

# Fairwinds

## The East Providence Flotilla Newsletter

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Recognition and Achievements – Page 2

What brings me here? – Page 3

Did you know? – Page 4

Retention and Diversity – Page 5

Past, Present, Future – Page 6

A Day of Change – Page 7

Guardian of the Quarter – Page 8

Gaining Some Perspective – Page 9

Upcoming Events – Page 11



***"Welcome Aboard!":** Nathan Andrade (left) is officially welcomed into our flotilla by Neil Brogan (right) after taking the new member oath.*

*– Photo Courtesy of Scott Campbell*

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**Reminder:** Each member should submit their paperwork for their Auxiliary activities in a timely manner to our flotilla information systems officer (FSO-IS), Ed Glod. This is especially true of your member activity log (ANSC 7029). Your time and effort makes a difference so make it count!

# Recognition and Achievements

– **Nathan Andrade** and **Fernando Almeida** were administered the new member oath.



**Neil Brogan** was awarded his third Sustained Service award.



**Chris Combs** attained the Program Visitor qualification.

- **John Dennis** attained the Auxiliary Food Service Specialist (AUXFS) qualification.
- **Don Sullivan** received Certificates of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours of Marine Safety activity and 50+ Program Visits.
- **Scott Campbell** received Certificates of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours of Public Affairs activity and Marine Safety activity. Also, he completed the first aid/CPR course.
- **Ed Glod** received a Certificate of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours of Operational Support in 2012.
- **Robert Lawrence** received a Certificate of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours as Boat Crew/Coxswain in 2012.
- **Chris Combs** passed the Good Mate course, the Introduction to Marine Safety Environmental Protection course, the Administrative Procedures Course and completed the eight hour Team Coordination Training course.
- **John Dennis** completed the eight hour Team Coordination Training course.
- **Bob Misenor** completed the Flotilla Leadership course.
- **Shawn Wilson** passed the fingerprint technician exam.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place Plaque** – *Fairwinds* – **Best Flotilla Newsletter** within the 1<sup>st</sup> NR District.

**Congratulations to All!**

# **“What Brings Me Here”**

*By Keith Croteau, new flotilla member*

I was sitting in a lounge on the campus of Rhode Island College when I heard a young woman, Rebecca Allen, talking about her training during the past weekend. It sounded as though she was part of some military training and I was intrigued because she did not seem like the type of person who would be involved in the armed forces. I asked her what branch she was a part of and she told me she had recently joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary. My response was something to the effect of, “What the hell is the Coast Guard Auxiliary?” She explained to me that it was a volunteer branch of the Coast Guard and that she had a great time training with her flotilla members. I dismissed her with something to the effect of, “that’s cool,” and went on reading my textbook in preparation for my next class. Little did I know that I would be contacting her in a few months with many questions.

My son, Connor Michael, was born on December 19, 2012 at 5:43p.m. The first few weeks after his birth are still somewhat of a blur. I remember learning how to feed and bath him, changing a lot of diapers and being tired most of the time. I loved every second of it. As the weeks past and we all settled into our new routine, I found myself watching him sleep a lot. I would look down on him as he sweetly breathed in and out and let out soft happy coos. I knew as I watched him that I had to do something to try and help the world be a better place for him to grow up in. It was at this time that I reached out to Rebecca and asked her for more information about the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Rebecca gave me a great deal of information about the scope of the Auxiliary and its mission. She is currently the publications officer for Flotilla 15-9 in the first southern district. She informed me about the various qualifications that the Auxiliary has to offer, how my training would free up active duty members and allow them to attend to more critical missions. She also told me of the millions of dollars that members help the government save by taking on these responsibilities. I had basic questions and concerns wondering if it was possible to get deployed or “called up”. If it was acceptable that I had no prior military or boating experience. Rebecca was clear that all positions are voluntary and that I would only have to be as involved as I wanted to be; she also informed me that the training in the Auxiliary was top notch and prior experience was not needed. After this chat with her, I searched for my local flotilla and sent an email to receive more information.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

# **“What Brings Me Here”**

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Neil Brogan, the flotilla commander, contacted me within twelve hours; I was very pleased with the quick response from him. He sent me a document with prospective member information and advised me to contact him with any further questions. A few weeks later, on Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>, Neil met with me at a local coffee shop. This was the day of the Boston Marathon bombing and his cell phone was going off constantly. Neil explained that he was attempting to coordinate people going up to Boston in order to help the first responders with their various tasks. I knew at that moment I was going to become a member if it was at all possible. This was exactly the type of situation I thought I might be able to help with and that I wished to protect my family from.

