

Volume 1, Issue 1

WINTER 2025

# WAYPOINTS

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

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# WAYPOINTS

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Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) - Thomas F. Molesky  
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## 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)  
Norman A. Penman  
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  
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Paul J. Gaffney  
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3 FEBRUARY 2025.



# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



As we are now in 2025 and my term as Flotilla Commander has come to an end, I want to first say thank you to our new Flotilla Commander, Art Montgomery and our new Flotilla Vice Commander, Tom Molesky. I'd also like to thank the Flotilla Staff Officers who served in 2024. Your combined efforts made a difference in 2024.

Art stepped forward in 2024 to serve as our Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) and now in 2025 as our Flotilla Commander (FC). Art has made a significant impact on the flotilla since joining in the spring of 2021. His experience across both the Recreational Boating Safety and Surface Operations missions, coupled with his experiences as the Flotilla Staff Officer-Secretary of Records (FSO-SR) and then VFC, as well as his skill set in regard to communication, planning, decision making and judgement will serve us all well.

I also want to thank Tom Molesky for stepping forward to serve as our Flotilla Vice Commander for 2025. Tom joined in spring 2023 and very quickly became a contributor to the flotilla earning the Vessel Examiner, Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program Visitor, and Culinary Assistant 1 & 2 qualifications. He is also close to earning the Boat Crew qualification. Tom also has served as our FSO-SR during 2024. As with Art, Tom brings not only his Auxiliary mission experience but strong personal skills to this new role that will serve us well.

I am extremely confident Art and Tom will bring new perspectives, new ideas and energy to the Flotilla as we continue to build on our strong past and forge a new future.

We added eight new members to our roster in 2024, exceeding our goal of adding 10 percent or six new members. We also saw new members earn qualifications, as well as working towards other qualifications to be earned in 2025. We provided our members with varied approaches to meetings, including guest speakers, specialized training and "This Month in Coast Guard History" in an effort to build the knowledge of our members. Finally, we significantly increased our public affairs presence in the community, while partnering with Station Woods Hole.

It has been an honor to serve a second term as the Flotilla Commander of 11-02. We have one of the strongest flotillas in Division 11 as well as First District - Northern Region. We have a blend of seasoned Auxiliary veterans and a significant number of new members. Across the flotilla we have a wide variety of backgrounds, both professional and personal. This blend of experience allows the flotilla to grow and adjust to the changing needs of the recreational boating community as well as the Auxiliary and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Thank you for your support and dedication throughout 2024 and best wishes for a great 2025.



*Russ Gasdia*

**Immediate Past Flotilla Commander**



# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



Throughout 2024, Shipmates completed a wide range of civic, boater safety, training, public education, and U.S. Coast Guard support missions totaling 6,203 hours of service.

Congratulations and appreciation to all who through their participation and support made 2024 a successful year.



**⚓ Total hours (all missions as reported to AUXDATA II): 6,203**

**⚓ Vessel Safety Checks: 115**

**⚓ Program Visits: 67**

**⚓ Public Education Instruction - Hours (Lead and Aide): 186**

**⚓ Public Affairs/Community Relations - Hours: 147**

**⚓ Surface Underway Hours (All Patrols, All members qualified and trainees): 463**

**⚓ Operational Support to Coast Guard (non-surface)- Hours: 677**

**⚓ Administrative Support to Coast Guard - Hours: 384**

**⚓ Culinary Assistant - Hours: 126**

**⚓ Member Training "Operational/Other" Instructor - Hours (Lead and Aide): 110**



**Image Sources:** Russ Gasdia IPFC, Art Montgomery FC, and Tom Molesky VFC.



# A Q&A with Woods Hole Flotilla Commander

## Art Montgomery



### **Tell us a little about your background and career history?**

I'm a lifelong sailor and taught sailing for four years. I enjoyed cruising the Chesapeake Bay with my father on his 36 Pearson for several decades prior to selling the boat. My boating today includes the USCG Auxiliary as Boat Crew, and I belong to Freedom Boat Club. I'm a retired corporate finance executive, with the majority of my career in supply chain finance at Procter & Gamble. I live full time on the Cape in Mashpee with my wife Maureen and two Labrador retrievers, Noah and Finnegan.

### **What inspired you to get involved with the Auxiliary?**

I wanted to volunteer in the community when I retired four years ago. I was familiar with the Auxiliary as my father had served many years in Virginia in a flotilla, as Boat Crew and a Vessel Examiner. I was inspired by the tremendous opportunities that our flotilla offers, and how we make a difference as a force multiplier, working alongside the active duty men and women on Cape Cod. And I was sure that the Auxiliary would provide me an opportunity to serve my country and give something back.

