

October 2024

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THE ALAMO CITY GUARDIAN



The Alamo City Guardian is Flotilla 081-07-04's Quarterly Newsletter. My goal is to build awareness of the Flotilla's activities - past, present and future. Also, build awareness of how the Auxiliary can benefit our country via the Coast Guard. We all need to encourage, motivate and educate another so we can have a positive impact on our Active Duty Coast Guard!

Did you know??:- The Coast Guard Academy selected a mascot in 1926; recently the US Coast Guard rescued 3 people in Hawaii as their vessel went down; the Auxiliary has an Aviation Division; when our Flotilla Commander and Vice Commander elections are being held; you can earn \$1,000 when you refer someone; see how our members activities are benefiting the Coast Guard and how you can do the same!– Check out the articles and information in this Newsletter!

<u>Fellow Shipmates!</u> The United States Coast Guard is currently facing a significant workforce shortage and needs to adapt its operations to prioritize lifesaving missions, national security, and protection of the marine transportation system. The Coast Guard is short nearly 10% of its enlisted workforce and cannot continue to operate as it has historically. (by Jared Serbu, 8/13/24, Federal News Network/Defense News)

This is serious folks! Due to lack of personnel, the CG has had to prioritize their missions – they can't cover all operations! The Auxiliary's purpose is to assist the Coast Guard! The time is NOW! If you are considering doing watchstanding, boat crew, cooking for active-duty, interpreting a language, teaching, recruiting, doing vessel safety checks, etc. NOW is the time to get into action! Get trained! Take advantage of all the training to which Auxiliarists have access! The Auxiliary is an astounding path to serving our country!

Article by Auxiliarist Karen Duryea, PA

(Please see the Article describing 6 ways the Auxiliary can support their local CG units. Reposted from July Newsletter. Also note the JobAid resource Charles Manley emailed to all members on Sept 15, 2024.)



Flotilla 7-4 San Antonio:

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

Marine Safety, and 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.cgaux.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.

Flotilla Member Activity:

New Members:

Steve Ducharme, Robert Giffin, Trae Howard and Stacie Rydell are all in BQ status!! Congrats all!

Vladimir Gerasimenko and Larry Lopez – currently in AP status.

Joe Littlefield and David Shelley have resigned due to family commitments/lack of time.

We rustled up alot of interest this summer -Jeanne's been busy sending out applications!

2024 Scheduled Events:

- September 28, 8:00 am, Relocate the Storage Unit
- October 12, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, Blue Skies West, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd, S.A.
- November 9, 10:30 am. Flotilla Meeting, Blue Skies West, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd, S.A. ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD
- December 14, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, Blue Skies West, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd, S.A.
- CHANGE OF WATCH IN DECÉMBER DATE TO BE DETERMINED.

Public Education:

Boat Crew – contact Alex Shapovalov Culinary Assistant – contact Tom Duryea Risk Mgmt/TCT – October 8 & 9, 6 pm online; register at cslowe4@verizon.net

Vessel Examinations:

None scheduled at this time. Please remember to get your 5 boat safety checks in this year to maintain your VE status!

Why We Do What We Do:

KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

Texas law requires all children under 13 years must wear a life jacket (PFD) while a vessel is underway. The PFD must fit properly, be in good condition and USCG approved. I hear FISHING is good all year in Texas! Remind those FISHERMAN to wear their PFD'S – Personal Flotation Devices! There is a reason they are called LIFE JACKETS! (By Auxiliarist Karen Duryea)



Auxiliarists Answer "The Call to Mission"!

Watchstanding

Robert "Bob" Puharic is busy assisting the active-duty Coast Guard at Station Port O'Connor. He is performing watchstanding duties on a regular basis on station.

Culinary Assistance

Tom Duryea was in Port Aransas in August, training new CA John Ziomek.



Auxiliarist CA John Ziomek serving active duty CG in Port Aransas. (Photo by Tom Duryea, CA)

Tom Duryea served meals at Port O'Connor the week of September 22nd. When faced with closing the galley, the Coasties voted for the Auxiliary to feed them!

