

Potomac Guardian Newsletter

Vol. 10

July 2025



2025 Member Offices

Division 054-25

DCDR Brandon Brown
CDR Mitchell Mutnick
SO-AS Craig Burkhardt
SO-CA Robert Harlan
SO-CM Julius Jackson
SO-CS Izak Rosenfeld
SO-FN James Servidea
SO-HR Susan Duke
SO-IS Barbara Allen
SO-MA Barbara Allen
SO-MS Guy Campbell
SO-MT Joshua Bradley
SO-NS Barbara Allen
SO-OP Mitchell Mutnick
SO-PA Carol Hostetter
SO-PB Carol Hostetter
SO-PE Peter Marks
SO-PV Joe Hostetter
SO-SR Roger Hale
SO-VE Joe Hostetter

Division 25 Rescue at National Harbor Swim Event

The morning of June 3 began quite normally. The weather was lovely for spring, featuring clear skies and calm conditions with water temperature of about 62 degrees. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarists from Division 25 were supporting the IGLA+ 2025 Open Water Swim at National Harbor/Smoots Bay in Prince George's County, Maryland. Their assistance included two operational vessels and two Auxiliary paddlecraft operators. AuxPad patrol consisted of Bonifacio "Joey" Taguding and Guy Campbell. Operational facility 23365 was manned by coxswain Jerry Little and four crew members: Jason Torchinsky, Susan Duke, Ginny Ivin, and Gary Dawson. Meanwhile, operational facility 39976 had coxswain Mitchell Mutnick, two crew members: Mike Spollen, Tom Walsh, and two trainees: Margret Moran and Joe Hostetter on board.

At 9:15, a radio alert indicated that a swimmer was in trouble. Auxiliarist and AuxPad operator Taguding was the first to answer the call. The swimmer in distress was clinging to a nearby kayak that belonged to a volunteer, located about 500 feet away. Taguding swiftly paddled to the swimmer and the kayak, mentally reviewing all his first aid training as he made his way over.

Upon approach the swimmer appeared mildly confused, suffering from hypothermia, but Taguding assessed that the swimmer had some strength because he appeared to have a pretty good grip on the volunteer's kayak. Taguding's initial thought was to perform a Swimmer Tow Rescue, positioning the swimmer on the bow of his kayak and paddle to Rosalie Island which was approximately 100 feet away. Rosalie Island would provide a solid platform for additional first aid.

After a quick evaluation, it was determined that Rosalie Island is not easily accessible for rescue vehicles, nor could any of the OpFacs safely reach the island. Therefore, the decision was made to tow the swimmer towards the OpFac coxswained by Jerry Little. Taguding provided instructions to the swimmer on how to transfer to his kayak. He advised him to perform a



*AuxPad Operator
Joey Taguding
bringing swimmer to
the rescue boat*



*Ginny Ivin waits with swimmer for
the EMT's to arrive*

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As they neared the Operational Facility, Boat Crew member Susan Duke instructed Taguding toward the swim platform at the stern. Taguding instructed to swimmer to hold on to the kayak until he had a hold on the boat. Despite the instructions the swimmer let go of the kayak approximately 2 feet from the swim platform and struggled to reach the swim ladder. Crew Member Duke, with Coxswain Jerry Little firmly grasping her life jacket for stability, leaned forward and reached out a hand to help the swimmer climb the ladder that led from the swim platform to the back deck of the operational facility.

The crew immediately suspected that the swimmer was suffering from hypothermia. Little directed Torchinsky, who was at the helm, to head directly and as swiftly as safely possible to the pier, while coordinating with the swim race director to secure EMS and monitoring the condition of the swimmer. While en route to the pier, the boat crew retrieved towels, a blanket and a first aid thermal blanket for the swimmer, and wrapped him in a coat and knit hat that Crew Member Ginny Ivin had aboard. Throughout the event the Auxiliarists maintained constant contact Coast Guard Station Washington.

