



FLOT Lines

Flotilla 74, Brandon

District 7

USCG Auxiliary

Issue 3 2024



Members of Flotilla 74, Brandon
participate in National Safe Boating Week





FLOT Lines

Newsletter Flotilla 74, Brandon
Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Commander
Matthew Stephen, Flotilla Vice Commander
Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
3006 South Kings Ave., Brandon, Florida

Flotilla Staff Officers

Tanner Piliego
Information Systems

Earl Abbott
Diversity

Christopher Hunt
Communications
Member Training

Kelly McMahon
Finance

William Sage
Human Resources

August Miller
Navigation Systems
Materials

Brett Skaggs
Secretary of Records

Dorothy Riley
Publications (Editor)
Public Affairs

Matt Stephen
RBS-Partner Visitation
Vessel Examinations

Background photo: Steve Williams, Dean Bell, coxswain, and August Miller aboard "Ms. Daisy," Flotilla 74, Brandon Auxiliary facility. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabeis



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We're on the web!



www.cgaux74.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Flotilla74/>

A dolphin surfaces near a channel marker in Tampa Bay. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabelis



From the Helm



Dorothy Riley
Flotilla Commander

The last several months have been busy between National Safe Boating Week and the Independence Day parade. My gratitude goes out to the members who made these events successful. Matt Stephen spearheaded National Safe Boating Week activities and William Sage coordinated the Independence Day parade. Both members overcame many obstacles. The article in this issue, "The Making of a Successful Event: Members Overcome Numerous Challenges," describes what Sage was up against.

One of the key things learned from these events was the significant impact of member participation. Despite having over forty members in our flotilla, only a handful actively contribute their time and efforts at planned events or attend meetings. The success of the parade, for instance, was largely due to the participation of members from Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach, and Martin Jordan from Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg. We are immensely grateful for their contributions and hope to see more members stepping up in the future. Thank you!

At the August meeting, we will establish the election committee to vet members who wish to run for elected office for the term starting in 2025. We encourage anyone interested in running to ask questions or submit a letter of intent. We encourage all members to take a leadership course, if not to run for office, then for professional growth within the Auxiliary. (See <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux02>)

Also, we will create a committee at the August meeting to plan our December holiday celebration. While December is months away, restaurant reservations require months of lead time.

I would be remiss not to remind you that dues are due beginning in August. Notices will go out imminently. Please do not delay paying early!

Finally, thank you for all that you do for the Auxiliary. I could not be prouder of your achievements! Ω



Image credit: Unsplash



From the Helm

June was quite busy for paddle craft safety checks, totaling 88. A new partnership was built with Tampa Riverwalk. Their paddle craft includes paddle boards, canoes, and kayaks. They had 37 paddle craft pass safety checks. An existing partnership with USF Outdoor Recreational Park saw their second year of paddle craft safety checks with 51 passed. They rent canoes, paddle boards, and kayaks to the university students.

We also had a successful National Safe Boating Week weekend, certified one new Vessel Examiner, and started certifying a second.

Bravo, Zulu, and thanks to everyone who participated in the Brandon Independence Day parade. Ω

Note: We will establish our election committee in August. Please come to the meeting and think about serving on the committee or running for Flotilla 74, Brandon elected office



Matt Stephen
Flotilla Vice Commander



While Matt Stephen was elected Flotilla Vice Commander at the January meeting, he took the oath of office at the same meeting but did not receive a certificate acknowledging his elected office position. That oversight was rectified at the July 9 meeting when Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Commander presented Stephen a certificate of election. USCG Auxiliary photo





National Safe Boating Week 2024

Flotilla 74, Brandon Participates in National Safe Boating Week:

Members use multiple events and methods to communicate the message of boating safely.

By Dorothy Riley



From left, Earl Abbott, Tanner Piliego, and Matthew Stephen conducting Vessel Safety Checks May 18 at Williams Park to kick off National Safe Boating Week. USCG Auxiliary photo

Despite the unrelenting heat and humidity, members of Brandon's Flotilla invested their time and energy in communicating the boating safely message to the public. These methods and events included social media posts, conducting Vessel Examination blitzes, obtaining a National Safe Boating Week Proclamation from Hillsborough County, and participating in 'Wear Your Lifejacket to Work Day.'