Coast Guard Recruiting Assistance

Alex Shapovalov and Bob Puharic continue to assist our active-duty Coast Guard by answering phones, doing errands and anything they are asked to do at the Recruiting Office in San Antonio! Thank you to Alex & Bob!

Recently, the San Antonio CG recruiting office asked for auxiliary help in their office. Activeduty recruiters often have to travel to meet potential recruits and they need folks to do a variety of duties - initial screening, answer phones, greet interested people. If you want to help out, please let our FC or Alex know.

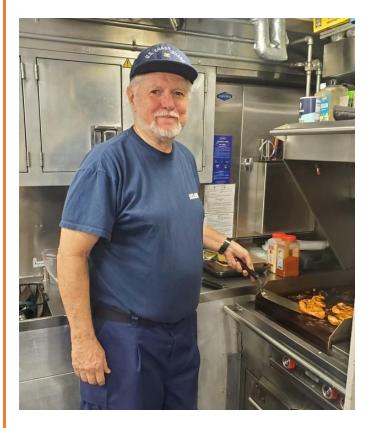
New Assistant to District Staff Officer - Culinary Assistance

DSO-CA, Jack Whalen, appointed Auxiliarist Tom Duryea to the position of ADSO-CA in September. This is a District level office assisting the DSO-CA. The DSO oversees the CA program for the entire district, which includes all of the Auxiliarists who are certified in Culinary Assistance or who wish to become certified. As ASDO-CA, Tom will assist in getting Auxiliarists trained and certified and to be assigned to duty with active-duty Coast Guard units. He will also serve as the acting DSO-CO when Mr. Whalen is unavailable.

This year, Tom has trained and gotten certified two new Culinary Assistants, James Ryan of Flotilla 7-2 and John Ziomek of Flotilla 7-9. The Auxiliary Culinary Assistance (AUXCA) program helps Coast Guard and CG Auxiliary units enhance mission readiness, effectiveness, and execution by providing culinary support to both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary (both on land and at sea).

AUXCA Specialists are trained by certified AUXCA Instructors and/or USCG Active-Duty Culinary Specialists II and above, using Coast Guard Approved AUXCA Program guides. Classroom training is followed by hands on training, with a Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS).

The Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Program (AUXCA) was established in early 2021 to broaden the application of the AUXFS Program, which provides direct support to the U.S. Coast Guard galleys both on land and at sea.



Tom Duryea, ADSO-CA, cooking in the galley aboard CG Cutter Manta. (photo by Auxiliarist)

Coast Guard Academy

JeanneMarie McNamara and Alex Shapovalov are active in recruitment for the CG Academy. They addressed the Academy in San Antonio in July regarding the benefits of enrolling in the Academy.

They also attended week 3 of AIM and conducted AIM lead training as well. In August, JeanneMarie offered over 200 hours of support to the Academy to include Help Desk Support Training, attendance at D-Train and presenting at the Women's Leadership Initiative program. You go JeanneMarie!! If you would like more information about the CG Academy or wish to be involved, please contact JeanneMarie.

Coast Guard Academy Mascot inducted into the National Service Animals Memorial Hall of Fame

NEW LONDON, Conn.,--- Objee, the mascot of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, has been inducted into the National Service Animals Memorial (NSAM) Purple Poppy Hall of Fame. The National Service Animals Memorial, a nonprofit organization, will hold its 2nd Annual Purple Poppy Awards on Sept. 28 to honor both the service and sacrifice of service animals and their handlers since the founding of our country and the human-animal bond. This event also celebrates the passage of a bill authorizing the organization to build the National Service Animals Memorial in Washington, D.C. Millions of animals have served and continue to serve humankind to provide for our safety, security, and independence, from working dogs and assistance animals to war horses and dolphins, and the Memorial will honor them all.

In 1926, the Academy selected the Black Bear as its mascot and named it Objee, short for *objectionable presence*. The bear was chosen to represent the Coast Guard and its officers who protect and defend the maritime environment. Thirty-one bear cubs fulfilled mascot duties during the 57 years the Academy kept a live mascot on campus. The last live mascot, a 250-pound bear known as



Objee Thirty-One, was retired to a farm in upstate New York in 1984.

