

FAIRWINDS

The East Providence Flotilla Newsletter

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Safety Check: Ed Glod (front) and Matt Roias (behind) perform a vessel safety check on a personal watercraft at a local boat ramp.



Recognition: Flotilla Commander, Don Sullivan (left) presents Kathleen Resnick (right) with her first sustained service Award. – Photo courtesy of Harry Finkelstein

Awards & Recognition

New Member – Matthew Roias was administered the new member oath.



Leonard Russo was awarded his five year Membership Service ribbon.



Kathleen Resnick was awarded her first Sustained Service Award.
Thomas Gidley was awarded his third Sustained Service Award.



Neil Brogan was awarded his third VE/MDV Service Award.



Matthew Roias achieved the program visitor qualification.

- **Matthew Roias** completed Incident Command System 100, 700 and 800 level courses.
passed the fingerprint exam.
- **Robert Misenor** completed Incident Command System 700 level course and the
Administrative Procedures Course.
- **Nicholas Laureanno** completed the fingerprint technician exam.

Bravo Zulu!

Looking ahead...

*Monthly Meeting: Oct. 10th @ Sector SENE Providence
Office*

Crew Training: Oct. 24th @ Sector SENE Providence Office

*Monthly Meeting: Nov. 14th @ Sector SENE Providence
Office ** Flotilla elections held at this meeting.*

Crew Training: Nov. 28th @ Sector SENE Providence Office

Check out other events on our website: www.cgaux72.org

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

From the Helm

“Practice Makes Perfect”

By Robert Misenor, Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC 72, 1NR)

This is a phrase that we have all heard at one time from our parents or from someone trying to get us to do something correctly. Practice leads to proficiency.

One night a few weeks ago, it was shaping up to be just that as we were getting underway to conduct towing operations with another operational facility. We had just completed the risk assessment sheet also known as the GAR sheet and were going through a familiarization of the equipment onboard the boat. Our coxswain, Bob Lawrence, was phoning Castle Hill to relay all the pre-underway information required and to confirm our patrol orders. As he was doing so, the boat's radio came alive with a safety message from Sector regarding a reported person in the water in the vicinity of the Jamestown bridge. We quickly finished our orientation and got underway to the bridge. When we arrived on scene, fire and police units line the center of the bridge. A local fire boat was on scene searching the area along with some recreational boaters. Our coxswain ascertained the set and drift of the current. A description of the reported person was relayed to all crew members. Bob then assigned each of us to lookout positions on the boat and stern of the boat to scan the waters. We began a creeping line search pattern in the direction of the current starting at the center of the channel covering a narrow area. As we completed a sixth leg, the Coast Guard boat from Castle Hill arrived on scene and started to run its search pattern. They also began coordinating the rescue units and assigned us another search pattern to run. Partway through this search pattern, we were joined by a Coast Guard Helicopter, another Coast Guard boat, a couple of local harbormasters and the other Auxiliary facility that we were supposed to train with earlier. We spent the better part of two hours running search patterns covering the area between the Jamestown Bridge and Dutch Island. Sector eventually concluded based on the search results that the initial report was a false alarm. Bob and his crew's response were based on their training and knowledge. They knew what to do and did so automatically. Our flotilla got its first search and rescue case of the year.

We rendezvoused with the other Auxiliary boat and managed to get some towing evolutions in before it got too dark out. Overall, it was a good experience for all.

“Guardian of the Quarter” – David Griswold

Congratulations to David Griswold on being selected as the flotilla’s “Guardian of the Quarter” for the third quarter of 2012! David has been highly active as an instructor, a vessel examiner and a boat crew member. Diligently attending every boating safety class, he has provided numerous pamphlets and safety literature to our students. According to our public education officer, Bob Misenor, “He (David) has been a great help in conducting our classes at the East Providence High School and Herreschoff museum”. Throughout the season, David has also been a constant fixture at our boat ramp safety booths helping the flotilla to reach out to and educate the local recreational boaters. His dedication to our flotilla and its missions is truly noteworthy.



Congratulations, Shipmate!

Do you know. . .

(See Answers on Page 9)

1. Which uniform is always appropriate for official meetings, teaching public education classes and staffing public affairs booths?
2. What qualifications does the Auxiliary operational program ribbon encompass?

Reminder to all: please be sure submit your paperwork for your Auxiliary activity in a timely manner to Ed Glod, especially your 7029’s (Member Activity Log). Your time and effort counts!



America's Cup: One of USA Team Oracle's racing boats at the challenge. Our operational facility helped assist with the safety zone for the races off Newport.



U. S. Coast Guard WW II: U.S. 1st Marine Division lands ashore from the bow of a Coast Guard manned LST during the battle of Cape Gloucester, New Britain Island. – Courtesy of AP, January 1944



America's Tall ship: The Cutter Eagle departs Newport after a four day stop over. The local Auxiliary helped provide escort duty, public affairs and security during her stay.



On Deck: Coastie takes center stage onboard the U.S.S. Massachusetts for a major public affairs event staffed by members of our flotilla and Flotilla 7-11. (See story on next page.)

- Photo courtesy of Scott Campbell.

“Attention on Deck”

By Neil Brogan, Flotilla Human Resources Officer (FSO-HR 72 1NR)

The Coast Guard on a Navy ship . . . that's right! Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 72 is now a permanent fixture aboard the Battleship U.S.S. *Massachusetts* (BB-59) which is moored in Fall River, Massachusetts. Our involvement in this project has been ongoing since the Fall of 2011. Originally intended to be a location for Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) information, this opportunity has expanded to all aspects and missions of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. We have expanded our Public Affairs Outreach Program to now include Public Education Courses, Public Affairs information booths, member training, Sea Cadet Partner Program initiatives, recruiting and an overnight program with the Boy Scouts of America. This has been a joint effort and took the entire flotilla to make it happen.

