

Guardians of the River

Flotilla 014-25-06 South Windsor, CT

Vol. 3 Issue 2

summer 2024



L BOSUN'S C K E R

What is the difference between knots, hitches, and bends? See page 12-13.

Flotilla Leadership

FC-David Marriott

VFC-Wayne Mulligan

IPFC-Neil Shilansky

Flotilla Staff Officers (FSO)

FSO-CM: Mac McCusker Jr.

FSO-CS: Wayne Mulligan

FSO-FN: Stan Barnes

FSO-HR: Bob Carlson

AFSO-HR: Stan Barnes

FSO-IS: Wayne Mulligan

AFSO-IS: Eileen Christensen

FSO-MA: Patrick Benoit

FSO-MT: Gary Magoon

FSO-NS: David Marriott

FSO-OP: Eileen Christensen

FSO-PA: Bob Carlson

FSO-PE: David Marriott

FSO-PV: Neil Shilansky

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FSO-VE: Nicky Chaleunphone

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FSO-DV: Open

FSO-MS: Open

FSO-PB: Open

Editor: Bob Carlson

Guardian of the River is the official electronic only publication of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25-6, South Windsor, CT. to provide articles of interest and information to its members. Comments and submissions consistent with the policies of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary are encouraged. Send an email with your images and a brief description to: Bob Carlson FSO-PA by March 15 (spring), June 15 (summer) Sept 15 (fall) Dec 15 (winter) for inclusion in the next edition.



Message from the Flotilla Commander.

Welcome to our third year-summer issue of Guardians of the River, the newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District 014, Division 25, and Flotilla 06 South Windsor, CT. We are in the middle of the summer boating season and unfortunately, I'm on the disabled list with continued back issues. There are plenty of scheduled activities (both missions and fellowship) for all of us to get involved. Just check out the end of our flotilla agenda for a detailed list and if you have questions please ask. In the meantime, thank you all for your kind wishes and I hope to see you all soon.

Respectively,

David Marriott, Flotilla Commander



Message from the Vice Flotilla Commander

I am very proud to be a member of Flotilla 06, South Windsor and your Vice Flotilla Commander. I appreciate that our officers send in their monthly reports in a timely manner. I also track our hours and see that we are second place in total hours compared to the other flotillas. The interesting fact is that we have 22 members and East Hartford is leading but has over twice that many members. As of this writing, below are total hours of each flotilla in our division. We are looking very good. Keep up the great work,

CT River Gateway 1896.18

E Htfd 2859.03

Mystic 1317.8

New London 1656.22

South Windsor 2513.29

Division total 10,242.52 Year to date

Very Respectfully,

Wayne Mulligan, Vice Flotilla Commander



Message from the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander

A couple of weeks ago, I was on a Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) mission, where I along with three other Aids Verifiers (AVs) checked slow-no-wake buoys and zones along the Connecticut River, to check their location accuracy and also if there was any damage to them

I bring this up because the Connecticut River has a lot of slow-no-wake buoys, and while many boaters slow down when driving through these zones, some do not.

That is why it's so important for us Auxiliarists to remind the boating public about boating safety while conducting Vessel Safety Checks, Program Visits, and/or Public Affairs events.

The boating public can help us and the boating community by participating in America's Waterway Watch (AWW) and calling or emailing the Coast Guard or local authorities whenever they see boats or jet skis zooming through these slow-no-wake zones, if there are too many aboard a vessel, or if something just doesn't see safe.

Call 877-24-WATCH to report suspicious activity or if there is immediate danger to life or property, call 911.

