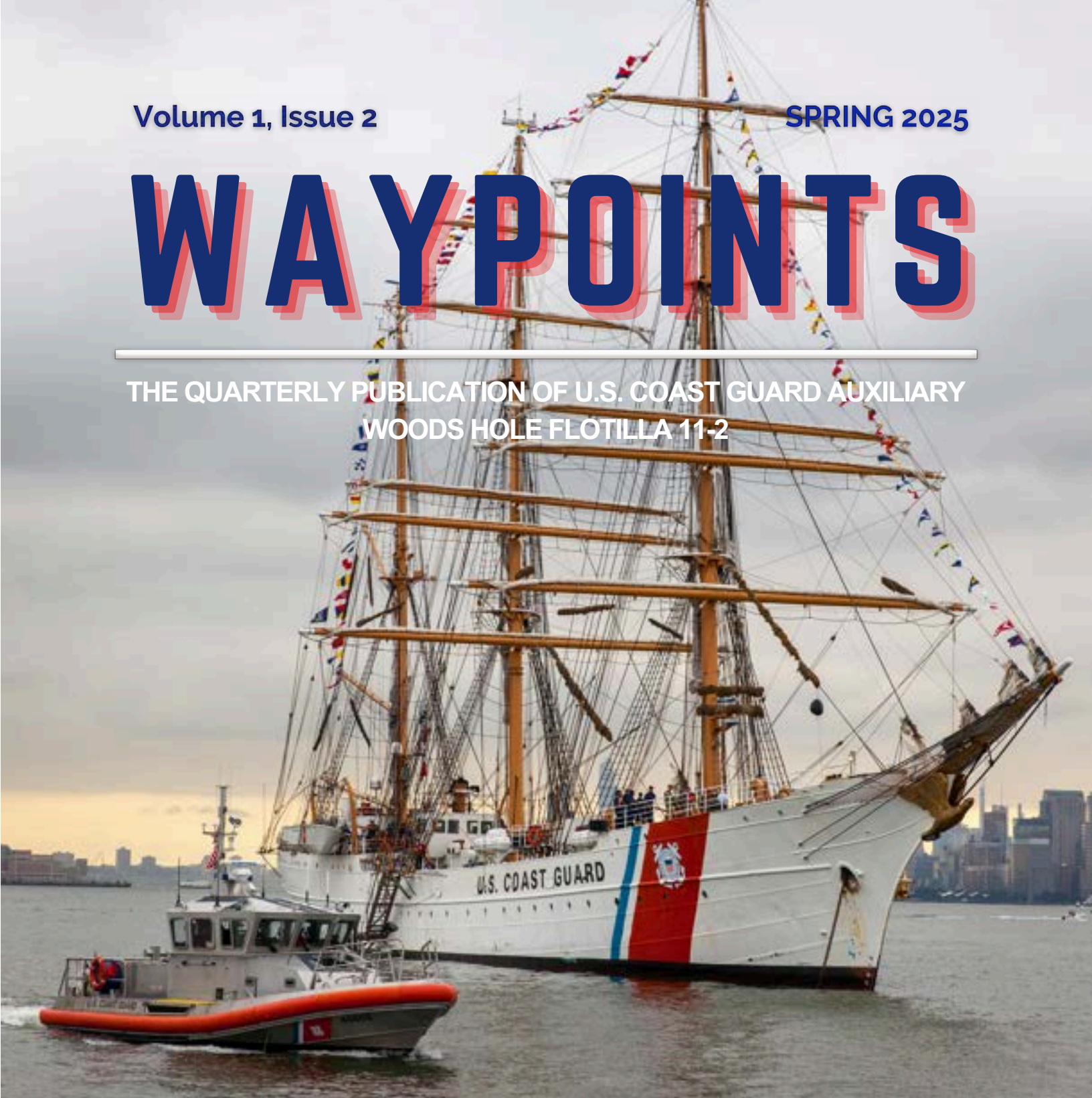


Volume 1, Issue 2

SPRING 2025

WAYPOINTS

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
WOODS HOLE FLOTILLA 11-2



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Flotilla Commander (FC) - Howard A. Montgomery
Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) - Thomas F. Molesky
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) - Russell J. Gasdia