I have attended two training sessions and one monthly meeting to date. While I am a little intimidated by the acronyms and “tech talk” that I hear at these sessions, I am impressed by the caliber of people I have met. I find that I want to get involved in a wide variety of programs and am excited to take advantage of what the Auxiliary has to offer; I also believe that I have a lot to offer to the Auxiliary. I hope I might serve with distinction and pride. I look forward to become a full member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and in becoming ‘Semper Paratus’ for my family, my flotilla, and my country.



## **Did you know?**

*(Answers on page 12)*

- 1. How does any Auxiliarist get credit for their time and effort in the activities they perform?*
- 2. What initial actions should be taken by a crew member, if a person falls overboard?*

# Flotilla Diversity and Retention

*By Diana Kryston, Flotilla Diversity Officer (FSO-DV 72)*

A 2013 report to Congress on sexual harassment and violence during the 2011-2012 school year cited, “nearly 10 percent of the women surveyed said they had experienced unwanted sexual contact”. Shannon Norenberg, the Coast Guard Academy’s new sexual assault response coordinator stated “One of the biggest problems is that people see a situation developing and walk away”. Recently, I was astounded by the reaction of the parents of a young woman who expressed interest in gaining admission to the Coast Guard Academy. Instead of offering support and encouragement, the parents warned her of the numerous incidents of reported and unreported sexual assaults the cadets are exposed to at the service academies.

This issue is clearly intolerable, inexcusable, creates a hostile working environment and affects the lives of those victimized. It compromises trust within the military services. Unfortunately, the Auxiliary is not immune to the types of behavior that are making headlines within the military. All of us are responsible for providing the culture of intolerance. Simply stated, if you observe inappropriate behavior it is your responsibility to do something about it.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard made it quite clear that sexual assault will not be tolerated within the Coast Guard (Read ALCOAST 244/13 on the Coast Guard website at [www.uscg.mil/announcements](http://www.uscg.mil/announcements)). It is absolutely contrary to our fundamental values. Section 7.C of the Auxiliary Manual, COMDINST M16790.1, provides the policy and the responsibilities of members when dealing with sexual assault and harassment. Workshops can be done annually or individually online to educate and refresh all members on this issue. When in doubt, seek the guidance of your chain of leadership and management. Respect your fellow shipmates (Active, Reserve, Auxiliary and Civilian)!

## Recruiting...

- is a flotilla priority!
- is the responsibility of all.
- insures our longevity.
- attracts new talent.
- strengthens our programs.

## Diversity...

- is about inclusion.
- is about engagement.
- nurtures creativity.
- embraces our differences.
- capitalizes on talents.
- strengthens our flotilla.



## Past, Present, Future



**Coast Guard History:** Captain Dorothy C. Stratton began her career when she took a leave of absence from her position at Purdue University to answer her country's call in 1942. When a trustee at Purdue told her that she could not afford to leave, she replied "I can't afford not to". She entered the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Navy Reserve (aka WAVES) and was commissioned as a senior Lieutenant. Soon after, she was transferred and became the first woman to be accepted into the newly formed Women's Reserve in the Coast Guard as its director. She was responsible naming the reserves *SPARS* which she understood to be a supporting beam and hoped that the Women's Reserve would become this for the Coast Guard. Under her trailblazing leadership and direction the Coast Guard had the highest ratio of women to men than any other service. The Coast Guard honored her service by naming our third most modern National Security Cutter (WMSL-752) after her.

*– Photo courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard Historian website*



**U.S.C.G.C. Stratton underway at the shipyard.**

*– Photo Courtesy of the USCG website.*

# **“A Day of Change”**

*By Chris Lawrence, Flotilla Publications Officer (FSO-PB 72 1NR)*

This day marked the official start of summer. The forecast called for abundant sunshine with some winds and warm temperatures. At the Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) in Bristol, the crew were busy scurrying about to place the final touches on today's big event, the unit's Change of Command. This event marks the transition of leadership for the unit's Officer-in-Charge (OIC) and maintains continuity for the ANT. An additional event would also mark the culmination of a fantastic career in the Coast Guard. After twenty-one years of service to our Nation, Chief Gregg Marsili would be stepping down as the OIC and retiring from the service. Retiring and leaving with him would also be the unit's mascot, Jimmy, a black lab mix. Chief Timothy Chase would assume command as the new Officer-in-Charge of ANT Bristol.

