

# Chesapeake Chatter

## Division 23 5SR



Picture was taken on the Spirit of Baltimore during a Maritime Active Threat Exercise. L – R is LCDR Hill, CDR Concepcion, Roy Culley, Commander (CDR) Bendle and Chief Eldridge  
Photo by Mark Campbell



Docking Contest at the Waterman's Appreciation Days in St. Michael's MD.  
Photo by Don Parker



National Night Out at Long Beach, MD.  
Corporal Moran and Kano and St. Leonard's Fire truck

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter



It's with a heavy heart that I announce that our division experienced two of our esteemed Auxiliary members cross the bar in July within weeks of each other; Phil Wentz and Walter Discenza (retired). They will be missed, please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers. We have highlighted

their contributions to the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary and Division 23 and they both are featured in this edition of the Chatter.

"Farewell, shipmate Farewell, Fair winds and following seas forever"

As the FY22 Division 23 boating season quickly approaches the end of the summer, we must continue to focus our attention on our Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) and Operational mission critical objectives. This summer, Division 23 Flotillas engaged in a record number of activities as compared to last time this year. Some the RBS activities included Public Affairs, Public Education, Vessel Safety Checks, check rides with a qualification examiner certifying new boat crew, virtual safe boating courses and program visits abound. John Krogman sent a note and is so very pleased with the progress of the RBS program for July 2022, our numbers were on the rise again! Our RBS missions were greater than 2000 and VSC were 1946. Members engagement with Active Duty has been increasing and steady.

Our division had an outstanding performance with the accountability drill and is trending up from the last one in the previous quarter. Out of 184 Auxiliary members 168 responded timely. That's an 87-percentile response rate! In cases where there were no responses, please reach out to those members by phone, email, or certified mail for documentative purposes. Hurricane season is quickly approaching, so keep up the good work!

I'd like to recognize Leonard Butler for leading our AUXDATA II improvement team with a series of triage meetings to help improve AUXDATA II data

entry. Auxiliarist Butler was able to reduce the backlog of entries by 75% within 30 days of launching the working group. Due to this outstanding work, we will be suspending the triage sessions and focus more on outreach and continued training within the individual Flotillas. The purpose of the AUXDATA Improvement team is to develop a communication & training plan, streamlined process improvement recommendations based on the need of our Flotillas. I'd like to personally thank Barry Cohen and Steve Klein for stepping up and helping our division. They are credited with assisting our division tremendously to eliminate over 500 backlog entries when we assumed office and they participated as a member of our AUXDATA II improvement team.

Division elections are around the corner and the 2022 Division 23 election for Division Commander and Vice Commander will be conducted virtually on 6 Oct 2022. As Division 23 Flotillas plan their elections in November, please be reminded to notify us of the dates so that we can schedule them accordingly. Flotilla Commanders should be working on their staffing and succession plans for 2023. In 2023, we will be attempting to conduct a in person Change of Watch with a virtual component. Plans are underway to form a Change of Watch Committee. We anticipate that the live event will be at Renditions Golf Course.

#### In staffing news

LT Andrew Lauf completed his three-year assignment at Sector MD National Capital Region (SM-NCR) on 1 July. Nicholas Lomangino, District Captain for SM-NCR and John Fewer, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator attended a 1 July ceremony, hosted by Sector Deputy CDR J. Bendle at Curtis Bay. To recognize LT Lauf's many accomplishments during his 2019 to 2022 assignment at Curtis Bay. Nick and John presented a plaque to LT Lauf, on behalf of the SM-NCR Auxiliary members, to thank and recognize the guidance and leadership that he provided to the Auxiliary during his 3-year assignment. Bosun Joshua Motta has replaced LT Lauf as the SM-NCR Auxiliary Liaison Officer.

Continued on page 4— see DCDR

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## 2022 Board & Staff

DCDR: Margaret Butler

VCDR: Mark Campbell

IPDCDR: Willie Witters

### **23-1 - Annapolis**

David Sire, Flotilla Commander

David Stadler, Vice Flotilla Commander

### **23-2 - Solomons**

Phil DeMarais, Flotilla Commander

George Weston, Vice Flotilla Commander

### **23-3 – West Annapolis**

India Ochs , Flotilla Commander

Kirby Garland, Vice Flotilla Commander

### **23-4 – South River**

Paul Feinburg, Flotilla Commander

James Regensburg, Vice Flotilla Commander

### **23-6 – Drum Point**

Tom Hardisty, Flotilla Commander

Steve Birchfield, Vice Flotilla Commander

### **23-7 – Herring Bay**

Brian Shrift, Flotilla Commander

Chris Jensen, Vice Flotilla Commander

### **Division Staff**

O-CM - Jim Welday

SO-CS - Steven Hildebrand

SO-DV - Mace Coleman

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Leonard Butler

SO-MA -Christopher Jensen

SO-MS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-MT - Ray Feller

SO-NS - Alberto DeCapitani

SO-OP - Jim Farrell

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Mark Bertacchi

SO-PV - Ron Price

SO-SR - Susan Casler

SO-VE - Kirby Garland

## Table of Contents

Division Commanders Article.....	2
New members.....	4
Awards.....	4
Member's Corner.....	5
FSO-SRs receive CG Meritorious Team Award.....	6
Phil Wentz Crosses the Bar.....	7
23-7 Presents Donna Wentz Daniels with Remembrance.....	8
Walt Discenza Crosses the Bar.....	8
Paul Deafenbaugh honors Phil Wentz.....	9
USCG Open House at Station Annapolis.....	9
Maritime Active Threat Exercise.....	10
Auxiliary Thanks Lt. Lauf.....	11
The Dynamic & Changing Era of DI and E.....	12
Division members receive unit award.....	13
FY22 Patrol Order Closeout.....	13
FY 21 Patrol Order Reimbursement.....	14
Boatyard Bargains.....	15
NACO 3 Star Award.....	15
Division supports National Night Out.....	16
A Night on the Bay.....	17
Auxiliary Participates in Waterman's Day.....	18
Resumption of In-Person C– Schools.....	18
Auxiliary Supports CG Emergency Mangement..	19
83rd Birthday of the Auxiliary.....	20
Changes to on-line resources.....	21

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15 October 2022

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor: Connie Cosgrove at [cjcosgrove@earthlink.net](mailto:cjcosgrove@earthlink.net)

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

## National First Place Division Newsletter

DCDR—continued from page 2

District Commodore Allen Fredd has appointed Barbara Allen as our new District Staff Officer for Information Systems (IS) and Steve Klein has been appointed as our Assistant District Staff Officer for IS.