Respectfully,

Neil Shilansky,

Immediate Past Flotilla Commander



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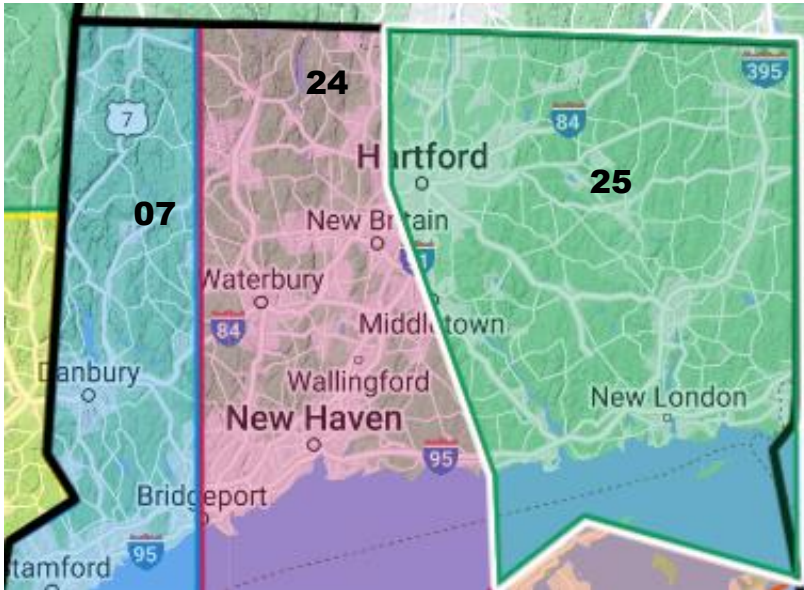
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What is our Area of Responsibility (AOR)?

By David Marriott

Of the 16 Divisions that make up First Southern District, The State of Connecticut is divided into three divisions: Western (07), South Central (24) and ours New London (25). The map below shows the approximate different division AORs from west to east (07, 24 & 25).



The five flotillas in our Division are: Gateway (02), New London (05), Mystic (03), East Hartford (04) and South Windsor (06). There are no clear boundaries or AORs that separate each flotilla, however the 3 southern flotillas consider the shoreline their AORs. The East Hartford flotilla covers East Hartford down to the swing bridge in East Haddam. Our flotilla covers most of northwest Connecticut crossing over to the west side of the Connecticut River, possibly including the Farmington River. (Note: we are the only flotilla in Division 25 with no real active waterway).

Flotilla AORs are most important when it comes to forming relationships with marinas,

boat shops, sporting goods stores etc. Qualified Program Visitors (PV) and Vessel Examiners (VE) have the opportunity to form relationships with these establishments. It's important because most of these places have customer computer lists that can be used to post information to their customers announcing our planned Public Education (PE) classes or VE days.

Some of Division 25's missions don't have AORs, examples include: boat crew, private aids to navigation (PATONs), and bridge inspections. These are scheduled and organized with facility owners or coxswains, depending on what missions they are trying to accomplish. Trainees should know who these owners and coxswains are so you can become more involved.

Public Education (PE) is mostly a Flotilla driven activity, and it is up to the members qualified in Public Affairs (PA), PV and VE to get the message out regarding the PE classes. It's important to get the message out to those shop owners, chain stores, town halls and libraries, (as most of these locations have community bulletin boards and newsletters). Aside from our dues, PE classes are our only source of income.

If you have any questions about what you can or can't do, please do not hesitate to ask your elected or staff officers. Thank you for everything you do for your Flotilla, our Division, the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard and the boating public.



Members in Action



Our meeting minutes are now available on our website and saved for future reference. To access our meeting minutes you need to be logged into “Member Zone”.

[Meeting Minutes \(uscgaux.info\)](http://uscgaux.info)

Fleet Week NYC 2024

Fleet Week set sail in New York City May 21 to May 27, 2024 to honor those who serve and protect the United States seas and Patrick and Selena Benoit (014-25-06) were on docent duty. “We were there Sunday out at Staten Island, giving 10 tours for about 120 visitors on board the USCG Cutter Charles L. Calhoun. (Which is named after the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard)” said Patrick.



Now in its 36th year, this seven-day time-honored tradition for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard to show their stuff the week-long event provides an opportunity for visitors to meet their service members and see firsthand the latest capabilities of today's maritime services. Nearly 2,300 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen were honored at the Hudson River event, which first began in 1988.