Flotilla Staff Officers

Flotilla Staff Officer - Communications (FSO-CM)
Thomas S. Gary
Flotilla Staff Officer - Communication Services (FSO-CS)
Christopher R. Norton
Flotilla Staff Officer - Finance (FSO-FN)
Stephen K. Morse
Flotilla Staff Officer - Human Resources (FSO-HR)
Bruce M. Perlman
Flotilla Staff Officer - Information Services (FSO-IS)
Paul J. Gaffney
Flotilla Staff Officer - Materials (FSO-MA)
James P. McGrath
Flotilla Staff Officer - Member Training (FSO-MT)
Daniel J. Farren
Flotilla Staff Officer - Navigation Systems (FSO-NS)
Stephen P. Wagner
Flotilla Staff Officer - Operations (FSO-OP)
Jeffrey D. Thomas
Flotilla Staff Officer - Public Affairs (FSO-PA)
Russell J. Gasdia
Flotilla Staff Officer Publications (FSO-PB)
Joseph P. Egan
Flotilla Staff Officer Public Education (FSO PE)
Stephen P. Wagner
Flotilla Staff Officer - Recreational Boating Safety Visitor
(FSO-PV)
Russell J. Gasdia
Flotilla Staff Officer - Rescue and Survival Systems
(FSO-RS)
Stephen P. Wagner
Flotilla Staff Officer - Secretary/Records (FSO-SR)
Paul J. Gaffney
Flotilla Staff Officer - Vessel Examination (FSO-VE)
Robert S. Johnson

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Cover Photograph: USCGC Eagle Barque (WIX 327) New York Harbor 2019; photograph by Jon Bernz - USCGAUX



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21 JUNE 2025.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Shipmates,

We are off to a great start this year and the busy summer season is upon us!

Here's a recap of our noteworthy accomplishments this year:

- 3 new members, Lee Bordick, Doug Norton, and Rachel Prendeville. All three attained BQ status in less than 30 days
- 2 new Gate watchstanders for SENE Woods Hole "Base", Paul Bechta and Steve Morse
- 1 new Sector Radio watchstander for SENE, Paul Gaffney
- 2 new Instructors, Paul Bechta and Paul Gaffney
- 3 new Vessel Examiners, Lee Bordick, Paul Bechta and Paul Gaffney
- 4 Vessel Examiner trainees, Michelle Collins, Dan Faivre, Jim McGrath and Rachel Prendeville
- 6 Boat Crew trainees in process, Paul Bechta, Michelle Collins, Paul Gaffney, Rob Johnson, Tom Molesky and Steve Morse

Since the beginning of January, we also have formally appointed three new staff officers:

- FSO-MA, Jim McGrath
- FSO-VE, Rob Johnson
- FSO-RSS, Steve Wagner

Two committees are set-up, Awards Committee chaired by Tom Molesky, and Social Committee chaired by Michelle Collins.

We successfully kicked-off National Safe Boating Week the weekend of 17 MAY 2025, with PA events at Falmouth Heights and West Marine Falmouth, as well as a Boat America safe boating class attended by 18 students. That builds on our busy winter months running 1-2 safe boating classes every month!

Meeting attendance has been strong with attendance averaging almost 20 members (33 percent), in person and online combined.

Last, I want to thank everyone for your help onboarding and mentoring our shipmates - from trips to the base for uniforms, earning qualifications, to AUXDATA II online access and classes - this networking is making a real impact, and you see this in our results.

Keep up the great work!

Bravo Zulu,



Art Montgomery
Flotilla Commander

FLOTILLA 013-11-2 CALENDAR

June 21, 2025 - Vessel Safety Check Event

Safe Harbor Fiddlers Cove, 42 Fiddler's Cove Road, North Falmouth, Massachusetts

June 28, 2025 - Vessel Safety Check Event

Crosby Boat Yard, 72 Crosby Circle, Osterville, Massachusetts

July 22, 2025 - 013-11-02 Flotilla Meeting

6:30 – 8:30pm with details to be announced.

