

2st Edition March - April 2024



Flotilla 69 Newsletter



Service with Pride, Enthusiasm, and Professionalism

Flotilla 69, Opa-Locka

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SEA SCOUTS



Photo by: Seascout.org/cgaux

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Staff Officers & Bridge

FC	JORGE RAMIREZ
VFC	SADRI MEDINA
IPFC	DAVID PATLAK
FSO-HR	FRED ROSS
FSO-IS	GUSTAVO MONTANO
FSO-CS	GUSTAVO MONTANO
FSO-PA	OMAR PAEZ
FSO-FN	EDWARD KIRSH
FSO-PV	PHILIP CASTORO
FSO-PB	MOSHE TEITELBAUM
FSO-SR	ANGEL AULET
FSO-MA	ANGEL AULET
FSO-VE	SADRI MEDINA
FSO-MS	SADRI MEDINA
FSO-OP	RICARDO MANZANO
FSO-PE	GEORGE ZIMA
FSO-AS	DANIEL MUELHAUPT
FSO-CM	TEODORO TUNDIDOR
FSO-SR	ALBERT SOLIS

New Members Welcome

The Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Vice Commander, Flotilla Staff Officers, and members eagerly extend a warm welcome to the newest member of our flotilla:

- **Oluwaseun Joseph Olowoyo.**

Important Websites

- Coast Guard Auxiliary Website: www.cgaux.org
- National Testing Center: <http://ntc.cgaux.org/>
- 7029 Webform: <https://webforms.cgaux.org/forms/7029/>
- AUXDATA II: <https://uscg.experience.crmforce.mil/auxcommunity/s/login/>
- District 7 Website: <http://www.uscga-district-7.org/>
- District 7 Help Desk: <https://helpdesk.uscga-district-7.org/>
- Flotilla 69 Website: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-06-09>
- Flotilla 69 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067640187135>

THE AUXSCOUT PROGRAM

By Daniel MuelHaupt, FSO-AS

The AUXSCOUT program has successfully recruited our first Auxiliarist from the Sea Scouts into Flotilla 69, Opa-Locka, Lucas Leon. Welcome Auxiliarist Leon!



All photos by scouting.webdamdb.com

The official youth program for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, AUXSCOUT, has as one of its goals, to recruit new members from the Sea Scouts into the Auxiliary. Sea Scouts 14 to 17 years old can enroll in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. A significant amount Auxiliary training parallels Sea Scout badge qualification training, so they not only earn credit for their Auxiliary training, but also qualify for Sea Scout badges. Our goals are to recruit as many Sea Scouts as we can, which will not only benefit the Sea Scouts themselves, but the Coast Guard as a whole because we are hoping these young Auxiliarists will choose a career in the active-duty Coast Guard or other maritime career.



All photos by scouting.webdamdb.com

In addition to this success, we are making progress on getting the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) unit at MAST Academy to charter a Sea Scout Ship, and in turn recruit more Auxiliarists.



All photos by scouting.webdamdb.com



High Adventure In, On, Around, and Under the Water

Sea Scouting is an inclusive program through the Boy Scouts of America for all youth aged 14-21 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade). It's operated through Sea Scout Ships, units of youth and advisors just like you! Find a ship near you and join the fun!

To Join or more information email to danielmuelhaupt@aol.com



National Safe Boating Week

Understanding the Importance of Engine Cut-Off Switches for Recreational Boaters

Flotilla 69, Article by Gustavo Montano

In the world of recreational boating, safety should always be a top priority. One crucial safety mechanism that every boater should be aware of is the Engine Cut-Off Switch (ECOS). But what exactly is an Engine Cut-Off Switch, and why is it so important?

An Engine Cut-Off Switch is a safety mechanism designed to shut off propulsion machinery when the operator is displaced from the helm. This means that if the operator falls overboard or is otherwise ejected from the vessel, the engine will automatically stop, preventing the boat from continuing on its course unchecked.



Photo by safeboatingcouncil.org

So, why is it important to use an Engine Cut-Off Switch? The answer lies in the potential dangers that can arise when an operator is unexpectedly thrown from the helm. Boats can make sudden and forceful turns, ejecting the operator and potentially putting them in harm's way, especially if there is a spinning propeller nearby. By wearing the Engine Cut-Off Switch Link, the engine immediately stops, allowing the operator to regain control of the vessel and prevent further accidents.



Photo by safeboatingcouncil.org

The benefits of using an Engine Cut-Off Switch are readily apparent. Not only do they prevent accidents, injuries, and deaths caused by unexpected operator displacement, but they also help avoid situations where a runaway vessel poses a danger to other individuals and vessels on the water. This includes the risk of propeller strikes for those in the water, collision hazards for other vessels, and increased danger for maritime law enforcement officers tasked with bringing the runaway vessel to a stop.

