

SAN ANTONIO, TX
FLOTILLA 7-4



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In The Spot-light	1
Auxilliary Activiites	2
Bits and Interests	3
Recruiting, VSCs and CS	4
Diversity— Meet a CG Hero	5
History Calendar and links	6

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Sailing on Canyon Lake



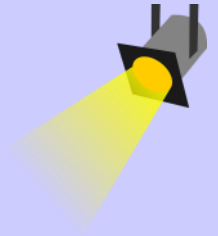
The Alamo City Guardian

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In the Spot Light - Meet our Active Duty Member !

Submitted by Jeanne McNamara, PA-1



LCDR Shannon Paul Reck, USCG is an Active Duty serving Lieutenant Commander, assigned as the Assistant Branch Chief and Disability Adjudicator at Coast Guard Personnel Service Command, Personnel Services Division, Medical Branch, which is located in the National Capital Region, Washington DC. LCDR Reck has a total of 32 years of active duty service, split between the US Marine Corps and the US Coast Guard. Upon laterally transferring over to the US Coast Guard, LCDR Reck climbed the ranks of the Corpsman rating, advancing to Senior Chief, to Medical Admin Chief Warrant Officer, to Lieutenant (Medical administration specialty). He recently promoted to Lieutenant Commander on 04Feb2022. LCDR Reck's passion is in deployable medical forces. As an enlisted corpsman, he served on two cutters and served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom (PATFORSWA) as an Independent Duty Medical Technician. After commissioning, he stepped forward to fill the role of Medical Unit Leader in rescue and recovery responses in the aftermath Hurricanes Harvey, Michael, and Barry, then embedded with the CBP for the Ebola and COVID-19 passenger screenings at major international airports, and with international efforts including the humanitarian crisis at the Southwest border and the intake and processing of Afghan nationals in Operation Allies Welcome.



LCDR Reck on the day of his promotion in Washington, D.C. on February 2022.

LCDR Reck's most prestigious of 43 awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Four CG Commendation Medals, Five CG Achievement Medals, One Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Two Commandant Letter of Commendation Ribbon bars, Seven CG Good Conduct Medals, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Service Medal and Pewter (enlisted) Cutterman Pin.

LCDR Reck's passion for deployable health care asset support prompted his decision to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary and seek employment on the national staff level to assist the Health Services Division Chief with the buildup and utilization of this amazingly relevant program - Aux-MED.

Flotilla 7-4 San Antonio:

Coast Guard Auxiliary Cornerstones:
Recreational Boating Safety, Member Services
Operations and Marine Safety, Fellowship

What we do! "America's Volunteer Lifesavers".

Our primary mission is promoting and supporting recreational boating safety and that includes involvement in Search and Rescue efforts, Maritime Domain Awareness, Underway Operations, Marine Safety, Public Education, and Vessel Safety Examinations, both recreation and commercial. In addition to that, we have members with special skills like radio operators, webmasters, computer specialists, pilots, public affairs specialists, and language interpreters. <http://wow.uscgaux.info/>

The purpose of the Uniformed Auxiliary:

Our purpose is to assist the Coast Guard.
To promote safety and to effect search and rescues on and over the high seas and on navigable waters.
To promote efficiency in the operation of motorboats and yachts.
To foster a wider knowledge of, and better compliance with, the laws, rules, and regulations governing the operation of motorboats and yachts through safe boating classes.
To facilitate other operations of the Coast Guard.

Why Join? <http://join.cgau.org/>

When you join the Coast Guard Auxiliary, you could find yourself on patrol saving lives and property, assisting in marine safety and environmental protection, radio watch-standing, educating the public in boating safety and much more. That's what our members do. We don't just train. We train and perform.

Since 1939 the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has safeguarded our Nation's maritime interests in the heartland, in the ports, at sea, and around the globe.

Members from all walks of life bring their training and experience as a member of the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard. <http://wow.uscgaux.org/>

Auxiliary University Program

The **Auxiliary University Programs (AUP)** is a United States Coast Guard Auxiliary-managed initiative established in 2007. Today AUP now has nearly 200 members in 11 units representing over 50 colleges and universities across the United States. The Auxiliary University Program (AUP) prepares undergraduate and graduate students for future public service inside and outside of the Coast Guard. AUP provides the opportunity to attend college while learning to gain boating education, to learn about homeland security, and to gain operational and leadership experience. AUP has a positive track record of getting a large number of its graduates into Coast Guard Officer Candidate School.

