

THE

BAGGYWRINKLE

E-NEWSLETTER

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 7th District – Division 2

March 2025 Vol. 46, Issue 1

Patricia McMenamin Division Commander

Gregory Fonzeno Division Vice Commander

Editor: Philip "Skip" Yost SO-PB



USCG LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn, Director of Auxiliary USCG Seventh District (r), Administers the Oath of Office to COMO Pat McMenamin (center) incoming DCDR 02 and Greg Forzeno (l) incoming VCDR 02 for the year 2025



Patricia McMenamin, Division Commander mcmenaminpat@comcast.com

From the Division Commander



It is an old cliché, but still holds true this year. Division 2 really hit the ground running! We had the Atlanta Boat Show as well as the Upstate SC Boat Show. Members have been conducting online and in-person training, workshops, Team Coordination Training, boating safety classes. Program visits and vessel exams have begun in earnest. I can't say enough about the hard work that is put forth by our members.

There were also the catching up of the Secretary's reports, the 7000 form from 2024. I want to thank all the Flotilla Secretaries and Flotilla Commanders, but especially **Donna Saunders**, who oversaw this monumental task. Then of course, we had the year end 7025s, Unit Financial Reports. Again, thank you to both the outgoing and incoming leadership and their staff for handling this in a timely manner. Special thanks to **Larry Cook**, SO-FN who oversaw this process. Now you would have thought that would have been enough to start the year with.

However, we had one more big surprise waiting for us, the scrubbing of all websites and social media of any DEI related materials. Again, the Flotilla Commanders and their staff stepped up to the plate, without complaining, and hit the ball out of the park. Special thanks to **Perry Hildago** SO-CS and **Greg Fonzeno**, who supervised this Coast Guard directive.

Of course, we had a great Change of Command held on January 18th at Provino's in Kennesaw, GA. Both **LCDR Tuxhorn**, **DIRAUX** and **Commodore Goodwin** were able to attend and share information from both of their perspectives. Leadership and staff officers were

sworn into their office. Awards were handed out, and great food and fellowship were enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in making this a successful event.

We are now embarking on a first ever endeavor for Division 2. An in-person Sector Training event to be held on March 22nd in Acworth, GA. Every member was sent an email with course information and registration links for each class. We have updated the courses in hopes of offering more pertinent training. It is imperative that Flotilla leadership and human resource and secretary staff officers attend these classes, as new and important information will be shared. Also, we have the required workshops, Team Coordination Training, CORE training and BQCII training opportunities available. I have also heard that District 7 **Commodore Martin, Chief of Staff Price** and **DCAPT-N** plan to attend. Let's make this an enjoyable and well-attended event. You learn much more with in-person training where ideas are shared from within the groups. Did I mention that lunch is being provided without cost to the attendees?

Division 2 did well last year in many areas, but as we all know, there are always ways to do more, bring in more members and serve our boating constituents. Let's make a huge effort to not only recruit new members, but to reach out to current members and offer additional opportunities to lead. Potential leaders need to be mentored and given chances to step up to additional tasks to build those competencies. We are not only working in the present, but we should be laying the foundation for the future.

Semper Paratus.

Commodore Pat McMenamin, DCDR 2



Gregory Fonzeno, Division Vice Commander gregory.fonzeno@cgauxnet.us

From the Division Vice Commander



We are off to a strong start for 2025. Before we proceed further into the year, I want to acknowledge the high level of professionalism demonstrated by the Division Staff Officers. Each Staff Officer is enthusiastic, energetic, and fully engaged in their missions. Their commitment, along with that of the associated Flotilla Staff Officers and members, is commendable.

This dedication has already been evident through successful events, such as the **Atlanta Boat Show** and the **Bass Pro Shop/Cabela's Safety Day**. Additionally, preparations for National Safe Boating Week and the annual Army Ranger Drop have begun, there has been an impressive number of graduates from boating safety classes, collaborative efforts between Flotillas on various events, and excellent member training sessions conducted. Given how early it is in the year and that the boating season has not yet fully commenced, the Division's accomplishments thus far are noteworthy, with potential for even greater achievements.

Plans are also ongoing for our upcoming Sector Training (**S-TRAIN**) Day on March 22, 2025. I encourage all members within the Division to carefully review all reports in the *Baggywrinkle* to appreciate the exceptional work being accomplished by your Division Staff Officers. As a reminder, Flotilla Staff Officer reports are due to the Division Staff Officer by the 5th of each month. Division Staff Officer reports should be submitted to your respective ADSO by the 8th of the month, with a copy sent to me. Thank you all very much for your continued efforts. Please stay safe and healthy.

Greg Fonzeno, VCDR 2



Flotilla Reports

Flotilla 21 (Augusta)

Flotilla Commander Jim McMenamin

solodiver1@comcast.net



Greetings from Flotilla 21 on the Georgia/ South Carolina border. All is well, but we are still "trapped" at the marina where we keep both Facility vessels. The dock was partly destroyed back in October with the hurricane that passed through our area. The Army Recreation Marina has been closed due to danger and destruction. Both Facilities should be fully operational by the middle of March, and weather permitting, patrols will begin with an ATON verification patrol.