Three U.S. Coast Guard vessels, two U.S. Navy ships, and four U.S. Naval Academy Yard Patrol (YP) boats participated, along with two ships from Germany. They include:

From the United States Coast Guard

Bay-class cutter USCGC Sturgeon Bay (WTGB-109) 23-27)

Legend-class cutter USCGC Calhoun (WMSL-759) from Charleston, S. Carolina

Keeper-class coastal buoy tender USCGC Katherine Walker (WLM-552) from Bayonne, New Jersey

From the United States Navy

The USS Bataan (LHD 5) amphibious assault ship from Norfolk, Virginia,

Freedom-class littoral combat ship USS MARINETTE (LCS 25) from Mayport, Florida

Four U.S. Naval Academy YPs, Annapolis, Maryland

From the Federal Republic of Germany

Baden-Württemberg-class frigate FGS Baden-Württemberg (F-222)

Berlin-class replenishment ship FGS Frankfurt am Main (A-1412)



Top left, Patrick and Selena Benoit take a moment to pose with the USCG Cutter Charles L. Calhoun in the back ground. Top r. Patrick from the helicopter pad on board the Calhoun. Below L. Selena welcome visitors on board the USVG Cutter Calhoun.



On patrol at the 2024 Harvard Yale regatta as Harvard won for the first time since 2014

Two Coast Guard Auxiliary facilities (Joe Laudano's **Pasquale** and Ed Pratt's **Aux 420**) were on safety and security patrol at this year's regatta in the Thames River. The Harvard-Yale Regatta is a historic intercollegiate sporting event (the oldest in the country). Teams of rowers race down the Thames River, ending in Gales Ferry. 2024 marks the 157th running of the event, and 171 years since its inaugural year!

Over the years, the Harvard Crimson crews have significantly out-rowed the Yale Bulldogs, 95-58 for varsity races, 77-40 for second varsity and 72-39-1 for freshmen (the 2016 varsity race was declared to have "no result"). The victors always leave their mark: at race's end a rock on the opposite shore is painted in the victor's colors, red for Harvard, blue for Yale.



On patrol Joe Laudanos facility Pasquale featuring 25-02 Joe Laudano Coxswain, and the following boat crew: 25-02 Ken Williams, 25-03 Rick Pianka, and 25-06 Gary Magoon (Picture taken by 25-06 Neil Shilansky also on boat crew for Pasquale)

Left Ed Pratt's facility Aux 420 featuring 070-13-01 member and Coxswain Ed Pratt and 070-13-01 member and boat crew David Green (picture taken by Neil)

On PATON Inspection in the Connecticut River.

July 1, 2024. John Noonan, Joe Laudano, Ken Williams (all from 25-02) and Neil Shilansky (25-06) were on duty inspecting the private aids to navigation (PATONS) slow/no-wake buoys located on the Connecticut river.



John Noonan (front L) on bow watch, Coxswain Joe Laudano (front R) at the helm of his facility Pasquale and Ken Williams calling station.



John Noonan (L) and Joe Laudano debriefing at the end of the mission with a special treat rainbow in the background. Photos by Neil Shilansky



FSO-VE (Vessel Exams)

Flotilla 06 members are always very active in inspecting boats along the Connecticut River and the coast of Long Island Sound. Thinking about becoming VE certified? Email our VE officer Nicky Chaleunphone as he can get you started.