In conclusion, Engine Cut-Off Switches play a vital role in enhancing safety on the water for recreational boaters. By understanding their importance and adhering to regulations, boaters can help prevent accidents and ensure a safer and more enjoyable boating experience for everyone.



Safe Boating Campaign... Take the pledge

FREE Vessel Safety Check & Decal

cgaux.org/boatinged



cgaux.org/vsc



Flotilla Meetings

March Meeting and PotLuck



In the warm ambiance of our flotilla meeting space, a member of Flotilla 69, Opa-Locka enjoys the company of fellow Auxiliarists before indulging in the delights of the potluck. Photo by: Moshe Teitelbaum



Guest Rabbi leads a heartfelt prayer, invoking blessings and guidance before our Flotilla 69, Opa-locka, meeting. Left: Medina, VFC, Center: Ramirez, FC
Photo by: Moshe Teitelbaum



In a moment of recognition, Ramirez, FC (Left) bestows upon David Patlak, IPFC an esteemed certification, celebrating his exceptional leadership as Flotilla Commander. Photo by: Moshe Teitelbaum



With smiles of congratulations, Ramirez, FC (Left) and Medina, VFC (Right) honor Omar Pez (Center) with a membership certificate, celebrating his commitment to our flotilla.
Photo by: Moshe Teitelbaum

Flotilla Meetings (continue)



Ramirez, FC (Left) and Medina, VFC (Right) extend a warm welcome to Amaury Genao (Center), presenting him with a membership certificate as a testament to his readiness to serve alongside us. Photo by: Gustavo Montano



With pride and admiration, Ramirez, FC (Left) and Medina, VFC (Right) congratulate Yitzchok Zeev Wolf Kessler (Center) on receiving his membership certificate, marking the beginning of his journey as an Auxiliarist. Photo by: Moshe Teitelbaum

April Meeting



Flotilla members stand in solemn unity during an oath ceremony, reaffirming their commitment to serving with honor and integrity. Photo by Moshe Teitelbaum



Ramirez, FC (Left) and Medina, VFC (Right) proudly present Gustavo Montano (Center) with his Vessel Examiner certificate, recognizing his dedication to ensuring maritime safety. Photo by Freed Ross

Flotilla Meetings (continue)



With hands raised in solemn commitment, Ramirez, FC (Left) and Medina, VFC (Right) guide Gustavo Montano (Center) through the oath-taking ceremony, marking the beginning of his journey as an Auxiliarist. Photo by Moshe Teitelbaum



In a moment of recognition, Ramirez, FC (Right) congratulates Aux. Member Guillermo Deza (Left) on receiving his Official ID, a tangible reminder of his role as a valued member of the USCG Auxiliary. Photo by Moshe Teitelbaum



Flotilla members while conducting business. Photo by Moshe Teitelbaum

The Importance of Getting a U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Safety Check for Your Boat by Sadri Medina

Legal Compliance: Boating is an exhilarating pastime enjoyed by millions across the United States. Whether cruising along serene lakes or navigating the vastness of the ocean, safety should always be a top priority for any boater. One crucial aspect of ensuring safety on the water is undergoing a U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Safety Check (VSC). This voluntary examination provides boaters with invaluable insights into the condition of their vessel, helping to prevent accidents and potentially save lives.



Medina conducting a VSC, Photo by Gustavo Montano

Enhanced Safety: The primary purpose of a VSC is to assess the safety equipment and overall condition of a vessel. This includes checking the presence and functionality of essential items such as life jackets, fire extinguishers, distress signals, navigation lights, and sound-producing devices. Ensuring that these items are in good working order can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and increase the chances of a positive outcome in emergency situations.



Medina conducting a VSC, Photo by Omar Paez

Educational Opportunity: VSCs are conducted by trained and certified U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons personnel who offer valuable guidance and recommendations to boaters. Even experienced boaters can benefit from a fresh set of eyes evaluating their vessel and providing insights on safety practices. These professionals can offer advice on everything from proper anchoring techniques to the importance of maintaining a safe speed in crowded waterways.

Environmental Stewardship: Boating responsibly goes beyond ensuring personal safety; it also involves protecting the environment. VSCs may include assessments of pollution prevention measures, such as the proper disposal of waste, fuel, and oil. By adhering to environmental regulations and best practices,

boaters can minimize their impact on aquatic ecosystems and preserve natural resources for future generations.

Peace of Mind: Knowing that your vessel has undergone a thorough safety inspection can provide peace of mind for both you and your passengers. Rather than worrying about the condition of your equipment or whether you're adequately prepared for emergencies, you can focus on enjoying your time on the water with confidence.

