



The Flotilla Times

28 February 2025

The Chapel Hill Flotilla News

4th Edition

AUP in the Action USCG Station Emerald Isle



This past Friday, our Auxiliary University Program had the opportunity to visit a US Coast Guard Station located in Emerald Isle, N.C. Organized by Landon Draper, VFC and former AUP intern of Emerald Isle, he was accompanied by Megan Aljian, NC State student, Brady Aygun, Appalachian State student, and Atkins Hodshon, UNC Chapel Hill student.

This was the first experiences at an active station for most of the AUP students, and a terrific introduction to the Auxiliary for Hodshon, who had only found out about the Auxiliary days before.

University Program contingent stand aboard a 45' Response Boat
(Left to right: Atkins Hodshon, Megan Aljian, Landon Draper, Brady Aygun

Hodshon, who had only found out about the Auxiliary days before.

The day started dark and early for the students as they drove several hours before the sun had even rose to make it to the station by late morning. When they arrived, they were given a tour of the facility. While on the tour they met Chief Susan, an Auxiliarist who frequently stands watch at the station. She was made an honorary Chief Petty Officer after being nominated by the crew of Emerald Isle. She showed the AUP students how to operate the various equipment, shared stories of the things she has experienced while on watch, and how to utilize paper charts. She also shared information on the qualifications needed to stand watch at a station for those in the Auxiliary.

The station utilizes two 45' Response Boat - Medium for majority of their operation, with their single 27' Response Boat - Small allowing them to reach shallow areas due to its 13" draft, according to the vessel coxswain.

The team was also shown the various rest and recreation spaces of the station before joining the crew for lunch. Over lunch, station Officer in Charge, Chief MacDougall answered all the questions from the Auxiliarists with topics ranging from leadership, enlistment, various rates in the Coast Guard, and types of operations conducted.

After lunch the students got underway aboard the 27' Response Boat, joining the crew in an Area of Responsibility patrol. They were shown different locations of interest within the AOR, aids to navigation, and even spotted dolphins while underway. The crew demonstrated how to steer the vessel and the types of knots needed while underway.

Getting out on the water was very exciting and the focal point of the trip was the favorite moment for the students, as well as hearing about active duty experiences. While the stations Chief had some information regarding the process for those seeking commission and leadership in the active duty Coast Guard, he also provided information regarding the enlistment process and the opportunities enlisting can provide. Overall our students came away more knowledgeable about Coast Guard operations, making them even more prepared for their futures in the Auxiliary as a result.

"Now hear this"

Messages from leadership and staff

FC

Kim Isaacs

Upcoming dates and events to be aware of:

9-Train

- When: 22 March 2025
- Where: Soapstone Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC

Navigation Systems C-School

- When: 11-13 April, 2025
- Where: Training Center Yorktown, Yorktown, VA
- For those interested, find more information [here](#)

Division 09 Day

- When: 17 May 2025
- Municipal Boat Docks, Clarksville, VA

Dates of Interest

D-Train


- When: April 10-13, 2025
- Where: Marriott Shortpump, Glenn Allen, VA
- What: Courses on Flotilla leadership and public affairs

Member Spotlight:

Genet Hutcheson

While no longer a member of the Auxiliary, few members have had as much of an effect on this flotilla as Genet Hutcheson. Joining the Auxiliary in 1975, Hutcheson proudly spent 48 years dedicated to service in the Auxiliary, as she retired in September of 2023. She joined flotilla 09-08 while discussing it with her husband, also a member of the flotilla who had joined a year earlier.

Hutcheson proudly served in multiple areas the Auxiliary provides assistance in. She most often served in Public Education and Operations areas, and taught a safe boating class at Central Carolina Community College. She also frequently appeared in leadership capacities, holding many flotilla staff positions as well as an office on the division level. Alongside the variety of positions in which she served, she also served on Change of Watch committees seven times, a rare and valuable honor to ensure successful continuation of Auxiliary leadership.



Genet Hutcheson receiving her fifth service award upon reaching 3750 hours of service

During her 48 years of service to the Auxiliary, Genet Hutcheson held nine different offices, holding them at both the flotilla and division level. The highest office in which Hutcheson served was Finance Officer at the Division level. In this role she helped to oversee the financial mission for all 054-09 flotillas. This was a continuation of the same role she held on the flotilla level, where she served as Finance Officer for Flotilla 054-09-08. The finance field was not the only position in which she served the flotilla, however. She also served as Flotilla Staff Officer in the areas of secretary of records, vessel examination, marine dealer visits, public affairs, and human relations. She also served as both Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander during her tenure as an Auxiliarist. Through these variety of roles, she contributed over 3500 hours to the Auxiliary, raising awareness and educating boaters and likely saving many lives.

After incredible amounts of devotion to the Auxiliary, Hutcheson now enjoys her retirement. She proudly continues her past time of power boating, in which she was remained accident free for over 50 years. She passes on her wisdom and habits of boating safety to her two sons and five grandchildren. Her time now is spent caring for Stan, gardening, reading, and visiting relatives in Winston-Salem, N.C. While she misses the community and company of the Auxiliary, she is enjoying her long deserved retirement after her incredible contributions to the causes of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

District and Division News

- The quarterly publication that covers Auxiliary affairs has been published. You can view it [here](#).
- Utilize the brand new, interactive uniform guide. You can access it [here](#).
- Check you Aux Directory periodically to ensure your contact information is correct, especially with recent natural disasters making accountability checks more likely

Flotilla News

- All are welcome at the upcoming Flotilla meeting on March 13th, the second Thursday of the month. It will be held at Bru's Public House in Carrboro, NC. The meeting will begin at 1900, but all are welcome to arrive earlier to enjoy some food and drink. You can also tune in to the meeting via the Zoom link that will be emailed out by Kim shortly before 1900.
- The flotilla is currently putting together all unused uniforms and insignia, reach out to Ron Craig if you have any unused items you wish to pass on to other members.