Over Labor Day weekend, we recently held a Public Affairs Day onboard the Battleship *Massachusetts* on Saturday, September 1st, 2012. This event included a boating safety booth, "Coastie" and mobile public relations throughout the facility. This event was a great success, as it showed our commitment to the boating public as well as to the Battleship Cove Museum. Coastie was the star of the show as it greeted visitors when they came on board the battleship. Kids and adults alike posed for pictures and received boating safety information from our mobile robot friend. A number of visitors that day got their first look at the Coast Guard Auxiliary as most did not know who we were. The visitors that day took away from their experience, a new respect for our dedicated volunteers and our organization.

Flotilla 72's continued presence at the Battleship Cove Museum, serves as a long standing honor and tradition that goes back to World War II when Coast Guardsmen were operating under the Department of the Navy. The Coast Guard served alongside Navy personnel and now, through our efforts, that voice rises again. We are educating the public on the Coast Guard's involvement in the World Wars and aboard these floating memorials at Battleship Cove. We plan on being the guiding light for current and future generations of awestruck sailors and show them that Team Coast Guard is a family and a great place to work. Let's keep up the good work and take advantage of the opportunities presented to us!

“A Humbling Experience”

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

It was slightly breezy with plenty of sunshine. Anticipation filled the air as a crowd gathered and took their seats under the huge tent. The crowd consisted of members from the Coast Guard, Auxiliary, Reserves, local and state law enforcement as well as firefighters, local harbor masters, family and friends. Some attendees had traveled across the country to attend the event. This was not just the typical change of command ceremony. Today was the day to honor Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Guthlein's distinguished service to the Nation and his lengthy career in the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Robert Papp, was in attendance as well. He officiated over the Ancient Keeper ceremony. Mr. Guthlein is the third person to hold the title and was relieved by Master Chief Petty Officer James Clemens. The Ancient Keeper award recognizes an active duty Coast Guard member in terms of their longevity as the Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge of a boat force unit and outstanding performance in boat operations. During his commentary, ADM Papp noted with great levity that “Mr. Guthlein was like Chuck Norris when it came to his assignments throughout his career. The detailers did not tell Mr. Guthlein where he was going next, rather, he told them where his next assignment would be”.

Mr. Guthlein's Coast Guard career began thirty-five years ago in the reserves. In that time, he achieved the surfman qualification which is the highest small boat qualification in the Coast Guard. He was also an instructor at the National Motor Lifeboat School at Cape Disappointment which trains Coast Guard members to become surfman. He has been a Standardization Team Leader. These teams visit various boat force units to insure that their equipment and personnel are up to Coast Guard standards and consistency exists among the boat force units. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Captain David H. Jarvis Award for Inspirational Leadership. He has been tasked to head some investigations of Coast Guard mishaps and produced recommendations to prevent future incidents and implement new safety standards. He assisted with the care of the restored CG36500 (from the famous *Pendelton* Rescue) boat when he was the executive officer at Station Chatham. One of our members, Neil Brogan, served with him at Station Gloucester back in the 90's.

(Continued on next page)

“A Humbling Experience”

(Continued from previous page)

The makeup of the crowd spoke volumes to the legacy and contributions that Mr. Guthlein has made over his career. The amount of respect from his peers was overwhelming. It was humbling to listen to Mr. Guthlein speak at the ceremony. The speech was never about himself or his accomplishments, rather, it was about those experiences of those he served and those who inspired him, especially his family. He is extremely proud of his family from his father who served in World War II to his sons, one of whom is currently in the Coast Guard. At one point during the ceremony, the SAR alarm went off so the standby crew quietly got up and started down to ready boat in response. It is hard to convey unless you have worked at a small boat unit, but you could see the confidence in Mr. Guthlein's face that his boat crew was ready for whatever challenge lied ahead. Among the best commanding officers and officers-in-charge are those who always lookout for their crews well being, help instill confidence in their crew's ability and pass along their knowledge. This Guardian certainly falls in this category. He is the consummate professional and has mastered his craft within the boat force community.


On July 12th, Mr. Guthlein was relieved by Chief Warrant Officer John Roberts who assumed command of the Station Castle Hill. We look forward to working with Mr. Roberts and wish all the best to Mr. Guthlein in his well deserved retirement. In the very near future, our flotilla will hopefully benefit from his knowledge, experience and wisdom.

“Semper Paratus”



Retirement: BOSN4 Tom Guthlein (right) and his wife, Victoria (left) are piped ashore one last time with honors at the end of his retirement ceremony.

Answers to do you know:

1. **Tropical Blue** uniform (see Auxiliary manual, Chapter 10)
2.  Surface operations (i.e. boat crew & coxswain), Air operations (i.e. observer, air crew, pilot), Aid Verifier, Coast Guard watchstander, Coast Guard boat crew, Coast Guard boat engineer and Auxiliary Interpreter (level A).



This newsletter is meant to be an informative source for all flotilla members by keeping them apprised of the activities within the flotilla as well as presenting articles of interest. Any member of the flotilla or Coast Guard may submit an article or photo for posting in this newsletter.

Do you have an article and/or photo of interest? Got something to say? We want to hear from you. Please send all submissions to the editor:

C. Lawrence, Flotilla 72 Publications Officer at claw_72@verizon.net

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