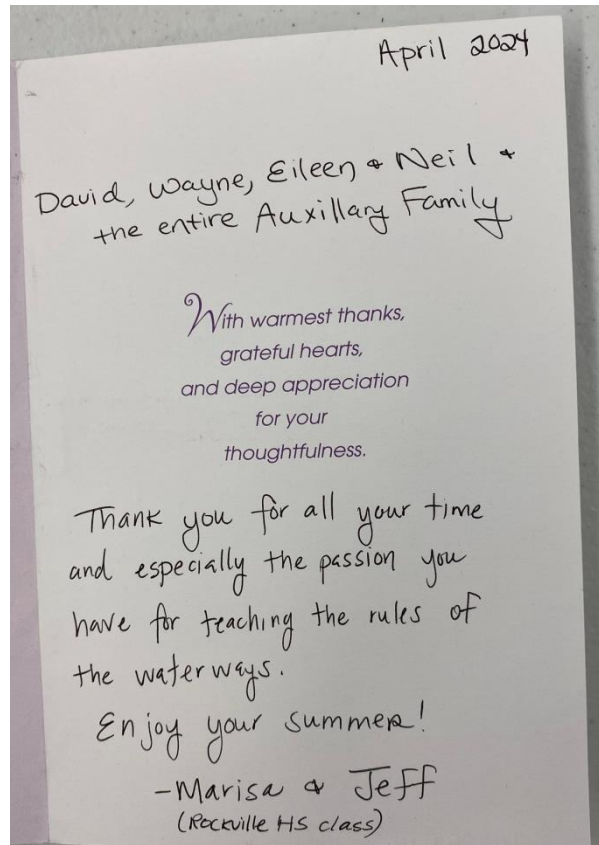
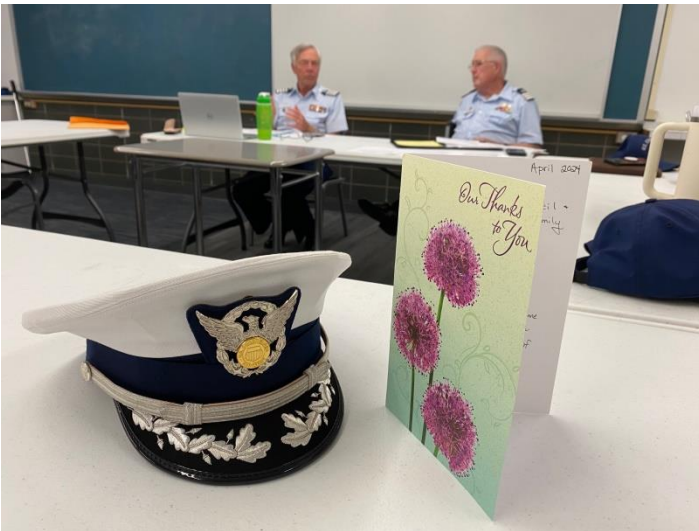
FSO-PV (Program Visitor)

As a program visitor, you would visit marinas, city halls, libraries, boating sales locations etc. If you would like to get involved about becoming PV certified, email our PV officer, Neil Shilansky as he can get you started.

FSO-PE (Public Education)

David Marriott, Wayne Mulligan, Eileen Christensen and Neil Shilansky. team up to teach another popular Boating Safety class...and received a nice "thank you" from appreciative students.

Boat America is a boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a CT boating certificate. The class is taught by certified instructors of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and, with the purchase of your state certificate, will allow you to drive a Personal Water Craft (PWC) or any boat up to 65 feet. Some insurance companies will also offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete this course.





FSO-PA (Public Affairs)



Thank you to all who submitted photos of their activity for this edition of our newsletter. Remember to take a few photos of your activity and send it to me with a brief description. I will include your activity in the next issue of our newsletter. Send to Bob Carlson-rrcarlson1227@sbcglobal.net.

Happenings at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT

143rd Commencement 2024

Two-hundred and twenty-five ensigns graduated and commissioned for service at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Wednesday, May 22. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas delivered the keynote address during the 143rd commencement exercises on Cadet Memorial Field. Mayorkas addressed the cadets. He focused on the class motto: “Stronger Together,” and reminded them of the many duties that lie ahead. “Perhaps you are the most tested and resilient of the 142 classes that came before you,” said Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary. This is one of the most diverse classes in Coast Guard history. About 42-percent of the graduates are women, and five are from out of the country.