Today, Objee is remembered on Bear Plaza, where a bronze statue of the bear watches over the Academy campus, as the sports mascot who whips up the crowds during major events, and through the Spirit of the Bear Award, which is given to members of the Academy Community who dedicate time, effort, thought, and care to the development of the Corps of Cadets.

"Objee the Bear represents the tenacious spirit of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and has brought smiles to the faces of Academy community members for nearly 100 years," said Rear Admiral Michael Johnston, Academy Superintendent, "and we thank the National Service Animals Memorial for this meaningful recognition. (Photo courtesy of "The Navigator")

Coast Guard weathers operational cutbacks amid serious personnel shortage

The service's recruiting picture has improved, but ongoing shortfalls have led officials to pause operations for three cutters and numerous small boat stations. As of now, the Coast Guard faces a shortfall of several thousand personnel, and the service's leaders have had to adjust their operations accordingly

The Coast Guard thinks it will meet its recruiting goals this year. But even if it does, it will take some time to replenish the service's ranks. As of now, the Coast Guard faces a shortfall of several thousand personnel, and the service's leaders have had to adjust their operations accordingly.

(https://federalnewsnetwork.com/defensemain/ 2024/07/coast-guard-on-track-to-meet-itsrecruiting-goals/).

Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi Conducts Change of Command Ceremony

Friday, July 19, 2024, Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi held its Change of Command Ceremony at the Station located at 249 W Glasson Dr, Corpus Christi, TX.

Captain Hans Govertsen transferred command of Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi to Captain Charles Wilson. Rear Admiral David C. Barata, Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District, was the presiding officer at the ceremony. (USCG News)

2024 FLOTILLA ELECTIONS!!

We will be voting on new leadership for our Flotilla during our meeting on November 9, 2024. The following persons are on the candidate list for FC and VFC:

Charles Manley – Flotilla Commander Robert Puharic – Vice Commander

Nominations will be accepted until October 12th. Flotilla Staff Officer positions - If you wish to be an FSO, please make it known during our October meeting or email our FC. We need a Secretary!

FLOTILLA 7-4 CHANGE OF WATCH

It is under discussion when our Change of Command will be conducted. Please watch your email for the date/time in December.

COAST GUARD SAVE LIVES!

Coast Guard Rescues Surfer Beset by Weather off Freeport, Texas United States Coast Guard News, Press Release Sept 11, 2024.

HOUSTON — The Coast Guard rescued a surfer beset by weather off Freeport, Texas, Wednesday. Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston watchstanders received a watch standers call from a friend of the surfer at 5:31 p.m. reporting a male surfer stranded offshore.



Rescued surfer with Coast Guard. (Photo courtesy of USCG News)

Watchstanders issued an urgent marine information broadcast and directed the launch of a 29-foot Response Boat–Small crew from Coast Guard Station Freeport. The RB–S crew arrived on scene, embarked the surfer, and safely transferred him to Bridge Bait Marina with. There were no reported injuries to the surfer.

U.S. Coast Guard rescues 3 people after vessel sinks off Honolulu

HONOLULU — The Coast Guard successfully rescued three people from a sinking recreational vessel approximately nine nautical miles south of Honolulu Harbor on Thursday.

"We are grateful that we were able to get on scene quickly and safely recover the three individuals before the situation became more dire," said Cmdr. Kristin Hahn, the search and rescue mission coordinator. "This case highlights the importance of having the right emergency equipment aboard and the critical role of partnerships with local agencies like the Honolulu Fire Department."

At 10:37 a.m., Coast Guard Sector Honolulu watchstanders received a notification from Honolulu Fire Department personnel that the 25-foot recreational vessel, Ichiban, was taking on water with three people aboard. Watchstanders immediately initiated response efforts.

Crews aboard a Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Barbers Point and a 45-foot Response Boat-Medium crew from Station Honolulu launched to the scene. Upon arrival, the Dolphin crew deployed a rescue swimmer to assess the situation and the rate of flooding. The vessel was quickly sinking, and the rescue swimmer determined the safest course of action was to hoist all occupants from the vessel.



