



SOUTH SOUNDINGS

USCG Auxiliary Division 3

**May 2025
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No. 4**



SOUTH SOUNDINGS

Is the newsletter for Division 3 of the USCG Auxiliary. Division is located in the Southern Puget Sound from Des Moines to Olympia, WA

2025 DIVISION BOARD

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Division Vice Commander Steven Kristrom
Imm Past Div Commander Neil Christenson
Flotilla 32 Commander Craig Brown
Flotilla 33 Commander Jeff Bocott
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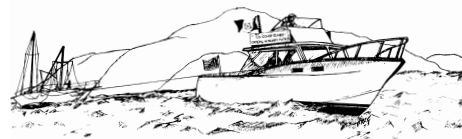
Cover Photo

Boat Crew Training in
South Puget Sound

Photo by
Roger Malmberg

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Next Deadline: May 25, 2025
Submit to:

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MAY DIVISION MEETING



The Division meeting will convene on 11 May, 1830 hours, via Zoom. We discussed moving the meeting date due to Friday traffic impacting member's ability to get to Tacoma, but since this month's meeting is via Zoom it's a moot point. We'll further discuss changing the meeting date on 11 May. This meeting is for both the Division Board and Division staff officers. All members are requested to wear either Troops or the Winter Dress Blue uniform.

DIVISION OFFICERS

We continue to experience several vacancies – please consider your capabilities & schedule and sign up for any office you can support. Remember – you hold the pen, we'll move the paper. Free training provided! Vacancies in priority of fill are:

1. Information Services
2. Vessel Examination
3. Materials
4. Navigation Systems
5. Communications
6. Communication Services

COMMANDER'S SYNCHRONIZATION MEETING

CAPT Mark McDonnell, Commander Sector Puget Sound, and several of his

staff, met with Division Commanders this week. A highlight of topics is:

- a. They greatly appreciate our efforts to increase crew and facility capability – they are coming to rely heavily on our support to “show the flag” on the water.
- b. They are actively working the creation of an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS, or “done”) program. This naturally requires a great deal of coordination, but we hope to see some results soon.
- c. When dealing with the public (Public Education, VSC, etc.) members are requested to stress that they should not be fishing in VTS traffic lanes. There have been several incursions lately, and the container ships don't have the maneuverability to avoid collision (nor should they have to). Also stress the need to obtain an MMSI and register it to their marine radios. The Coast Guard has had some incidents recently in which they had difficulty responding to calls due to missing or inaccurate MMSI data.



USCG BARQUE EAGLE

The Eagle will be in port in Seattle 9-11 July, probably berthing at Pier 66 (Bell Harbor) at 1000 HRS on the 9th. COMO is looking for someone to handle visitor management for that three-day period, and the District will likely be organizing surface escorts to bring the Eagle to harbor. More details to follow as to place and time, but for those striking for crew, or who are already crew or coxswain, this will be a rare opportunity to support!

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET TO WORK DAY



16 May, which happens to be the day before National Safe Boating Week kicks off, is National Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day. Supporting this action not only highlights the need for safe boating practices, but helps you engage others in a conversation about safe boating practices and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. If your employer will allow and working conditions are appropriate, please support the effort!

PUGET SOUND HONOR FLIGHT

Auxiliarists from Western Washington are needed to help provide assistance and honor the veterans participating in four Puget Sound Honor Flights out of Seatac Airport in 2025.

The number of veterans traveling on each flight is increasing significantly this year so we need more Auxiliary and active duty

and reservist volunteers to help. The USO provides a lounge for us to wait if there is down time, particularly on the Monday evenings as we are waiting for the veterans to return. This service means a great deal to our veterans, many who were never properly welcomed home. Please search your schedules to see if you can make time for this critical event. Sign-ups, uniform requirements, and other data is at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AFAA2BA6F9CE9-56216951-2025#/>

TWO-BOAT TRAINING

Bill Cotter (AUC Sector 13) is working with the Active Component to schedule side-by-side Active/Auxiliary surface training events for this Spring and Summer, using Coast Guard small boats. SO-OP will release information on this opportunity as it becomes available. Either way, it will be a great opportunity for both qualified members and trainees to validate their skills against active-duty processes. More to follow!



SEA PARTNERS

On 9 April the Division forwarded information on the Sea Partners program to Flotilla leadership. There is a process through which you can earn a Marine Environmental Educator qualification to administer the program. Sea Partners is also the only Coast Guard initiative to meet the Coast Guard's legacy obligations for public education under the;

- * Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act,
- * the Atlantic Protected Living Marine Resource Initiative,
- * the Coral Reef Task Force,
- * the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee,
- * the Whitewater to Bluewater Initiative

Contact Steven Kristrom, SO-MS, for more information.