### **Why did you choose to take on this new role now?**

I started with a natural progression from getting involved and completing qualifications as Vessel Examiner, Instructor and Boat Crew, and then onward to accepting the position of FSO – Secretary Records. As I pondered taking the next step of an elected leadership role, I knew that I would be surrounded and supported by all of our previous flotilla leaders and staff officers. They have repeatedly confirmed my thinking, and provided great advice and insights. I joined the Auxiliary to be active and to serve, and stepping up and into an elected position for the flotilla helps me fulfill my commitment. I was honored to serve as Vice Flotilla Commander last year, and look forward to serving as Flotilla Commander in 2025.

### **How do you see the flotilla evolving in the next three to five years?**

The future of our flotilla is bright, we are on a great trajectory! We have an exceptional core of experienced shipmates who contribute in all our mission areas, and over my tenure I've seen us successfully bring onboard a very strong crew of motivated and engaged new members. Over the next 3-5 years we need to continue adding new members, and develop our crew into our future leaders. That means we need to continue to engage and support our members, to have fun events that enhance morale, and to develop our future leaders.

# Q&A with FC Art Montgomery

**What advice would you give to people who are considering getting involved in nonprofit work or leadership at any stage of their career?**

My advice is to choose an area where you have a passion, and then commit to jump in with both feet and get active. I believe that elements of success come from the organization leaders, as well as the members – the more active and satisfied the membership, the healthier and more productive is the organization. So, I would encourage people to take an inventory of how much time they have and want to donate, and then find the area where that intersects with your passion. With the experience and passion that our Auxiliary members bring to the table, I'm confident that we can help match a need with your interest.

**FLOTILLA 013-11-2**

## CALENDAR

**February 18, 2025 - 013-11-02 Flotilla Meeting**

6:30 – 8:30pm at Falmouth Public Library (Hermann Meeting Room)

**February 22, 2025 - Boat America**

8 Hours Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Instructor: Stephen Wagner FSO PE - [captwags@comcast.net](mailto:captwags@comcast.net)

**March 5, 2025 - Boating Skills & Seamanship**

8 Hours Over Four Weeks (2 Hours per class) Falmouth, Massachusetts

Instructor: Stephen Wagner FSO PE - [captwags@comcast.net](mailto:captwags@comcast.net)

**March 15, 2025 - Boat America**

8 Hours Woods Hole, Massachusetts

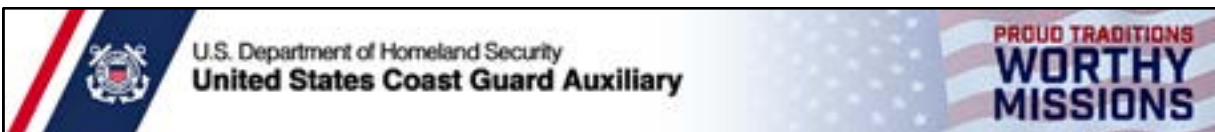
Instructor: Stephen Wagner FSO PE - [captwags@comcast.net](mailto:captwags@comcast.net)

**March 18, 2025 - 013-11-02 - Flotilla Meeting**

6:30 – 8:30pm at Falmouth Public Library (Hermann Meeting Room)

**April 15, 2025 - 013-11-02 - Flotilla Meeting**

6:30 – 8:30pm at Falmouth Public Library (Hermann Meeting Room)





# 2024 FLOTILLA EVENTS



Source: Maureen Montgomery

**December 10, 2024** - (Left to right) Russ Gasdia IPFC congratulates newly installed Flotilla Commander Art Montgomery at the Change of Watch Dinner.



Source: Maureen Montgomery

**December 10, 2024** - Tom Molesky VFC (center) is confirmed to a key flotilla leadership role by Art Montgomery FC (left) and Jeff Thomas VCDR Division 11 (right) at the Change of Watch Dinner.



Source: Maureen Montgomery

**December 10, 2024** - (Left to right) After 17.5 years of service to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Charles Lucas was awarded special recognition by Russ Gasdia IPFC and Art Montgomery FC.



Source: Maureen Montgomery

**December 10, 2024** - (Left to right) Russ Gasdia IPFC is presented with a drawing of his boat *ANDIAMO* by Barry O'Neil, U.S. Coast Guard artist and Art Montgomery FC in appreciation for Russ's service in 2024.



Source: Maureen Montgomery

**December 10, 2024** - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC and BMCS Joseph Gary present to Russ Gasdia IPFC the distinguished Achievement Award for Superior Performance of Duty serving as Branch Chief, Development, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program (AUP).



Source: Maureen Montgomery

**December 10, 2024** - The Change of Watch Dinner was an opportunity to recognize the achievements and service milestones attained by many Shipmates.





# 2024 FLOTILLA EVENTS



Source: Russ Gasdia

**January 21, 2025** - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC honors Shipmate Thomas Ashe with the Five Year Service Award.



