

THE

BAGGYWRINKLE

E-NEWSLETTER

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 7th District – Division 2
October 2025 Vol. 46, Issue 3

Patricia McMenamin Division Commander
Gregory Fonzeno Division Vice Commander
Editor: Philip “Skip” Yost SO-PB



Dedication of a Life Jacket Loaner Station in memory **Captain Chris Day** at Allatoona Landing.



Patricia McMenamin, Division Commander mcmenaminpat@comcast.net



From the Desk of the Division Commander

It is that time of year again, elections!! With all of the changes in the past 2 years, it is imperative that the screening committees give their due diligence in verifying eligibility for each candidate. As you should know by now, the requirements for leadership have been updated. Those wanting to run for a leadership position must have completed the Administrative Procedures Course, **(APC)** and either the Auxiliary Flotilla Leadership Course **(AFLC)** or the Auxiliary Leadership

Management School **(AUXLAMs)**. The AFLC test can be completed online, open-book, but does have a time limit. The APC course is based solely on the Auxiliary Manual **(AUXMAN)** and is also an open book exam with a time limit.

With the latest changes that took place during the National Training Summit, we now have limits for VCDR and VFC in place that will take place immediately. First, criteria for serving as either a Division Vice Commander **(VCDR)** or a Vice Flotilla Commander **(VFC)** has been changed, effective immediately. First approved policy change:

1. Policy Change: Unlimited terms for elected Vice Flotilla Commanders (VFCs) and Vice Division Commanders (VCDRs) have been removed to align with the term limits of Flotilla Commanders (FCs) and Division Commanders (DCDRs).
- An important amendment to our leadership policies has been approved. This amendment removes the provision that allowed unlimited terms for elected Vice Flotilla Commanders (VFCs) and Vice Division Commanders (VCDRs). This change brings their term limits into alignment with those already in place for Flotilla Commanders (FCs) and Division Commanders (DCDRs).

- The decision stems from concerns that unlimited terms were unintentionally creating barriers to leadership development. In many cases, long-serving VFCs and VCDRs have remained in their positions for years without advancing, which has discouraged new members from stepping into these critical roles. Since these vice positions are designed to serve as developmental steppingstones—opportunities for emerging leaders to gain experience under the mentorship of FCs and DCDRs—the unlimited term policy was undermining the intended progression of leadership within the Auxiliary.
- Under the new rules, VFCs may now serve a maximum of two consecutive one-year terms, after which they must take a one-year break before becoming eligible again. This cycle may be repeated indefinitely. For DCDRs and VCDRs, the limits are slightly different: they may serve a maximum of four terms in total, with no more than two terms being consecutive. If a member transfers to a different Division, a new term cycle begins. Additionally, any leader who has completed the maximum service in one of these offices may once again run for election after a four-year absence, at which point eligibility resets for another full four-term cycle.
- This amendment was endorsed by the National Board and formally approved by the Chief Director today. It is now effective immediately.

So, everyone needs to check to ensure we are in compliance with the new policy for this election.

The second approved policy change has to do with the Auxiliary Recruiting Award:

2. Revision of the Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award
 - The criteria for the Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award have been revised to make it more attainable and to encourage greater participation in recruiting efforts. Previously, Auxiliarists were required to recruit seven new members in a single year to qualify for the award. Effective immediately, the threshold has been reduced to three new members per calendar year.
 - This change comes in response to the challenges the organization faces in sustaining and growing its membership. The Auxiliary has been experiencing an average annual loss of 2.5 percent, and most districts continue to lose more members than they bring in. Under the old standard, very few members were able to achieve the award, which limited its impact. By lowering the requirement, the Auxiliary aims to spark more interest in recruiting and ultimately strengthen membership across the organization.

- To count toward the award, at least three of the recruited members must achieve either IQ or BQ status within one year of their Base Enrollment Date (**BED**). For example, if a new member has a BED of September 20, 2024, but does not transition to IQ or BQ until March 15, 2025, they will still count toward the 2024 award. However, if they do not reach IQ or BQ by September 19, 2025, they will no longer be eligible to count. Auxiliarists seeking recognition must provide their Flotilla Commander with documentation from AUXDATA II to validate their recruiting accomplishments. Only one award may be earned per calendar year.
- This revision was approved by the National Board and concurred by the Chief Director. The change applies retroactively to cover recruiting activity that began in 2024, with the first awards under the new criteria to be presented in 2025.