Both of the day's events were pretty low key which is usually the way the Chief prefers things. The audience was comprised mostly of family, friends and shipmates (past and present). Even his grandmother was present to see him retire. Captain Kondratowicz, our Sector Commander, officiated at both events. There were some good stories told as the Chief liked to keep things light. He took the time to recognize his family and their sacrifices. He proudly recounted the military tradition within his family. At the end, those who served (past and present) at ANT Bristol lined a pathway as the Chief was rendered honors and piped ashore one last time. He was deeply moved by the day's events. In the coming days, he will face new challenges as he assumes the position of the Bristol Harbormaster.

Over the years, Chief Marsili has been highly supportive of the local Auxiliary. A flotilla was allowed to utilize the ANT for its regular monthly meetings. The Chief was also a very supportive force behind the scenes with our private aids to navigation (PATON) program. Our aid verifiers do not know how much time and effort the Chief put in to make the program work. Without his efforts, all the hard work done by our aid verifiers would not have gone far. For the past three years, he freely supplied charts and coastal pilot books to our aid verifiers at the expense of the ANT. The Auxiliary must have had an impact on him as he decided to become part of it by joining Flotilla 72. Having served with him during his tenure at ANT Bristol, I know our flotilla and the Auxiliary have gained a valuable member. Welcome aboard, Chief!

Please welcome Chief Chase and his family as he assumes his responsibilities at ANT Bristol. Chief Chase has a lot of experience behind him in the aids to navigation community. He is certainly no stranger to the Auxiliary. We look forward to working with and learning from him.





***Honor, Service and Sacrifice:*** Chief Boatswain's Mate Gregg Marsili (left), his wife Amanda (right), their son Nicholas (left front) and daughter Gabriella (right front) are rendered honors and piped ashore by the past and present crews of ANT Bristol.

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## Diana Kryston – Guardian of the Quarter

Congratulations to Diana Kryston for being selected as the 'Guardian of the Quarter' for the second quarter of 2013. Diana is one of our qualified instructors. She currently holds the positions of flotilla diversity officer (FSO-DV) and finance officer (FSO-FN). She is interested in the boat crew program.

**Photo:** Diana (left) is presented her Guardian certificate by our flotilla commander, Neil Brogan.





# **“Gaining Some Perspective”**

*By Chris Lawrence, Flotilla Publications Officer (FSO-PB 72 1NR)*

It has been close to a decade since Castle Hill Training day was held. A couple of weeks ago, it finally made a return thanks to the efforts of Tom Guthlein, Frank Cotter and the station's Commanding Officer: CWO2 John Roberts. A similar one was held at Station Point Judith thanks to the Officer-in-Charge, Senior Chief Eric Baruzzi. The one at Station Castle Hill was fairly well attended by Auxiliarists from four divisions. This was a great opportunity for trainees to experience and perform some tasks. Currently qualified members in the boat crew program got to refresh their skills, work on proficiency and learn the latest methods being employed by the Coast Guard. Those Auxiliarists interested in the boat crew program got a taste of what the boat crew program entails and learned more about life at a Coast Guard Search and Rescue unit. The morning consisted of onshore training and there was something for everyone. Coxswains and coxswain trainees spent that time in the training room going over methods for search patterns, towing and man overboard drills. Crew and crew trainees spent their time down at the boathouse doing various tasks such as heaving lines, fire extinguisher, P-6 pump operations and knot tying.

Of course, lunch marked a break in the day's events and was prepared by the station. Hats off to the food specialists and help at the station for handling the Auxiliary surge. Everything was delicious! The afternoon consisted of everyone getting underway to do training. Weather was not perfect, but it made the training somewhat more realistic and challenging. CWO2 Roberts, Chief Scott Blacketter, and BM1 Justin Shackleford each got underway onboard an Auxiliary operational facility (OPFAC). Their intent was to see and evaluate how the Auxiliary does things, make suggestions for improvements and safety, and gain a sense of understanding on how the Auxiliary adjusts not having standard boats. At the end of the day, everyone had some food for thought to digest.

One of the important lessons of the day was that safety and proficiency were key in boat operations. Some trainees presume that doing a task once is good enough for a sign-off. This is not the way it works. In both the Coast Guard and Auxiliary, underway tasks are usually done at least three or more times before being signed-off by a mentor. Some of the onshore tasks will require at least a couple classroom sessions. The point is to demonstrate a basic level of competency and understanding that one can build upon to improve their proficiency. Some qualified members become complacent. Others presume that having obtained their

*(Continued on Page 10)*

# “Gaining Some Perspective”

*(Continued from page 9)*

qualification means they have nothing more to learn. In all cases, these presumptions are wrong!

