



# INDIAN RIVER **PILOT**

## Flotilla 56

### Vero Beach/Sebastian

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## Volume II

### October 2023

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Well, we're in our 10<sup>th</sup> month and things are going great in Flotilla 56. Our membership stands at 75 members with several more prospective new members being processed. We are losing four members, three are quitting for various reasons and one is retiring. Flotilla 56 is the largest flotilla in Division 5 and the third largest in Sector Miami. You, our members, are working to make our Flotilla great!

We have a very active Flotilla. Thanks to Mark Cannon for his work in Public Affairs, we have many events every month where our displays and members working in the booths do a fantastic job explaining who we are and what we do. This is also a great recruiting opportunity for the Flotilla. If you have not assisted in any of these public affair's events, please come out and join the camaraderie of working an event. You can assist in the event even if only an hour or two. These are great opportunities to tell the Auxiliary story and hopefully attract new members.

We are losing a 20-year member who is retiring. Lee Bertram has been a great asset to Flotilla 56. Lee spent many years working and flying for Air Station Borinquen in Puerto Rico while a member of Flotilla 56. Our members are everywhere and serve the Coast Guard with pride and great expertise. Lee, enjoy your retirement from the Auxiliary, it's well deserved. Thank you for all you have done for the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.

Don't forget the October meeting that will be coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. Tom McCarty is lining up a guest speaker for after the meeting. They will be talking about the youth sailing club in Vero Beach. Remember to also attend the November meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. This will be the election of officers for 2024 and we need your attendance to have a quorum. Division 5 had their elections and Marcus Kiriakow, the current Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 59, was elected Division 5 Commander. Shari Forman, the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander for Flotilla 54, was elected Division 5 Vice Commander. We look forward to working with them in the coming year.

We have many great events happening and you, the members, are stepping up and helping. Thanks to Mark Cannon for his great leadership in our Public Affairs arena. Mark has done a fantastic job, not just for PA, but on many fronts. Public Affairs events are a great way to get the word out about Boating Safety and our Flotilla membership. It is also a great fellowship working together with other members. Please sign up for some of these events. If you haven't gotten involved in our activities, please contact me, Kiko or any staff officer to be more involved.

Ray Nemura has been busy getting additional Boat Crew members. We have one additional crew member, Mike Linden. There are another four members who will be having a QE (qualification exam) in the very near future. Others are also interested in becoming a boat crew member. If you are interested in being on the water as a crew member, please contact Ray. Our Flotilla now has two boats, and we need Coxswains and Boat Crew to man these facilities.

CORE training is needed to keep many members active. I have attached the current CORE training for the entire Flotilla. Please check your name and follow across to see what courses you might need. If you have any questions, Please feel free to contact me. The blue color is for those current in their CORE training. Yellow means your training expires at the end of the year and needs to be retaken NOW to avoid going into REYR. Red means you are not current and need to retake the CORE training to stay current in many programs.

Our AuxAir program continues to grow. We have two members who are on the District Staff for AuxAir. Mark Cannon is the ADSO-AV-S which is the Assistant District Staff Officer-Aviation Standards and Senior Flight Examiner. Pam Torell is the Assistant District Training Officer –Aviation Training. Our Flotilla aviators are well represented at the District level.

We are planning a change of Watch at Pointe West. They do a fantastic job. If you have never been to a Change of Watch, be sure to attend. New Flotilla Officers, elected and appointed, will be sworn in and other Auxiliarist and Active Duty from the Division and District may be in attendance. It is a great time for all in attendance.

Thank you for all you do. YOU, the MEMBERS are what makes OUR FLOTILLA GREAT.

COMO Gary P. Barth  
Flotilla Commander FL 56

## Fun Facts

Actor Lloyd, Beau and Jeff Bridges, as well as Cesar Romero, all served in the Coast Guard, as did golfer Arnold Palmer. But perhaps the most famous of them all? Popeye



Popeye the Sailor Man was originally Popeye the Coast Guardsman. Popeye started his professional career as a civilian mariner and then Coast Guardsman before joining the Navy.