I'd like to welcome James "Jim" Farrell as our newly appointed Staff Officer for Operations (SO-OP). Auxiliarist Farrell is a distinguished and skilled coxswain and has a tremendous wealth of experience as Flotilla Staff Officer for Operations for Flotilla 23-01. Jim will be a welcome addition to our team to help us accomplish the critical mission of boating safety.

As we look to the fall months it a great opportunity to assess your skill currency and qualifications. There will be **V-Train on September 23-25** and there are over 47 opportunities to refresh and train to maintain your current qualification. By popular demand, Division 23 will host its bootcamp in February 2023. Qualified Instructors are needed for both events. Contact Barry Rice, ADSO-MT at aux0541006@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer to facilitate any of the trainings.

*Margaret Butler*  
DCDR

### New Members



Since the last issue of the Chatter the following members have joined us. Please welcome them and give them any assistance you can.

Susan Rosche, James Barnes, John Elstner, and Joseph Meiklejohn – 23:1  
Marie Sweeney – 23-2

### Awards

The following members have earned awards during the calendar year 2022 to date. Congratulations

#### Auxiliary Sustained Service Award

23-7

Robin Ainsworth, 1<sup>st</sup> award and Joseph Distifano, 1<sup>st</sup> award

23-6

Ray Feller, 11<sup>th</sup> award, Mark Campbell, 8<sup>th</sup> award and Tom Hardisty, 5<sup>th</sup> award

23-2

George Weston, 1<sup>st</sup> award

23-1

Margaret Butler, 6<sup>th</sup> award, Leonard Butler, 2<sup>nd</sup> award, Doug Casler, 1<sup>st</sup> award, Susan Casler, 1<sup>st</sup> award, David Sire, 2<sup>nd</sup> award and Richard Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup> award

#### Instructor

Jonathan Lambert, 23-1

Joseph Distefano, 23-7

**Membership Service Award** – this award is given for every five years of membership

5 years

Philip Goldberg, Tam Cragg, and Darian Pringle

10 years

Bryan Teague and James Jefferson

15 years



Right: Robin Ainsworth and Brian Shrift FC, 23-7

Left: Joe Distefano And Brian Shrift, FC 23-7

Jim Farrell and Mark Campbell



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## Members Corner

George Weston, 23-2 Vice Flotilla Commander

George Weston is a fairly new member to the Auxiliary. He has been a member for over a year and a half, and we appreciate his dedication. He was introduced to the Auxiliary by having a vessel safety check in Southern Maryland provided by member Jerry Davit. They got to talking about education and training opportunities and one thing led to another and here he is today!

A man of many talents, this member of 23-02 currently dons many hats in the Auxiliary. He is currently the Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) of Flotilla 23-02, Solomons Island. He is also Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Member Training, Public Affairs (PA), and Public Education. He is certified as a vessel examiner and program visitor, and a certified instructor. Currently he is working to complete his boat crew training and ATON Verifier for his Flotilla.

Recently retired, he served our nation as a Marine for 25 years of service and then as a defense contractor for another 23 years. As a member of the Marine Corps, he was also an instructor in radar maintenance, repairing long range air surveillance and communications. He enjoys being busy and these occupations in service and Auxiliary provided motivation and purpose.

Currently he teaches monthly boating safety classes for the Solomons Island Yacht Club as well as at the Leonardtown Library. George says "I enjoy the public interaction and focus that comes with teaching and find it very rewarding. The platform provides an invaluable experience and as instructors we get to field a lot of questions about recreational boating safety. There is always the lay work of prepping your audio-visual equipment, reviewing training materials or developing lesson plans, but it is worth it knowing that I am making boaters safer on the water."

George continues by saying "In June I was interviewed by the Southern Maryland

newspaper, Southern Maryland News. They wanted an article about public education training and Flotilla 23-02 was a perfect fit. As the year moves ahead, we have developed more community outreach initiatives. During National Safe Boating Week, we had the St Mary's County Commissioners issue a safe boating proclamation. On 18 June we held a PA event at the St. Mary's Historic City Beerfest event focused on boating safety. Later, in October, the St Clements Island Blessing of the Fleet and the National Oyster Festival will be big events in our area of responsibility that we plan to support and participate in. The Oyster Festival attracts over 17,000 people from all over the country. I have arranged with District to have the Coastie mascot appear at both events. Public Affairs and other interests like helping shipmates getting certified in training competencies or public education are some of the best benefits and rewards for being in the Auxiliary.

The biggest challenges we have today across the Auxiliary is reyear, rework, and motivation. Currently about half of our flotilla is active, and the other half are voting members that pay dues, but don't participate in flotilla events or meetings. This places a large burden on the active members to maintain a rigorous tempo. This group of active members conduct vessel safety checks, program visits, teach boating safety, support PA events, participate in recruiting events, and attend our bi-weekly Officers' Call and monthly Flotilla meetings. It's tough to maintain an active tempo while avoiding burnout. I believe the best solution is to actively recruit new members and grow our flotilla. We have extended an olive branch to area high schools and libraries to aide in our recruitment efforts in St Mary's County. Of course, we always try to recruit whenever interacting with the public. We also are increasing our social activities and sometimes tie them in with Auxiliary activities. For example, the last time we did our Flotilla semiannual inspection for Personal Protective Equipment, we had a BBQ at the Flotilla Commander's house. It will take

Continued on page 6—see Weston

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

Weston—continued from page 5

time for these efforts to root and take off, but you have to start somewhere.

The past two years COVID pandemic really hurt our Auxiliary. Membership declined significantly and member interest suffered due to the inability to perform our mission and to hold social events. This year, we have started meeting in public and have significantly ramped up our public interaction. We have three members in the Boat Crew training program and will have our first facility approved in July.

Auxdata II has been a major challenge. As a new management system, it is taking a large effort to train our members in its use. The user interface is somewhat complicated and many of our members don't have the computer skills to reliably enter data by themselves. Of all the Management Information Systems I have been affiliated with in my career the primary goal is that it has to be user friendly and involve a lot of interaction with members to collect information that is useful to its users. Our current Auxdata II system needs to meet that criterion to be successful. If members find it too hard to enter data into Auxdata II, the reports and statistics it provides will not be accurate and perhaps even misleading. As frequently said, "garbage in - garbage out". Our flotilla is working to encourage and assist our members in getting their activities into Auxdata II.

As my time with the Auxiliary unfolds and grows, I plan on continually being involved, rendering my talents, and dedicate my services to where they will be beneficial, and I am excited with the possibilities.

*Mark Campbell*

Vice Division Commander and Interviewer

Flotilla Staff Officers Secretary of Records received the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

Flotilla Staff Officers for Secretary of Records (FSO-SR) received the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation for their work on the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team.