<http://www.cgau.edu.us/about/> and <https://n.wikipedia.org>

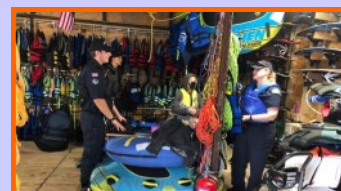


Sea Scout Dwayne assisting VFC Bobby G. on a Sea Dog jet ski PWC inspection.

Vessel Exams:

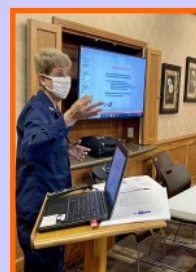
A variety of power and paddle craft were inspected at Cranes Mill on Canyon Lake. Conducting vessel exams (VE) over the two days were VFC Bobby Gosschalk, FSO-AS Mary Oakes, FSO-PA Russ Poppen and FSO-HR Jeanne McNamara all from Flotilla 7-4. Mary and several members of Sea Scout Ship

74 from the San Antonio area provided the much appreciated Sea Scout power. A shout out to Bobby Gosschalk who arranged the event. VFC Gosschalk also recertified Russ Poppen in VE. Mary Oaks supervised the SS ship crew. Six members of the SS ship assisted with the vessel exams and with the inspection of the marina's nearly 100 life jackets.



Members of SSS 74 complete life-jacket inspections at Crane's Mills Marina.

VE/IT Refresher workshop 2022 - the annually required VE and IT Refresher Workshops were conducted by our Aux Instructor Jeanne McNamara. It was only released two days before. VFC Bobby Gosschalk, FSO-VE Darleen Beeson, FSO-CM Bob Puharic and FC VS Ansbergs in preparation for our first VEs of the year at Crane's Mill Marina, Canyon Lake 2/15-16/22. FSO-AS Mary Oakes (also present and attended the class) took the photos of the 6 members present. In addition, to taking the photos, Mary created this new sign for use on our Public ramp days. It's sure to attract many customers for our VE's.

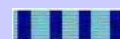


Jeanne - during our VE/IT Refresher workshops. Jeanne is also a C-School instructor for AuxPA, Aux-12 and AFLC.



Instructor Jeanne McN with attendees: (l-r) Bobby, Darlene, VS, Bob & Mary (photos).

Awards - AuxOP Specialty Ribbon



Darlene Beeson earned an AuxOP specialty ribbon for completion of the **AUXWEA** exam on her way towards her AuxOP device. Here she is congratulated by FC VS Ansbergs at the last meeting.

Third Generation Auxiliarist: Charles Manley IV

by Russell Poppen, PA3, FSO-PA/PB

Charles R Manley IV is a third generation Auxiliarist, his father Charles R Manley III and grandfather Everett L Booe Jr were both part of the Auxiliary during the 70's and 80's in Division 7. Charles's main interests in the Auxiliary is technology and communications. He brings in 20 plus years of service in the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and a strong knowledge in Information Technology. In his civilian job, USAA, he utilizes Salesforce, the same platform used for our AuxData II database. Charles is a great asset to Flotilla 7-4. Since the auxiliary is a family affair, mom Barbara and brother-in-law Ryan also joined. We are thrilled to have you on board.



Pictured are (l-r) Ryan Mellen and Charles Manley at our annual CG Birthday picnic last August.

Humanitarian Award:



JeanneMarie C McNamara, FSO-HR, ADSO-HM, Director-S Student Programs has been awarded her second Humanitarian award. The Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Award (HSA) is presented to Auxiliarists who distinguish themselves as individuals or as members of an operational unit by meritorious, direct, non-routine participation in a significant act or operation of a humanitarian nature. The first was for her service during Hurricane Harvey and this one is for her service during the COVID-19 Pandemic. BZ.



