



# TELL TALES

## *U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary*

### *Flotilla 26-02*

### *Division 26 – 5<sup>th</sup> Southern Region*

### *Lake Wylie*

#### **Flotilla Staff Officers**

Mark Briggs, FC

Beverly Butlin, VFC,  
CS, MT, PA

David Ray, IPFC, HR

Patrick Hughes, CM

Steve Whittaker FN,  
IS

Mike Silva, MA

Mark Wilson MS

Ray Webber NS

Tom Edwards, PB

Rick Croasdale, PE

Mark Valdes, PV

Bob Starnes, SR

David Wascher OP

Adam DeLuca, VE

#### **10 March Flotilla Meeting**

After the usual business meeting, many awards were presented to our flotilla members:

Rick Croasdale was presented the Auxiliary Recruitment Annual Service Award for adding seven new members to Flotilla 26-02 in 2024. Rick had worked tirelessly as FSO-HR and now holds the SO-HR position at Division. We all are proud and thankful for his efforts in growing the membership!





Georgia Axiotis, 26-02, was presented her “BQ” Certificate.



Adam DeLuca, FSO-VE, was presented Level I Leadership Competency Certificate.



Dave Ludlow was presented his Program Visitor (PV) Certificate.

Mark Briggs, FC, presented David Ray, FSO-HR, and Rick Croasdale, FSO-PE, the Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award for service in excess of 30 public education hours.

Mark Briggs, FC, Beverly Butlin, VFC, Mark Valdez, FSO-PV, David Ray, DFSSO-HR, all received awards for excess of 60 vessel exams in 2024.



Mark Valdez, FSO-PV, received his coveted RBS for his two years earning 120 hours each year for his work in public education.

Patrick Hughes, FSO-CM, received an award for more than 200 hours for his radio work.



## **Social Dinner**

Georgia Axiotis has volunteered to spearhead the arrangement of a social dinner for the flotilla and guests the last Sunday of each month. This is a great time to swap all the boating stories and lies that we keep from the meetings! It is a casual affair with many spouses in attendance. Keep a lookout for an email in the near future for our next dinner!

## **Risk Management Class Held**

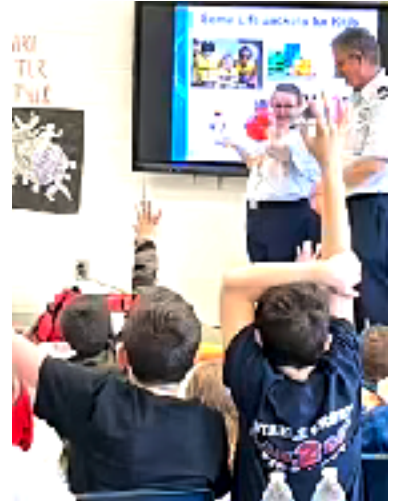
Gary Eifried, 26-04, instructed a Risk Management, (RM), formerly Team Coordination Training, (TCT), class at the Daenver Firehouse on Saturday, 15 February 2025 for around 25 members from Division 26. RM is a required course, especially for Boat Crew Coxswain, Personal Water Craft Operators and Telecommunications Operator, to name a few. Introduction to Risk Management, (ITRM) is required prerequisite for the course along with completion of ICS 100 and 200. Most of the attendees were attending for boat crew and coxswain training.

We were challenged to read a planned mission and evaluate the risk assessment using the “PEAACE” model. Each team rated a mission using the USCG Afloat Risk Assessment. Follow-up discussions were spirited and learning was had by all!



## Coastie Goes to School

On 26 February 2025, Coastie and company presented a Water 'n Kids program to a group of 4-H children at a local Clover, South Carolina elementary school. There were 34 kids and two teachers in attendance learning about water safety. The class was fully engaged and had plenty of questions for Beverly Butlin, VFC and Mark Briggs, FC. Tom Edwards, FSO-PB, was the operator and provided transportation for Coastie. If you are interested in scheduling a Coastie visit or receiving operator training, contact Dave Wascher, FSO-OP.



## Vessel Safety Checks



Adam DeLuca, FSO-VE, and Beverly Butlin, VFC, started the season for vessel checks at a local marina in Tega Cay. They performed two checks and had time to converse with several members of the boating public. The beautiful weather made a great start for vessel checks and a public affairs event. Located below are the first scheduled VE opportunities for the season coming up. If you can make any of these, please let the respective flotilla, your FC, and your FSO-VE know. If any of you know any members needing supervised VSCs for first time or to get out of REYR please pass this along to them.

DATE	PLACE	ADDRESS	Start	End
4/12/2025	Tega Cay Marina	28000 Marina Dr Tega Cay	900	1300

<b>5/3/2025</b>	<b>Hickory Lake Marina</b>	<b>6706 Limbaugh Lane Hickory, NC</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>5/10/2025</b>	<b>Tega Cay Marina</b>	<b>28000 Marina Dr Tega Cay</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>5/17/2025</b>	<b>Allison Creek Park</b>	<b>2498 Viesta Rd York</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>6/7/2025</b>	<b>Allison Creek Park</b>	<b>2499 Viesta Rd York</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>6/14/2025</b>	<b>Tega Cay Marina</b>	<b>28000 Marina Dr Tega Cay</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>7/12/2025</b>	<b>Tega Cay Marina</b>	<b>28000 Marina Dr Tega Cay</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>8/9/2025</b>	<b>Tega Cay Marina</b>	<b>28000 Marina Dr Tega Cay</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1300</b>

### **Boat America Classes**

Boat America classes have been scheduled and Rick Croasdale, FSO-PE will be looking for instructors! They have been scheduled for the 3rd week of the month at Cabela's in Fort Mill. There are also classes scheduled in Denver, NC with Scott Wigginton, SO-MT, for those looking to help out. We also assist with classes at the Joshua Murray Boating, Safety and Awareness Initiative at Blythe Landing: please look forward for these events!

## **Upcoming Events**

- 23 March: Social Dinner
- 29 March: Boating Safety Course
- 5 April: “Annual Concurrency Requirements” Boat Patrol (for existing crew/cox)
- 6 April: Boat Patrol
- 8 April: Boat Patrol
- 12 April: VSC/PA @ Tega Cay Marina
- 10-13 April: D-Train

**If it isn't in Aux Data II, it didn't happen!**

**Written by Tom Edwards, FSO-PB**