



THE HELM

NEWSLETTER, Volume 1

May 2024

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Message from the Commander

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. As we navigate through the challenges and responsibilities that come with our roles within the USCG Auxiliary at the Division level, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for your dedication, hard work, and commitment to our mission.

Each of you plays a crucial role in ensuring the success and effectiveness of our division. Your leadership, ability, and unwavering support are instrumental in upholding the values of the USCG Auxiliary. Your passion for service and your willingness to go beyond are truly commendable.

I understand that the responsibilities and demands of our positions can be overwhelming at times. However, I want to remind you that your efforts do not go unnoticed. Your contribution has had a significant impact on our division and the community we serve.

As we continue to work together towards our common goals, I encourage you to stay focused, motivated, and resilient. Remember that challenges are growth opportunities, and setbacks are stepping stones to success. Your perseverance and determination will lead us to achieve wonderful things together.

I am confident in your abilities and inspired by your dedication to our mission. Let us continue to support and uplift one another as we strive to make a positive difference in the USCG Auxiliary Division and beyond.

Thank you for all that you do. Your commitment and passion are deeply appreciated.

With gratitude and admiration,
Ronald Kaplan, DCDR 07-06

USCG Aux Air patrol

By: Tom Powers, Aircraft Commander, ADSO
- Safety Miami, Flotilla 69, Opa-Locka FL

Another USCG Aux Air patrol readies and takes off on its search for any boating issues or other anomalies on the high seas. Flights like these fly missions off the east coast and the Florida straits almost daily from multiple airports. Our District 7 is the busiest Aux Air group in the USCG.

Aircraft Commander Tom Powers is accompanied by Second in Command Pilot Chris Werley and Observer Ted Kowalchuk on this particular day. This is a "first light" patrol. They begin their day at 6:00AM with a pre-flight and briefing along with checking their safety equipment and making multiple phone calls to USCG Sectors and various government departments for any information and services.



This patrol will be over three hours covering over 500 miles.

Our Division 6 and Flotilla 09 is located at Air Station Miami Opa Locka and has the highest number of Aux Air aircraft and crew that regularly provide patrols for the USCG and Aux Air. Safety is the main focus of their training with many requirements that have to be met annually.



Flight crew doing safety check before departure.. At North Perry Airport, Pembroke Pines FL
Photo by Gustavo Montano



From left to right: Ted Kowalchuk, Observer, Tom Powers, Aircraft Commander and Chris Werley, Second in Command Pilot. At North Perry Airport, Pembroke Pines FL. Photo by Gustavo Montano



Aircraft Commander Tom Powers giving instruction to his flight crew. At North Perry Airport, Pembroke Pines FL. Photo by Gustavo Montano



Ready to take-off. At North Perry Airport, Pembroke Pines FL. Photo by Gustavo Montano

NSBW: A Successful Representation by Division 6th

By Gustavo Montano

During the past week of May 18 to May 24, National Safe Boating Week was observed, and Division 6th was actively involved with various events organized by different flotillas. We had VE Blitz activities at Homestead Bayfront Park, Black Point Marina, Pelican Harbor, and Crandon Park. Additionally, members from various flotillas participated in the SoFlo Boat Show at the Marine Stadium. RBS program visits were conducted, and we showcased our visibility for recruiting at the NSBW Fellowship event at the Food Truck Wednesday by Pelican Harbor. A variety of PE classes, such as the Boat America Course, were presented both virtually and in person.

SoFlo Boat Show, Marine Stadium.



From Left to right: Yvette Perez, Felix Montes, USCG Aux Booth at SoFlo Boat Show, Marine Stadium.
Photo by Gustavo Montano



From Left to right: Yvette Perez, Felix Montes, USCG Aux Booth at SoFlo Boat Show, Marine Stadium.
Photo by Gustavo Montano



From Left to right: Gustavo Montano, Yvette Perez, Felix Montes, USCG Aux Booth at SoFlo Boat Show, Marine Stadium.



Victor Garcia, USCG Aux Booth at SoFlo Boat Show, Marine Stadium.
Photo by Gustavo Montano



Patrick Danciu, USCG Aux Booth at SoFlo Boat Show, Marine Stadium.
Photo by Gustavo Montano

NSBW: continue...

VE Blitz



From Left to right: Jorge Ramirez, David Patlak, Patrick Danciu, Gustavo Montano, Guillermo Deza. Pelican Harbour, North Bay Village.
Photo by Gustavo Montano



From Left to right: Gustavo Montano, North Bay Village Police Officer, Patrick Danciu. Pelican Harbour, North Bay Village.
Photo by Jorge Ramirez



Guillermo Daza and Jorge Ramirez conducting a Vessel Examination. Pelican Harbour Marine, North Bay Village.
Photo by Gustavo Montano

Food Truck Wednesdays



From Left to right: Amaury Genao, David Adams, Gustavo Montano, COdy Wright Buchanan, David Patlak, Jorge Ramirez. Pelican Harbour, North Bay Village.
Photo by Gustavo Montano

WEAR IT
A program of the National Safe Boating Council

SAFEBOATINGCAMPAIGN.COM

YOUR BOATING MATTERS AT WORK

Program made a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust funds administered by the U.S. Coast Guard

FLEET WEEK 2024

We had an amazing time celebrating Norwegian Cruise Line® FLEET WEEK MIAMI from May 5 to 12, 2024. The Navy, Marines and Coast Guard sent four ships to Port Miami, and there was an exciting schedule of events to welcome the Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen to South Florida. We enjoyed free concerts by Navy and Marine Corps bands, learned about the capabilities of our Sea Services, and toured the visiting ships.

Members from the 7th District worked together to support the USCG Active Duty at the recruiting booth and on the Seneca Cuttership, escorting tourists during the ship tours. Staying updated on Fleet Week Miami events and public ship tours through the email list made the experience even better.



U.S Coast Guard SENECA (WMEC 906).
Photo from U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area website



From left to right: Jorge Ramirez, Gustavo Montano, David Patlak, Patrick Danciu, Sadri Medina, Omar Paez. USCG Seneca Cuttership.
Photo by Gustavo Montano



Patrick Danciu exploring aboard the cutter. USCG Seneca Cuttership. Photo by Gustavo Montano



Active Duty Chief explaining to the tourists what is done in the galley. Patrick Danciu, David Patlak and Gustavo Montano escorting the tourists around the ship. USCG Seneca Cuttership. Photo by Jorge Ramirez

Flee Week 2024, continue...



From left to right: Omar Paez, Patrick Danciu, Gustavo Montano, Sadri Medina, David Patlak. USCG Seneca, Miami Port FL. Photo by Jorge Ramirez



Omar Paez inside the bridge., Miami Port FL. Photo by Gustavo Montano



From left to right: Omar Paez, Sadri Medina. USCG Seneca, Port of Miami, FL. Photo by Gustavo Montano



From left to right: Gustavo Montano, Sadri Medina. USCG Seneca, Miami Port FL. Photo by Omar Paez

Safe Boating Campaign... Take the pledge



FREE
Vessel Safety Check
& Decal

cgaux.org/boatinged



cgaux.org/vsc