SEMPER PARATUS

-The music

Submitted by Viesturs

Ansbergs, FC

source: [https://military-](https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Francis_Saltus_Van_Boskerck)

[history.fandom.com/wiki/](https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Francis_Saltus_Van_Boskerck)

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San Antonio, Tx, 04DEC 21

<https://www.legion.org/magazine/248810/music-our-military>

Francis Saltus Van Boskerck (October 1868 – November 26, 1927) was a [United States Coast Guard captain](#) known for writing and composing [Semper Paratus](#), the Coast Guard's official march. He held various senior positions within the Coast Guard.

Van Boskerck would serve in the Coast Guard as commander of the Coast Guard cutters [USCGC Bear](#), [USCGC Yamacraw](#) and also serve as commander of the Norfolk Division, district commander of the Great Lakes District, captain of the Port of Philadelphia, and commander of the Bering Sea Patrol.

He wrote *Semper Paratus*'s words in 1922 aboard *Yamacraw* and its music in 1927 on a beat-up piano in the Aleutian Islands. He gave the song to Lieutenant Colonel Harvey Miller to publish the day before Van Boskerck died.

The **Coast Guard Auxiliary** is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, visit www.cgaux.org. We are a force multiplier. Come join the team.



Recruiting/Diversity Outreach:

by Charles Manley IV, FSO - DV

For the 1st quarter, we were slow making the transition to the new Diversity team but Flotilla 7-4 is happy to announce we are starting the process of bringing the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to the Universities and Colleges in the San Antonio area.

Our course of action is to discuss with the various civil engagement officers the importance of boating safety, protecting the environment, and helping our neighbors during mission critical events, such as floods and hurricanes. We will discuss with them how the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary does not discriminate on gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, or physical disabilities and how every individual has the opportunity to play a critical role in the Coast Guard through Auxiliary duties.

The first college we plan on visiting is San Antonio College. FSO-PA Russell Poppen, FSO-IS Charles R Manley IV, FSO-HR Jeanne McNamara, and FSO-DV Ryan Mellen will be spearheading this new recruitment opportunity. Since many of the colleges and universities in the San Antonio area are considered diversity outreach schools, juniors and seniors in the four-year college may qualify for the Coast Guard CSPI program. This gives the student the opportunity to 'try-on' the CG and then apply for commissioning once they obtain the bachelor's degree. Financial assistance in the form of "reserve pay" is available to the student as well.

Vessel Safety Checks - Public Ramp Days at Canyon Lake

by Bobby Gosschalk, VFC

We are excited about our first scheduled Public Ramp Day in nearly 2.5 years. It will be coming up April 9th on Canyon Lake at Potters Landing. We will have Alex Shapovalov our former FC, Darlene Beeson FSO for vessel examinations and several Sea Scouts from Ship 74 there to help give free safety exams for the public as the boaters come to each ramp. Invited is Petty Officer Bonnie Gonzales from the Coast Guard Recruiting Station in San Antonio to join us. This gives the public a one on one opportunity to meet active duty "Coasties", Auxiliarists on hand and the Sea Scouts. All are just bursting with excitement to rub shoulders under these circumstances and be involved with all walks of life. It has been so exciting to be together and learn from each other. Youth and a diverse group of adults is a recipe for fun and learning that can only be had by being in person and making memories for a lifetime. Everyone is so glad to be out and about again...then being on water, well it just doesn't get any better than this.



News From the Computer - AuxDATA II

What are our members doing?

by Charles Manley IV, FSO-CS

Since January, we have been updating all the hours, records, tasks, and workshops for Flotilla 7-4. We now have 5 vessel examiners that have met requirements and we are excited to have a full crew on April 8th for the first Public Ramp Day of the year. VFC Bobby Gosschalk, FSO-HR Jeanne McNamara, and FSO-MT Ken Bain have done an outstanding job getting the examiners of Flotilla 7-4 caught up.

We are also excited to have an active watch-standing crew assisting at Port O'Connor and Sector HQ. While FSO-CM Bob Puharic has been assisting with radio watch-standing at Port O', we have VFC Bobby Gosschalk and IPFC Alex Shapovalov both doing watch-standing duties at Air Station Corpus Christi. I, myself, am looking to start working on learning the in's and out's of radio watch-standing as well to assist with Bob.