July 6, 2025 - Boat America

8 Hours Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Instructor: Stephen Wagner FSO-PE - captwags@comcast.net

July 12, 2025 - Vessel Safety Check Event

Great Harbors, 333 Shorewood Drive, East Falmouth, Massachusetts

August 19, 2025 - Flotilla Summer Picnic

Safe Harbor Fiddlers Cove, 42 Fiddler's Cove Road, North Falmouth, Massachusetts

Volunteers needed; Contact Michelle Collins - michellecollins59@gmail.com

August 23, 2025 - Boat America

8 Hours Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Instructor: Stephen Wagner FSO-PE - captwags@comcast.net

September 27, 2025 - Boat America

8 Hours Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Instructor: Stephen Wagner FSO-PE - captwags@comcast.net





Barry T. O'Neil: Portrait of a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Artist

by Joseph P. Egan, FSO-PB

Barry T. O'Neil never set out to be a visual voice of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Yet over several decades, his meticulous drawings and imagination have captured moments of duty, honor, and subtle heroism in ways words cannot. As a professional artist with a deep respect and passion for all things maritime and aviation, Barry turned his interest for sketching and creating one of a kind works into a lasting tribute to country and those who serve. His work, steeped in detail and personal reflection, offer a window into the soul of the Auxiliary.

As many know, Barry is an affable and engaging kind of guy. And if that's not enough, his quick sense of humor is an added bonus. However, while it might strike you as odd, throughout much of his life and career Barry tended to focus on the exacting details and really get under someone's skin. But as you will see, not exactly in a way you would expect.

In his late teens, 1950 was a pivotal year for Barry highlighted by winning an art scholarship competition where one of the jurors was the famed artist, Norman Rockwell. Ultimately, he chose to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue dentistry. However, in March 1950 the Korean War broke and he enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving as a dental technician. Barry completed his military service as a Corpsman in the U.S. Marine Corps and continued on the pre-medical path. However, through his biology coursework which included dissections, he discovered a perfect combination to fulfill his passion; art and medicine. And as true passion often prevails, Barry enrolled in a three-year medical illustration program at Massachusetts General Hospital. This specialized training led

to a 27-year career as a medical illustrator at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, a teaching hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Over the years, his professional works were featured in numerous text books, lectures, teaching materials, television presentations, medical journals, and magazine articles. Along the way he married his beloved Maryalice of 69 years, and together they raised six children.

In the years that followed, Barry transitioned his artistic focus to military themes, with a special interest in aircraft and maritime subject matter. According to Barry, he was naturally led to this theme by his hands on experience and appreciation for these magnificent military assets. Over time, his focus expanded to clipper ships and the whaling industry.

However, as many know, his efforts extend well beyond his artwork through his longtime and distinguished participation with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. "It is one of the greatest organizations I have been fortunate to join because of the comradery and the pride I take for the roles, missions and opportunities it has provided to me over the years," he proudly stated. It's no wonder he enthusiastically encourages fellow Shipmates to become actively involved as soon as possible and take hold of every opportunity to get on board a ship, aircraft or military base.

"I do it with the hope that someone else finds my work as interesting and enjoyable as I do."

Barry continues to follow his artistic passion on a regular basis by sharing, "You never outgrow your creative side." In creating a new

continued on page 6

Barry T. O'Neil: Portrait of a U.S. Coast Guard Artist

work, he relies on a process which includes extensive research, studying photographs, and a sharp memory honed by years of doing and observing. He also knows in this form of creative expression, the objective is to be technically accurate thus requiring structure, focus, and practice. His mediums of choice are charcoal, pencil, and watercolors.

Among Barry's favorite works are a pen and ink depiction of a 1905 horse drawn Boston fire brigade in full response, renderings of USCGC EAGLE BARQUE and USS CONSTITUTION (oldest ship in the US Navy), and a recently completed depiction of an amphibious aircraft, the iconic Grumman HU-16E Albatross with Coast Guard number 7250 currently on display at Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. But for Barry this recently completed drawing is notable in a special way; at the decommissioning ceremony held in March 1983 commemorating the last in-service USCG amphibious plane (nicknamed the GOAT), he was honored by being the last civilian to sit in the copilot's seat prior to its final flight.

Throughout the years, Barry has also completed numerous commissioned projects such as a work marking the retirement of a 44-foot U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat. The framed, large format work was personally presented to Admiral Thad W. Allen, Admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard who served as the 23rd Commandant from 2006 to 2010. Barry's works are also on display at Coast Guard buildings located in Sector Southeastern New England, U.S. Coast Guard Station Woods Hole, and the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.