We had a nice Change of Watch, and all new Staff Officers are in place and have hit the ground running. Our end of year audit was completed without a hitch. We are continuing to offer a variety of training at our meetings, most importantly the required annual workshops and TCT for those who need them. Information has been shared about the upcoming S-TRAIN, and we hope some of our members will take the opportunity to attend. Uniform inspections should be completed after our March meeting.

We had a couple of new members join late last year and now they are getting into a position to begin contributing to the Flotilla mission. Our calendar is filling up, and local contacts are offering events we will be happy to support. We also plan on providing support for FL 29's **Ranger Drop** again this year.

Semper Paratus.



Flotilla 22 (Lake Allatoona)
Flotilla Commander Earl Burns
earl.a.burns@cgauxnet.us

District 7 Quarterly Report

Unit/AOR/Program Area: Flotilla 22

1. Current Progress Relative to District Operations Plan and Contingency Plans:

- Flotilla 22 continues to ramp up its Boating Safety Program, Vessel Examinations, Program Visits and Lake Allatoona Patrols, as the weather permits.

2. Accomplishments in Recruiting and Retention:

- We continue to Recruit members during Vessel Examinations, Boat Shows. At this time, we have one new member in the pipeline (application submitted) and two others still in the exploratory stages. District approves the cutting of Prospective Candidates after two months, rather than letting nonresponsive candidates linger in the system.
- Personal phone calls to members who have not attended meetings in a while, and engage them on what can the Auxiliary do to motivate attendance and where are the areas they would like to make an impact.

3. Program/Department Activities, Events, Projects, and Performance:

- Public Affairs
 - a. **Cabela's Open House** February 8th & 9th
 - b. 3 – Boating Safety Class signups
 - c. 3 – Vessel Examination signups
 - d. 1- Flotilla Interest
 - e. Total of 30 direct “meaningful” interactions at the event
- Flotilla 22 – National Safe Boating Week (**NSBW**) committee established.
- Attended and instituted new program of tracking Prospective Auxiliary Candidates in Flotilla and Division.

4. Problems, Issues, Concerns and Suggested Solutions

- The number of qualified radio operators has been a drain on the number of watch standers that are available. There are six qualified, but only two available for operations.
- Only 50% of the membership attend meetings. Increase membership awareness in supporting Flotilla events.
- Will continue to recruit members to take part in Public Affairs Events accomplish by utilizing emails and phone calls to members.

5. Action Items:

- Institution of New Membership Program tracking. D7 to follow the methodology of other Districts in allowing HR rep to insert information into a real time data base. This will cut the need to forward e-responder spreadsheets to the District.

6. Next Quarter's Plans and Milestones:

- Flotilla 22 to host Next Division Training and first ever Sector Training

Earl Burns, FC

Flotilla 23 (Northeast Georgia)
 Flotilla Commander Ron Scarazzo
rpscarazzo@yahoo.com

District 7 Quarterly Report

Unit/AOR/Program Area: Flotilla 23

Accomplishments:

- Found a problem with a Member's record in AD II that needed to be corrected.
- Generated an REYR report for compliance of Member's core competencies.
- Event registration (pending), member signup at March meeting and boating season.
- Have a good reputation with our local newspapers and expect articles to publish soon.

Opportunities:

- Hopeful regarding Springtime activities as Members return.
- One new person experienced in Member Training volunteered to take on that position.
- Planning started for PA events this spring:
 1. USCG Operation Dry Water.
 2. USCG Birthday.
 3. Annual social outing.
 4. Public Lake Chatuge Marina Tent.
 5. Newsletter Issue during RBS season.
 6. Local newspaper PB articles, PE schedule updates, newsworthy Flotilla activity, photos of activity/members, and PE classes.

Challenges:

- Low enrollment at this time. Lost three Members, one to retirement and two who were disenrolled.
- Recruitment activities need to increase.
- Low enrollment currently, aging-out and health issues ongoing.
- Getting more than 2-3 participants in our Flotilla at PA events.
- Finding new opportunities in our small AOR.

Summary:

- Our Flotilla is shrinking in membership and is in need of recruitment help. I am seeking assistance in this area.

Ron Scarazzo, FC



Flotilla 25 (Lake Hartwell)
Flotilla Commander Perry Hidalgo
uscgauxf25@gmail.com

Flotilla 25 was again at the **Upstate South Carolina Boat Show**, January 23-26, following a 4-year absence. The show at the Greenville Convention Center was full and no vendor booths were available, but the event coordinator provided a large space for our booth at an intersection in the large boat dealer area. Thanks to Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) **Larry Cole** for arranging.