Ensuring the safety of yourself, your passengers, and fellow boaters should always be a top priority when enjoying time on the water. Undergoing a U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Safety Check provides boaters with a comprehensive evaluation of their vessel's safety equipment and overall condition, helping to prevent accidents, comply with regulations, and promote responsible boating practices. By taking advantage of this valuable resource, boaters can enjoy peace of mind knowing that they're well-prepared for whatever the water may bring. Interested individuals can schedule an appointment with a certified examiner, who will conduct the examination at a mutually convenient time and location. Boaters can also look for scheduled VSC events in their area, typically held at marinas, boat shows, or other boating-related gatherings.

FREE Vessel Safety Check & Decal



cgaux.org/vsc



Vessel Safety Checks



Division Sixth Members during Vessel safety Check Blitz. Photo by: Gustavo Montano



Ramirez, FC during VSC Blitz. Photo by: Gustavo Montano



Division Sixth Members conducting a VFC. Photo by: Gustavo Montano



Division Sixth Members conducting a VFC. Photo by: Gustavo Montano



Division Sixth Members during Vessel safety Check Blitz. Photo by: Gustavo Montano



Montano cooking hamburgers for his fellow shipmates while the VSE Blitz. Photo by: Luis Perez

Vessel Safety Checks (continue)



Daniel during Vessel safety Check Blitz.
Photo by: Daniel Muelhaupt



Raquel Ramirez during VSE Blitz. Photo by:
Daniel Muelhaupt



Raquel Ramirez during VSC Blitz.
Photo by: Daniel Muelhaupt



Division Sixth Members during VSE Blitz.
Photo by: David Patlak



Raquel Ramirez and Law Enforcement Officer during VSC Blitz.
Photo by: Daniel Muelhaupt

Sector Training

On April 16th and 17th, Sector Miami hosted training sessions at the Miami Beach Coast Guard Base. These sessions encompassed various classes, such as TCO Certification, Leadership, and BQS qualification. Members of Flotilla 69 actively participated in these two days of training, seizing the great opportunity to acquire the classes required to attain BQ status. Additionally, it provided an excellent platform for fellowship and the chance to acquire new skills.



Flotilla members while doing tour inside the CG Cutter. From left, Sadri Medina, Omar Paez , Guillermo Deza , Gustavo Montano, Photo by Gustavo Montano

Sadri Medina saluted the National colors while boarding the CG Cutter. Photo by Gustavo Montano



Auxiliarist Jeffrey Barnes, Area Sector Coordinator-Sector Miami (ASC-SECMIA), while giving a welcome speech. Photo by Gustavo Montano

Sector Training (contienue)



Auxiliarist training for the Telecommunications Operator (TCO) Certification.
Photo by: Gustavo Montano



Instructor: Martin Goodwin, District 7 Chief of Staff.
Auxiliarist training for the Leadership class
Photo by: Gustavo Montano



Sadri Medina (left) doing a radio check while training for the TCO Certification. Omar Paez (right) waiting for his turn to practice.



Guillermo Deza while trainign for the TCO ceretification.
Photo by Gustavo Montano

Upcoming Events & Trainings

MAY

May 6-10, Fleet Week Miami

The Navy will be sending four ships to Port Miami [and the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter SENECA] and an exciting schedule of events is being planned to welcome the Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen to South Florida.

May 13, Monday. Boat Crew Training Series (Video Conference)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. RSVP to: marino48@aol.com

May 17, Friday. Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day 2024

For more information visit <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/>

May 18 - 24 National Safe Boating Week 2024 (NSBW)

For more information visit <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/>.

For volunteer opportunities contact Nichole Betterson, SO-PA, at bpgraphic@bellsouth.net.

May 18, Saturday. Vessel Exam (VE) Blitz

Black Point Boat Launch (NSBW), 0700-1100 hrs

May 25 - 26, National Salute to America's Heroes 2024

For more information visit <https://usasalute.com/>.

For volunteer opportunities contact Nichole Betterson, SO-PA, at bpgraphic@bellsouth.net.

May 26, Sunday. Vessel Exam (VE) Blitz

Pelican Harbor Boat Ramp from 0700-1100 hrs.

JUNE

June 15, Saturday. Vessel Exam (VE) Blitz

Watson Island Boat Ramp, 0700-1100 hrs.

June 22, Saturday. USCG AUX Division 6 | 85th Birthday Cookout

OLETA RIVER STATE PARK 3400 NE 163RD ST ▪ North Miami Beach at the Pelican Pavilion.

JOIN US as we celebrate 85 years of volunteer service in support of the team Coast Guard.

Family & Friends are invited. For reservations visit:

<https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=866695&k=0A67440F7252>

June 23, Sunday. Vessel Exam (VE) Blitz

Pelican Harbor Boat Ramp, 0700-1100 hrs.