As a prolific and talented aircraft and maritime artist Barry has garnered broad recognition. While there are many to his credit, among the most notable are:

- Designated an official artist for the U.S. Coast Guard which includes clearance to any U.S. Coast Guard aircraft, facility or vessel for the purpose of illustrating maritime and military art.
- At the 100th anniversary of U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers, he was honored by the Master Chief of the USCG for completing detailed depictions of uniform changes from 1920 to 2020.
- In 2019, Barry was recognized as a USGC Station Woods Hole Ancient Mariner for his support of personnel and their families at U.S. Coast Guard Stations throughout the Sector and Air Station Cape Cod. Befittingly, Ancient Mariners are charged with maintaining sea service traditions and ensuring the time-honored reputation of the USCG is respectfully preserved.
- He served as the first keeper (FSO-LK) of Nobska Lighthouse in 1995 after it was adopted by the Woods Hole Flotilla.

Barry T. O'Neil's life and accomplishments remind us all that the spirit of service doesn't fade over time. Through his art and dedication to the Auxiliary, we see the true mark of service isn't how long we serve but how passionately we serve and commit to making a lasting difference. When asked why he creates his art,

with little hesitation he stated, "I do it with the hope that someone else finds my work as interesting and enjoyable as I do." And through that humble purpose, his maritime and aviation works endure by continuing to engage, inspire, and contribute to the rich tapestry of maritime and aviation history.



Sketch of ANDIAMO underway on AUX patrol, presented to Russ Gaskia IPFC in December 2024.

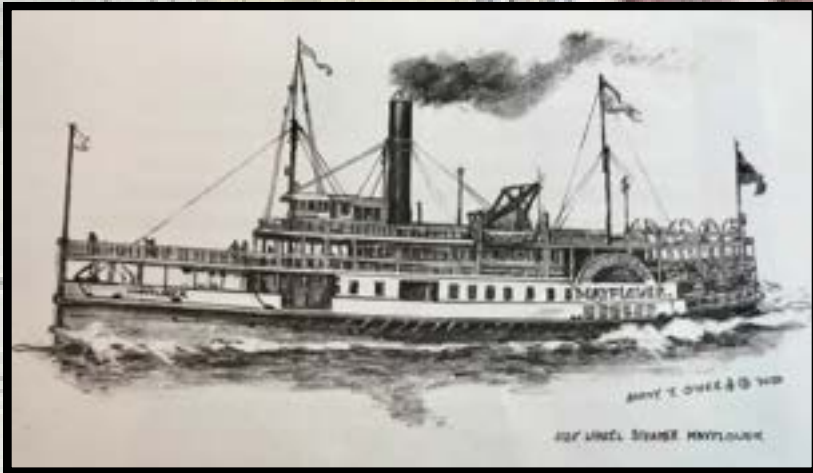
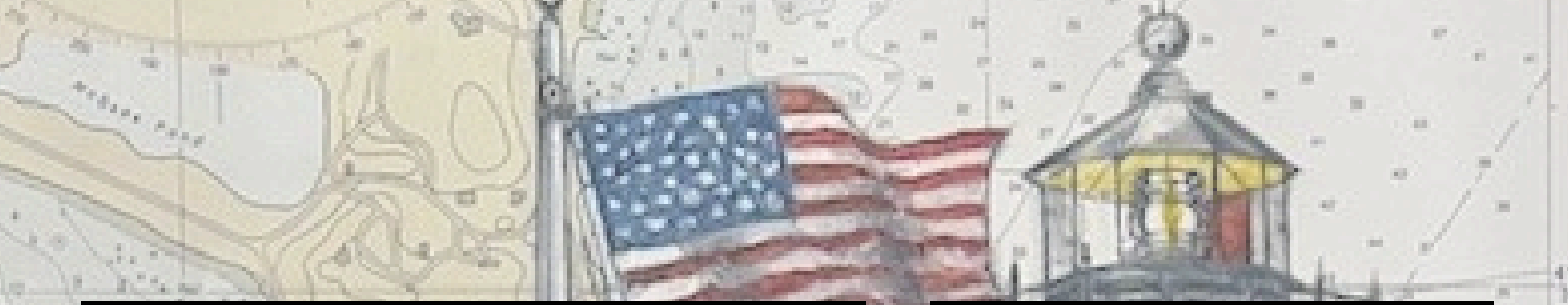


c. 1858 whaling vessel Maryalice, Woods Hole, MA



Source: M. O'Neil

(Left to Right) Captain Richard Schultz, Commander SENE was presented with an illustration of Nobska Light by Barry T. O'Neil in 2016.