The Flotilla meeting was held February 22, both in person at the Galley Restaurant, Upper Deck at Portman Marina and online. Our thanks to Flotilla 29 for the use of their Zoom account. The annual Program Visitor workshop was presented following the meeting, still in person and online. Nearly 24% of the membership in person and nearly 37% combined attendance. The Flotilla 29 Zoom was also used to present the Risk Management/Team Coordination (**RM/TCT**) workshop on February 19-20, with members of both Flotillas 25 and 29 attending.

The first Public Education (PE) **Boat America** class was held on March 1 for 11 students, ranging in age from 12 to grandparents. All were sign-ups from the Upstate South Carolina Boat Show with most attendees from Georgia, including from Buford, Brazelton and Gainesville. We are working to have the Georgia attendees registered for class attendance in the GA DNR student database. Will research doing the same thing for the South Carolina attendees.

We had an additional public affairs opportunity on March 1 with an invitation to attend the **Western Carolina Sail Club** annual Blessing of the Fleet. Following the public education class, we were able to represent the Flotilla and CG Auxiliary, and enjoy their Low Country Boil. The next public affairs event will be a table at the **Lake Hartwell Association** annual meeting at the Anderson Civic Center, expecting hundreds of members in attendance and at another meeting location in Hartwell, GA. This will be followed on March 15 by the **Lavonia Boat Show**, where the city will close 2 blocks of Main St for local boat dealers, other businesses, and civic groups. Last year, the booth was next to the Hartwell VFW and the Lake Hartwell Association (**LHA**), which resulted in a new member and a closer relationship with the LHA.



This resulted in the latter opening use of the Hart County Library Education Center for the PE classes and representation at other civic functions.

For Operations, the Flotilla has two Facilities and 3 operations qualified members, 2 Coxswains and 1 boat crew. We also have 3 non-current crew and 6 members interested in crew qualification. We will be scheduling the RM/TCT and Operations workshops for this and planning patrols, when

available, for needed currency maintenance and underway hours. The first patrol event on Lake Hartwell will be the Greenville Health System annual **Dragon Boat Race**, this year on Saturday May 3rd. We will need Division assistance with crew and would appreciate having another Facility.

The Flotilla's March meeting is being moved to the 5th Saturday in March due to CG Auxiliary functions at Flotilla or Division on every other Saturday. Following the meeting, we will present the annual Vessel Examination (**VE**) workshop for member training. The Risk Management, Operations and Telecommunications workshops will be presented online.

Perry Hidalgo, FC



Division Staff Officer Reports



SO-AS (Auxiliary Scouts)

David Friedman

davidboat4014@gmail.com

From the standpoint of Division 2, the AUXSCOUT program is active.

First, we have been matching the few Sea Scout Ships in the area covered by our Division with existing Flotillas. Augusta and south-central Georgia have some opportunities as both Flotillas and Ships start their own rebuilding programs. As each unit progresses in their own rebuilding, it is hoped they will get more involved with each other. The Atlanta area is definitely involved in an active Ship.

The simplest way for any Flotilla to be involved with a Sea Scout Ship is to offer to provide a Boat America Course to them. The Sea Scouts have a provision in their own advancement that requires the Scouts to take an approved boating safety course from an approved organization. We qualify.

There are two major challenges for the AUXSCOUT program. The obvious for us in Division 2 is we have Flotillas that are in a rebuilding stage. Age catches up with all of us, and as a Division, we are going through that. The second challenge is, in a way, tied to the age issue. Many members just simply feel they do not want to work with “kids.” The fact is these are eager youngsters who are bright and capable. They want to learn, and they want to participate. We have found that these youngsters are an added bonus on patrol, as they can do some of the jobs that our aging bodies can’t do as well anymore. Yes, they can go on patrol – as guests, but that doesn’t mean you can’t train them and use them.

Attached is a link to a brochure outlining some of the advantages of working with the Sea Scouts. If you have any questions about the program or how to be involved, please feel free to give me a call. Here is the link:

<https://auxscout.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/AUXSCOUT-for-AUXILIARY-trifold-2024.pdf>

David Friedman, SO-AS



SO-CA (Culinary Assistant)

Skip Yost

s_yost@charter.net

I have taken on the role of SO-CA this year, and would like to thank **Rob George**, SO-CA in 2024, for his guidance and help in getting me up to speed. The Culinary Assistant program within the Auxiliary appears to be a vibrant component that is generating a lot of interest on both the “Silver” and “Gold” sides. Opportunities exist to serve the active side at both shore stations and aboard cutters. Here in Division 2, the closest Coast Guard location is **Station Tybee**, located near Savannah, Georgia. So far this year, there have been three new AUXCA1 candidates that have been certified to serve with the Coast Guard, with at least two more in the pipeline to become qualified. There are two types of certifications for this program, namely **AUXCA1** and **AUXCA2**. The former indicates a candidate has gone through the extensive classroom and on-site training at a Coast Guard location that has a Galley, and in which PQS signoffs have been completed by Coast Guard personnel. An AUXCA2 certification is less strenuous in training, and indicates that culinary assistance may only be provided at the Auxiliary level, and not at a Coast Guard facility. This level is also automatically grandfathered in with the AUXCA1 certification.