I have been receiving assistance from the our 7-4 watch-standing crew and let me be the first to say, they have been outstanding.

Also, FSO-PA Russell Poppen has been working diligently with the National Park Service increasing the exposure of what the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is all about and San Antonio Sea Scouts 7-4 Mary Oakes has done an outstanding job bringing awareness of Auxiliary duties to our sea scouts and perhaps, future Coast guardsmen and women.





The Diversity Corner: Meet a Coast Guard Hero

by Jeanne McNamara, PA1

The first quarter of each calendar year is chock full of memorable events. The federal government has chosen to highlight and honor different people and ethnic groups throughout the year because of the rich diversity our nation. A complete list suggested by the Department of Defense and Homeland Security can be found at [Special Observances \(defenseculture.mil\)](https://www.defenseculture.mil). In brief, the DoD has designated the third Monday of January as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The entire month of February is designated as Black History Month, while March is designated as Women's History Month.

In light of these observances, I would like to introduce to you a true Coast Guard Hero. Her name is Lieutenant Ronaqua A. Russell, USCG and we met last summer during our tour together working on the staff for the leadership program AIM for rising high school seniors run by the Admissions office of the Coast Guard Academy. LT Russell was born and raised in the United States Virgin Islands. In 2008, she became a member of the graduating Class of 2012 at the United States Coast Guard Academy. While there, she excelled in her studies and was commissioned as an Ensign. She was selected for CG Flight School in Pensacola FL. After 2 years of study, she became a fixed wing aviator. Then in 2017, LT Russell was assigned to the 8th CG District where she flew numerous missions including search and rescue (SAR) and environmental monitoring. She also functioned as the ALO – Auxiliary Liaison Officer and got to know many of our operational CG Auxiliarists.



LT Russell addressing AIMsters during the AIM summer program July 2021 at the CG Academy in New London CT.



During Hurricane Harvey, she flew through dangerous weather conditions providing visibility and communications to our pilots and thereby, allowing SAR operations to take place. The success of the CG's response was largely due to her aeronautical skills in providing critical information throughout the storm. As a result, LT Russell was presented the CG AIR MEDAL by President Trump – the highest aviation award the CG has. In addition, she was installed into the Wall of Honor which highlights Coast Guardsmen who have achieved this award and is located at the Coast Guard Academy in New London CT. Her citation reads, *"Lieutenant Russell is cited for meritorious heroic achievement in aerial flight from 24 August to 11 September 2017 in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. This category four hurricane released more precipitation than any other tropical cyclone in U.S. history. Making landfall on three separate occasions, Harvey discharges as much as 52 inches of rain throughout 28,000 square miles during a five-day deluge. As an HC-144 First Pilot, Lieutenant Russell's aeronautical skill was paramount to the successful response in the face of extremely hazardous weather. Due to widespread outage to air traffic control infrastructure, she provided expert navigation through thunderstorms, heavy turbulence, and moderate icing just hours after Hurricane Harvey made landfall. As the second fixed wing asset to attempt landing at Air Station Houston, Lieutenant Russell acted as pilot monitoring while executing a non-precision circling approach to minimums in heavy rain with less than one mile visibility. After breaking out, she quickly assessed the landing environment, provided visual traffic separation from numerous low flying helicopters, and deftly chose the best runway to land, allowing safe delivery of eight mission essential personnel and 800 pounds of life-saving equipment. Lieutenant Russell's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue and recovery effort in Houston. In addition, Lieutenant Russell is the first African American female aviator in the Coast Guard to receive the Air Medal. Her courage, judgement and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."*

After completing duty this summer at Air Station Miami in Coast Guard District 7 and another week of service at AIM, LT Russell will be returning to District 8 as a fixed-wing flight instructor. She will be stationed in Sector Corpus Christi with duty at the Naval Air Station training CG, Naval and Marine Corps pilots. We are thrilled to have such a skilled pilot back in our sector – here's hoping that it will not be too active a hurricane season this year.

