

The Cape Ann Quarterly

District 1NR, Cape Ann Flotilla

Volume 5 - Issue 3, August, 2025

Welcome!

Welcome to the Cape Ann Flotilla Newsletter. The main goal of this publication is to enhance communications between elected and appointed flotilla staff and the general membership. Every three months we highlight the accomplishments of the previous quarter and broadcast flotilla-related events for the upcoming quarter. Members unable to regularly attend flotilla meetings can find some of the important, interesting and exciting goings-on here. In addition, annual member training requirements and flotilla member-submitted articles are often included in these pages. So, welcome to *The Cape Ann Quarterly* – your Newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 30, Gloucester Heritage Day
Harbor Loop, Gloucester (Public Affairs Event)
- Sep 14 & 27, Lighthouse Tours, Essex Trails & Sails
Hospital Point Lighthouse, Beverly
- Sep 15, Flotilla Meeting (1900-2030)
STA Gloucester
- Sep 27, Community Safety Day
Harbor Loop, Gloucester (Public Affairs Event)
- Oct 4, Sector Boston S-Train
USCG Base Boston
- Oct 11, Beach Cleanup, Pavilion Beach, Gloucester
(PoC FC Floyd Grace)
- Oct 20, Flotilla Meeting (1900-2030)
STA Gloucester
- Nov 17, Flotilla Meeting (1900-2030)
Virtual Meeting Only – Elections for 2026

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Cape Ann Flotilla Members,

The Goose Cove Causeway is near my house and every time I pass over the little bridge there, I get a great view of the Annisquam River and Wingaersheek Beach. On a sunny, hot weekend I see the many pleasure craft both anchored in the river or pulled up on or just off the beach. The sight of that impromptu fleet inspires the hope that everyone there has given due diligence to their safety equipment or had a free USCG Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check. It is important to give focused attention to your safety equipment. As fun as an outing on the beautiful river and inlets of Cape Ann can be, it doesn't take much to turn a fun day into a tragedy. Having easy access to, and a thorough operational knowledge of, your on-board safety equipment is paramount to the safety of you and your loved ones. A practiced familiarity of its use can and often does make the difference.

Every boat should be equipped with an approved life vest for every person on board, you will also need a throwable flotation device at the ready, a fire extinguisher, a sound producing device, a day and night visual signal device, and a first aid kit. This equipment should be well maintained and at the ready, emergencies don't call ahead. For a full list of required equipment check out <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=013-11-02&category=ma-safety-checklist>. Have a great, safe boating experience.

Semper Paratus!

Floyd Grace, Flotilla Commander

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USCG Force Design 2028 (FD2028)

FD2028 is a new path forward that allows the Coast Guard to better serve the American people, align with the other five military services, and swiftly effect needed change through strong civilian oversight and control. Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Kristi Noem, working with Congress, will pursue the legislation needed to establish a Coast Guard Service Secretary within the Department of Homeland Security to correct this historical institutional disadvantage that has left it less ready to protect the American people. A Secretary of the Coast Guard will restore its readiness and strategic direction and fully align the Service to execute the President's priorities.

Key details:

- The Secretary will be legislatively authorized, nominated by the President, and Senate confirmed.
- The Secretary will be accountable to the President and the DHS Secretary, and subject to congressional oversight, for all aspects of Coast Guard functions and operations.
- The Secretary will establish the strategic direction for the Coast Guard and direct actions to organize, man, train, and equip the Coast Guard to be ready to meet mission demands today and in the future.
- The Secretary will be authorized to exercise the DHS Secretary's authorities under Titles 14 and 50, including acquisition and procurement, and fulfill duties commensurate with the other Secretaries of military departments under Title 10.

- The Secretary of the Coast Guard will report directly to the DHS Secretary. The Secretary of the Coast Guard will be supported by a Senate-confirmed Under Secretary of the Coast Guard.

As FD 2028 drives the changes needed to transform the Coast Guard, it is focused on four campaigns:

1. Organization
2. Contracting and Acquisitions
3. People
4. Technology

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is specifically tasked with supporting the USCG in the "People Campaign."

Strategic Imperative P-1: Grow the Coast Guard's future force starting today.

Key Enabler P-1.1: Modernize and expand accessions, advancements, and promotions for Active Duty and Reserve components. We will charge the Coast Guard Auxiliary to develop innovative ways to leverage private sector experience to enhance recruiting outreach.