3 Boaters rescued off Honolulu with Coast Guard. (Photo courtesy of USCG News

The Dolphin crew safely hoisted all three individuals from the sinking vessel. Shortly after, the Ichiban was completely submerged at a water depth of over 400 feet. The survivors were transported to Air Station **a** wellness check. Reportedly, only 80 gallons of diesel fuel and assorted hydraulic and lube oils were aboard the vessel. Due to the vessel's depth, responders do not anticipate any salvage efforts.

The Coast Guard reminds all mariners to ensure their vessels are properly maintained and equipped with appropriate safety gear, including life jackets, emergency beacons, and reliable communication devices.

Coast Guard Aviation Association Flying since the world was flat ALPTERO 240920 Change of Watch

On 23 August 2024, AETCM Shawn Burns relieved AMTCM Mark Leichenaur as the Enlisted Ancient Albatross. The membership of the CGAA welcomes Master Chief Burns to this role and looks forward to meeting him at the Jacksonville Roost next month. His photo and career bio are posted at aoptero.org for anyone who wishes to know more.

At the same time, the CGAA membership wishes Master Chief Leichenaur blue skies and a tailwind in cruise as he opens the next chapter of his life.

Happy 234th Birthday, Coast Guard! By ADM Linda Fagan, Commandant Aug. 4, 2024

Today marks the 234th birthday of the United States Coast Guard. Today we honor more than two centuries of dedicated service, resilience, and excellence that has defined our proud history. Since our founding, the Coast Guard has grown from its origins as the Revenue Cutter Service into a multi-faceted service with a critical role in safeguarding our nation's maritime interests.

Earlier this summer, our nation commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when brave U.S. and Allied military personnel went into harm's way and often made the ultimate sacrifice in Operation Overlord. On that fateful day, scores of Coast Guard 83 footers plied the waters of the English Channel and landed our courageous forces who stormed the beaches at Normandy, ensuring a world safe for democracy. Indeed, the iconic photo "Jaws of Death" was shot by Coast Guard Chief Photographer Robert Sargent as the door of his landing craft opened on the deadly sands of Omaha Beach.

As we reflect on our storied past, we also celebrate the remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment of each and every member of our service. The Coast Guard has evolved into an international force: a force for peace in a sometimes hostile world; a force for stability in uncertain times; a force for protection against agents that would do harm; a force of recovery in the wake of global threats. Today, Coast Guard personnel are deployed throughout the world, and the demand for our capabilities and skills only grows.

On this day, 234 years ago, President George Washington signed the bill drafted by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton which authorized the construction of 10 cutters, a small fleet that would grow to become today's Coast Guard. This milestone serves as a powerful reminder of our enduring mission and values. It also provides an opportunity to emphasize a key priority for our future: strengthening our culture. This year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our core values of Honor. Respect. and Devotion to Duty. They remain the bedrock of our success, and the foundation for nurturing a positive, inclusive, and supportive culture is essential to our continued excellence.

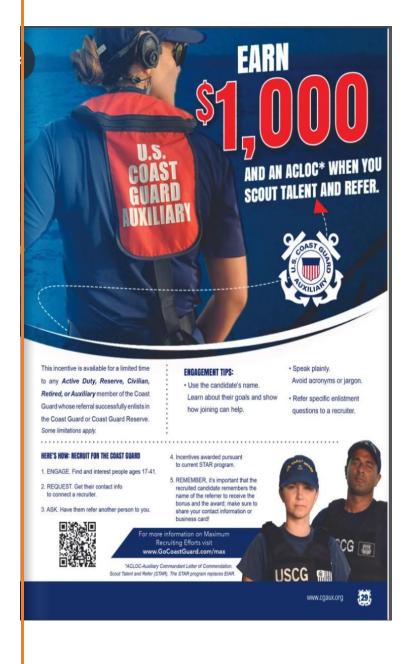
On behalf of the entire Coast Guard leadership team: Thank you. Your hard work, dedication, and spirit are what make our service extraordinary. As we celebrate this 234th birthday, let us renew our commitment to our mission and to one another, embracing the opportunities and challenges ahead with unity and resolve.