DIVISION 11 2025 AWARDS DINNER

MAY 6, 2025 - DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, HYANNIS MA



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) Russ Gasdia, recipient of the 2024 Award of Excellence in Service to the Division Commander, is congratulated by District Captain Peter DeBakker.



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) HR officers Joseph Spinello (11-8) and Bruce Perlman (11-2) flanked by District Captain Peter DeBakker were recognized with the DOW Membership Growth Award.



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) At the ceremony, Dan Farren pictured with District Captain Peter DeBakker, was recognized for achieving 50 or more hours as Coxswain or Crew.



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) Stephen P. Wagner is joined by District Captain Peter DeBakker as he displays his first place award for completing the most Aids to Navigation Verifications (140 ATONS).



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) Steve Morse, recipient of the 2024 Woods Hole Flotilla New Member of the Year Award, is congratulated by District Captain Peter DeBakker.



DIVISION 11 2025 AWARDS DINNER

MAY 6, 2025 - DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, HYANNIS MA



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) Bruce Perlman, the 2024 Woods Hole Flotilla Member of the Year, is congratulated by District Captain Peter DeBakker for this award and honor.



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) Stephen P. Wagner, with District Captain Peter DeBakker, displays a plaque honoring him as the 2024 Cape and Islands Division Auxiliarist of the Year.



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) Paul Fontaine and Jeff Thomas, joined by District Captain Peter DeBakker, were each presented milestone awards for their Sustained Member Service (Bronze).



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - COMO Dennis M. DeGabriele (center) was congratulated by Dan Farren (left) and District Captain Peter DeBakker (right) for 30 years of service.



Source: Erick Coe

May 6, 2025 - (Left to right) Individual awards for Service Greater than 1,000 Hours were presented to shipmates from various flotillas in the Cape and Islands Division: Tim Howell (Cape Cod Canal), and Chatham Flotilla members Reid Oslin and Richard (Bruce) Brady, flanked by District Captain Peter DeBakker, Bob Spang (Chatham), and Russ Gaskia (Woods Hole).



2025 FLOTILLA EVENTS



Source: Bruce Perlman

May 21, 2025 - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC welcomes and swears in Shipmate Lee Bordick.



Source: Bruce Perlman

May 21, 2025 - (Left to right) Paul Gaffney is congratulated by Art Montgomery FC for completing six leadership and safety courses.



Source: Bruce Perlman

May 21, 2025 - (Left to right) Jeff Thomas FSO-OP and Vice Division Commander, District 11 is honored by Art Montgomery FC for receiving the prestigious U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal.



Source: Joseph Egan

February 18, 2025 - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC is congratulated by Tom Molesky VFC for receiving the Sustained Service Award for completing more than 750 hours of service.



Source: Joseph Egan

February 18, 2025 - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC proudly congratulates Russ Gasdia IPFC on receiving the Sustained Member Service Award for competing over 6,750 hours of service.



Source: Joseph Egan

February 18, 2025 - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC and Paul Gaffney stand by as Bruce Perlman congratulates Paul Bechta on completing the Incident Command System 700 course.



2025 FLOTILLA EVENTS



Source: Joseph Egan

June 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC swears in new Shipmates Doug Norton and Rachel Prendeville at Sector SENE.



Source: Joseph Egan

June 17, 2025 - (Left to right) At the flotilla meeting held at Sector SENE, Rob Johnson was sworn in as FSO-VE by Art Montgomery FC.



Source: Joseph Egan

June 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Paul Bechta and Paul Gaffney are applauded by Art Montgomery FC for achieving their Vessel Examiner qualifications.



Source: Joseph Egan

June 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Paul Gaffney is acknowledged by Art Montgomery FC for attaining the Telecommunications Operator qualification for Sector SENE.



Source: Joseph Egan

June 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Paul Gaffney is congratulated by Art Montgomery FC for obtaining the Program Visitor qualification.



Source: Joseph Egan

June 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Tom Molesky VFC is firmly recognized by Art Montgomery for completing leadership training.



SHIPMATES ON MISSION



Source: Michelle Collins

May 18, 2025 - Lee Bordick was on mission at the National Safe Boating Week event held at West Marine Falmouth.



Source: Russ Gasdia

May 18, 2025 - (Front to rear) Shipmates Andy Abbott and Michelle Collins provided outreach and education at the National Safe Boating Week event at West Marine Falmouth.