The third and final approved policy change has to do with our CORE Training requirements:

3. Reactivation of CRA and SAPRR Training for AUXCT Requirements
 - The Civil Rights Awareness (**CRA**) and Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery (**SAPRR**) courses, both required Auxiliary Core Training (**AUXCT**), have been updated and are now available again in the Auxiliary Online Classroom (Moodle).
 - Auxiliarists who still need to complete these courses must do so by December 31, 2025 in order to meet AUXCT requirements and avoid being placed in REYR status.
 - These courses are available at: <https://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/>

Please check with your record in AUXDATA or get with your member training officer or your IS officer to check if this applies to you.

Now for those of you who did not attend our District Training Conference, (**D-TRAIN**), you missed an opportunity to train and enjoy fellowship with your fellow Southeast District shipmates. There were a variety of classes available and many members were able to complete their PQS tasks and become certified in various competencies. District elections also took place for the three District Captains. **DCAPT-N** will be **Sean Flynn** from Division 14. **DCAPT-E** remains unchanged with **Jeff Barnes**. The new **DCAPT-W** will be **Karen Miller** from Division 11. Elected officers will assume their position on January 1, 2026.



Many awards and certificates were handed out to Division Commanders and they will be available at the meeting for all Flotilla Commanders on October 11, 2025.

Photo from D-TRAIN 25 Fun Night. Division 2 members having a great time during Fun Night. Commodore **Pat McMenemy, Greg Fonzeno, Gabriel Mistretta, Larry Cook, Donna Saunders, and Bruce Lindsey.** (Picture provided by Pat McMenemy)

Donna Saunders, and Bruce Lindsey. (Picture provided by Pat McMenemy)

With all that has been accomplished, we are still not finished for this year. See guidance below during the government shutdown:



01 OCT 2025

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 039/25

Subj: AUXILIARY OPERATIONS DURING A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS

1. The federal government shutdown has resulted in the absence of an enacted appropriation or continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security. As a result, the Coast Guard must implement an orderly suspension of certain operations and activities. Guidance has been provided to Coast Guard elements regarding operations during this period. The Coast

Guard will continue legally authorized operations necessary for the safety of human life, protection of property, or national security, including emerging contingency operations.

2. Auxiliary operational activities may only be performed if specifically ordered by a Coast Guard Order Issuing Authority (**OIA**) in direct support of an excepted function. These functions are primarily limited to urgent search and rescue (**SAR**), aids to navigation (**ATON**) outages, and security threats. Auxiliary volunteer activities, such as Flotilla/Division meetings, recreational boating safety outreach, and public education, may proceed in accordance with the Auxiliary Manual, provided there is no obligation of Coast Guard funds. Emphasis must be placed on ensuring that Auxiliary operational activities are specifically ordered by a Coast Guard OIA and that other volunteer activities are conducted only if they do not require Coast Guard funding.

3. Liability coverage remains unaffected during the shutdown for Auxiliary activities, including meetings, all-hands gatherings, vessel exams, public affairs, culinary, chaplain, and administrative support functions.

4. Auxiliary augmentation of Coast Guard units remains authorized for non-operational missions, activities, and functions, as long as they do not incur Coast Guard appropriated fund expenditures. Funded orders cannot be issued during this time, but non-funded orders may be issued to ensure liability coverage.

5. For any questions, please refer to the Chain of Leadership and Management.

6. Internet release is authorized.

Let's keep busy, only operations are on hold for now. Remember, the members who are doing the tasks are what makes us all stand tall!



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

From the Division Vice Commander



As the third quarter concludes, I would like to recognize the commendable efforts demonstrated by our Division and Flotilla Staff Officers. Each staff officer has shown consistent dedication and professionalism while leading effective teams at both Division and Flotilla levels in fulfilling assigned missions. These accomplishments are evident through a range of successful activities across all tiers, including the completion of mandated member training workshops, recruitment of new members, execution of patrols, and

various community events. Additional efforts include public education classes, program visits, vessel safety checks, contributions to local publications, media and radio interviews, as well as outreach via Facebook posts. The chart below provides a summary of these outcomes as reported in AuxData II on 1 October 2025.

I encourage all members across the Division to thoroughly review the reports contained in the *Baggywrinkle*, as they highlight the commendable work being accomplished.

To all Division Staff members: Please ensure that your monthly reports are submitted to me by the 8th of each month so that I can compile them for the Division Commander. Flotilla Commanders are requested to send their reports directly to the Division Commander by the same deadline. The quality of reports received has been commendable. Thank you for your continued dedication. Please take care and maintain good health.