Training is and should be a fundamental key for all trainees and qualified members in the boat crew program. It continues well beyond the qualification and should be a regular part of any patrol. Be open minded to all sound suggestions as well as constructive criticism. Whether recently qualified or highly experienced, everyone has something to learn because learning never ends. No one knows it all. When training, treat each evolution as if it were real. Don't skip or gloss over steps! Everyone has something to do during an evolution. If the real thing happens, you will only perform in the manner that you have trained. Training will also instill a sense of confidence in your ability so do it often. Communication among the crew members cannot be overstressed enough. These are just a few things to consider. Remember proficiency and safety is our goal! The safety of your fellow crew members and those you may be trying to assist will depend on it.



**Dead Weight:** C. Lawrence (left) and Neil Brogan (right) perform a realistic retrieval of person from the water. Note: No active duty personnel were harmed in the making of this photo.

– Photo Courtesy of Ed Glod



**Fires 101:** At Castle Hill Training Day, Chris Combs (left) listens along with other Auxiliarists on the basics of extinguishers and different classes of fires.

– Photo Courtesy of Ed Glod



***“Go ahead, Make my day!”:*** A Coast Guard Special Purpose Craft provides security for a cruise ship in Ft. Lauderdale harbor Florida.

– Photo Courtesy of Harry Finkelstein



***Getting Ready:*** Robert McNeil (left) and Don Sullivan (right) prepare their boating safety literature for the expected crowd at our season’s first public affairs safety booth event in Bristol, Rhode Island.



***Motivated:*** Chris Combs (left) receives the first of many certificates of completion from Neil Brogan (right) our flotilla commander.



***“What’s so funny?”:*** Neil Brogan (left) interjects a little levity while performing a vessel safety check at our first scheduled marina event during National Safe Boating Week. – Photo Courtesy of Robert McNeil



**Happy 74<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrates seventy-four years of service to our Nation and Coast Guard. It was originally established in 1939 as the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve before a formal military Reserve component was formed in 1941. Since then, thousands of the Auxiliary's volunteers have maintained their 'can do' attitude to support the Coast Guard and its multi-missions, especially in our Nation's most trying moments. Be proud, wear the uniform neatly and correctly! You are helping to write the next chapter of great legacy. You make a difference!

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## Did you know?

1. *How does any Auxiliarist get credit for their time and effort in the activities they perform?*

**Answer:** By submitting the appropriate paperwork in a timely manner to your information systems officer (FSO-IS or SO-IS) who will enter it into AUXDATA. This is a database that holds key information on all Auxiliary activity and qualifications. Please contact your information systems officer, if you have any questions.

2. *What initial actions should be taken by a crew member, if a person falls overboard?*

**Answer:** The first crew member to notice immediately shouts 'Man Overboard', indicates what side of the boat the person in the water is relative to the boat. This crew member also serves as the pointer using their arm to align with their visual sight of the person in the water keeping everyone verbally apprised of the person's bearing and distance (if determinable) relative to the boat. Their primary duty is to keep their eyes and arm aligned in the direction of the person even as the boat turns. A life ring should be deployed in the direction of the person. The controlling station needs to be notified of the incident.

(For more information, See Boat Crew Seamanship Manual, Chapter 16)



# Upcoming Events

- Flotilla Meeting: July 10<sup>th</sup> @ Sector SENE Providence Office.
- Flotilla Safety Booth: July 13<sup>th</sup> @ Bold Point, East Providence.
- Flotilla Safety Booth: July 27<sup>th</sup> @ Oakland Beach Boat Ramp, Warwick.
- Flotilla Safety Booth: August 10<sup>th</sup> @ Haines Park Boat Ramp, Barrington.
- Flotilla Meeting: August 14<sup>th</sup> @ Sector SENE Providence Office.
- Flotilla Safety Booth: August 17<sup>th</sup> @ Bold Point, East Providence.
- Flotilla Meeting: September 11<sup>th</sup> @ Sector SENE Providence Office.

**"This publication received clearance on 6/26/13"**



This newsletter is meant to be an informative resource for all flotilla members and local Coast Guard units. Its purpose is to keep them apprised of all activities of the flotilla as well as presenting various articles of interest. Any member of the flotilla or Coast Guard may submit an article or photo for inclusion in this newsletter.

Do you have a story to tell? Do you have an article or photo of interest for our members? We want to hear from you. Please send your submissions to the editor:

*C. Lawrence, Flotilla Publications Officer (FSO-PB 72) at [claw\\_72@verizon.net](mailto:claw_72@verizon.net)*

## **– Confidentiality Statement –**

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