Listed below is a breakdown of the current classifications of AUXCA by Flotilla within our Division:

Flotilla	AUXCA1 #	AUXCA2 #
21	0	1

22	4	4
29	2	3
Total	6	8

If you are interested in learning more about this program, or want to pursue becoming a Culinary Assistant within the Auxiliary, please let me know I will be glad to help.

Randy Carlton (AUXCA1) from FL 29 grilling some chicken for lunch at Station Tybee. (Photo provided by Skip Yost)



AUXCAs provided lunch for Division 2 Meeting held in October at FL 29 Ops center. Pictured (left to right) are Rob George (FL 22), Kerry Eakins (FL 29), John Quinn (FL 29), Randy Carlton (FL 29), and Skip Yost (FL 22). (Photo provided by John Quinn)



Skip Yost, SO-CA



SO-CM (Communications)

Kerry Eakins

kweakins@gmail.com

Two-way radio communications are not just a convenient way to talk to each other, but it has become a necessity for emergencies. A properly installed and maintained VHF marine radio has now become almost a must. Whether it is a handheld, marine mobile, mobile or fixed station, your device needs to be frequently checked and maintained. Major items that should be watched and checked for are grounding and bonding, SWR, incoming voltage, output power, condition and placement of the antenna.

It is also important as to where and how the radio is installed. If there is enough interest, I would be happy to host a TCO qualification training or TCO workshop, or even training for Technician level amateur radio operators license for the Division. I would be glad to personally check any Division member's radio in person if they would prefer to do it on an individual basis.

Also, please don't forget we will need radio operators for the Army Ranger drop that is coming up soon.

Kerry Eakins, SO-CM

SO-CS (Communication Services)

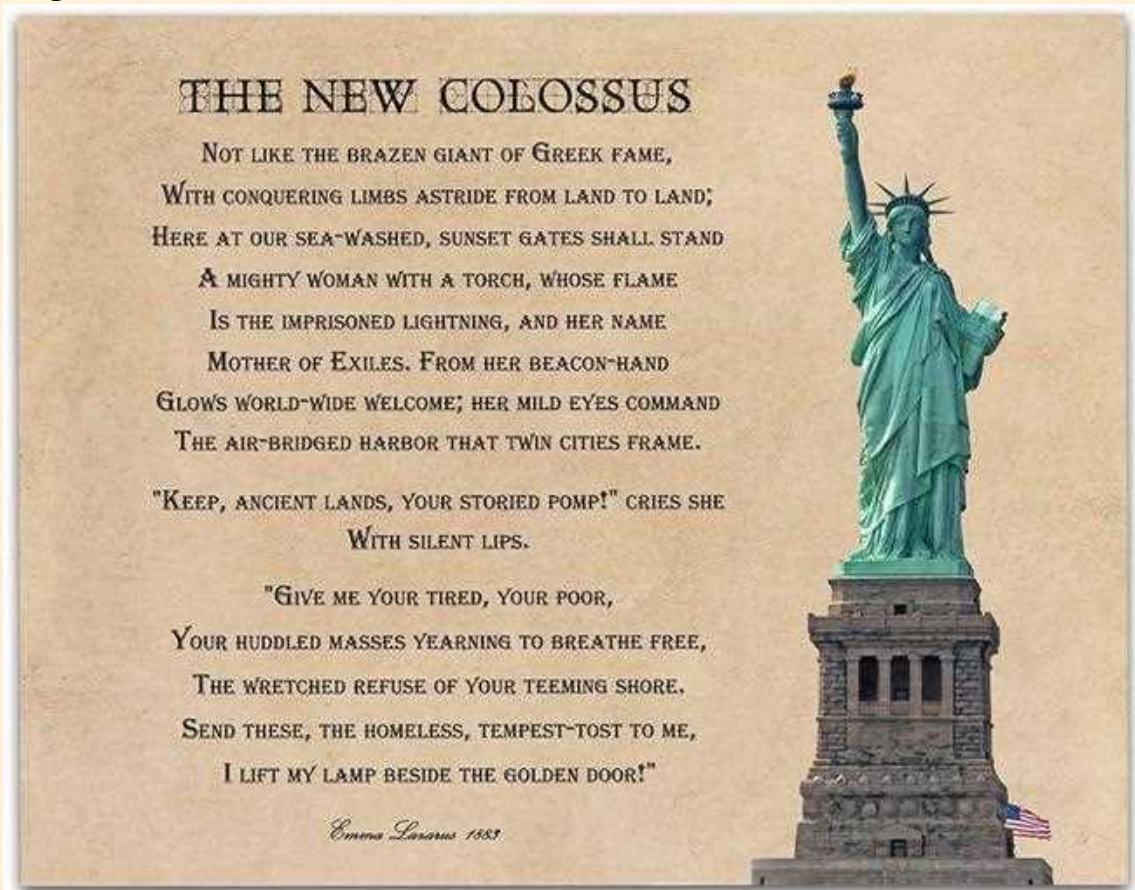
Owen Tozier

otozier99@gmail.com

Recently, we have been asked to adjust and update the way we approach Auxiliary members, both retired, current and potential. As always, we offer honesty and fairness to all, and consideration to all cultures and points of view.