Summary of Division RBS Mission Hours Through October 1, 2025

Mission	2025 (October 1)
Patrol Hours	580.89
PE Students	332
Program Visits	676
Public Affairs Hours	1,222.25 (409 COMREL)
Vessel Safety Checks	1253



Flotilla Reports

Flotilla 21 (Augusta)

Jim McMenamin, Flotilla Commander

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We have had a rebuilding year of sorts. After the storm last October, both of our facility vessels were trapped at their marina until late spring this year. That being said, we have managed to get one patrol in so far this year and plan on a couple of more pending the government shutdown.

Members finished the Surface workshop, TCT refresher, VE workshop, IT workshop, TCO workshop, CA workshop, and an AUXDATA refresher. Members continue to work on their CORE training requirements, especially now that the Civil Rights (**CRA**) and Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery (**SAPRR**) are now available in the online classroom. Members are working on leadership courses, especially the Auxiliary Flotilla Leadership Course and the Administrative Procedures Course to qualify for elected leadership.

We managed to complete some vessel exams early in the year and our on-going program visits are in full swing. **Jon Pike FSO-HR** has been busy handling inquiries about joining the Auxiliary. Our own **Steve Gentry FSO-SR** was elevated to the SO-SR position and has hit the ground running.

We also participated again this year in the Columbia County Safety Day held May 3rd, with the BAT-PAK trailer and over 1,000 people in attendance. We received a nice write-up from the local press about participating in the event.

We look forward to hosting the Division meeting on October 11, 2025. Keep your fingers crossed as to no more hurrican weather for the CSRA!



Flotilla 22 (Lake Allatoona)

Earl Burns, Flotilla Commander

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As Flotilla 22 prepares to shutdown its summer operations, below are some of the highlights from a busy summer season.

Special Events

Members of the Flotilla attended a Tree Naming Ceremony in memory of a Former USCG Auxiliarist and College Park Police Officer, **Shakeya Walker**, who passed away last year. Her mother and father, also Auxiliarists provided photos of the event.



A sword was presented to FL 22 by the Grandson in law **Trent Morris** it belonged to deceased **USCG Commander Jim Davis**.



Operations

- We have logged 563 Underway hours in support of the following areas in the Flotilla, Division and Sector:
 - 258 - Marine Observation Missions Hours
 - 127 - Regatta Safety Zone Hours
 - 17 - Navigation Systems ATON/PATON Hours
 - 91 – Qualification Examiner Hours
 - 70 – Federal Government Support Hours
- Requalified 3 Boat Crew Members.
- Did Initial Qualification for 2 Flotilla 22 Boat Crew Members and 1 District 081 Boat Crew Member.
- Supported the two-day Pro Wakeboard event on Lake Allatoona with 3 facilities from Flotilla 22 and 1 from Flotilla 29.
- We had 1 Facility on the water for the Lake Allatoona Poker Run, to help the Army Core of Engineers (ACOE) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintain a safe boating environment for the event.
- 9 of the 11 Boat Crew Members have completed their Annual Currency Maintenance Tasks for the year.
- Flotilla 22 provided a Facility and 2 Boat Crew Members in support of the Dragon Boat Race on Lake Hartwell.
- Flotilla 22 provided 1 Boat crew member to Flotilla 29 for their **Lake Lanier Poker Run** event

Vessel Examinations

1. Accomplishments in Recruiting and Retention:

- Four new members have qualified as Vessel Examiners. An additional member will qualify once he completes Introduction to Risk Management. After the last trainee finishes, we will be back up to 17 Vessel Examiners.

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

- In this quarter, we held two vessel exam events. One event at a local boat ramp where we completed 20 exams. We also had the **Lake Allatoona Poker Run** on August 9th involving seven vessel examiners and one trainee. We also had three guests from the **Power Squadron**, including their Commander and two trainees. All three of the trainees completed their required exams to become certified as vessel examiners. We conducted 29 vessel exams, plus 17 paddle craft exams, for a total of 46 exams for the day. The Labor Day weekend Vessel Exams at the Block House numbers were down with only nine exams given. We did have six vessel examiners and one trainee participating.



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

Three Up

1. Our Flotilla members have sent in their service hours both current and unrecorded from the past. We are doing a great job updating and maintaining our data for the Flotilla.
2. Membership continues to come together in becoming a strong team through socials, activities, training and meetings! We have two transfers completed and one in process,

which bring us to 40 Flotilla members on the roster. Additionally, we have three new members in various stages of the application and onboarding process.