On a final note, you may have a chance to meet her when The Coast Guard Aviators Association, the Order of the Pterodactyl, has their first in-person meeting since COVID-19 at Corpus Christi, this November. CG Auxiliarists who have aviation qualifications may join the Association and attend the meeting with their counterparts from Active duty, Reserve Component and Retired CG Aviators.



The Coast Guard Auxiliary: History

In 1939, Congress established a U.S. Coast Guard Reserve administered by the Commandant of the Coast Guard and composed of unpaid, volunteer U.S. citizens who owned motorboats or yachts. In 1941, Congress created a military Reserve and renamed the original volunteer Reserve as the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In 1996, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 was signed into law. This law was the first major legislation affecting the Auxiliary since its establishment in 1939. These amendments made the following major changes to the Auxiliary.



Purpose: The purpose of the Auxiliary is to assist the Coast Guard as authorized by the Commandant in performing any Coast Guard function, power, duty, role, mission or operation authorized by law:

- promote safety and to effect rescues on and over the high seas and on navigable waters;
- promote efficiency in the operation of motorboats and yachts
- facilitate other operations of the Coast Guard."

In addition, the legislation expanded the Commandant's authority to use the Auxiliary to assist other Federal agencies, State authorities, and local governments in areas in addition to recreational boating safety.

The Responsibility of the Auxiliary: The Coast Guard is a military service and is a component of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a component of Coast Guard Forces like the active duty, Reserve, and civilian components. Thus, the Auxiliary may be referred to and considered to be included under the general organizational umbrella of the Coast Guard. Auxiliarist are not contractually bound, enlisted, or commissioned officers, but are volunteers pledged to serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Coast Guard is also charged with many civil responsibilities in addition to its military missions:

- 1.) **Member Services** - The first and primary mission of the Auxiliary is to attract, recruit, develop, train, nurture and retain Auxiliarist for assignment to duty. Auxiliarist are trained to accomplish specific missions assigned to the Auxiliary and to support collateral Coast Guard missions on a day-to-day and surge basis.
- 2.) **Recreational Boating Safety** - The Auxiliary has mission responsibility to support the Office of Boating Safety with the development and implementation of various programs. This mission includes Auxiliary traditional activities conducted on behalf of Federal, State, and local governments to improve the knowledge, safety skills, and operating environment of recreational boaters. These include but are not limited to:
 - Public Education Programs, - Vessel Examinations, - Distribution of literature and information to the boating public., - Liaison of the purposes of enhancing Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety.
- 3.) **Operations and Marine Safety** - The Auxiliary has general mission responsibility for providing resources, personnel, and facilities in support of the operations and marine safety, security, and environmental protection missions, and in support of other Coast Guard missions, when requested. These include, but are not limited to: Operations, Aviation, Communications, Marine Safety, Aids to Navigation
- 4.) **Fellowship** - Fellowship is an essential ingredient in making any volunteer organization a successful one!

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=130-04-05&category=about-the-auxiliary#:~:text=The%20Coast%20Guard%20is%20a%20military%20service%20and,the%20general%20organizational%20umbrella%20of%20the%20Coast%20Guard>

Semper Paratus

Staff Officer Reports Due: no later than the last day of the month!

Due to Covid 19 Pandemic Information may change, Masks not required is vaccinated and meeting in person

Flotilla Meeting: 2nd Sat. of Month
Apr 9 & May 14 (Canyon Lake PA/VSC), Jun 11.

Division 7 Meeting: 4 times/year at Sector HQ, Corpus Christi, TX or virtually.
Apr 9

8CR District Meeting: 2 times/year. Locations vary within the District's 8 states. Next district meeting in New Orleans, LA

Other Events: TBA



YouTube

Follow us online for flotilla date additions, events and changes.

Find us on Facebook, YouTube® and on our Website:

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-4
<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-07-04>

Sea Scouts: <https://seascout.org/southern-region-news/texas-sea-scout-academy/>

2022 Diversity Holidays: <https://www.diversitybestpractices.com/2019-diversity-holidays>

FEMA Training Online: <https://training.fema.gov/>



Flotilla 7-4 Website QR Code

Meeting Location:

Blue Skies of Texas West
5100 John Ryan Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78245



District Website:

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081>