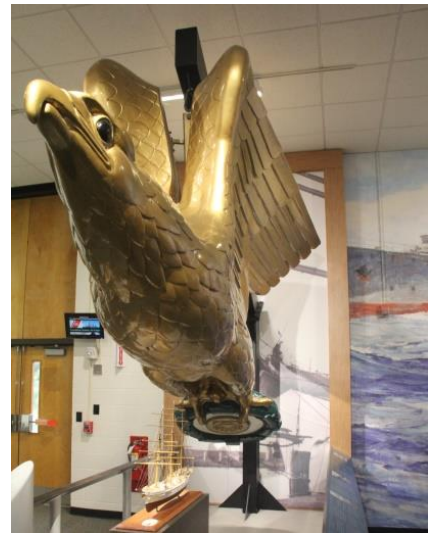
Members of the Auxiliary were on duty driving guests, maintaining traffic control, credentialing and escorting the media and as staff photographer. Above left, at the wheel is Eileen Christensen 25-06.





Standing Watch at the Coast Guard Academy Museum

Auxiliarists stand watch at the academy museum which began in May and will continue every Saturday until the first week of September. We serve as greeters and provide campus information, local directions and even some Coast Guard history. “You never know who might come through the entrance to the museum. In the past I’ve greeted Admirals, Army Generals and a senator or two” said Auxiliarist Bob Carlson – point of contact for the museum.





Awards

From the desks of: Admiral Linda Fagan, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant, The Congress of the United States and The White House POTUS.

Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrates “85th” Anniversary.

By Lt. Chris Booth, USCG Posted June 20, 2024 on www.mycg.uscg.mil



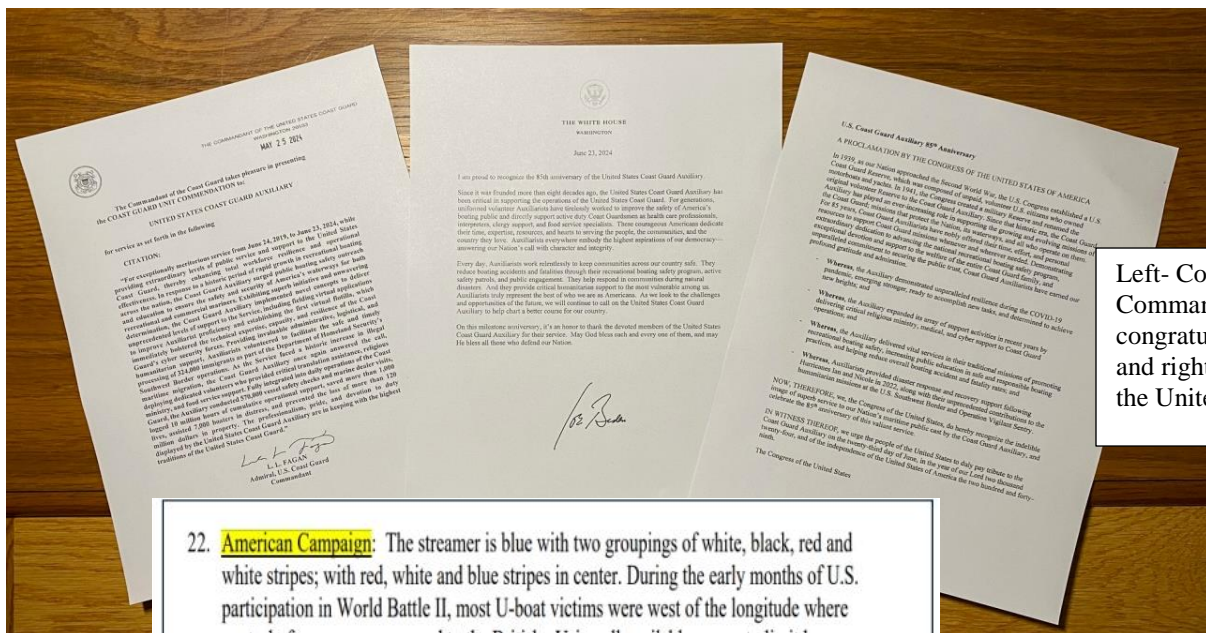
The Coast Guard Unit Commendation ribbon.