Happy 234th Birthday, Coast Guard! Here's to many more years of service, honor, and a strengthened culture of excellence. You and yours are the best our country has to offer. Semper Paratus!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MEMBERS OF FLOTILLA 07-04!!!

The Coast Guard Unit Commendation signed by the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Linda Fagan: Auxiliarists who served in an enrolled status at least one day during the award period of 24 June 2019 to 23 June 2024 are eligible for this award. Award hardware will be distributed through District Director of Auxiliary offices.

If you haven't received your award, please let FC or HR (JeanneMarie) know.



Noteworthy:

Storage Unit

The decision has been made to relocate the items we have in storage to a private building that Alex is putting up on his property. We have to vacate the current unit by the end of September. Therefore, we need help in moving the various bins and shelving units to Alex's property on September 28th.

The Auxiliary will pay Alex for this building – a substantial sum up front, then he will accept payments for the remainder. Thank you, Alex, for building a private storage unit for the Auxiliary!!

Meetings!

There has been low attendance at our Flotilla meetings as of late. We need a quorum to enable us to vote on any new items. Please make an effort to attend the Flotilla meetings. We are now allowed to hold virtual meetings. Watch your email for the Zoom link.

Vessel Examinations: Please note that National has directed us to wear our PFDs whenever we are on a dock. That means during all boat safety checks!

Uniforms: Our Flotilla has some new & used uniforms in our storage locker. Feel free to ask to check them out!

Trainings: Training sessions to meet PQS requirements will start being offered at our monthly meetings so members can start making their qualifications! If you have an idea for a training, please let our FC and VFC know!

Emails! Please watch your emails for further events. We need your help in furthering our mission of boating safety and coming alongside the active-duty Coast Guard!

<u>6 ways Auxiliarists can support their</u> <u>local units</u> by John Saran, AUXPA1, District Captain East, Auxiliary Ninth Western Region (CG District 9) Jan 25, 2024

John Saran is an active member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Here are his suggestions on how best to integrate Auxiliary members with operational active-duty units. These suggestions will also be presented during an Auxiiary segment at the 2024 Sector Lake Michigan CO/OIC Conference. Below are the top six general pathways that Auxiliarists should explore to support local boat stations:

1. Search and Rescue (SAR) & Training Support – Trained and qualified Auxiliary crews (coxswains and crewmembers) can provide additional SAR and training support for local boat stations. For example, Chicago Division 35 provided such support in July 2023 for Coast Guard Station Chicago. Over the course of two weeks, Auxiliary crews spent over two hundred hours conducting patrols and being on SAR standy, resulting in the prosecution of numerous SAR cases. Careful planning of patrols can ensure that Auxiliary operational time is optimized for lifesaving missions.

Auxiliary boat and air crews can also provide training support to local boat stations, whether it's providing boat facilities for two-boat training, conducting AUXAIR fixed-wing aircraft operations or engaging in formal SAR exercises. For example, this past summer, on Lake Michigan in the Ninth District, there were three SAR-related training exercises involving several units. Coverage of the first event at Coast Guard Station Michigan City can be found here. The second event occurred on the same weekend in early June at Coast Guard Station Charlevoix in the Traverse City, Michigan area involving Team Coast Guard personnel (including Ninth Central Auxiliarists) and four members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. The final event occurred at Coast Guard Station St. Joseph and Coast Guard Station Michigan City in September and involved active duty, reserve and Auxiliary

(Ninth Western Region) crews from three states that manned six surface facilities and one AUXAIR aircraft.

2. **Watchstanding** – As stations might rotate personnel and prioritize active duty watchstanding capabilities for certain SAR and other lifesaving missions, there may be opportunities for Auxiliarists to fill in as watchstanders. Not only would this provide greater coverage for active duty operations, but also help ensure that Auxiliary operations occur.