Key Enabler P-1.4: Leverage the Coast Guard Auxiliary to the full extent of its authorities. We will bolster Coast Guard Auxiliary recruitment across the country, targeting those who desire to serve the Nation in the Coast Guard but are otherwise unable to serve in Active or Reserve status.

To address the escalating demands of a dynamic security environment, the Coast Guard must undertake a generational workforce transformation. This includes

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increasing the uniformed ranks by at least 15,000 members by the end of 2028 to restore readiness, support new assets, and counter emerging threats. The Coast Guard will prioritize agility, resilience, and mission readiness across its workforce – Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian, Auxiliary, and families – by investing in the overhaul of talent management systems, optimizing training pipelines, and leveraging technology. This includes targeted investments in Human Resources Information Technology (HRIT) systems, adopting competency-based assignments, and closing the digital divide within the workforce.

FD2028 will rely heavily on the Auxiliary in the near future, with an eye towards recruitment of talent for Active Duty, Reserve, and Auxiliary resources. The Auxiliary should position itself to support such a mission.

Note: The preceding article references the USCG Commandant's initiative "Force Design 2028", additional details may be found here:

<https://www.uscg.mil/leadership/commandants-initiatives/forcedesign2028>

Two Additional S-Trains Available in 2025

Two additional S-Train events will be offered this year. The first will take place in Sector Northern New England at Coast Guard Base South Portland and the second will be held at Sector Southeast New England aboard Joint Base Cape Cod. The 2025 S-Train series contains valuable training opportunities for both new members and seasoned Auxiliarists. Please use the links below to register for the S-Train of your choice.

BASE SOUTH PORTLAND - November 1st

<https://d1nr.regfox.com/s-train-snne-base-south-portland->

JOINT BASE CAPE COD - November 15th

<https://d1nr.regfox.com/s-train-ssne-joint-base-cape-cod->

Flotilla 46 Highlights in CY2025, To Date

2,060+ Hours recorded in AUXDATA

100 Hours of Chaplain support completed

300 Hours Watchstanding aboard Station Gloucester

125 Vessel/Paddlecraft Exams completed

150 RBS Partner Visits completed

Recent Awards & Recognition

John Flanagan – Aux Sustained Service Award (8th award)

John Keyes – Aux Humanitarian service Award

John Mellen – Aux Ops Service Award (3rd award)

Donald Strunk – CG Meritorious Unit Commendation

Michele Heller – Achieved BQ Status

William Ferringio – Citizenship Verifier Qualification

Lynn Colletti – Completed ICS 300 Course

David Swensen – Completed ATON Verifier PQS

Lifesaving Trivia

Last Quarter's Question: What was the name of the first U.S. Lifesaving Service Keeper to man the Station at Old House Cove in Gloucester Harbor circa 1900?

Answer: Captain Nelson F. King was appointed the first Keeper of the lifesaving station (later USCG Station #23) on December 10, 1900 and reassigned to Coast Guard Cutter DAVEY on May 11, 1921 – he would become the oldest Chief Boatswain in the Coast Guard.

This Quarter's Question: During what years did the U.S. Coast Guard operate an Air Station on Ten Pound Island in Gloucester Harbor (Answer in next quarter's newsletter.)



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Renaming Coast Guard Districts

On July 3, 2025, the Coast Guard announced that it renamed all operational districts to more familiar, geographic names (see [ALCOAST 305/25](#), FD28-RENAMING COAST GUARD DISTRICTS for more information). On July 8, 2025, the Auxiliary National Commodore (NACO) announced via L2 message that the Coast Guard Auxiliary will follow suit and adopt similar nomenclature. As no Coast Guard district lines were redrawn and current geographic areas of responsibility (AOR) remained the same, all current geographic Coast Guard Auxiliary district and regional AORs remain intact

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have an interesting story to tell? Submit it to the flotilla commander for review and inclusion in *The Cape Ann Quarterly* newsletter today. Mission successes, Auxiliary history, member interest stories, and photographs are all welcome. Your story should be told.

This publication received clearance on 08-26-2025.

Newsletter Staff

Flotilla Commander:	Rev. Floyd Grace
Flotilla Vice Commander:	David Swensen
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Privacy Act of 1974. All articles and photos contributed by the editor, unless noted otherwise.

Parting Shot



Above: Members of the Hospital Point Lighthouse Docent Team pose with the Commanding Officer of First Coast Guard District, Rear Admiral Michael Platt (center). (Photo by LTjg Melanie Arroyave, USCG.)

Flotilla Website: www.USCGACapeAnn.com
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