CHANGE TO PROCTORED AUXOP EXAMS

Auxiliary Operations specialty courses were required to be proctored, closed-book examinations prior to COVID. ALAUX 027-20 temporarily suspended the proctor requirement and increased the passing score from 75 to 90 percent. Per AUAUX 012/25 issued on 18 April 2025, that suspension is rescinded effective 19 May 2025. That means, effective 19 May, exams for AUXOP courses will be closed book, with a minimum passing score of 75%.

COMO has requested that each Flotilla qualify at least one member as AUXOP

this year. Each interested member should consider completing the qualification examination requirements prior to 19 May to take advantage of the open book format. Detailed information about the AUXOP program is located at <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=auxop-courses>

NORTHERN AREA TRAINING

Division 1 will host the Northern Area Training (formerly known as GNARL-E) from 1000 to 1800 hours on Saturday, 31 May in Everett. They intend to include proctoring for exams, as well as instruction relevant to the Auxiliary Operations program. Other classes will be announced as we near the event – we strongly recommend your participation. To sign up, open Signup Genius on the web, then look for the “find a signup” search – enter AUX130FIRSTDIV@yahoo.com easy as that!

PIE IS BACK ON THE TABLE!

ALCOAST 188/25 dated 18 April 2025 lifted the temporary suspension of the Partners in Education (PIE) program, so we are now cleared to engage! USCG will host a virtual event to discuss the program and answer questions on a date to be determined. More to follow!



NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK



It's time for Flotillas to plan activities for National Safe Boating Week 2025! Our Commodore is asking each unit to make at least one contribution that leverages the unit's particular strength to be carried out the week of 17 May – 23 May 2025. The DCDR forwarded an email to Flotilla Commanders from Maury Constantini Jr. on 25 March that contained a wealth of activity ideas and lesson plans – please review these with your FC and make your suggestions for planning activities. Don't wait until the last minute! COMO (Commodore) is stressing our involvement in this event as it both sets the tone for a safe summer and highlights contributions that the Auxiliary can make to communities. Flotilla Commanders are asked to report to the DCDR their scheduled activities for NSBW. Please support them by providing both your great ideas and your event participation. Some options are:

- Coordinate with marine-related stores (Bass Pro, etc.) to set up an informational table, offer life jacket sizing, etc.
- Submit requests for Mayoral Proclamation to city and town officials
- Setting up a VE station at a boat ramp

Those are only a few suggestions – there are great minds out there that will come up with some fantastic ideas – let's do it! As always, make sure you take event photos

and submit them, with a narrative and a photo release form for anyone not in the AUX, through your COLM for publication.

OPERATIONS TRAINING WORKSHOP

Division 4 is offering the Operations Workshop and TCT/RM training to Division 3 members:

TCT/RM:

07 June: 1000-1300 hours Pacific (Saturday)

Contact Information:

(VFC) James DiIanni [130-04-01]

Email: jdianni@msn.com

SET THE DATE - FALL DTRAIN

DTRAIN will take place 19-21 September at the Monarch Hotel & Conference Center in Clackamas, OR. It's way too early in the planning phase to determine training opportunities but set the dates aside on your calendar now. If you do have training ideas or requests, please pass them on to the VDCDR.



OPERATIONS PLAN

Did you ever wonder if there is an ultimate plan or goal for the District? All of the operational details, mission, and goals are contained in the Operations Plan which you can view from https://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/130/Draft_d13_format_pMaxfield_3.pdf

This document provides our Commodore's vision, culture statement, and operational direction. It truly is a great read, and will help Flotilla leadership in developing their own objectives.

NORTHERN AREA FELLOWSHIP

Sign up for Paella and Fellowship for the afternoon of 10 May 25 at Puget Sound Yacht Club Dock ([Address](#): 2321 N Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98103). We have room for 48 so be sure to sign up early. Invite guests including people you know who might want to check out USCG Aux membership.

If you want to bring your boat to offer some rides on the Lake (like check out Fisherman's Terminal, the Sleepless in Seattle houseboat, Sea Planes, some super-sized yachts, MOHAI and Center for Wooden Boats, etc.), even better. Guests welcome, but my pans only allow me to make food for 48 so sign up early.

(If we outgrow this, we'll need to have you bring additional pans and propane tanks). Also, If you want, you can bring some shareable Spanish appetizers. Your own Wine and Beer are also fine.

We are asking for a \$10 donation (Cash or check at the door) to help defray the cost of the meal.

Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D49ABA62FA0FC1-56133925-northern>

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

The years of service that are a basis for our ability to support the Coast Guard and the public are astounding. We all thank you for your past service and look forward to your future contributions. Service Anniversaries in April:

Flotilla 32:

Robert Miller – 20 years

Thomas Mercer – 17 years



Memorial Day
May 26, 2025

NEW MEMBER ACADEMY



Division 3 will host a New Member Academy on Friday, 9 May from 1830-2030 hours via Zoom.