The U.S. [Coast Guard Auxiliary](http://www.uscg.mil) celebrated its 85th anniversary with a ceremony held at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. on June 20th, 2024. The ceremony was attended by Coast Guard and Auxiliary leadership and recognized the Auxiliary’s rich history as a primary promoter of recreational boating safety and as an integral force multiplier for Team Coast Guard.

Rear Adm. Wayne Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, served as the presiding official for the ceremony and spoke on the wide variety of contributions the Auxiliary has made to the nation over its 85 year history. Auxiliary National Commodore Gus Formato also provided remarks thanking the hundreds of thousands of Auxiliarists who have volunteered over the eight plus decades and spoke on the exciting future that the organization has in store in the years to come.

The ceremony also included a number of special recognitions to the Auxiliary. In appreciation of the Auxiliary’s service over the last five years, the Auxiliary received a letter from President Joe Biden thanking the organization for its many contributions to the safety of our nation’s waterways. The Auxiliary was also recognized on the floors of Congress, as Representative Nick LaLota (R-NY) read aloud a proclamation that expressed appreciation for Auxiliarists and their dedication to volunteerism. A copy of this proclamation was presented to Auxiliary National Commodore at the ceremony for display in the Chief Director of Auxiliary office at Coast Guard Headquarters. In recognition of the Auxiliary’s commitment to service of America’s boating public and augmentation efforts of Coast Guard missions, Rear Adm. Arguin also presented to the Auxiliary, on behalf of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, a Coast Guard Unit Commendation.

Finally, the ceremony was concluded with a very special recognition, as the Auxiliary was presented with the American Campaign Streamer (below). This streamer recognizes those that helped protect and defend the United States during World War II, and brings light to the Auxiliary which provided national defense support during the early stages of that conflict following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in December 1941. Rear Adm. Arguin, on behalf of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, affixed this streamer to the Coast Guard Auxiliary flag, which is now authorized to display this streamer on its organizational flag.



Left- Commendation from the Commandant, center - congratulations from POTUS and right- proclamation from the United States Congress

- 22. **American Campaign:** The streamer is blue with two groupings of white, black, red and white stripes; with red, white and blue stripes in center. During the early months of U.S. participation in World Battle II, most U-boat victims were west of the longitude where control of convoys was passed to the British. Using all available means to limit losses, Admiral King, CNO, formed Hunter-Killer groups which included numerous Coast Guard small craft and cutters.