Source: Vice Admiral Sandy Stosz, US Coast Guard (ret.)

**May 21, 2024** - Woods Hole Flotilla hosted Vice Admiral Sandy Stosz, US Coast Guard (ret.), speaker and author of "Breaking Ice & Breaking Glass: Leading in Uncharted Waters" at the Falmouth Public Library.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**January 21, 2025** - (Left to right) Paul Gaffney FSO-IS is congratulated by Art Montgomery FC for completing the AUXWEA and AUXCOM specialty courses.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**January 21, 2025** - (Left to right) Jim McGrath is recognized by Art Montgomery FC on completing the BQII modules.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**January 21, 2025** - (Left to right) Art Montgomery FC congratulates Paul Bechta on completing the BQII modules.



Source: Bruce Perlman

**June 18, 2024** - (Left to right) Russ Gasdia IPFC, Michelle Collins, Steve Morse, and Art Montgomery FC proudly stand as new Shipmates are welcomed.





# SHIPMATES ON MISSION



Source: Tom Molesky

**November 13, 2024** - (Left to right) Paul Gaffney, Bruce Perlman and Rob Johnson aboard USCGC CAMPBELL (WMEC-909), a medium endurance cutter based at Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**April 19, 2024** - (Left to right) Shipmates B. O'Neil, R. Johnson, S. Wagner, T. Molesky, and J. Thomas provided outreach and education at the ocean and boating safety event at Falmouth Public Library.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**May 4, 2024** - (Left to right) Art Montgomery, Tom Molesky and Rob Johnson represent Woods Hole Flotilla 11-2 at the East Falmouth Village Association spring event.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**December 8, 2024** - Woods Hole Flotilla Shipmates and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England Honor Guard stand with a 29 foot response boat at the 61st Annual Falmouth Christmas Parade.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**April 19, 2024** - Coastie provided fun and much entertainment at the ocean and boating safety event at Falmouth Public Library.



Source: Russ Gasdia

**August 2024** - Shipmates Art Montgomery (right), Jeff Thomas (center), and Steve Wagner (rear) conduct Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) position verification.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## UNIFORM INSPECTIONS

By the end of 2024, you should have had your uniform inspected by the FC, VFC or IPFC so that the inspection can be recorded in AuxDatall. This was new for 2024 and if you have overlooked it, you should connect with Flotilla Leadership to arrange an inspection. Inspection details and consequences for failing to have an inspection are available at <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=auxiliary-uniforms>.

## IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Identification cards expire five (5) years after issue and no expiration warning or update is provided. The security team at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) checks the back of the card for the expiration date and will always refuse entry to the Base if the card is expired. Cycle time for card replacement varies based upon the workload at DIRAUX. For a new card, contact FSO-HR Bruce Perlman at [brucemperlman@gmail.com](mailto:brucemperlman@gmail.com).

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## TRAINING

For all members who were enrolled prior to August 26, 2024, the Suicide Prevention Training Module (Course 100643) must be taken on or before December 31, 2025 (and every five years thereafter).

The following courses must be completed every five years after enrollment:

- Suicide Prevention (100643).
- Sexual Assault Prevention Response and Recovery (502379)
- Security Fundamentals (810030)
- Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information (810015)
- Sexual Harassment Prevention (810000)
- Civil Rights Awareness (502319).

Details on any of the above may be found in Announcement ALAUX 027/24 (released on 26 August 2024).

## WELCOME NEW SHIPMATES

**Paul Bechta**  
**Eliza Brook\***  
**Michelle Collins**  
**Joe Egan**  
**Dan Faivre**  
**Paul Gaffney**  
**Rob Johnson**  
**Jim McGrath**  
**Jake Metcalfe\***  
**Steve Morse**  
**Duncan Pickering\***  
**Eva Warren\***

\*Massachusetts Maritime Academy Auxiliary University Program Unit

**PROUD TRADITIONS**  **WORTHY MISSIONS**





# AUXILIARY UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

On March 16, 2024 CDR Mason Wilcox, Prevention Head for Sector Southeastern New England (SENE) hosted several members of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy's (MMA) Auxiliary University Program (AUP) unit. The visit included tours of the SENE facility and the USCGC HAMMERHEAD, an 87 ft. Marine Protector Class cutter. Russ Gasdia, IPFC Woods Hole Flotilla 11-2 serves as the Auxiliary Unit Liaison Officer for the MMA AUP Unit.



USCGC HAMMERHEAD



USCGC HAMMERHEAD GANGWAY



MMA AUP UNIT



## U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England (SSENE), Woods Hole, Massachusetts

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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 [Bruceemperman@gmail.com](mailto:Bruceemperman@gmail.com) or visit the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary website at [U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary - Join Us](https://www.uscg.org/auxiliary)