The citation reads: "For exceptionally meritorious service from January 2022 to April 2022 while serving as a member of the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team. Charged with utilizing and critically evaluating the prototype Form 7017, Unit Meetings, the Team exercised outstanding organizational expertise and tactical critique skills along with a significant commitment to serving as a member of the team. The prototype was developed to improve the content and consistency of approved unit minutes and to ease the preparation and submission process. As part of the project, Team members utilized the prototype form in lieu of the traditional Form 7017 and provided valuable suggested improvement feedback to the Auxiliary's National Working Group which was tasked with developing a new Form 7017 for use throughout the Auxiliary. As a result of the Team's thorough evaluation and suggested improvements, the prototype Form 7017 has been adopted for use throughout the Fifth District Southern Region's Flotillas and Divisions and by the District. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary." Signed for the Commandant – John D. Block, Commander, US Coast Guard, Director of the Auxiliary

Division members who directly participated in the pilot: Susan Casler, 23-1; Delores Latham, 23-02; Dorothy Neiman, 23-03; FC Phil Feinberg, 23-04; Tam Le Cragg 23-04; Connie Cosgrove, 23-06; and Robin Ainsworth, 23-07.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## Phil Wentz Crosses the Bar

On July 14, fellow Auxiliarist Philip Wentz passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. He had suffered with a variety of illnesses over the last few years and was still struggling with acute respiratory problems. Three days before his passing, he was still attending to Auxiliary duties and even participating in a virtual 23-7 Flotilla meeting giving his operations officer report to the membership.

Phil's life was defined by service, beginning as a boy in the Sea Scouts. He served in the US Navy.



Paul Zunno, Phil Wentz, and Ray Feller, Communications State of the Union Address

Phil became a member on 26 April 1974. To say that Phil was one of the best Auxiliarist's in our District

would be a gross understatement. In his 48 years supporting the organization he performed almost every job imaginable. He was Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 15-3 in 1975 and 1976. He was the Division Staff Officer (SO) for Communications in 1977 and 1980. In 1979 he was SO for Growth and Retention which is now Human Resources. In 1982 and 1989 Phil held the position of Division Vice Captain (now Division Vice Commander). He was elected to Division Captain in 1990 and 1991. In 1993 Phil served as SO Materials from June to May. Phil also filled the SO position for member training in 1981, 1985-1988 and again in 1992. In 1994, Phil became the Operations staff office and held that staff position until his passing. Phil was appointed to the District Staff Officer for Operations in 2022. Phil was also serving as the District Auxiliary Qualifications Examiner Coordinator (AQEC) for Sector MD-NCR.

As of 2022, Phil has been engaged in operations for the duration of his Auxiliary service and includes over 767 surface patrol hours, and 2,567+ administrative operational support hours, most of

which were as a Watchstander at Sector Baltimore. Phil has logged 14,170+ mission hours which averages 300 hours per year for 48 years of service.



DCO Roy Wallace presents Phil Wentz with award

Phil received many awards during his Auxiliary career. He received the Auxiliary Commendation Award five times, the CG Unit Commendation

four times, CG Meritorious Team Commendation four times, Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award, the Department of Transportation Outstanding Unit Award, CG Bicentennial Unit Commendation, Transportation 9-11 award, Presidential Unit Citation, a special operations service ribbon, and many services awards in operations and public education. In 2021, he received the prestigious Auxiliary Lifetime Award at the National V-Train Award meeting.

Phil was always the "go to" guy whenever the 5<sup>th</sup> District Southern Region required coordinating Auxiliary support; especially in running events like the Whitbread/Volvo Around the World sailboat races, various regattas and speedboat races on the Chesapeake Bay, as well as any special maritime activities that occurred such as the Blue Angels flyover for the Naval Academy graduation, to name just a few. Phil was instrumental in organizing the operations portion of the cruise to Norfolk for the Auxiliary's 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary conferences.

He was the embodiment of honor, respect and devotion to duty as well as being the backbone of his Flotilla and an inspiration to all his shipmates, especially the younger members. He remained devoted to duty despite any obstacle thrown his way, whether it be the limitations that come with age or even the passing of his wife after many decades of marriage.

Continued on page 4—see Wentz

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

Wentz—continued from page 3

His many hours spent at the Search and Rescue Center at Curtis Bay, Maryland supporting those activities led to a number of successful lifesaving rescues on the Chesapeake Bay over the years.

*Margaret Butler*

Division Commander

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

*Frank Voltaggio*

FSO-PB 23-7

## 23-7 Presents Donna Wentz Daniels with Remembrance



Members of 23-7 presented Phil Wentz's daughter, Donna with an oar in his

remembrance following his celebration of life service on 10 August. The inscription on the oar read:

***Phil Wentz, Flotilla 23-7***

***Exceptional Commitment, Teamwork and Devotion To Duty in support Of the USCG***

***Always in our thoughts and prayers***

***Semper Paratus***

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

*Margaret Butler,*

DCDR and Photographer

Pictured are Jose Pena de La Guardia, Donna Daniels and John Fewer, SM-NCR Auxiliary Sector Coordinator

## Walter Discenza Crosses the Bar



Walt Discenza (retired) crossed the Bar on Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

Walt joined the US Coast Guard Auxiliary on June 30, 2003.

He served in many capacities both elected and appointed leadership roles. Over his auxiliary career, he held the positions of Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Communication Services (CS), Division Communications (SO-CS), FSO for Program Visits, Vice Flotilla Commander, and Flotilla Commander

Walt was a coxswain, AUXOP, Instructor, Vessel Examiner and Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor. During his time in the Auxiliary, Walt was a member of Flotillas 23-01 and 23-03 before retiring in 2020. Walt offered his boat "Tinka Toy" as a Coast Auxiliary operational facility earning over 13,063 mission hours, before relocating to Georgetown, Texas to be closer to family.

Auxiliarist Discenza received numerous recognitions and awards which included the Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation, three CG Unit Commendation Awards, two CG Meritorious Commendations, the Auxiliary Achievement Awards, 11 Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards, and annual service awards in operations and public education,

*"Farewell, shipmate Farewell, Fair winds and following seas forever"*

*Margaret Butler,*

DCDR

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## Paul Deafenbaugh plays TAPS to honor Phil Wentz

On August 11 Auxiliarist Paul Deafenbaugh served



as a bugler for recently departed Auxiliarist Phil Wentz at the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery. This 24-note bugle call, known as TAPS, is part of military funeral honors for those who have faithfully defended our

country in war and peace. Auxiliarist Deafenbaugh joined the Auxiliary in 1999 and has played for our Central Chesapeake Change of Watch (COW), has served on U.S. Cutters as a trumpeter and electric bass-guitar player, participated in dozens of performances including several changes of commands in the region, retirement ceremonies and concerts for wounded warriors at regional medical centers. In addition to his role during military funerals, Deafenbaugh also sounds the bugle at memorial services, wreath-laying ceremonies, and remembrance events.