The year is very fast coming to an end. As your Vice Flotilla Commander, I can't tell you how impressed with the amount of work everyone put into Flotilla 56's activities, and the results clearly show it. I want to thank all the Flotilla Staff Officers for an excellent job in their respective responsibilities along with the ENTIRE membership who time and time again showed up and got those jobs done. This year our new membership has grown by leaps and bounds, and I look forward to all the new members settling into the roles that interest them. We are also being more proactive in mentoring new members, and I think we shall see the fruits of those efforts next year.

Two things I would like to mention is the introduction of the Alternative Work Uniform (AWU) and the start of yearly uniform inspections.

The AWU can substitute for the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). It is NOT a substitute or alternative to any other uniform including the Tropical Dress Uniform (Trops) or AuxAir flight suits. Additionally, AWU's can be worn for the purpose of instructing virtual and in-person public education classes, performing boating safety partner visits, and for public outreach events (e.g. boating safety booths at boat shows; public outreach information tables at National Safe Boating Week events<sup>0</sup>). The AWU is specifically not authorized to be worn for ceremonial events (e.g. as part of a color guard or in parade formation).

There is a new Uniform Inspection Policy. It outlines that, " An annual requirement is established for Auxiliarists to undergo a uniform inspection by either their Flotilla Commander, Vice Flotilla Commander, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander or other elected officer in their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM). Multiple opportunities shall be provided for Auxiliarist to undergo this inspection. Elected Officers in another Auxiliary COLM may also perform and attest to an Auxiliarist's uniform inspection. This requirement shall be effective starting CY 2024.

This is a good time to brush up on your uniforms and wear them with Pride.

# Flotilla Leadership

Contact info can be found at <https://auxofficer.CGAux.org/auxoff/>

Flotilla Commander (FC)-----Gary Barth  
Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC)-----Kiko Picornell  
Immed. Past Flotilla Comm (IPVF)----Manny Dimech

## 2023 Flotilla Staff Officers

FSO-CM (Communications Mgmt.)-----Manny Dimech  
FSO-CS (Communication Services)-----Gary Grasso  
FSO-DV (Diversity)-----Terry Barth  
FSO-FN (Finance)-----Darrell Williams  
FSO-HR (Human Resources)-----Frans Eyberse  
FSO-IS (Information Services)-----Gary Barth  
FSO-MA (Materials)-----Paul Dery  
FSO-MS (Marine Safety)-----Marilyn Hieb  
FSO-MT (Member Training)-----Tommy Augustsson  
FSO-NS (Navigation Systems)-----Agnes Mical  
FSO-OP (Operations)-----Ray Nemura  
FSO-PA (Public Affairs)-----Mark Cannon  
FSO-PB (Publications)-----Pat Picornell  
FSO-PE (Public Education)-----Tom McCarty  
FSO-PV (Program Visitor)-----Pam Torell  
FSO-SR (Secretary of Records)-----Don Osiniak  
FSO-VE (Vessel Examination)-----William Kopenscki

Elections for flotilla leadership is being held at the November flotilla meeting. Please come and vote for your 2024 Flotilla Commander And Flotilla Vice Commander.

## Awards/Certifications

### Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award

Congratulations to Mark Cannon in receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in recognition of his 52 years of flying, 8 which have been with the CGAux. In this 52 years of flying Mark has amassed over 6500 of flight hours. That deserves recognition! Congratulations!



L to R, Ed Cook, Mark Cannon, Eric Smith photo by Tom Tempske

### Sustained Auxiliary Award

Congratulations to Tom McCarty for earning his vessel examiner designation. We will see you out and about on the waterways.