While Little's crew waited for EMS to arrive, the other operational facility on-site maneuvered north – closer to the swimmers in case there was need for additional support. The swimmer was handed over to Prince George's County EMS. Both AuxPad operators and the two operational facilities remained on site to observe the remainder of the event, and no additional issues occurred.

The Auxiliarist involved were glad to have been on-scene and able to assist the swimmer.

Joey Taguding, Gary Dawson, Jerry Little and Jason Torchinsky



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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

**America's
Volunteer
Guardians**

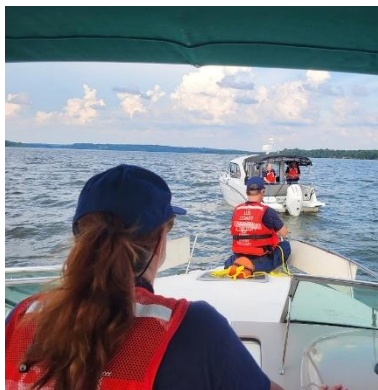
Promoting Boating Safety, Security and Stewardship since 1939

Happening Around the Division



**Congratulations to Division 25 Newest
Coxswain, Jason Torchinsky. Bravo Zulu**

Photos Taken by Mike Spollen



Anacostia River Excursion

Photos by Josh Bradley



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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

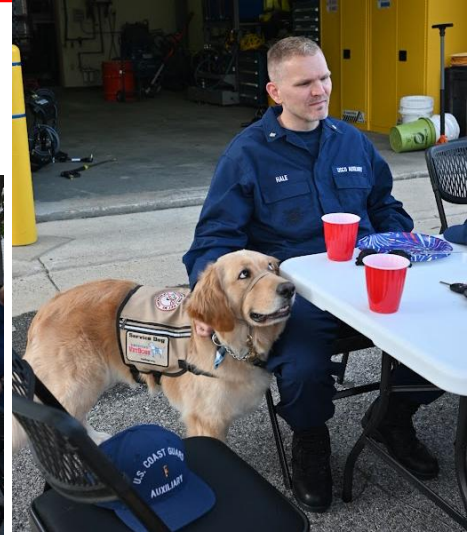


**America's
Volunteer
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Promoting Boating Safety, Security and Stewardship since 1939

Division 2025 Picnic

photos by C Hostetter



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Events 2025

Upcoming Events

July 12th – Celebrate Your Independence Event - Chesapeake and Ohio National Park, Maryland

August 1st - Change of Command ceremony for LCDR Kim Jenish – Station Washington

August 16th – VSC – Gravelly Point

August 16th-24th -National Training Summit, Dallas TX

Sept 1st – VSC – Columbia Island Marina

Sept 4th-7th 5TH District Southern Region D- Train – Marriott Short Pump, Glen Allen, VA

Sept 6th - Pohick Bay Kayak Races (Time TBD). Need AUXPAD Operators for on-water patrol

Sept 13th – Safety at Sea- USCG Yard Curtis Bay, Baltimore

Sept 27th – Scouting Fall Jamboree Kayak Patrol – Silver Lake Regional Lake, Haymarket

You are reminded to complete the suicide prevention core training by December 31, and to check on other core training expirations this year

Past Events

January 10th-12th – 2025 Fredericksburg Boat and Water Expo, Fredericksburg VA

January 11th – Boating Safety Class, Fredericksburg, VA

January 26th – Change of Watch- Mount Vernon Yacht Club, Mt. Vernon VA

February 22nd – Boating Safety Class - Hope Springs Marina

March 1st - Sector Training: Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay, MD

March 7th – VSC – Pohick Bay Rental Kayaks

March 7th – 9th – Chantilly Family Boat Show – Chantilly Expo Center

MARCH 15TH – Boating Safety Class – Prince William Marina

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March 21st – Paddlecraft VSC - Pohick Bay Rental Kayaks