Deafenbaugh is a reminder of the full measure of talent, diversity and vocations offered by those who serve as volunteers in the Auxiliary. Auxiliarist Deafenbaugh is a true patriot and a shipmate.

Bravo Zulu!

*Margaret Butler*

DCDR

## U.S. COAST GUARD OPEN HOUSE

Central Chesapeake, Division 054 23 and Flotillas 23-01, 23-02, 23-03, 23-04, 23-06 and 23-07 will support the U.S. Coast Guard Open House hosted at U.S. Coast Guard Station Annapolis on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The purpose and goal of the open house is to have informational booths and displays, several agencies, CG Small boats (TANB and RBS) trailered, a CG Helicopter and a Maryland State Police Helicopter. The open house is open to the general public of all ages and will be a full day of Coast Guard Station Annapolis tours, Coast Guard and Sea Scouts Recruiting Informational Booth as well as Auxiliary Safety Booths with free safe boating literature and opportunities to sign up for the Maryland State Safe Boating courses for the Fall.

### Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Checks

VSC scheduling will be available in advanced. Inspections will be first come first serve on a reservation only basis starting at 9 am and concluding at 2:30 pm. Reservation will be available every 30 minutes further details will be forthcoming.

We are looking for Auxiliary FSO-PE, VE, OP, MA and MS in the Annapolis Area of Responsibility to participate in the open house. For more information on how to get involved, Auxiliary staffing rotation during the event, conduct VSC and general information contact Margaret Butler, (Mbutler@usa.com) and you will be directed to the primary points of contact to get involved.

*Margaret Butler*

DCDR

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## Sector Maryland National Capital Region hosted a Maritime Active Threat Exercise

On 9 August, Sector Maryland National Capital Region (SM-NCR) hosted a maritime active threat exercise on board the Passenger Vessel (P/V) Inner Harbor Spirit of Baltimore.

Volunteers from different agencies including the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Spirit of Baltimore crew, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Maritime Operations Homeland Security, Maritime Police State of Maryland, Baltimore County Fire Department, Police, fire boat, observation boat participated as role players as well as rescuers. Volunteers were stationed throughout the Spirit of Baltimore to augment a controlled scenario of tourist on a normal day out enjoying the scenic ride in the Inner Harbor. With daily events turning violent on the news daily, I imagined this would be an excellent opportunity to witness firsthand issues of being stranded, caught off guard dealing with a crisis situation firsthand and seeing how real time response was handled close up. Now in actuality no one ever imagines it could happen to them, but these day and times one never knows, and a drill exercise is a good opportunity to experience the what if's when confronted with a possible real-life incident such as an active shooter.

### **Communications:**

Everyone was instructed initially that any communications via radio had to emphasize that this was a drill and all communication had to include the phrase, "Exercise, Exercise, Exercise." Because it always best to assume and be prepared and understand someone's always listening on the radio!

### **Safety:**

We were briefed that the main goal was to keep everyone safe and as much as we like to be dramatic it was best to use caution and slow down to avoid any mishaps and to keep everyone secure and returning in the same shape they arrived. We

were also instructed any weapons or things that were deemed possible threats or hazards to this exercise were confiscated by the controller prior to the exercise commencing like pocketknives, blades etc. We as role players were informed not to reach for or grab law enforcement as they preceded on their mission to take down the intruder, once they boarded. Any problems at any point in the exercise would automatically halt the exercise immediately with specific commands.

### **Exercise, Exercise, Exercise**

We were questioned to make sure everyone understood this was an exercise, and as role players our primary responsibility was to be shocked, scared and terrified when confronted with this scenario, or to behave as normally and naturally as possible. This phase of the scenario was a logistical response, and this opportunity was mainly staged for the rescuers to come aboard and take down a shooter. To sweep the areas of the ship deck by deck as safely and quickly as possible until they engaged the active shooter. They knew there would possible be casualties and victims in this crime scene and it was the role players responsibility to present a crisis environment to the response team. Coast Guard mustangs and life Jackets left on decks and in the water simulated the victims of the shooter.

Controllers and evaluators monitored the situation at all times and tried not to interfere with the scenario as much as possible. This simulation drill was performed twice during the day, with emphasis on tactics and success. Debriefing at the conclusion involved everyone. The security forces held separate briefings on the top decks and the role players held a separate briefing below deck. Everyone participated in the participant feedback form evaluation to comment on the good, the bad and the ugly.

All and all I thought it was a good experience and was amazed at all the assets in law enforcement that responded to the on the water emergency scenario. When you could be caught off guard in

Continued on page 6—see drill

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

Drill—continued from page 5

any situation, you really have to understand you have limited options very quickly and you strive to survive. Situational awareness is the key to dealing with scenarios that we could be presented with at any time you leave your home. So, remember always stay safe and calm and if you see something say something.

*Mark Campbell*  
Division Vice Commander



Coast Guard Facility approaching the Spirit of Baltimore during Maritime Active Threat Exercise



Qualification Examiners who worked with Phil Wentz. L—R: Barry Cohan, Jeff Foreman, Stan Green, John Fewer, and Steve Klein.

Photo by Margaret Butler  
DCDR



Auxiliary thanks Lt. Andrew Lauf for his service to the Auxiliary

LT Andrew Lauf, Sector Md National Capital Region (SM-NCR) Auxiliary Coordinator (AUXLO) completed his three-year assignment at SM-NCR on 1 July 2022. Nicholas Lomangino, District Captain SM-NCR, and John Fewer, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) attended a 1 July 2022 ceremony, hosted by Sector Deputy CDR J. Bendle at Curtis Bay. The ceremony recognized LT Lauf's many accomplishments during his 2019 to 2022 assignment at Curtis Bay.