3. Auxiliarists **Bea Cole**, **Larry Cole**, and **Bruce Lindsey** received Commandant Letter of Commendation Awards for their work preserving the Flotilla
4. Our Hartwell VE Team will be receiving the Team Accommodation Award for this year's outstanding VE work.
5. We have upcoming AUXPAD training, as well as First Aid\CPR training. Special thanks for **Bryan Bowie** for instructing these classes.

Three Down

Nothing to report!

Flotilla 25 Data

- Total Member Hours to date: 9,361.80
- Total Program Visits to date: 91
- Total Vessel Exams to date: 235
- Total Public Education hours to date: 16
- Total Member Training hours to date: 69.25
- Total Patrol hours to date: 160

Events and Other

- New appointed VE **Penny Hidalgo**
- Four members in boat crew training, with more in process
- AUXPAD PQS training with six members enrolled
- CPR/First Aid training thirteen members enrolled
- September's meeting includes Shore Line Cleanup and Social number 5.
- Three New members in process
- Three members transferring
- **Lake Hartwell Association Meetings** (seven meetings in total)
- **Green Pond\Poker Run** - **Doug Powell** singing the National Anthem
- We offered and completed VE, IT, TCO, OPS workshops. More to be offered.
- Two Boat crew members requalified, **Jim Dodd**, and **Jesse Beckwith**

Below is an article that was written for our latest community event:

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25 and Lake Hartwell Partners for Clean Water join up and Splash Away the Trash.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25 and Lake Hartwell Partners for Clean Water worked together to improve the environment through cleaning up Lake Hartwell. On September 27th, 2025, eighteen (18) USCG Auxiliary members and officers joined The Fall 2025 Splash Away the Trash Clean-up Event. During the event Flotilla 25 Auxiliarists invested over 108 hours in removing over 22 bags of trash, two tires, disintegrating Styrofoam dock floats, and several plastic artifacts.



To accommodate the event, the Flotilla moved the monthly meeting from Portman Marina in Anderson, SC, to the home of a member who lives in Hart County, GA. The monthly meeting was held after the clean-up event.

Auxiliary member team efforts hope to ensure cleaner water, air, and soil in support of building a healthier community. In addition to clean up efforts, the Auxiliary's ongoing mission is Recreational Boater Safety (RBS). Through our mission we provide Vessel Safety Checks, Business Partnerships, and Boater Safety information, as well as a Boater Safety Education Course that is required to operate a boat on the lake for persons born after January 1, 1998. All activities including education are provided by United States Coast Guard certified member instructor teams.



Additionally, you will find Coast Guard Auxiliarists patrolling our lake and promoting safety on the water, docks, and boat ramps. If you are interested in learning more about joining The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and supporting our community and country.

Please contact Perry M. Hidalgo, Flotilla Commander, Hartwell Lake Flotilla 25.



Division Staff Officer Reports



SO-AS (Auxiliary Scouts)

David Friedman

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I have had the privilege to participate in a couple of **Eagle Scout Courts of Honor** with the help of **Nan Ellen** and **David Fuller**. The most recent was for 5 Scouts at once achieving this honor. I made comments regarding the Auxiliary and the Academy, as well as the Sea Scout program and what each has to offer these youngsters. The presentation includes a framed copy of a letter from the National Commodore congratulating each Scout. If anyone in the Division knows of an upcoming Eagle Court of Honor, please let me know and we will see if we can make the same presentation.



There is real talk of a Sea Scout Ship forming over at **Lake Lanier**, but until it really happens, then I will believe it. The rest of the Division is quiet as far as I know.

If you have any questions, please let me know.



SO-CA (Culinary Assistant)

Skip Yost

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AuxData II is currently showing **171** hours of culinary support at local Coast Guard facilities provided by Flotillas 21, 22 and 29. If you need to get your 12 hours in to maintain currency status, please let me know and I'll see what I can do to help. The remaining few months are a good time to help out in the galley since it is considered off-season down at Station Tybee, and hotel rates are much lower now if berthing is not available at the station.



SO-FN (Finance)

Larry Cook

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Financial Report to be presented at the Division meeting.