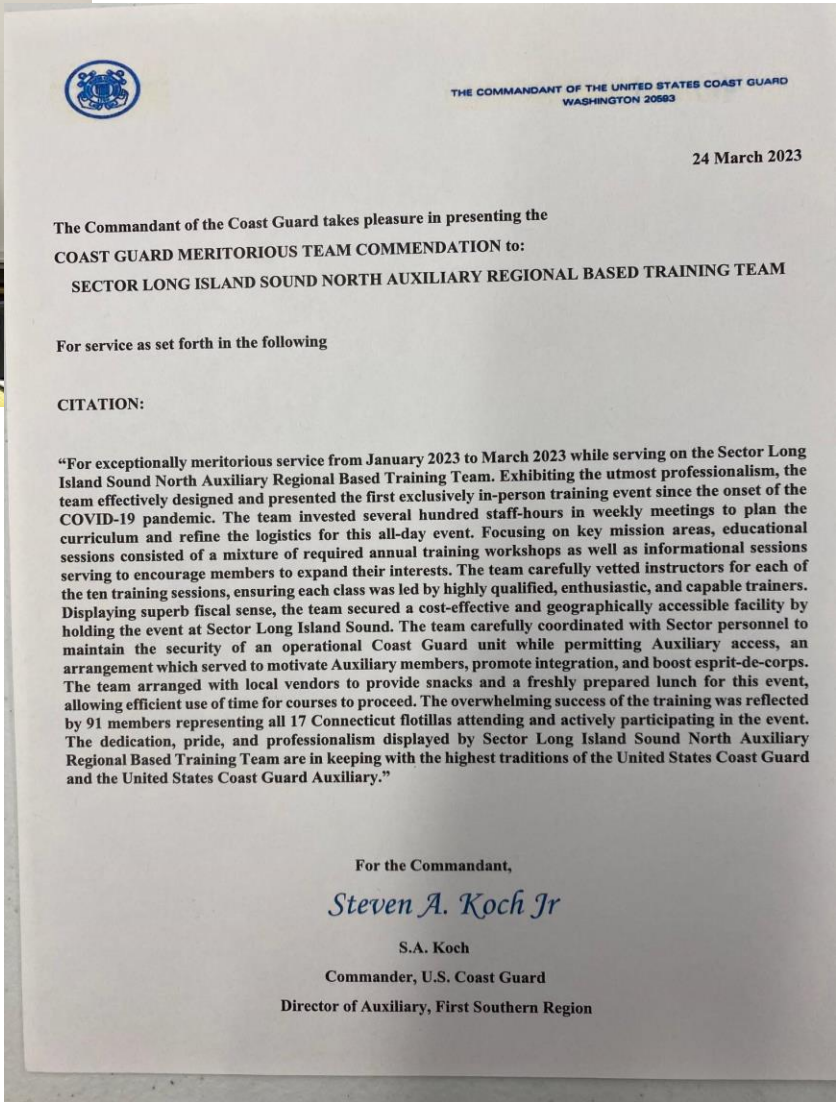


Team Commendation

Flotilla Commander, David Marriott presents the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation to Wayne Mulligan VFC 014-24-06. Wayne, as part of the Sector Long Island Sound North Auxiliary Regional Based Training Team, created the first exclusively in-person training event.



Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon





Flotilla Officer's Wardroom

This is a new feature to explore various offices within our flotilla.

The Flotilla Staff Officer of Program Visitors will exercise staff responsibility and supervision over all Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program matters, will maintain close liaison with the Division Officer of the Program Visitor program (SO-PV), and will coordinate and cooperate with the FSO-MT to encourage and increase the number of qualified program visitors. This officer will make and maintain close contact with local community partners, current records of visitations, plan and perform workshops, member PV training, and ensure that all forms for PV are correctly completed and promptly forwarded.

The FSO-PV reports monthly to the FVC (flotilla vice commander), checks periodically that all qualified program visitors conduct their annual required recreational boating safety visits of four (4) per visitor, and that each PV does not lose their qualification status as a result. He or she will formulate and execute a plan to ensure all community Partners are covered, that they receive an updated schedule of PE courses and VSC stations in their area. Partners should receive handouts on these PE and VE programs and any USCG provided materials.



Training and Development

Welcome new members to our team.

The Basic Qualification Course II

Congratulations! You have just joined a very special organization.

The Importance of the Basic Qualification Course.

Auxiliary members who are familiar with the customs, traditions, and history of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, understand our Missions and Programs, the organizational structure, the policies and regulations that guide us, and understand the protocols and uniform wear will be far better prepared to serve the Coast Guard than less knowledgeable members. In addition, Auxiliary members need to have the same training as the Coast Guard with regard to ethics, civil rights, privacy, and security (specifically addressed in our Core Training).

You can access this course through the **Auxiliary Classroom**. The **Auxiliary Classroom** is where you will find a significant amount of advanced online training. It also tracks your training activities so you can better document your accomplishments.

Follow this link to access the Basic Qualification Course within the Auxiliary Classroom. Remember to visit the **Enrollment Key Page** on this site to get the key you will need to enroll in this course.

[The Basic Qualification Course II \(uscgaux.info\)](http://uscgaux.info)



Auxiliary in Action-10 years ago. Late Summer 2014

Auxiliarists help out at this year's Stand Down.