The Statue of Liberty's pedestal has a plaque with the poem: "***The New Colossus***" by Emma Lazarus. "***Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The***

wretched of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



As we think about our messages we communicate to our members and community, Lady Liberty lights the way in **Engagement, Integration and Innovation. The Communication Services Team:**

- ...is committed to making technology a productive tool in supporting team Coast Guard's efforts to protect, support, and aid the boating public.
- To maintain a showplace where the Auxiliary can show the public what we do and why we volunteer our time to this great effort.
- To invite others to join the USCG Auxiliary in our mission to make public boating safe and fun for all.

Owen Tozier, SO-CS



SO-FN (Finance)

Larry Cook

flotilla22lcook@gmail.com

The Finance report will be given at the Division meeting.

DDSL Report

As of this writing, we have 221 Members in our Division. We added a new Member to Flotilla 25, in January, and have one Application pending from Flotilla 22. In 2024, the Applications averaged 32 days for processing.

In March of 2023, I reported on a new Citizenship Verifier Qualification Process. As you might expect, the process has changed for 2025. Below are the steps to becoming a Citizenship Verifier.

Steps for Becoming a Citizenship Verifier

1. Complete ICS-100 and ICS-700 FEMA courses.
(<https://training.fema.gov/ndemu/schools/emergency-management-institute>).
2. Review the Fingerprint Technician Manual located at:
(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1miXWbhKYqrmNRzcsIVx1m3e5_BgNpBHY/view)
3. Successfully complete the FPRINTTECH exam in the National Testing Center.
(<https://ntc.cgaux.org>).
4. Submit a Help Desk ticket using the "Certification Submission – Other". Add the following text in the message box:

"I have completed reading the Fingerprint Training materials and successfully passed the Fingerprint Exam in NTC. Please waive the fingerprint card portion of the qualification as fingerprint cards are not required for application to the Auxiliary. I am requesting certification as a Citizenship Verifier only.

Very Respectfully,"

Your Full Name and EMPLID

5. Verify that your CV certification appears in AUXDATA. This may take up to two weeks to process.

In addition to the above steps, you will need to have a current Uniform Inspection.

Who should become a Citizenship Verifier? Anyone in the Flotilla involved with the processing of New Member Applications, such as the FC, VFC and FSO-HR.

Larry Cook, SO-FN



SO-HR (Human Resources)

Earl Burns

earl.a.burns@cgauxnet.us

There is only one new member in this quarter, with 20 Prospective Candidates in the pipeline. The District has given all HR Officers the following guidance:

1. Access to the Prospective Member Management System. In the past we were required to track members through the e-responder system, an excel spreadsheet which was cumbersome to manage.
2. Now HR members with the requisite training can go into AAMS and update real time the status and contacts with Prospective Candidates.
3. E-Responders can still be maintained, but no need to provide to District.
4. It is recommended if a Prospective Candidate has been non-responsive for two months, we are authorized to make a recommendation for their removal from the system.
5. All walk-ins or self-generated candidates will be only tracked within the Flotilla. They will not be entered in the electronic system.

Earl Burns, SO-HR



SO-IS (Information Services)

Donna Saunders

flotilla22is@gmail.com

So far this year, less than 50 members have reported 3,712 hours for 2025. Where are the rest of you? You are responsible for reporting what you do, whether you or your FSO-IS does the entry.

AuxData II is the perfect source to keep track of all of your activities and status. Recent changes have made it very easy to be sure you are up to date on everything. Do not rely on anyone else to keep you on track, learn to do it for yourself.

An opportunity to become more familiar with what areas you can explore and utilize will be made available at the **S TRAIN** offered on March 22. I've heard people remark that "no one told me", but only YOU are responsible for asking for help or taking advantage when training is offered.

At the beginning of the year, 441 people in District 7 lost all of their Competencies just because they didn't complete their Uniform Status updates before 12/31/2024. Core Training expiration will also cause all of your Competencies to go into REYR. **DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.** If you choose to no longer maintain a Competency, there is a form for submission to remove the Competency.

With over 200 people in the Division, if you need help, reach out to the Officers responsible for that area. Member Training, Operations, Program Visitation, Vessel Examinations and Information Services are some of the general categories.

Let's get started on this early in the year, and make it work for all of us.