SO-IS (Information Services)



Donna Saunders

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Listed below is a breakdown of activity mission hours for each Flotilla with our Division:

2025	07002 01	07002 02	07002 03	07002 05	07002 07	070020 9	Total
Mission Group							
Boat Hours	16	698.28	0	494.95	0	585.37	1794.6
Admin (DIRAUX)	0	523	0	0	0	0	523
PA	63	667	2	303	49	267.75	1351.7 5
PV	19	147.5	1	77.5	9	134	388
Instruction	11	228.26	148	103.25	8	64	562.51
Radio	0	73.25	0	407.4	0	44.5	525.15
Emer Mgmt Support	0	131.5	0	0	0	0	131.5
Nav Systems	0	3	0	2	0	1.25	6.25
Gov Support	0	59.56	0	65.5	0	443.48	568.54
Legislative Support	0	449	0	0	0	0	449
Marine Safety						8.25	8.25
Recruiting	0	237	0	0	0	369	606
VE	6.5	106.83	9	59	16.5	153.91	351.74
AD II Support	11	100	0	170	3	10	294
Legal Support	0	0	0	0	0	201	201
Culinary Asst Support		171					
Chaplin Support	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
99 Hours	1539	13824	596	8067	272.5	4823.4 4	29121. 9
Total	1665.5	17424. 1	756	9749.6	358	7105.9 5	37059. 2

2024 Total Year	3174.2 5	21061. 3	636.28	11118. 2	1195	18279. 78	55464. 7
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2025	21	22	23	25	27	29	Total
PE Students	0	119	150	30	0	65	364
PVs	19	259	2	95	8	293	676
VEs	21	311	59	222	8	597	1218



SO-MA (Materials)

Michael Wood

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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.



SO-MT (Member Training)

Larry Cook

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With only three months left in 2025, please do not lose sight of your Core Training requirements. If you somehow missed the recent communications concerning Civil Rights Awareness and Sexual Assault Prevention, Response and Recovery, they have been added back to the course roster. For those members that joined the Auxiliary in 2025 or members that updated their Core Training in 2025, (there are five of you) you will need to circle back and take these courses to stay current.

For the twenty members that have Core Training courses expiring in 2025, please remember to get them updated before January 1, 2026, to avoid going REYR in Core Training. We also have forty members that have not yet taken the Suicide Prevention course, that was added last year. You too will go REYR in Core Training on January 1, 2026, if the course is not completed. **Remember, if you go REYR for Core Training, all your Competencies will go REYR as well.**

Now let's talk about Uniform Inspections; did you know that not getting a uniform inspection can also put you in REYR for all your competencies? We have fifty members that still need to get a Uniform Inspection before the end of 2025.

SO-NS (Navigation Systems)

Rich Adams

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Exciting progress is being made in regards to certifying new Aids to Navigation (**ATON**) verifiers. With the great assistance of **Larry Cook** ADSO-NS from Flotilla 22, we now have several new ATON verifiers covering multiple Flotillas across the Division! Additionally, we

are now even working closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers (**USACE**) to plan an upcoming joint patrol of Lake Lanier to inspect ATONs/PATONs on Lake Lanier aboard facility **Eagle**.

Last month, we had a distinguished visit from the gold side Southeast District Chief of Staff, **CAPT Carmichael**. CAPT Carmichael patrolled onboard Eagle with F29 FC **Michael Goetschl** and F29 VFC **Rich Adams**. On patrol we demonstrated and discussed the capabilities of Eagle and the F29 Ops team, and even inspected some ATONs/PATONs in the area of operation at the Lake Lanier Dam. The goal is to get more members qualified in the spring.



Picture left to right. SE District Chief of Staff CAPT Willie Carmichael, F29 VFC Rich Adams, F29 FC Michael Goetschl

Listed below is a summary of NS activities for the Division:

Accomplishments:

- Multiple patrols certifying ATONs/PATONs made throughout the month.
- Partnership has been made to do ATON verifications on the northern reaches of Lake Lanier for the USACE. Plan to patrol together in the spring.
- Patrolled with gold side Southeast District Chief of Staff onboard Eagle and incorporated an ATON/PATONs verification while on patrol.

Opportunities:

- September cancellation of patrols has stopped all ATON verification patrols.
- Needed to cancel a patrol with the USACE for AV due to patrol stoppage.

Challenges:

- Nothing to report.
-

Comments:

- Eagle has been further upgraded with new electronics, HD transducer, and Night vision.