Nick and John presented a plaque to LT Lauf, on behalf of the SM-NCR Auxiliary members, to thank and recognize the guidance and leadership that he provided to the Auxiliary during his assignment

Bosun Joshua Motta has replaced LT Lauf as the SM-NCR AUXLO  
John Fewer  
ASC



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## The Dynamic and changing Era of Diversity, Inclusion & Equity (D&I and E) in the USCGAUX

I am pleased to announce that Division 23, Central Chesapeake earned the 2021, Three Star Award for Diversity Excellence in June 2022 for its exceptional work in D&I and E. The period of performance covers diversity milestones and goals that occurred from January 2021 thru December 2021. This year's award was a consolidated Team recognition effort of Division 23 and Flotillas 23-01, Annapolis; Flotilla 23-02, Solomons; Flotilla 23-03, West Annapolis; Flotilla 23-04, South River; Flotilla 23-06, Drum and Flotilla 23-07 Herring Bay. It was the first time in the annual award's history that a Division wide effort was offered by the National D&I Directorate as an option for recognition for this prestigious award. It's a groundbreaking step towards recognizing the importance of diversity in the Auxiliary but we should strive for so much more as a volunteer organization.

Division 23, prides itself in valuing the dynamic and diverse differences amongst our membership that arise from a broad range of backgrounds and lifestyles. We believe that our diversity as a unit is shaped by a variety of characteristics including age, ethnicity, gender, disability, language, religious beliefs, life stages, education, career, sexual orientation and personality and marital status. When we talk about D&I and Equity, we demonstrate accepting, welcoming, and valuing the differences inherent in every individual. As a division, promoting diversity at all levels is our way of recognizing the contribution that a diverse membership can make to the Auxiliary to help our organization become more diverse, innovative, efficient, and effective to accomplish our Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) initiatives to keep boaters safe.

Division 23, trains quarterly on Diversity and in our August 4th, Division meeting we discussed many of the different aspects of Diversity where we focused on our SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities & Threat) Analysis for FY22 as an

organization. We challenged all our Flotilla Commanders to get feedback from their membership in the aforementioned SWOT areas so that we could share the results in our next training event. We also enjoyed a well-received special presentation from Auxiliarist Lauri Lindqvist (they/them/theirs) who educated us on the pronouns and shared a powerful personal story, as well as how Non-Binary is defined, basic facts and how to be respectful & supportive when interacting with them as part of our volunteer workforce. Lauri shared the many challenges and progresses that the Auxiliary has made to become a more inclusive organization.

Finally, the USCGAUX D&I-Directorate is at the forefront of keeping pace with the evolving and dynamically changing times as it relates to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and how diversity is defined. Its core mission is acknowledging differences and adapting practices to create an inclusive environment in which diverse skills, perspectives and backgrounds are valued.

### *D&I Committee*

Paul Feinberg, Mace Coleman, Mark Campbell,  
Lauri Lindqvist and Margaret Butler

## Promulgation Of the Diversity and Inclusion Education and Awareness Program

1. Recently the Coast Guard released ALCOAST 229/22 which promulgated the Diversity and Inclusion Education and Awareness Program, COMDTINST 5360.1. This instruction established the Coast Guard's Diversity and Inclusion Education and Awareness Program for all Coast Guard active duty, reservist, civilian, and Auxiliarist personnel.

2. To read the instruction, please click the following link to access a PDF version: [https://media.defense.gov/2022/Jun/21/2003020819/-1/-1/0/CI\\_5360\\_1.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2022/Jun/21/2003020819/-1/-1/0/CI_5360_1.PDF).

Editor's note: The above was received email from the Chief Director's list server



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

## National First Place Division Newsletter

### Division Members receive Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award

As members of Team Coast Guard, all members who were in the Auxiliary as of 30 November 2020 received a ribbon for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Outstanding Unit award.

The Citation reads:

“For outstanding service to the Department of Homeland Security and the United States of America from 25 August 2017 to 30 November 2020 during multiple devastating hurricanes, a Presidential-declared National Emergency along the Southwest Border, and the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus global pandemic. Across four of the most active and devastating hurricane seasons on record, the United States Coast Guard consistently recognized the significant risks to life and property, prepositioning its personnel, vessels, and aircraft to rapidly respond, saving or assisting over 13,000 lives. The Coast Guard swiftly restored the flow of commerce to dozens of vital, storm-damaged ports by reestablishing thousands of aids to navigation and removing countless hazards caused by displaced vessels. Following the Declaration of National Emergency along the Southwest Board, the Coast Guard provided mission-enhancing aviation, surface, medical, and ground support to Customs and Border Protection to assist in processing unprecedented numbers of migrants arriving at the cartel-driven instability in Central America through record levels of at-sea drug interdictions yielding 1.3 million pounds of seized cocaine and the apprehension of 1,856 smugglers, while also providing critical support to the President’s Enhanced Counternarcotic Operations in 2020. In responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coast Guard partnered with multiple agencies to safely disembark more than 250,000 cruise ship passengers and 90,000 crew members from 125 vessels, preventing outbreaks and inundation of local hospitals. Further the Coast Guard exhibited exceptional resilience conducting its full portfolio

of multi-mission operations during both the pandemic and the 35-day partial government lapse in Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations, including response to myriad regional, national, and global crises, including: the capsizing of M/V GOLDEN RAY and the enforcement of United Nations sanctions against North Korea “ship-to-ship” transfers. Through their outstanding courage, resourcefulness, and professionalism, members of the United States Coast Guard reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States of America.” Signed by CHAD F. WOLF, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security

As a member of the Auxiliary who received this award, I feel honored to be a part of this Team.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

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### FY22 AUXDATA II Patrol Order Closeout

Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget will be ending at 2359 hours on 30 September 2022.

Any Patrol Order being conducted on or after 0000 hours on 01 October 2022 will fall under the FY23 budget.

In order to facilitate the FY22 budget closeout, Order Issuing Authority’s (OIA) must have all FY22 Patrol Requests that are currently in a “REQUESTED” status, either “APPROVED or DENIED”, no later than 15 September 2022. Patrol Requests not already in AUXDATA II, for patrol dates between 15 September and 30 September 2022, must be “APPROVED” prior to 15 September 2022. Any Patrol Requests received by the OIA after 15 September 2022 may be “APPROVED” on a case-by-case basis. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be reviewed, signed and “APPROVED”, please use the following link [Patrol Orders \(crmforce.mil\)](https://crmforce.mil).

Continued on page 13—see closeout

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

## National First Place Division Newsletter

Closeout—continued from page 12

Auxiliarist members who have Patrol Orders in an “APPROVED” status, except those meeting requirements of paragraph #6 below, must move Patrol Orders to “COMPLETED” status so OIA’s can review and submit to FSMS, no later than 15 September 2022. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be reviewed, signed and “APPROVED”, please use the following link Patrol Orders ([crmforce.mil](http://crmforce.mil)).

OIA’s shall ensure all “COMPLETED” Patrol Orders are in a “SUBMITTED” status in AUXDATA II prior to 30 September 2022. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be reviewed, signed and “SUBMITTED” to FSMS, please use the following link Patrol Orders ([crmforce.mil](http://crmforce.mil)).