For the third year in a row, Coast Guard Auxiliarists, from Division 25 were on location at the Veterans' "Stand Down" at the State Veterans Home Campus in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, September 12, 2014. David Marriott, Bill Bowen, Eileen Christensen, Bill Munson, Bill Hancock, Duncan Gifford, Kyle Knickerbocker and Bob Carlson were on duty to help with parking, directions, information, cooking, serving lunch and clean up.

The Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs in Rocky Hill had more than 1,000 veterans attend this year's Stand Down. Federal and state agencies, as well as local businesses and corporations, provided free services, assistance and information on topics such as employment, housing, health care, social services and legal services-all at one location.



Phillip Hansley, Chef at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home (and retired Air Force) takes a moment to pose with auxiliary member David Marriott. David worked throughout the kitchen helping to prepare the 1000 lunches consisting of baked chicken, baked beans, corn, bread, a wide variety of drinks and cookies.



Bill Bowen directs vehicles at the Veteran's parking lot.



Eileen Christensen and Bill Munson are greeted by United States Senator from Connecticut Richard Blumenthal as other event volunteers look on. Eileen and Bill managed the information tent helping veterans navigate through the many services available at the 2014 Stand Down.



Bill Bowen assists a few veterans into the shuttle van. Shuttle service was available to all parking lots.

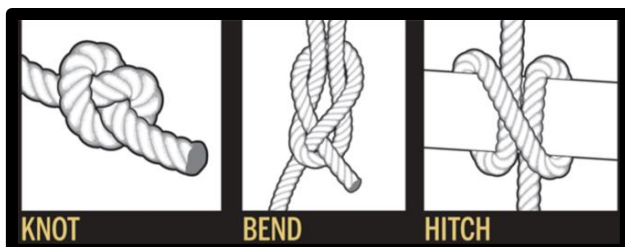


Duncan Gifford (4th from the right) stands with other servers as lunch begins at the 2014 Veterans' Stand Down.

Photos by Bob Carlson- SO-PA
Sept 14, 2014

BOSUN'S LOCKER

The three basic categories of tying off a line or rope. Knots, Hitches, and Bends



The term knot is used generically to cover knots, hitches, and bends. It was done so here. Technically, knots, hitches and bends are structurally different and serve different purposes. In addition, the three types of knots indicate three basic knot tying situations. The rope is fasten to another object (i.e. hitch). It is fasten to another rope (i.e. bend). Or it is a self-supporting knot in the rope that creates a loop or serves some other function. Along with principles and definitions, the three types of knots are used as the organizational structure and headings in this section.



Principles and Definitions

Knot – The critical element in determining a knot is that when tied, it is self-contained and self-supporting. A simple overhand knot or figure-8 knot is self-supporting in that the configuration of the knot and how it is tied supports itself as a knot. Unlike a hitch, a knot does not need another rope or object to maintain the integrity of its configuration. Unlike a bend, a knot doesn't need another rope to maintain the integrity of its configuration when two ropes are tied together.

Also, it should be noted that the term knot is often the generic term used for hitches and bends much like Zerox ® is synonymous with copying and used interchangeably with all copying. Similarly, Kleenex is synonymous with tissue paper and used interchangeably with it. So generic is the use of knot as part of the nomenclature, obvious hitches such as the water knot, grapevine knot, or barrel knot are actually called knots. This section recognizes the difference between knots, hitches, and bends. It is structured along these distinctions. However, the term knot is used generically and interchangeably with hitch and bends.

Hitch – Without another rope or object to assist in maintaining its integrity and configuration, a hitch will fall apart. In this respect, a hitch is not self-contained nor is it self-supporting. Without a peg or object, a clove hitch will fall apart. The same is true for a Prusik which is listed under the hitches. It needs another rope to tie and to maintain its integrity and configuration.

Bends – Bends are used to tie two ropes together. The water knot is used to tie two the two ends of webbing together to create a sling. Also, the water knot is labeled as a knot rather than a bend indicating the confusion often associated with the terms used.

By Robert B. Kauffman Professor of Recreation and Parks Management, Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD 21532. e: rkauffman@frostburg.edu.