SO-OP (Operations)

Bruce Lindsey

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Before AuxData II ceased to exist and prior to the end of the federal fiscal year that resulted in the government shutdown, there were operations. Patrols were conducted at Flotillas 21, 22, 25 and 29 with qualification missions held at **Lakes Allatoona and Lanier**. On the Lake Allatoona mission, Flotilla 22 certified two

new boat crew plus a member from the **Heartland Coastal District**, very unusual. At Lake Lanier, the qualification mission requalified two members each from Flotillas 25 and 29. Training continues, although during the shutdown, informally as member training. Across the Division, at least seven members are working on boat crew qualification, four at Flotilla 25 and three at Flotilla 29, plus one each working on Coxswain qualification at those Flotillas. Shoreside and dockside training can continue during the shutdown and funds allocation processes.

Annual Currency Maintenance has been completed for all five operations qualified members at Flotilla 25, and was underway elsewhere. Hopefully, the current funding restrictions will be lifted in time for this qualification requirement to be completed this year.

New training is underway, with Flotilla 25 hosting Auxiliary Paddlecraft (**AUXPAD**) training in conjunction with the American Canoe Association (**ACA**). The Southeast District Assistant Operations Officer (**ADSO-OP**) for AUXPAD conducted three days of training for four members of Flotilla 25 on the weekend of October 3rd to 5th. This training should lead to basic AUXPAD certification for all participants.

The Personal Watercraft Operator (**PWO**) program went inactive in 2020, with the last Qualification Examiner inactive in 2019. Previously, qualified members were available to requalify if a process can be authorized. Division 2 support is available to host a QE mission. A qualification mission has been promised for this year, but to date, no commitment has been made by District. There are at least three methods for conducting a qualification mission, and due to the lack of currency, all methods will require a waiver to re-start the program.

We have been informed that the Division's request for Personal Protective Equipment (**PPE**) was lost at Sector and not included in the most recent purchase. **Erik Amato**, the Division's new Rescue and Survival Systems Officer (**SO-RS**), has requested that all Flotillas resubmit their requirements for purchase as soon as funds are available. Changes this year are that all Coxswains are to be provided with inflatable (**Type V**) lifejackets.

At District Training (**D-Train**), the District Staff Officer for Operations (**DSO-OP**) presented a session on implementing and maintaining a successful operations program. His recommendation for facilities was 17 to 25 feet in length, and maintaining an active

operations program with continuous training. Generally, this is the program maintained in Division 2, but we need to assist as much as possible in Flotillas or areas without sufficient facilities or qualified personnel.



SO-PA (Public Affairs)

Dan Vaccaro

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Latest Event from Flotilla 29 (September 13th Event 2025 at Lake Lanier)

Last month Lake Lanier's **Poker Run** was staffed by at least 6 members. Those members conducted about 45 Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs). Here are some photos from that event.

We had some good coverage this year with *America's Boater Club-Atlanta* joining us this year.



Matt Cooper (l) and Joe Edwards (r) performing VSC at the Lake Lanier Poker Run. (Pictures taken by D. Vaccaro, SO-PA)



Other things going on around the Division

- Lake Allatoona Cleanup — September 27th.
-



SO-PB (Publications)

Philip (Skip) Yost

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As always, I wish to thank everyone for the informative and interesting articles that were submitted for this newsletter, and am sure it will help keep all of our Division Members aware of the great things happening within our Flotillas.



SO-PV (Program Visitor)

David (Bryan) Bowie

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Mates,

We are winding down the summer quarter. The advantage of program visits is that they can be conducted throughout the year. The numbers are not as high as we had hoped, but a couple of Flotillas show higher numbers than last year, which is excellent. We're working to increase our numbers, particularly in attracting new Program Visitors. Flotilla 29 is trying to get its Vessel Examiners to become Program Visitors because they go hand in hand with each other.

One issue being reported is that some of our members are aging out—my thanks to them for many years of excellent service.

Some are already aware of my appointment as District Staff Officer for Program Visits. With this new role, I plan to implement changes that will increase our participation and motivate more members to get involved in the program. For those already engaged, I aim to boost their activity. I hope this will generate greater interest in making visits to support each Flotilla in Division 2, as well as in the other Divisions across the Southeast District.

The first suggestion is for Program Visitors, when meeting with new partners in the boating industry, to focus on dealerships that sell both new and pre-owned boats. We should ask these dealers to help us by handing out our brochures, packaged together with a schedule of this or next year's boater safety classes. An idea is to place this package in an envelope, ready to hand to the customer, so there is no extra work for the dealer.

Second, there was a program called the **Lighthouse Award** for achieving 1,000 program visits, which was discontinued. I am exploring the possibility of reopening this program. The Lighthouse Award is now used for public education, so we will need to come up with a new name. I am open to suggestions, so please feel free to send any ideas. More details about restarting this program will follow, as I understand it was quite effective.