OIA’s and Auxiliary members shall “CANCEL” any Patrol Order in an “APPROVED” status if there are no “Activities” and the Patrol was never conducted. This shall be completed no later than 01 October 2022. To view the list of Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II that need to be “CANCELLED”, please use the following link Patrol Orders ([crmforce.mil](http://crmforce.mil)).

All FY22 Patrol Orders must be closed out and submitted to FSMS no later than **01 November 2022**. Patrol Orders remaining after that date will not be entertained.

The above dates are subject to change based on Coast Guard Finance Center Guidance.

Auxiliary members who have a Patrol Order reimbursement issue or who do not agree with the amount of the Patrol Order claim reimbursement, shall work with their OIA in correcting and/or resolving claim issues. FINCEN customer service is only available to check the status of an existing claim or to obtain detailed information on claims paid by the Coast Guard Finance Center.

Editor’s note: The above was received in an email through a list server.

## FY21 AUXDATA II PATROL ORDER REIMBURSEMENTS

1. CG-BSX submitted 808 Patrol Orders to the Coast Guard Finance Center (FINCEN) for manual entry into the Financial System Modernization Solution (FSMS), and all Patrol Orders for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 have been reimbursed. FY 2021 Patrol Orders reimbursement is complete.

2. Auxiliarists who have not been reimbursed for a Patrol Order in FY 2021 (**only FY 2021**) are recommended to submit a “Service Request” in AUXDATA II.

3. 01 September 2022 will be the official closeout date for FY 2021 Auxiliary Patrol Order funding. Auxiliarists have until **30 August 2022** to submit a “Service Request” for any FY 2021 Patrol Order that they believe was not reimbursed. Any “Service Request” received for FY 2021 Patrol Orders after 30 August 2022 will not be entertained.

4. Below is updated guidance for Auxiliary members to check the status of their Patrol Order reimbursement.

a. Send an email to the FINCEN Help Desk at the following address - [FIN-SMB-Customerservice@uscg.mil](mailto:FIN-SMB-Customerservice@uscg.mil).

b. The Subject line of your email should be the **FSMS invoice number** from the Patrol Order in question. **Patrol Order Document ID is no longer valid in the new financial system.**

c. Provide the following in the body of your email:

- i. FSMS Invoice Number: (Found under the “Comments” block of the Patrol Order)
- ii. Amount claimed
- iii. Member ID#

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## Boatyard Bargains

Herrington Harbor North Marina played host to their annual Boaters Yard Sale on June 4. Located at Tracey's Landing, Maryland, the marina contacted local boaters and residents to set up their tables and display their used boating wares. Included among these were anchors, dinghies, PFDs, and an assortment of marine paraphernalia. There were many great bargains to be found.

Flotilla 23-07, along with additional members from Division 23, was on hand to pass out boating safety information. They met with over 100 people through the morning and conducted numerous vessel exams as well as passing along important recent changes to the Federal Boating Regulations.

In attendance were Brian Shrift, Flotilla Commander, Chris Jensen, Vice Flotilla Commander, Virginia Shrift, Paul Manicone, and Frank Voltaggio from 23-07 and Margret Butler, Division Commander, Leonard Butler, Alberto di Capitani, Dave Sire, and Mark Bertacchi from Division 23.



In all, it was a successful outing for the Auxiliary and helped to reinforce our presence to the boating public in the Tracey's Landing area.

*Frank Voltaggio*

FSO-PB 23-7

*Gina Shrift*

Photographer

## National Commodores 3 Star Award

Thank you for participating in this year's NACO 3 Star Award for Diversity Excellence for FY2021. I am pleased to announce that Division 23 has been recognized as a distinguished recipient of the 2021 National Commodore (NACO) 3 Star Award for Excellence in Diversity. As a division unit, our Flotillas have always received recognition on their individual efforts. This year's initiative allowed us to consolidate our efforts as a team and I appreciate your continued efforts to promote diversity collectively.

The NACO Award is an annual award intended to recognize both Divisions and Flotillas for distinction in promoting and valuing diversity, inclusion and equity. Achieving this award ensures that we as a division are in alignment with the CORE values of the United States Coast Guard as it relates to diversity, inclusion and equity. The award recognizes our efforts as a division unit to setting a high priority to remove barriers to exclusion. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure diversity, inclusion and equity are integrated in every aspect of our Recreational Boating Safety missions. It is critical to the health and well-being of all our Flotillas within Division 23.

We couldn't have achieved this without your support. I'd like to give a special recognition and thanks to Mark Campbell, VCDR and Mace Coleman, FSO-DV and each of our Division 23 FSO-DV's and Flotilla Commanders for leading and coordinating this effort across the Central Chesapeake.

BRAVO ZULU to everyone!

*Margaret Butler*

Division Commander

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## Division 23 supports National Night Out

As typical for August, the weather was hot and humid on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August for National Night Out. Division 23 Flotillas were very active supporting their communities this year.

Flotilla 23-02 participated at two locations this year. One was Prince Frederick and other was in the Wildwood community. Both were heavily attended by the communities and first responders.

Flotilla 23-6 supported two communities again this year. Mark Campbell, Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Diversity and Navigation System; Willie Witters, FSO-Operations and Ray Feller, Division Staff Officer (SO) for member training supported the event held at Kellam's Field in the Twin Beaches. They talked with about 75 people who stopped by their table for literature, coloring books and crayons for the kids and to get their boating safety questions answered.

Bill Smith and Connie Cosgrove supported National Night Out at Long Beach Community Center. Members of the community and vendors were treated to hot dogs and chips, pizza, popcorn, cookies and beverage. There was a table for tie-dyeing T-shirts, a dunking booth, a DJ, St Leonard Volunteer Department had a fire truck and ambulance on display. The Calvert County Sheriff's office put on a K-9 demonstration. Detective First Class Cullison with his partner Reaper and Corporal Moran with his partners Kano and Able demonstrated how they find lost items such as Corporal Moran's keys that he tossed away as well as sniffing out drugs.

Approximately 75 people stopped by the table. The hot item of the night for the adults were the orange decal and the silver decals for kayaks and canoes. The children went for the Ink the Whale and Sammy the Otter coloring books and crayons. Another hit was the decals for T-shirts that the children could color of Sammy the Otter.



Flotilla 23-7 setup at Lula Scott Community Center in Shady Side.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
FSO-PA 23-6



Mike Williams and William Hackett talk with Bill Smith



Willie Witters, IPDCDR and Mark Campbell, VCDR at Twin Beaches event.