March 22nd – Paddlecraft VSC – Occoquan Rental Kayaks

April 10-13 – D Train - Richmond VA

April 12th – VSC Prince William Marina

April 19th -VSC Columbia Island Marina

April 28-May 2 - Spring AUXPAD Training – Charleston, SC

April 26th – VSC - Belmont Bay

May 10th – Boating Safety Class – Prince William Marina

May 10th - VCS – Prince William Marina

May 16th – Wear your Life Jacket to Work Day

May 17th – 23rd - National Safe Boating Week

May 17th – PA/VSC West Marine - Woodbridge

May 24th VSC – Neabsco Creek, Pilot House & EZ Cruz

May 24th – PA/VSC West Marine , Alexandria

May 24th – VSC Columbia Island Marina

May 31st - Wessynton Waterway Celebration (11am-4pm): Shore based event - will setup PA table, perform VEs, and may perform demos in pool

June 3rd – Boat Crew Training

June 3rd – National Harbor Swim Event

June 7th – VSC, Neabsco Creek

June 4-5 - AUX CA Support for USCGC Rankin Special Events

June 7th - Occoquan River Paddle Challenge (Time TBD).

June 14th – Paddlecraft Support – Baltimore Inner Harbor Flotilla

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June 14th VSC – Gravelly Point or Capitol Yacht Club

June 17-18 - AUX CA Support for USCGC Rankin Special Events

June 19th -22nd – Auxpad Academy - Yorktown Training Center

June 28th – Great Falls National Parks Event – Fairfax County VA

June 28th - Gwynn Island Paddlecraft Regatta (8am-1pm): This event is just for fun. Register here - <https://mocva.net/regatta/>.

June 28th - Anacostia River Boat Tour – Anacostia Boat Ramp, 12-1PM

July 5th – VSC – Columbia Island Marina

FIFTH SOUTHERN DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY FORUMS 2025

- AUX-Assistant Container Inspector (AUX-EC), Container missions in the Port of Baltimore will continue.
- AUX-Assistant Pollution Responder (AUX-ED), Training with Sector MD-NCR at USCG Yard, Curtis Bay, MD has resumed on the first Wednesday of the month from 0900-1100 the first class was 2 April. If interested in participating let your ADSO-MS, SO-MS & FSO-MS know by the last Wednesday of the month.
- Sea Partners/Environmental (70N) Opportunities: Auxiliary Beach Cleanup Guide –
 - National Park Service (NPS), Fort Washington Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 8 Mar, 12 Apr, 10 May –
 - NPS, Fort Foote Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 15 Mar, 19 Apr –
 - Leesylvania State Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 26 Apr, 7 Jun, -
 - Mason Neck State Park: Shoreline Cleanup, 30 Mar, 25 May, 1 & 29 Jun, 27 Jul, 31 Aug –
 - Widewater State Park, Shoreline Cleanup via Kayak, 7 Jun –
 - Four Mile Run Conservator Foundation: Shoreline Cleanup, 27 Apr –
 - Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC): Neabsco Creek, Shoreline Cleanup, 1 Mar –
 - PWTSC: Marumsco Creek/Veteran's Park, Shoreline Cleanup, 22 Mar –
 - Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO): Shoreline Cleanup, 5 Apr - NOVA Cleanup, Roosevelt Island: Shoreline Cleanup, 7 Sep

Sessions will be held on the below dates from 1900 to 2030. Access to forums will be with the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6092892496?pwd=V3B2VXZjdVBvemt1QlhGRXBduUJoQT09&omn=86393146620>

February: 10th (MON): Introduction to Prevention

13th (THU): Introduction to Sea Partner

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March: 10th (MON): AWW (America Waterway Watch)

13th (THU): Microplastics Effect the Environment

April: 14th (MON): Environmental Impact of Recreational Boating

17th (THU): GOODMATE

May: 12th (MON): IMSEP (Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection)

15th (THU): High Tide Flooding in D5SR

June: 9th (MON) and 13th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

July: 14th (MON) and 17th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

August: 11th (MON) and 14th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

September: 8th (MON) and 11th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

October: 13th (MON) and 16th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

November: 10th (MON) and 14th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

December: 8th (MON) and 11th (THU): Training Topic: TBD

Please send all future
information to Carol Hostetter
at: carolhostetter@yahoo.com