

Potomac Guardian Newsletter

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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

Public Affairs is Everyone's Mission

By Carol Hostetter, Public Affairs Specialist 3

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Auxiliary National Training Seminar in Dallas. During this event, I engaged with Public Affairs trainers from across the country. There we learned of the significant changes occurring throughout the auxiliary and the Coast Guard. Issues such as new logos, specific graphic materials to crucial information on Social media posting; did you know we can't publish photos of Auxiliarist wearing sunglasses?

Public Affairs in the Coast Guard Auxiliary is every member's duty. Each Auxiliarist represents the organization whenever we wear the uniform, interact with the public, or participate in missions. Every encounter is an opportunity to share the Coast Guard

Auxiliary's story, and build trust with the community. While Public Affairs Specialist handle official media and outreach, all members contribute by modeling professionalism, communicating the Auxiliary's values, and serving as visual ambassadors. In this way, Public Affairs isn't just a specialty - it's part of the shared responsibility of carrying out the Auxiliary's mission.

Public Affairs training in the Coast Guard Auxiliary is vital because it equips members with the skills to effectively communicate the Auxiliary's mission, activities and successes to the public and media. Well-trained PA Specialists help build community awareness, strengthen partnerships, and attract new members, while ensuring consistent and accurate messaging that reflects positively on the Coast Guard. This training also prepares Auxiliarists to support the active-duty Coast Guard in outreach, crisis communication, and engagement making it an essential part of the Auxiliary's overall mission readiness.

New DCAPT

Congratulations to Ben Feril: who was elected DCAPT-Sector Maryland/NCR (1st Term). And thank you to Henry Hays for your hard work these past two years.



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Public Affairs Con't

The PA mission is critical: every article, photo or social media post builds public trust, attracts new members and promotes boating safety. PA training gives you the tools to do that with confidence, and give you skills to carry beyond the Auxiliary. PA training will help you to become better writers, photographers and public speakers. Members who complete the PA certifications often have more opportunities to work with active-duty Coast Guard units, attend joint training, and take leadership role. We need more voices to tell our story – why not yours?

It is my desire that each of our flotillas have multiple public affairs specialist. Spring D-Train will once again be offering Public Affairs training. Please consider sending members of your flotilla to Richmond this spring. I will gladly assist anyone interested in pursuing the Public Affairs Certification. I will be reaching out to each flotilla about setting up a time to talk with your membership but in the meantime please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

**Mark Your
Calendars**

**D-Train
February 19-22, 2026
Richmond, VA**



Boat Crew Under Way



QE Ride Crew

Photo by Jerry Little

Training with Station Washington

Photos by Michel Spollen

Boat crew practicing towing maneuvers with the Sea Scouts on Guardian

Photos by Gary Dawson

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



**America's
Volunteer
Guardians**

Promoting Boating Safety, Security and Stewardship since 1939

Safety @ Sea 2025

Photos by Carol Hostetter



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Events 2025

Upcoming Events

Oct 6th – Division 25 Elections

Oct 25th – National Target Center Trunk or Treat –
Sterling VA

Jan 9th – 11th – Fredericksburg Boat Show,
Fredericksburg, VA

February 19th -22nd – D-Train, Richmond VA

Mar 6th – 8th – Chantilly Boat Show, Chantilly, VA

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

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

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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

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.

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

July 5th – VSC – Columbia Island Marina

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 13th – Patriot Cruise and Salute, Prince William Marina



‘It’s the Coast Guard - they want to know how many life-jackets we have onboard.’

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IFTH 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

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

March: 10th (MON): AWW (America Waterway Watch)
13th (THU): Microplastics Effect the Environment

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

April: 14th (MON): Environmental Impact of Recreational Boating
17th (THU): GOODMATE

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

May: 12th (MON): IMSEP (Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection)
15th (THU): High Tide Flooding in D5SR

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

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

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

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