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## A night on the Bay

On the afternoon of July 29th, I was aboard my boat Sailing Vessel (SV) Barba Roja along with 74 other sailing vessels who were participating in the 49th St. Mary's Governors Cup race from Annapolis MD to St. Mary's college. This is a 68 nautical mile race that starts in the afternoon and finishes the next day. Navigation and sailing at night present its own challenges without the addition of unknown hazards that may be present at any time during the night. USCG radio operators that night had their professionalism on display for the whole Chesapeake Bay to hear and they did not disappoint! Here is the scenario of that night, as I can remember.

Shortly after the start of the race, we switch the radio over from the Race committee on channel 68, to monitor channel 16 for safety and so we can respond to either a Coast Guard (CG) or respond to another racer on course in an emergency. It wasn't long after we were on Channel 16 the CG started requesting the status and whereabouts of an individual on the vessel called "The Wizard of Oz." At first the conversation between the CG radio operator and the responder on the Wizard of Oz went well. But it was to be short lived. The CG radio operator requested the status and well-being of a "named individual" onboard the vessel. They responded, "Yes they are ok." CG again politely asked to speak to the named individual, and again they were told they are fine. The vessel operator rudely told the CG operator to "leave me alone, everyone is fine!" This continued for another 30-40 minutes, to which it was observed by my whole crew of eight that the CG was maintaining a level of high professionalism all while being cussed and yelled at by the vessel's operator at this point. Soon silence set in and we thought it was all over. As an Auxiliarist, I took the next hour or so to discuss the proper way to communicate over the radio, why you shouldn't cuss at the CG and what may or may not happen with the vessel moving forward.

Roughly around 10 pm, we were now about 30 minutes north of the Cove Point gas docks and

sailing south in the dark at 7 knots just inside of the shipping channel, when we heard another racer on course call in on Channel 16. "There's a white 40-foot troller drifting with no lights just south of the Cove Point Gas docks" CG radio operator responded lightning fast and requested more details and the name and phone number of the sailing vessel skipper making the call. The CG operator proceeds to make the announcement over channel 16 to warn all vessels in the area about the navigation hazard. A response to the announcement came back "this is the wizard...leave me the (expletive) alone! (...Low and behold it was the SAME person and vessel.) The whole back and forth between the CG radio operators and the vessel started up again, with the vessel operator being very rude and non-compliant over the radio. Each transmission by the CG radio operators came through professional, clear and genuinely concerning. The vessel operator would not even provide his location for verification to be left alone...to which the CG radio operator politely responded "we understand sir, we need to verify this report is you and not a different vessel in distress" Vessel operator responded with what sounded like an in-coherent sentence about how he didn't care and wants to be left alone..."

The CG radio operator called a fire boat at the Cove Point gas docks to switch to channel 22 (of course with two radios on board my vessel at all times, we left one channel 16 and the other we followed over to Channel 22 to see if the plot continued... and it did.) Transmissions between the fire boat operator and CG radio operator were much more of what you would expect radio comms should be. The fire boat skipper agreed to use their searchlight to locate the vessel. I believe it was verified roughly 10-15 minutes later and they responded to the CG they located the vessel on channel 22 as not to continue the back and forth with the vessel operator on channel 16. Come to find out the vessel operator was knowingly drifting with no lights on!

Continued on page 18—see Wizard

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

## National First Place Division Newsletter

Wizard—continued from page 17

We have our own thoughts on what we believe to have been the cause of the operator's bad behavior and communication. However, we may never know the truth of the whole situation. What we do know is the CG radio operators throughout that evening were calm, professional and persistent in verifying the safety of the Wizard of Oz, and the other vessels on the Chesapeake Bay it affected.

It's a good feeling knowing that someone is watching, listening and focused on safety on the water at all times while I focused on racing and individual safety on board my own vessel.

*Steve Birchfield*

Vice Flotilla Commander 23-06

### Auxiliary participates in the Annual Waterman's Appreciation Day

On Sunday, August 14, Division 23 & 24 participated in the annual Watermen's Appreciation Day at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) in St. Michaels, Md. The day featured a spirited boat docking contest, steamed crabs and other regional food, live music, boat rides, family activities, and more. The Auxiliary was invited to assist the annual event to secure the area, ensure safety protocols and establish perimeter boundaries around and where the event took place.

Darian Pringle, Area Unit Coordinator (AUC) for Station Annapolis served as lead coxswain with boat crew Margaret Butler, Leonard Butler and James Booker. coxswain John Fewer, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator, Sector Maryland National Capital Region, Qualification Examiner Coordinator and Assistant District Staff Officer for Operations along with Steve Klein and Donald Parker also supported the event.

The Auxiliary has participated in this event, organized every year by CBMM in cooperation

with the Talbot Watermen Association, annually. Beginning at noon, the "watermen's rodeo" boat docking contest commenced on the Miles River near CBMM's 1879 Hooper Strait Lighthouse beginning at 11am, along CBMM's waterfront until 5:00pm

*Margaret Butler*

DCCR

### Resumption Of In-Person Auxiliary C-Schools - Revision to CG-BSX Policy Letter 21-01

On 28 May 2021, the Chief Director of the Auxiliary signed CG-BSX Policy Letter 21-01, Resumption of In-Person Auxiliary C-schools. It provided initial guidance for the resumption of in-person Auxiliary C-schools and limited attendance to individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The policy letter was revised on 24 June 2021 to expand in-person Auxiliary C-school attendance to include unvaccinated individuals and define associated home unit Restriction of Movement (ROM) requirements. It was subsequently revised on 18 October 2021 to limit in-person Auxiliary C-school application and attendance to individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

This policy letter has been revised again effective 25 July 2022. New provisions have been added to address recommendations and actions to take if instructors or students are exposed to COVID-19 or test positive for it during or after a C-school is completed. No penalty shall be assessed to an Auxiliary C-school student who is unable to attend or complete the school due to contracting COVID-19, experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or being exposed to COVID-19.

The policy letter can be found on the Coast Guard Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX) website at: CG-BSX Policy Letters.

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

## Auxiliary Supports Coast Guard Emergency Management

This past July, several Auxiliary members supported Sector Maryland National Capital Region (SM-NCR) in the Fifth District HURREX (Hurricane Exercise). The exercise was a five-day exercise with the Auxiliary participating for the first four days. The exercise was held 11 July–15 July 2022.

Besides myself, there were three other Auxiliarists who participated in the HURREX. They were Nick Lomangino, District Captain SM-NCR, Auxiliarist Robert Harlan Jr, 25-07, and ADSO-MS Henry Hays, Assistant District Staff Officer for Marine Safety (ADSO-MS).