Source: Michelle Collins

May 18, 2025 - (Left to right) Russ Gasdia IPFC and Jim McGrath represented the Woods Hole Flotilla at a National Safe Boating Week information event at West Marine Falmouth.



Source: Russ Gasdia

May 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Lee Bordick, Steve Morse, Eliza Brook - Mass Maritime Academy AUP Cadet, and Bruce Perlman participated in a National Safe Boating Week kick off event in Falmouth, MA.



Source: Russ Gasdia

May 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Lee Bordick, Steve Morse, and Eliza Brook offered a range of boater safety information and resources at a National Safe Boating Week event sponsored by Towboat US and West Marine.



Source: Russ Gasdia

May 17, 2025 - (Left to right) Lee Bordick and Eliza Brook were on hand to navigate Coastie, a remote-controlled robotic cartoon character at the National Safe Boating Week event held at Surf Drive Beach.



AUXILIARY NEWS

HANSON-MILONE ACT

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act was signed into law requiring all motorized vessel operators in Massachusetts to complete an approved boating safety education course. The education program will cover Navigation Rules, Emergency Procedures, and Environmental Protections. The new law aligns state regulations with U.S. Coast Guard safety standards and aims to enhance boating safety across the Commonwealth. The minimum age to obtain a certificate is 12 years old. The law takes effect on April 1, 2026. Under the new rule:

- Boaters born after January 1, 1989 must complete the course by April 1, 2026, with a grace period until September 1, 2026.
- Boaters born on or before January 1, 1989 have until April 1, 2028 to complete the course.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act is intended to ensure boaters possess the necessary skills and knowledge to operate vessels safely, reduce accidents, and protect Massachusetts' waterways. Official guidance will be published by the office of law enforcement no later than October 1, 2025.

The Boat America course, offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Woods Hole Flotilla, is one of the best ways to fulfill this new legal requirement while gaining key boating safety knowledge. For more information on the Boat America course and scheduled offerings, contact Stephen Wagner at captwags@comcast.net or call 774-392-6193.



June 17, 2025 - Senior Chief Joseph Gary, Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO) for Sector Southeastern New England (SENE) was recognized a ceremony to mark his departure to his new role at First District. The ceremony took place at Sector SENE. Pictured is Jeff Thomas (L), Vice Division Commander, Division 11; Senior Chief Joseph Gary (C); Russ Gasdia, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, Woods Hole Flotilla.

U.S. COAST GUARD PROPOSES CHANGES TO AIDS TO NAVIGATION IN THE NORTHEAST

The U.S. Coast Guard is proposing to discontinue some buoys as one of several efforts to advance a modern approach to physical aids to navigation (ATONS). The current buoy constellation predates global navigation satellite systems, electronic navigation charts and electronic charting systems (ECS), which are widely used by today's mariners.

"In the First Coast Guard District, the 350 buoys proposed for discontinuation represent about 6% of the 5,640 federally-maintained aids to navigation," said Matthew Stuck, the First Coast Guard District's chief of waterways management.

The Coast Guard is strongly requesting mariners to give feedback. When providing feedback, include the size and type of your vessel, how you use the buoys to navigate and the distance at which you start looking for and using it. Responses are only accepted by email at D01-SMB-DPWPUBLICComments@uscg.mil.

The proposed buoy constellation summary can be found at www.bit.ly/D1Buoy.

Additional information, [a short video](#), and a link to an [interactive map](#) showing the buoys up for discontinuation are available at this website:



FORCE DESIGN 2028



Acting Commandant Kevin E. Lunday recently announced Force Design 2028 (FD 2028). Directed by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and led by the Senior Advisor to the Secretary for the Coast Guard (SASCG) Mr. Sean Plankey, FD 2028 is creating a blueprint to ensure the Service is ready for the future and the Nation's demands.