SO-RS (Rescue & Survival Systems)

Erik Amato

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Accomplishments:

- All five Division Flotillas are slowly digging their way through PPE inventory, Personal Locator Beacon (**PLB**) Registrations and AuxData II entry.
- Sector Charleston (**SECCHS**) finally settled on two versions for placing the PLB sequential numbers within the NOAA Registration process.
- Currently developing a Division wide spreadsheet list of all PLBs assigned to members. This is to be maintained by the SO-RS and sent to the SECCHS AUXLO and RSS Manager **Dean Creed** whenever it updates.

Opportunities:

- There is an urgent need for the OTO and the QE staff to sort out the proper procedure for overcoming the short fall of the number of PLBs available and the need for trainees to have the proper equipment while training and going through the QE process. Currently members ready for a QE must have a registered PLB prior to the QE session is scheduled.

Challenges:

- There was an unfortunate conclusion to the large PPE requisition that was sent to SECCHS this past April to fill the PPE needs for the Flotillas in our Division. The order was either overlooked or cancelled. The AUXLO, OTO and DIRAUX are looking into the issue.

This generates a large number of questions from our members and difficulty in fulfilling our requirement to provide our OPS members with all the safety items required to participate in the OPS program.

SO-SR (Secretary / Records)

Steve Gentry

stevegentry2011@gmail.com

The year is closing out quickly. Please make sure you have submitted all of your meeting minutes. Even if you did not have a meeting, you still need to pull up the form, mark No Meeting Scheduled, put in a date, sign it and turn in. Don't forget to add your attendance in section VIII, including all officers and guests. Also, finance balance and expenditures need to be included in Section IV.

Please send all minutes for the remainder of the year to me at: stevegentry2011@gmail.com
If you still have outstanding minutes from earlier in the year, please send them so we can get them logged with the District.

Just an FYI, the minutes form will undergo an update after the first of the year, so stay tuned for more information.



SO-VE (Vessel Examinations)

Jason Williams

jason.williams@dot.gov

I am honored to serve as the newly appointed SO-VE for Division 2. My primary role is to support FSO-VEs across the Division and to help ensure our vessel safety program runs smoothly, efficiently, and in full compliance with procedures.

Key Procedures and Decal Allocation Timeline

Fiscal year and decal eligibility: Decals are issued by fiscal year. For the current cycle, eligibility runs from 6/30/2024 through 6/30/2025. Any Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) completed after 6/30/2025 will count toward the 2026 decal allocation.

Allotment timeline: It typically takes about six months to determine each flotilla's decal allotment. This period includes tallying VSC totals, securing design approval from National and the U.S. Power Squadrons, and printing and distributing decals.

How quantities are determined: A Flotilla's decal allotment equals the number of VSCs completed during the fiscal year plus an additional 10%.

Division 2 Performance Snapshot

Active vessel examiners on record: 32

2024 (Q2) VSCs completed: 446

2025 (Q3) VSCs completed: 843

Year-to-date total VSCs (current year): 1,218

Highlights and Impact

Our Division has demonstrated significant year-over-year improvement. This growth reflects the dedication of our examiners and directly contributes to safer waterways for the public. The increase also provides assurance that vessels meet

federal safety standards and that, in an emergency, they have the necessary equipment to save lives and summon help.

Next Steps and How I Can Help

Ensure all VSCs are logged accurately and in a timely manner so they count toward your Flotilla's decal allotment for the applicable fiscal year. Note the deadline context for planning: While the current deadline has passed, it is important to know for the next cycle. Next year's deadline date is 6/30/2026.

Closing

Congratulations to every Flotilla examiner who contributed to this year's strong performance. Your efforts make our waterways safer and strengthen our service to the boating public. I look forward to working with each of you to sustain and build on this momentum.

Remembering Patrick McGowan (by Perry M. Hidalgo)

Patrick McGowan

A Decorated Vietnam War Veteran, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star has passed on to Heaven on July 24th 2025. Patrick was a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for 10 years, lifetime member with Disabled American Veterans, and member of the American Legion. Past member of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Member of Southern Baptist Disaster Organization for 7 years. Pat did clean up and recovery in Chicago, Illinois, Savannah, Georgia, Manahawkin, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Louisiana. He was a lead singer for a Southern Gospel Quartet.



Pat and Pattie McGowan are former members of **Flotilla 25**, and worked hard and showed leadership while serving our community. **Pat** never met a stranger, and was a friend to everyone he met. He would go out of his way to help and support everyone in his life. **Patrick McGowan** will be missed by us all.