Course Lead: Bob Hamilton, D3 DCDR

Uniform: Trops (business casual if you have not yet purchased Trops)

Audience: New Members, older members who wish to brush up on topics

Start: 1830 (6:30 PM)

End: 2030 (8:30 PM)

Course Objective: Give new members the tools they need to understand Auxiliary operations and standards. At the end of the course students will have a basic understanding of the Auxiliary and their role in it.

Curriculum:

- History
- Uniforms
- Opportunities
- Organizational components
- Flotilla resources
- Mandatory Training
- AUXOP program
- Time reporting
- Customs & Courtesies
- Commodore's Operational Plan (Summary)
- General Q&A

Pre-requisites: None

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CABAC29A4F4C07-56316896-d13new/161732697>

MAY MEETINGS

Division Meeting 11 May (Division Staff and Flotilla FC/VFC attend) - Zoom

Flotilla 32 (Des Moines): 19 May

Flotilla 33 (Tacoma): 8 May

Flotilla 38 (Olympia): 21 May

Northern Area Leaders Meeting: 12 May (DCDR, VDCDR, FC, VFC attend)

Division 4 Social Zoom: 0800 every Thursday. Optional for all, but a great opportunity to network and find out what's going on across the District). Open to anyone that wishes to dial in – 100% Zoom, no uniform. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88623252042?pwd=NwXE3dckllZjVHO1AxlzkbDasDCGQ.1>

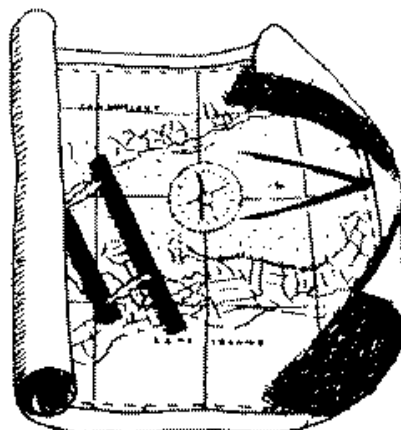
NEW SKILLS ADDED!

Congratulations to:

Jeffrey Greenwell for completing the Vessel Examiner exam on 24 March!

Tad Santino completed the VE Exam on 11 April – Bravo Zulu!

Bob Hamilton – completed AUX Weather Operations and Aux Seamanship courses



WA STATE FAIR REPORT 2025

by Ron Holtcamp

For the 8 days of the 2025 Washington State Spring Fair in Puyallup occurring 10-13APR and 17-20APR, **eight** US Coast Guard Auxiliary members representing Divisions 2, 3, and 4 of District 13 stood watch at a boating safety exhibit. Depending on day of the week, Fair hours varied from 8 to 12. On average, each watch was approximately 4 hours, making a total of 22 watches over the 8 days totaling 84 hours. All 22 watches – all 84 hours – had watchstanders.

Located inside Expo Hall at the north end of the Fairgrounds, the Auxiliary exhibit was part of the Outdoors Adventure venue. The Fair provided the Auxiliary with a 10' x 10' floor space, electrical outlet, back and side curtains, two tables, table coverings and skirting, and two chairs – at no charge to the Auxiliary. Parking and admission passes for each watchstander each day were also provided by the Fair – again at no cost to the Auxiliary or watchstander.

Collectively, watchstanders recorded contacts with 446 adults and 86 youth. Likely

due to the uniform, every day one or more fairgoers would stop to say that they, a spouse, relative, friend, neighbor, and/or acquaintance had been or are in the 'Coast Guard'. Even so, the most asked question by the other fairgoers was - 'What is the Auxiliary?', followed by 'What does it do?' Answering these questions often led to more 'in depth' discussions of the varied roles and responsibilities of the US Coast Guard. On these occasions reliance was made of brochures provided by the district recruiter as they did not have sufficient staff to be present in person.


Everything in the exhibit illicit comments or questions resulting in recorded contacts. Items included the opportunity to tie a cleat hitch, a variety of life jackets, a throw bag, and a display of three aquatic invasive species. Videos of the early formation of the Auxiliary and USCG rescue operations also caught the eye of fairgoers.

Auxiliarists who stood watch were: Deb Alderman (FL25); Jeff Julien (FL32); Robert Hamilton, Bill Rasmussen (FL33), Ron Holtcamp (FL38), Simeon Baldwin (FL41), Bob Hancock and Gail Porter (FL45).



From Left: Ron Holtcamp, Jeff Julien, Gail Porter, Bob Hancock

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Flotilla 33 Meeting	9	10
11	12 Northern Area Leaders Meeting	13	14	15	16	17 ←-----
18 -----	19 National Flotilla 32 Meeting	20 Safe -----	21 Boating Flotilla 38 Meeting	22 Week -----	23 5/17 - 23 -----→	24
25	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Flotilla 33 Meeting	13	14
15	16 Flotilla 32 Meeting	17	18 Flotilla 38 Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					