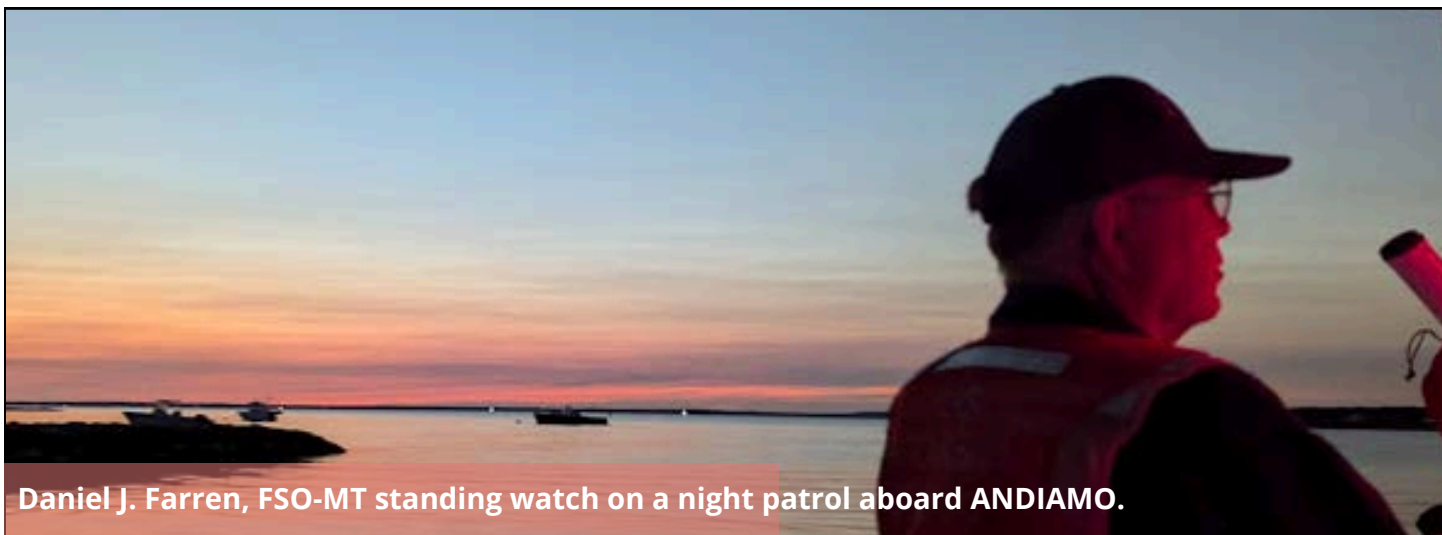
Our thanks to BMC Sand for providing an overview of FD 2028 at the Woods Hole Flotilla monthly meeting held at USCG Station Woods Hole on June 17, 2025.

Read the FD 2028 document here:

https://a013.uscgaux.info/members_files/Force_Design_28_EXEC%20REPORT_1166_V10.pdf



Source: Paul Bechta



Daniel J. Farren, FSO-MT standing watch on a night patrol aboard ANDIAMO.

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Waypoints is published quarterly at no expense to the U.S. Government or the U.S. Coast Guard. Cost of publication is borne by dues-paying members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Woods Hole Flotilla 013-11-2, a volunteer unpaid civilian body whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in its missions.

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Joseph P. Egan FSO-PB, Woods Hole Flotilla



WELCOME
aboard!

Woods Hole Flotilla supports the recreational boating public through our Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Outreach missions, which include: Public Education Courses, Courtesy Vessel Safety Checks, RBS Program Visitations (marine retailers) and Public Affairs. The flotilla also has an active surface operations program with three member-owned Auxiliary Facilities (boats) that conduct training with U.S. Coast Guard Small Boat Station Woods Hole, as well as performing safety patrols, aids to navigation patrols, and air drop training exercises with U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

Members provide important direct support to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England as communication watch-standers (radio) in the command center, as well as serving as gate watch-standers. The Aids-to-Navigation Team (ANT), Woods Hole and others perform important administrative work with Air Station Cape Cod. Shipmates also take on specialized roles such as a physician at local Coast Guard Clinics, a member of the Coast Guard Pipe Band, members serving as Culinary Assistants, and many others supporting active-duty Coast Guard and Auxiliary functions. Engaging opportunities also exist in staff officer roles in finance, human resources, member training, information systems, and other support roles.

As you will discover, we engage in a variety of missions and administrative areas which support the community and U.S. Coast Guard. We are always looking for new members to join the flotilla. No previous boating experience is required, nor boat ownership. We welcome all who are interested in volunteering in their community, promoting boating safety and assisting the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas.

To learn more about the Woods Hole Flotilla email our Flotilla Staff Officer, Human Resources at Brucemperlman@gmail.com or visit the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary website at [U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary - Join Us](https://www.uscgauauxiliary.org)