Donna Saunders, SO-IS



SO-MA (Materials)

Michael Wood

wood70@comcast.net

For those members not familiar with what is handled by the Auxiliary National Supply Center (**ANSC**), the catalog is on the national web site (www.cgaux.org) under the “Auxiliary Members” tab and the sub-tab is “Auxiliary Manuals”. When that page comes up, it is the green notebook on the extreme right. If there are any questions about what you can or cannot get, please contact me.

For other items, such as uniforms and accessories, there is the store on the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association’s web site (www.cgaux.org – or via the direct link on the Auxiliary web site under the next to last tab on the right). **If you are looking for small items like ribbon bars or some uniform items that might be in your Flotilla store (if applicable), check with your FSO-MA officer first to see that is the case before placing an order on the web site. This can probably save you some money if the item is in your Flotilla store.** The Association’s web site has changed over the years, so if you have not visited it recently, please do so. There is a sub-tab on the Auxiliary site that will take you to the store, or if you go to the Association’s Home Page, click on “MORE” and that will ultimately take you to the store.

As an FYI, for those of you who might want to wear a pin on civilian clothes that indicate the highest office you have achieved in the Auxiliary, there is a pin indicated on the first page of the Uniform (All Items) tab that shows the DCO/ANACO pin. It would go on a sport or suit jacket. I don’t think they show the other levels, but I know the store has them. Contact me with any questions if you are interested. According to the site, they have reduced prices on a lot of items. I know they are trying to reduce their inventory on a lot of things, many of which will not be re-ordered. Contact me if there is something you cannot find, but which you thought should have been there, as I can find out if it is still available. You can place your orders directly with the store, and accept credit cards for purchasing items.

Michael Wood, SO-MA



SO-MT (Member Training)

Larry Cook

flotilla22lcook@gmail.com

Did you know that a Uniform Inspection is now mandatory? In early January of 2025, more than 400 Auxiliary Members in D7 went REYR for Core Training because they did not have a Uniform Inspection recorded in AuxData II. In our Division, we still have 22 members in this state. To make matters worse, when you go REYR for Core Training, you also go REYR for any Competency you have!

Did you know that we have 112 Members (50.6%) in the Division that still need to take their **Suicide Prevention Course** before the end of this year? Of the 112, 43.7 percent or 49 Members have at least one Competency that could go REYR at the same time. Are you REYR in a Competency where you do not plan to get your Currency back? Why not submit a request to remove the Competency from your records, rather than waiting five years for National to remove the Competency.

In January, we had two training sessions for Suicide Prevention, where 26 Division Members were certified for the course. Watch your email for additional Zoom classes to be held throughout 2025.

Larry Cook, SO-MT

SO-NS (Navigation Systems)

Rich Adams

adamsclassiccars@yahoo.com

Accomplishments:

Being the heart of winter, there is no notable NS accomplishment to date.

Opportunities:

1. Flotilla 25 will be obtaining the list of Lake Hartwell PATONS from the Army Corps of Engineers (**ACOE**) at their annual multi-agency meeting in May. The ACOE has approx. 1200 aids.
2. Flotilla 29 will continue to work closely with the ACOE on Lake Lanier once boat crew operations resume for 2025.
3. **Larry Cook** will plan to assist in increasing the numbers of certified Aids to Navigation (ATON) verifiers this spring. Anyone interested is welcome to contact me to be added to training opportunities this Spring/Summer.

Challenges:

Weather temperatures and funding issues are preventing us from moving forward in the AV on water qualifications and training across the Division.

Rich Adams, SO-NS



SO-OP (Operations)

Bruce Lindsey

bruce.lindsey7676@yahoo.com

Welcome to Operations leadership for 2025. With the exception of **Rich Adams** at FL 29, all FSO-OPs are returning. After 2 years away from Operations leadership, I am glad to be back.

Operations Status by Flotilla

Flotilla	Coxswain	Crew	Facilities
21	2	2	2
22	3	6	3

23	1	1	1
25	2	1	4 (1 Facility on Lake Lanier)
27	0	0	1 (1 Coxswain, 1 Crew need to check currency)
29	4	4	4

What is missing are members who are not current due to REYR or REWK, lack of operations time, currency maintenance or required workshops. Risk Management and the Operations workshops may need to be completed. Please also note if assistance is needed to complete missing requirements.

As in past years, I am planning on coordinating large operations missions, training assistance and qualification missions. Previously, we have published a patrol roster by Flotilla, updated weekly so all could know when patrols were scheduled for training, currency or participation. This was easier with the previous AUXDATA system which had a calendar of patrols by Facility and order status. I would appreciate if FSO-OPs could provide an update of your Flotilla's missions, but am expecting to also find a process for accessing this information in AuxData II.

