 7th – VSC – Pohick Bay Rental Kayaks

March 7th – 9th – Chantilly Family Boat Show – Chantilly Expo Center

MARCH 15TH – Boating Safety Class – Prince William Marina

March 21st – Paddlecraft VSC - Pohick Bay Rental Kayaks

March 22nd – Paddlecraft VSC – Occoquan Rental Kayaks

April 10-13 – D Train - Richmond VA

April 12th – VSC Prince William Marina

April 19th VSC Columbia Island Marina

Upcoming Events

April 28-May 2 - Spring AUXPAD Training – Charleston, SC

April 26th – VSC - Belmont Bay

May 10th – Boating Safety Class – Prince William Marina

MARCH 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
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| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

www.primordial-calendar.com

APRIL 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



**America's
Volunteer
Guardians**

MAY 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

www.printable-calendar.com

May 10th - VCS – Prince William Marina

May 16th – Wear your Life Jacket to Work Day

May 17th – 23rd - National Safe Boating Week

May 17th – PA/VSC West Marine - Woodbridge

May 24th VSC – Neabsco Creek, Pilot House & EZ Cruz

May 24th – PA/VSC West Marine , Alexandria

May 24th – VSC Columbia Island Marina

May 31st - Wessynton Waterway Celebration (11am-4pm): Shore based event - will setup PA table, perform VEs, and may perform demos in pool

June 7th – VSC, Neabsco Creek

June 7th - Occoquan River Paddle Challenge (Time TBD).

June 14th – Paddlecraft Support – Baltimore Inner Harbor Flotilla

June 14th VSC – Gravelly Point or Capitol Yacht Club

June 19th -22nd – Auxpad Academy - Yorktown Training Center

June 29th - Gwynn Island Paddlecraft Regatta (8am-1pm): This event is just for fun. Register here - <https://mocva.net/regatta/>.

July 5th – VSC – Columbia Island Marina

August 16th – VSC – Gravelly Point

Sept 1st – VSC – Columbia Island Marina

Sept 6th - Pohick Bay Kayak Races (Time TBD). Need AUXPAD Operators for on-water patrol

Sept 13th – Safety at Sea- USCG Yard Curtis Bay, Baltimore

June 2025

| No. | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 23 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 24 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 25 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 26 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 27 | 29 | 30 | | | | | |
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FIFTH SOUTHERN DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY FORUMS 2025

- AUX-Assistant Container Inspector (AUX-EC), Container missions in the Port of Baltimore will continue.
- AUX-Assistant Pollution Responder (AUX-ED), Training with Sector MD-NCR at USCG Yard, Curtis Bay, MD has resumed on the first Wednesday of the month from 0900-1100 the first class was 2 April. If interested in participating let your ADSO-MS, SO-MS & FSO-MS know by the last Wednesday of the month.
- Sea Partners/Environmental (70N) Opportunities: Auxiliary Beach Cleanup Guide –
 - National Park Service (NPS), Fort Washington Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 8 Mar, 12 Apr, 10 May –
 - NPS, Fort Foote Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 15 Mar, 19 Apr –
 - Leesylvania State Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 26 Apr, 7 Jun, -
 - Mason Neck State Park: Shoreline Cleanup, 30 Mar, 25 May, 1 & 29 Jun, 27 Jul, 31 Aug –
 - Widewater State Park, Shoreline Cleanup via Kayak, 7 Jun –
 - Four Mile Run Conservator Foundation: Shoreline Cleanup, 27 Apr –
 - Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC): Neabsco Creek, Shoreline Cleanup, 1 Mar –
 - PWTSC: Marumsco Creek/Veteran's Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 22 Mar –
 - Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO): Shoreline Cleanup, 5 Apr - NOVA Cleanup, Roosevelt Island: Shoreline Cleanup, 7 Sep

Sessions will be held on the below dates from 1900 to 2030. Access to forums will be with the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6092892496?pwd=V3B2VXZjdVBvemt1QlhGRXBDUUJoQT09&omn=86393146620>

February: 10th (MON): Introduction to Prevention

13th (THU): Introduction to Sea Partner

March: 10th (MON): AWW (America Waterway Watch)

13th (THU): Microplastics Effect the Environment

April: 14th (MON): Environmental Impact of Recreational Boating

17th (THU): GOODMATE

May: 12th (MON): IMSEP (Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection)

15th (THU): High Tide Flooding in D5SR

June: 9th (MON) and 13th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

July: 14th (MON) and 17th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

August: 11th (MON) and 14th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

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September: 8th (MON) and 11th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

October: 13th (MON) and 16th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

November: 10th (MON) and 14th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

December: 8th (MON) and 11th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

Please send all future
information to Carol Hostetter
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