3. Culinary Assistance – Small boat stations with galleys may have culinary specialist personnel gaps that Auxiliary culinary assistants could fill. Qualified members could help maintain station morale by supporting the culinary mission and provide liberty and/or training time for active duty culinary specialists. In the Ninth District, Auxiliary culinary assistants cooked meals during SAR exercises at Coast Guard Station Michigan City and Coast Guard Station St. Joseph, provided galley coverage at Coast Guard Station Grand Haven during the Coast Guard Festival so that personnel could engage in training and hosted a chili cookoff at Coast Guard Station Chicago.

4. Seasonal Station Smalls - Since crews at all seasonal station smalls will be transferred to their parent commands, there could be opportunities for the Auxiliary to have a presence at such seasonal stations. Such presence could range from holding meetings, public education events, fellowship events, open houses and other activities to utilizing such stations for Auxiliary patrols. A good example of this occurred in the Ninth District, where nearly 50 Auxiliarists, led by the District Staff Officer for Operations, District Captain and local AUC, supported the active duty personnel in keeping Station (Small) Wilmette Harbor operational. This Auxiliary team provided 18 patrols that supplemented the active duty's coverage and held events at the station to maintain a presence.

5. **Public Affairs** – Many stations engage in public affairs activities, whether it's hosting open houses, participating in community

events or maintaining an active social media presence. Use of social media is important now more than ever. Auxiliarists can assist stations in covering the accomplishments of their shipmates to assist in retention, showcasing Coast Guard missions as a recruiting tool and providing important information to the public. However, public affairs and social media manager duties are collateral to other duties around the station for personnel. Accordingly, stations could look to qualified Auxiliarists to support their station's public affairs mission.

6. **Fellowship** – Many shipmates at small boat stations might be facing life-changing transitions, such as transferring to other units and re-located across the country. Auxiliarists can tap into their life experiences and provide fellowship support to these individuals as they navigate these changes. An informal cookoff event, as an example, might help provide a temporary reprieve and a taste of home for station personnel.

Questions? Who Do I Contact?

Flotilla Commander (FC), Tom Duryea tfduryea@yahoo.com IPFC, Charles Manley Charles.r.manley@cgauxnet.us Human Resources, JeanneMarie Mc Namara <u>mcnamara.uscgaux@gmail.com</u> Public Affairs, Karen Duryea karenduryea14@ gmail.com

Semper Paratus

Staff Officer Reports Due: no later than the last day

of the month!

Flotilla Meeting: 2nd Sat. of Month, 10:30 am, Location: Blue Skies, 5100 John D Ryan Blvd, San Antonio, 78245 Virtual meetings are now available. Division 7 Meeting: October 19, at Sector HQ, Corpus Christi, TX or virtually. 8CR District Meeting: 2 times/year. Locations vary

within the District's 8 states.

District 8 Website:

http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081

Boating Safety - "Boaters should remain vigilant on the water as most incidents occur when you might least expect them – in good visibility, calm waters and little wind," said Capt. Amy Beach, Inspections and Compliance director. "The most frequent events involve collisions with other vessels, objects or groundings, which is why it is so important to keep a proper lookout, navigate at a safe speed, adhere to navigation rules and obey navigation aids."

Deaths occurred predominantly on vessels operated by individuals who had not received boating safety instruction, accounting for 75 percent of fatalities. Drowning accounted for 75 percent of deaths, with 87 percent of those victims not wearing life jackets. The Coast Guard reminds boaters to wear serviceable, properly sized and correctly fastened life jackets. In addition to wearing a life jacket and taking a boating safety course, the Coast Guard recommends all boaters attach the engine cut-off switch, get a free vessel safety check and boat sober.

SPREAD THE WORD.....KIDS DON'T FLOAT!!! (NEITHER DO ADULTS!)

Find us on Facebook, YouTube® and on our Website: Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-4 San Antonio http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit-

http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-07-04

2024 Diversity Holidays: https://www.diversitybestpractices.com FEMA Training Online: <u>https://training.fema.gov</u> CGAUX.ORG is the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary official web portal.

All Photos are taken by members of the flotilla & are considered property of the CG Auxiliary unless otherwise designated.

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