Likely expected events needing multi-Flotilla support include:

- Army Ranger Airdrop on Lake Lanier, expected for May 6 and 7 with backup day May 8.
- Lake Hartwell Dragon Boat Races, expect May 10.
- All lakes: Boating Safety Week-Operation DryWater June 28-July 6 (July 4 week).
- Possible Sector Charleston support
- Lake Jocassee-Greenville Health System Emergency Training with SC ARNG Air Support late August

Please let me know if you have an event that needs additional support.

The main operations event this quarter has been Division-wide reporting of personal protective equipment (**PPE**) requirements for this year. A primary requirement is replacement of Personal Locator Beacons (**PLBs**) needed because of expiring batteries. Thank you to all Flotilla Operations officers for their timely reporting.

While we wait for patrol weather and order funding, training is our primary need. This is the time for the required annual **Operations** and **Risk Management** workshops. In-person workshops will be conducted at several Flotillas, and the Risk Management workshop will be presented twice at the Division **S-Train** event on 22 March. A Risk Management (**RM**) workshop was presented online and attended by members of Flotillas 25 and 29. Several more RM and the Operations workshops will be offered online so that everyone needing these for currency or new qualification will have the opportunity to attend.

Thanks for all that you do. I look forward to talking, seeing and working with you.

Bruce Lindsey, SO-OP



SO-PA (Public Affairs)

Dan Vaccaro

drv2600@gmail.com

The **Atlanta Boat Show**, held in January, went better than expected with support from Flotilla 29. Two additional boat shows are currently anticipated in March and April.



Matt Cooper (FL 29) hanging out with Sammy the Sea Otter at the Atlanta Boat Show. (Photo provided by Dan Vaccaro)

Dan Vaccaro, SO-PA



SO-PB (Publications)

Philip (Skip) Yost

s_yost@charter.net

It's hard to believe that another new year is already upon us. As always with the start of each year, maintenance is required on newsletters showing new Board and Staff positions. Please send me a photo of yourself if a picture is missing for you in this publication.

Special thanks to **Eric Amato** in providing the Division 2 **Change of Watch 2025 Recap** at the end of this newsletter.

Skip Yost, SO-PB



SO-PV (Program Visitor)

David (Bryan) Bowie

bbowi.cga@enetfirst.com

Greetings, I am the newly appointed Staff Officer for Program Visitor (**SO-PV**) in Division 2. I will be providing assistance to all Flotilla Staff Officers (FSO-PVs) in our Division. So far, this year we are getting off to a good start showing 80 program visits having been completed. In 2023, we had 992 program visits. In 2024, we reached 1,084. Our goal for 2025 is to exceed the number of visits from last year. By this time last year, we were at 102 visits. Currently, we are at 80, which indicates a slight difference from the previous year.

Please contact me if you need any assistance.

David (Bryan) Bowie, SO-PV



SO-VE (Vessel Examinations)

David (Bryan) Bowie

bbowi.cga@enetfirst.com

Greetings, I am the newly appointed Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations (**SO-VE**) in Division 2. I will be providing assistance to all Flotilla Staff Officers (FSO-VEs) in our Division. To date, we have already received the 2025 VE decals which are currently available for distribution. As the weather begins to warm up, I am optimistic that the number of vessel examinations will increase. Currently, we have 42 vessel examiners on record in our Division. There were 1,385 vessel exams in 2023, compared to 956 in 2024. Our goal for this year is to attempt to surpass the 2023 figure of 1,385 exams.

Please contact me if you need any assistance.

David (Bryan) Bowie, SO-VE

Photos from around Division 2

Auxiliary Medal of Operational Merit presented to FL 29 members (l-r): **Michael Goetschl, Erik Amato, Bruce Lindsey, USCG ENS Ryan Hector**, Sector Charleston. The Citation below was similar on all three Awards. (Photo provided by Erik Amato)



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AUXILIARY MEDAL OF OPERATIONAL MERIT
TO
MR. ERIK H. AMATO
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Mr. AMATO is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Boat Crew Coxswain on 04 July 2024. In support of the Lake Lanier Water Safety Task Force, Mr. AMATO demonstrated outstanding operational skill in the rescue of three inexperienced boaters in the water with an overturned jet ski. As the evening sun started to set and the lake traffic increased for the fireworks show, the crew of the Auxiliary Facility "Early Out" was alerted to an emergency on Lake Lanier. As the only Coast Guard asset on the lake, Mr. AMATO was instrumental in the search and rescue. Mr. AMATO spotted the operator and passengers clinging to the partially submerged jet ski and prepared the deck for recovery of the boaters. After the coxswain positioned the facility for pick-up, Mr. AMATO retrieved the distressed boaters from the water and along with another crewmember performed an injury assessment and provided first aid. One of the passengers was in the early stages of shock after being in the water for more than half an hour. Mr. AMATO immediately contacted emergency response while the crew tended to the passenger. Once the passenger recovered and was no longer in danger, the crew placed the jet ski in tow and returned the family back to their dock. Mr. AMATO's judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Flotilla 22 Change of Watch

Ceremonial Cake in honor of FC Earl Burns and VFC Victor Rios. (All photos provided by Nan Ellen Fuller)



Missing Man Table



Swearing in of Flotilla 22 Board and Staff



Bravo Zulu Awards for Vessel Inspections presented to (l-r) Dave Fuller, Bryan Bowie and Larry Cook.