### Division Staff Officer

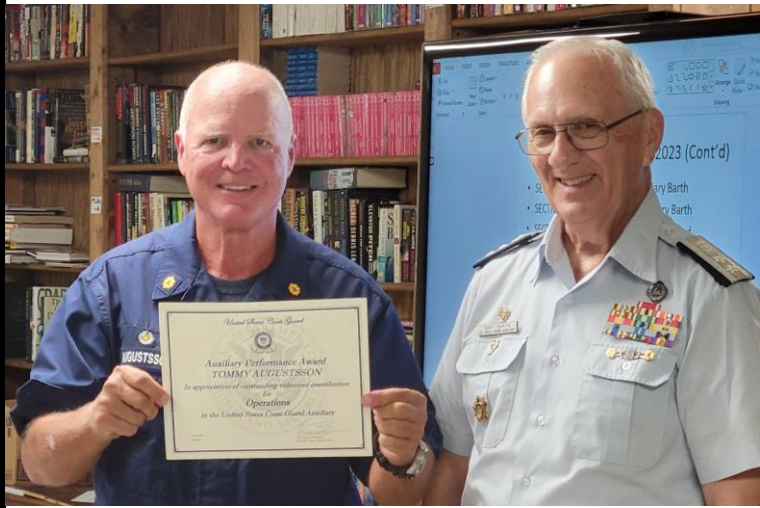
Congratulations to Daryl Williams. Daryl was sworn in on March 4<sup>th</sup> as the new Division 5 Staff Officer for Finance.



Darryl Williams  
Photo by Gary Barth

## Performance Award

Congratulations to Tommy Augustsson for earning a performance award in Operations.



Tommy Augustsson, Gary Barth

## Member Service Award

Congratulations to Agnes Mical for earning a Service Award for her 25 years of volunteering in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Kiko Picornell, Agnes Mical, Gary Barth

## Member Service Award

Congratulations to Patricia McCormick for earning a Service Award for her 15 years of volunteering in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Patricia McCormick, Gary Barth

## Safety Equipment

Even though we live in warm and sunny Florida, if the water temperature is less than 70 degrees and it's not a hot day at 85 degrees or more, then aviators must wear Aviator Dry Coveralls. Here we have Mark Cannon, Don Osinak and Tommy Augusston making sure their safety equipment is in good working order.



Photos by Mrs Cannon

## Swim and Egress

Anyone involved in the Aviation program must complete an annual Swim and Egress Test. Hopefully the Aviators can stay in the air and not get wet, but in case they do, it's reassuring to know they can get in their raft and safely wait for help to arrive.



Sam Mazza Photo by Tom Tempske



Gregg Mason photo by Tom Tempske



Mark Cannon, Pat Picornell photo by Tom Tempske

Thanks to Paul Dery for providing Emergency Management Reponse services at the Swim and Egress test at D Train.

Paul has the necessary training (and was willing and able) to jump in if the need arose.



## Community Service

### Wabasso Causeway Clean-Up

In February Marilyn Heib organized a grounds clean up at the Wabasso Causeway. There to help was Pam and Pete Torell, Debbie Sandh ( a guest of Pam Torell), Marilyn and John Hieb, Manny Dimech, Eugene Smith and Pat Picornell. 69lbs of garbage was picked up. The weather was beautiful and being near the rivers edge reminded us of why we live here in Florida.



### Boating America

A monthly Boating Safety Course is a community service provided by CG Aux. To the right we have another successful boating safety class on the books. These classes are held at least once a month, sometimes twice a month. They are very well attended and many safe boat captains are out on the water because of this class.



## Vessel Safety Checks

On February 15, Flotilla 56 members Darrell Williams and Tom McCarty participated in a vessel safety check (VSC) blitz at Lake Okeechobee. The VSC's were performed on boats operated by anglers participating in the Bassmaster Elite Series fishing tournament that took place Feb 16-19. If you would like to become a vessel examiner, please contact Will Kopenski.



## Surface Patrol

There are frequent surface Patrols out on our waterways. They look for safety issues which include abandoned watercraft, problems with nav aids and general safety boating conditions. To the right is Paul Dery on his first patrol along with Clay Stroud and Ray Nemura. If you would like to be on boat crew, please contact Ray Nemura.



*Clay Stroud, Mike Linden and Ray Nemura on Lucky 1*



*Photo by Mike Linden*



Manny Demensch, Kiko Picornell, photo by Pat Picornell



Darryl Williams, Marilyn Hieb photo by Darryl

## Communication Relay Exercise

This exercise consists of select flotillas along the east coast, Sebastian to Miami, to relay test messages in the event of a disaster that disrupts normal communications. Our Flotilla set up our radio station at Sebastian Inlet State Park. Think of this as the “Telephone” game you played as a kid. The first and final messages are compared for accuracy. It was a beautiful day and was a great exercise. If interested in joining in the next one, contact Manny Demensch.