Day one was used to set up Berry Hall at SM-NCR as an Incident Command Post. Day two was the



beginning of the exercise, with the Auxiliary support consisting of Robert Harlan and myself. The Auxiliary

was assigned to the check-in station; and subsequently was absorbed as an appendage of the Planning Section.

The scenario of the Exercise featured a major hurricane impacting the District Five area of responsibility. The start of the exercise occurred after the simulated storm had passed, and focused on the response, recovery, and reconstitution.

Day 3 continued essentially the same as day 2. The closing of the functional portion of the exercise was Day 4, which included the Hotwash; or review of functions and activities that went well, as well as opportunities for improvement.

After the Hotwash, Commander Bendle, the Deputy Commander of SM-NCR, who also served as one of two Deputy Incident Commander's during the Exercise, and Captain O'Connell, the commanding officer of SM-NCR, and the Incident Commander for the purpose of the HURREX expressed appreciation for the Auxiliary's participation in, and support of the exercise.

It was a great experience, and I think that we all gained very valuable insights into Emergency Management, its roles, tasks and responsibilities. Also solidified in my mind is the importance of planning and preparations; as well as the activities and functions that result in the effective, and heroic responses that we hear about with respect to the Coast Guard's responses to emergencies, and otherwise catastrophic events.

*Roy Culley*

IPFC 23-3

## Vessel Examination (VE) Day at Area Central Chesapeake Marinas

The Central Chesapeake, Division 23 and Flotillas hosted, scheduled, and performed a record number of free Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) on Power & Sail boats, Jet Ski, Kayak or Canoes this summer. The **Vessel Safety Check** (VSC) program is an effective, proactive preventive safety program unique to the recreational boating community.



Flotilla vessel examiners performed VSC at Sandy State Park on June 25<sup>th</sup> and

Herrington Harbor (South) on July 16, 2022. The

Continued on page 20—se VSC Days

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

VSC Days—continued from page 19

most recent combined event yielded over 100+ vessels that passed safety inspection and received a vessel safety decal for 2022. In addition to VSC, marina slip holders and the general public stopped by our display booth and received free boating safety literature, information on how to join the Auxiliary and important updates to boating safety. VSC fulfills a core mandate of the Auxiliary to ensure that boating community power & sail boats, jet ski, kayak or canoes meet federal safety standards and that in an emergency, recreational vessels will have the necessary equipment and be prepared to save lives.

In a continuous effort to inform and educate the general public, Division 23 Flotillas launched several VSC days across our Area of Responsibility (AOR) at local marinas such as Annapolis Landing Community Marinas, Herrington Harbor North & South, Edgewater Marina, Safe Harbor Marinas as well as on-line request from individual recreational boaters in our local community through our website. A VSC ensures that key marine safety equipment is present, is within prescribed functional limits, and is compliant with Federal, State and local regulations. Certified Auxiliary Vessel Safety Examiners that conduct VSC inspect for life jackets, throwable flotation device, registration & numbering, navigation lights, ventilation, fire extinguisher, distress signals (flares, whistle, mirror, etc.), sound producing device (horn, bell), battery cover & connections, as well as overall vessel condition.

Our on-line website is open year-round for individual recreational boaters in our local community, subject to schedule availability. If you are interested in training to become a Vessel Examiner contact your Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Exams or your Flotilla Commander.

*Margaret Butler*

DCDR



## 83RD BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

To the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Happy 83rd Birthday from everyone in our United States Coast Guard!

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and its exceptional heritage of service dates back to 1939, when Congress authorized the formation of the Coast Guard's "Volunteer Reserve", an organization of enthusiastic volunteers dedicated to the promotion of recreational boating safety throughout the United States. This organization has grown and evolved remarkably over the last eight decades. The men and women who serve in the Auxiliary have selflessly devoted their time, skills, and expertise across an increasingly diverse array of roles and missions to assist the Coast Guard, and to preserve and protect our Nation's maritime interests.

As the world continues to navigate through the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we celebrate the Auxiliary's commitment to service, and its adaptability in overcoming the complexities presented by this virus. Persevering through these uncertain and unprecedented times, the Auxiliary and its membership have continued to make significant impacts nationwide. Auxiliarists have faithfully augmented Coast Guard units as watchstanders at communications centers, delivering critical assistance to resolve search and rescue cases; as culinary specialists, preparing outstanding meals in dining facilities ashore and at sea on multiple long voyages aboard the CGC EAGLE and CGC HEALY; as healthcare professionals, providing much needed healthcare services and augmenting our shortage of Flight Surgeons. Coast Guard Auxiliary interpreters provided critical services on over 75 translation missions in support of DHS and the

Continued on page 21—see birthday



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer2022

National First Place Division Newsletter

Birthday—continued from page 20

Coast Guard. Auxiliary Chaplains have improved the mental and spiritual health of our workforce by contributing over 10,000 hours of operational support in crisis care and religious ministry. The Auxiliary never wavered from its determination to promote safety amongst our Nation's recreational vessel operators. In 2021, the Auxiliary completed over 42,000 vessel safety checks and nearly 50,000 marine dealer visits; truly extraordinary results that highlight the exemplary commitment displayed daily by the Auxiliary to ensure safety on our waters.

We also recognize the Coast Guard Auxiliary for its continued growth and dedication to finding new and innovative ways to support the Coast Guard. During the past year, the Auxiliary has worked closely with Coast Guard Cyber Command to establish an Auxiliary Cyber (AUXCYBER) program; an exciting initiative that will leverage Auxiliarists with high-level cyber expertise to support the Coast Guard in strengthening and protecting the Nation's Maritime Transportation System. More recently, Auxiliarists have supported the Coast Guard's response along our Nation's Southwest border. Their dedication and support has proven invaluable to the preservation of our Service's readiness and capabilities upon which the Nation relies.

We are extremely proud of our Coast Guard Auxiliary. Please join me in recognizing this significant milestone by congratulating our Auxiliarists on their outstanding performance, and for their exceptional Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. Bravo Zulu and Semper Paratus!  
ADM Linda L. Fagan, Commandant

Editor's note: The above was received email in ALAUX 021/22

## Changes to on-line resources

Changes to key on-line resources, mainly changing password access have been implemented. If you try to access Auxiliary Directory, for example, you'll see the following logo and need to change password:

**NEW!! Sign In System**



Click on "Sign Up/In with USCGAUX" and follow directions. Your user name is member number, as before. You'll need to set a new password according to guidance provided. The user name and new password you set will be good where ever the above logo appears. Right now, it's Auxiliary Directory, National Testing Center, Online Classroom, and AAMS (if authorized to use this system).