Funeral Services through: **Lofland Funeral Home**, 102 Lakeview Avenue, Milford, Delaware.

www.loflandandMcknatt.com Viewing the night before the Interment at Lofland Funeral Home.

Burial Services will be at **Arlington National Cemetery**.

A Go Fund Me account (In lieu of Flowers)

<https://gofund.me/ff807f14>



Photos from around Division 2

Flotilla 22 (Lake Allatoona)

National Safe Boating Week May 2025



Photograph (Governor's Official Photographer)
L to R:

Rhodes Lee (US Power Squadrons – America's Boating Club Atlanta), Colonel Mike England (GA Department of Natural Resources), Cindy Ringwall (US Power Squadrons – America's Boating Club Atlanta), Corporal Zack Hardy (GA Department of Natural Resources), Nan Ellen Fuller (US Coast Guard Auxiliary), Deputy Commissioner Thomas Barnard (GA Department of Natural Resources), David Fuller (US Coast Guard Auxiliary), Governor Brian P. Kemp, First Lady of Georgia Marty Kemp, Lieutenant Wanda Roberts (GA Department of Natural Resources), Rena Ann Peck (Georgia Rivers), Andrea White (Georgia Rivers/ACA Southeast Regional Chair), Jack Williams (US Coast Guard Auxiliary), Corporal Brock Hoyt (GA Department of Natural Resources), and Game Warden Joe Ballard (GA Department of Natural Resources).



Swearing in ceremony of Bryan Bowie, DSO-PV, by Dan Helou via Zoom conference call.



The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) hosted the dedication of a Life Jacket Loaner Station in memory Captain Chris Day at Allatoona Landing Marina on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Captain Chris served as an instructor trainer with the NSBC for eight years, passionately advocating for recreational boating safety. He was also a dedicated TowBoatUS business owner, proudly operating on Lake Allatoona and locations in Alabama and Florida.

Captain Chris's legacy lives on through his unwavering commitment to saving lives on the water. He passed away in 2024 after a courageous battle with cancer, and this life jacket loaner station stands as a tribute to his enduring impact on the boating community.

Chris was deeply committed to recreational boating safety. He personally installed numerous life jacket loaner stations around the lake.

We hope this station will encourage greater life jacket use and ultimately help save lives.

The dedication was attended by Flotilla Lake Allatoona members Larry Cook, Dave Fuller, and Nan Ellen Fuller.

Pro Wakeboard Tournament (Lake Allatoona). Photos courtesy of Nan Ellen Fuller.



Flotilla 25 (Hartwell Lake)



Flotilla 29 (Lake Lanier)



JoAnne Janchus and Boater.
(Pictures taken by D. Vaccaro, SO-PA)



Chuck Kelleman and Wave runner Boater.



Port side: Commander of America's Boat Club,
Cindy Ringwall and a Boat owner filling up.



Rhodes Lee of America's Boating club with a boater.
(Pictures taken by D. Vaccaro, SO-PA)



Top port side: *Bryan Bowie*, Aaron (our retired police dog), and Vice Commander *Rich Adams* on Duty too. Top starboard side: *Matt Cooper* doing some training with our flotilla's newest Vessel Examiner (*Tommy Kyle*). (Pictures taken by D. Vaccaro, SO-PA)



View from the helm of facility Eagle on Lake Lanier. Picture taken by Rich Adams



Facility Eagle towing a sailboat. Photo taken by Erik Amato



) Rich Adams, VFC F29 speaking to the multiagency water safety task force prior to Labor Day weekend at the Forsyth County EMS Headquarters. Picture taken by Erik Amato.

FL 29 Facility Venator underway
Supporting the Poker Run on Lake Lanier.



Retirement Ceremony for LCDR Lauren Linville (USCG Reserve) at Lake Lanier Lodge. From r-l: MCPO Jennie Andrson (Master of Ceremony), LCDR Lauren Linville, CAPT Willie Carmichael (CoS DT), LCDR Adam Erwin (Chapain – USNR). FL 29 Aux Facility Eagle is pictured in the background.



Color Guard for the ceremony. From l-r: Chuck Kelemen (FL 29), OT Nito Acosta (USCG), Skip Yost (FL 22), Charlie Jeffrey (FL 29), and USCG Piper John Quinn (FL 29).

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-RS Rescue & Survival Systems **Erik Amato**
SO-SR Secretary/Records **Steven Gentry**
SO-VE Vessel Examination **Jason Williams**