Allatoona Unit Award presented to Bryan Bowie by FC Earl Burns.



Certificate for Completion of Leadership Competency Level Five presented to Nan Ellen Fuller by FC Earl Burns.



Lifetime Achievement Award presented to David Friedman by FC Earl Burns.



Commodore James H. Titus Award presented to Larry Cook by FC Earl Burns.



Flotilla 29 Hosting Division Meeting

(Photos provided by Erik Amato)







DIVISION 2 CHANGE OF WATCH 2025 RECAP



Recap and photos by Erik Amato FI 29

YOUR ELECTED DIVISION SENIOR LEADERSHIP FOR 2025



USCG LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn, Director of Auxiliary USCG Seventh District (r), Administers the Oath of Office to COMO Pat McMenemy (center) incoming DCDR 02 and Greg Forzeno (l) incoming VCDR 02 for the year 2025

SPECIAL INVITED GUESTS



USCG Seventh District Director of Auxiliary LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn addresses the membership at the 2025 Division Change of Watch in Kennesaw, GA



USCG Auxiliary District Seven Commodore Martin Goodwin speaks to the membership outlining his "watch words" **MEMBER SATISFACTION**, and his leadership plans for the District Seven Auxiliary

COMMENDATIONS and AWARDS PRESENTED



IPDCR Chuck Kelemen (I) presents the **USCG AUXILIARY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL** Award to
COMO Pat McMenemy during the Change of Watch ceremonies



IPDCR Chuck Kelemen (I) presents the **USCG AUXILIARY COMMENDATION MEDAL** Award to
incoming VCDR Greg Forzeno during the Change of Watch ceremonies

AWARDS and PRESENTATIONS (cont)



IPVCDR Charles Jeffrey (l) and LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn (r) present Earl Burns FC 22 with the **Seventh District Award for Most Improved Flotilla in Member Training for 2023**



LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn (center) presented Chuck Kelemen IPCDR (r) and Charles Jeffrey IPVCDR Awards for **Seventh District Most Improved Division in the District for 2023**, and also **Most Improved Division in Member Training for 2023**



PDCDR Kerry Eakins (r) presented IPDCDR Chuck Kelemen (l) with a traditional gift for the outgoing Division Commander



Division and Flotilla Leadership who were sworn in at the Change of Watch (l to r) Rich Adams VFC 29, Michael Goetschl FC 29, Earl Burns FC 22, Jim McMenamin FC 21, Pat McMenamin DCDR 02, Greg Forzeno VCDR 02. The oath was given by USCG LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn (r)



Division Staff Officers for 2025 present were sworn in by USCG LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn. (l to r) Rich Adams SO-NS, Kerry Eakins SO-CM, Larry Cook SO-FN, Earl Burns SO-HR, Donna Saunders SO-IS / SO-SR, Bruce Lindsey SO-OP, (separate photo) Dan Vaccaro SO-PA and Skip Yost SO-CA / SO-PB



LAUGHTER AND FELLOWSHIP INCLUDED!











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Division 2 Chain of Leadership

DIVISION ELECTED OFFICERS

DCDR Division Commander **Patricia McMenamin**
VCDR Division Vice Commander **Gregory Fonzeno**
IPDCDR Immediate Past Division Commander **Chuck Kelemen**
FC 21 Flotilla Commander **James McMenamin**
FC 22 Flotilla Commander **Earl Burns**
FC 23 Flotilla Commander **Ronald Scarazzo**
FC 25 Flotilla Commander **Perry Hidalgo**
FC 27 Flotilla Commander **William Ettingoff**
FC 29 Flotilla Commander **Martin Goetschl**

DIVISION STAFF OFFICERS

SO-AS Auxiliary Scouts **David Friedman**
SO-CA Culinary Assistants **Philip (Skip) Yost**
SO-CM Communications **Kerry Eakins**
SO-CS Communication Services **Owen Tozier**
SO-FN Finance **Larry Cook**
SO-HR Human Resources **Earl Burns**
SO-IS Information Services **Donna Saunders**
SO-MA Materials **Michael Wood**
SO-MS Marine Safety **Tyson Bond**
SO-MT Member Training **Larry Cook**
SO-NS Navigation Systems **Richard Adams**
SO-OP Operations **Bruce Lindsey**
SO-PA Public Affairs **Dan Vaccaro**
SO-PB Publications **Philip (Skip) Yost**
SO-PE Public Education **Joseph Edwards**
SO-PV RBS Visitor Program **David (Bryan) Bowie**
SO-SR Secretary/Records **Donna Saunders**
SO-VE Vessel Examination **David (Bryan) Bowie**