L to R, Paul Dery, Tommy Augustsson, Pete Torell, Manny Demensch, Pam Torell, Mark Cannon

## 4th of July Parade

Flotilla 56 participated in Sebastian's Holiday Parade. There were thousands of spectators. To promote the flotilla, we had Paul Dery's boat and Mark Cannon's golf cart, both patriotically decorated. Several hundred coloring books were passed out to children and candy “LifeSavers”—pun intended—to the adults.

# P A S S W O R D S

Have you ever thought about how many passwords you have as an Auxiliarist? There are five different login passwords to cover the nine different Coast Guard Auxiliary websites you may use.

Let's look at the top three passwords that everyone needs to have and use. Use a unique password for each website.

## Member Zone Password

The first login that you need to have is called a member zone password. This uses your ID number as the user name. The password is 8 characters long. It is used by all of the WOW websites, which include your flotilla website, the division website (cgauxdivision7.com), and all of the directorate websites. You generally can recognize where the member zone password by the entry form.



A screenshot of a login form titled "MEMBER ZONE". It features two input fields: "Member ID:" and "Password:". Below the fields is a "LOG IN" button.

## USCGAUX Password

Second is your USCGAUX password, also used by three different websites. USCGAUX also uses your ID number as the username. It is important for all of your training. It is used by the National Test Center (ntc2.cgaux.org/NTC), and the Auxofficer/Auxdirectory (auxofficer.cgaux.org/auxoff/) and the Moodle classroom (classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle). This password must be a minimum of 10 characters with upper and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. You can recognize it by the graphic they use for the USCGAUX password.



## AUXDATA II Password

The third important password is for AUXDATAII (uscg.experience.crmforce.mil/auxcommunity). This is the only place this password is used. It uses your email address as the user name. For example [2365689@uscg.aux](mailto:2365689@uscg.aux). It requires a strong password. It also requires you to change it periodically, about every 60 days.



A screenshot of a login form for AUXDATA II. It has two input fields: "Username" and "Password". Below the fields is a dark blue "Log In" button.

## Websites you should know

Coast Guard Aux Website – [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)

Division 5 Aux Website – [www.cgauxdivision5.com](http://www.cgauxdivision5.com)

National Testing Center – <http://ntc.cgaux.org>

District 7 Aux Website – <http://www.uscga-district-7.org>

## Auxiliary Social Media

Did you know Flotilla 56 has a Facebook page?

### Flotilla 56 Vero Beach Sebastian

This page is a good source of information and ideas as well as a great way to spread the recreational boating safety message and to recruit new members. But...to help spread the word you must do three things:

1. LIKE the page so that its posts appear on your newsfeed
2. LIKE the posts that appeal to you
3. SHARE these posts on your page so that your friends can see these messages. Everyone has their own personal newsfeed so your friends do not see the content of yours unless you SHARE on your timeline.

Thank you, Greg Grasso, for setting up and maintaining this page.

LIKE and SHARE

LIKE and SHARE

LIKE and SHARE

## Upcoming Events

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- Oct 17 Tues 1900: Flotilla Meeting at Legion, 1535 Old Dixie Hwy, Vero
  - Oct 21 Sat: Boating America Safety Class, Sebastian - See Tom McCarty
  - Nov 1 Wed 0830: Social Breakfast at Capt Hiram's, Sebastian
  - Nov 11 Sat 0900: Veterans Day Ceremony- Riverside Park Grand Pavilion, Vero Beach
  - Nov 18-19 Sat/Sun 1000-1700: Vero Beach Fall Boat Show, Riverside Park, Vero Beach
  - Nov 18 Sat: Boating America Safety Class, American Legion, Vero Beach – see Tom McCarty
  - Nov 21 Tues 1900: Flotilla Meeting at Legion, 1535 Old Dixie Hwy, Vero  
**FC and VFC Elections**
  - Nov 23 Thur: Happy Thanksgiving
  - Dec 6 Wed 0830: Social Breakfast at Capt Hiram's, Sebastian
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If you have any articles you would like to see in the *Indian River Pilot*, send them to Pat at [patricia@picornell.net](mailto:patricia@picornell.net). When you send photos, please include names, location and who took the picture.