Chris Hunt and Dorothy Riley have actively participated in the 'Wear Your Lifejacket at Work Day' cam-

paign, posting photos to promote boating safety. Riley also posted a photo of her dog wearing a lifejacket to encourage keeping pets safe on the water.

Gwen Myers, the vice-chair of the Hillsborough County Commissioners, presented a National Safe Boating Week Proclamation to Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Commander, on behalf of Flotilla 74, Brandon.

Members Earl Abbott, Matthew Stephen, and Tanner

(Continued on page 7)



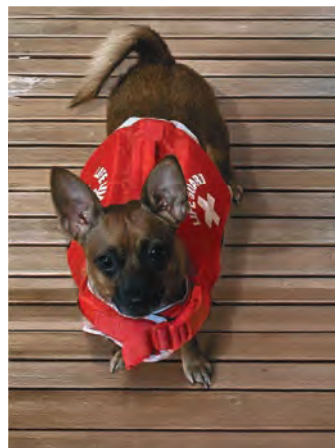


National Safe Boating Week 2024

(Continued from page 6)

Piliago conducted a Vessel Examination blitz at the Williams Park boat ramp on May 18. The following day, Matthew Stephen, Chris Hunt, Earl Abbott, and Vy Pham performed Vessel Safety Checks at the Lowry Park boat ramp. Stephen continued to conduct paddlecraft checks at the University of South Florida Riverfront Park and Tampa Riverfront Rentals until he exhausted his supply of Vessel Safety Check decals.

The most significant obstacle members experienced was the intense heat. Despite this complication, participating members 'did us proud.' Members who did not come out for National Safe Boating Week may have avoided the sweltering heat. Still, more importantly, they missed out on a fantastic opportunity for fun and fellowship. Ω



Top right: Earl Abbott sets up the Public Affairs canopy at Williams Park.

Mid-page, right: Gwen Myers, vice-chair of the Hillsborough County Commissioners, presents a National Safe Boating Week Proclamation to Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Commander.

Bottom right: From left: Flotilla 74 members Vy Pham, Christopher Hunt, Earl Abbott, and Matthew Stephen conduct Vessel Safety Checks at the University of South Florida Riverfront Park.

Above left: Chris Hunt wears his life jacket on the University of South Florida grounds for the "Wear Your Life Jacket at Work" event.

Above right: Dorothy Riley's dog, Daisy wears a 'Life Guard' life jacket on 'Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day' to emphasize the need to keep pets safe on the water. USCG Auxiliary photographs (More photos next page.)





National Safe Boating Week 2024



Matt Stephen conducted nearly 90 Vessel Safety Checks on paddlecraft at the University of South Florida Campus Recreation and Tampa Riverfront Rentals. Persons renting paddlecraft will be reminded of water safety by the Vessel Safety Check decals clearly visible on the paddlecraft and by Lexi Hedstrom (left) and Alex McCarthy, staff, who are knowledgeable about paddlecraft and boating safety. USCG Auxiliary photos by Matt Stephen



Articles of Interest

Diversity and Inclusion District 7 Program:

Being included and having a sense of belonging feels right!

Pride Month, a significant event, is a tribute to the LGBTQ+ community's rich history and their remarkable contributions that have fortified our service and our nation.

This annual event powerfully reminds us of the importance of acceptance, diversity, and love. It brings together individuals, organizations, and communities to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and celebrate progress toward a more inclusive society.

This month-long celebration acknowledges the challenges faced by this community and stands in solidarity with its fight for equality, acceptance, and human rights. Pride Month is a joyful and colorful display of love, unity, and resilience, with events and activities that promote inclusivity, educate the public, and celebrate the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities.

How can your unit actively support the LGBTQ+ community and contribute to a more inclusive organization?

- Educate Yourself and Others: Learn about the LGBTQ+ community's history, struggles, and achievements. Read books, watch films, listen

to podcasts, and engage in conversations that foster understanding and empathy. Share your knowledge with others, particularly those who may

be less familiar with LGBTQ+ issues, to promote acceptance and awareness.

- One way to be an ally is to actively oppose discriminatory acts within your unit. This could involve speaking

out when you hear offensive language or ensuring everyone feels respected and included in team activities. Ω

Reference: <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/pride-month-2024/>

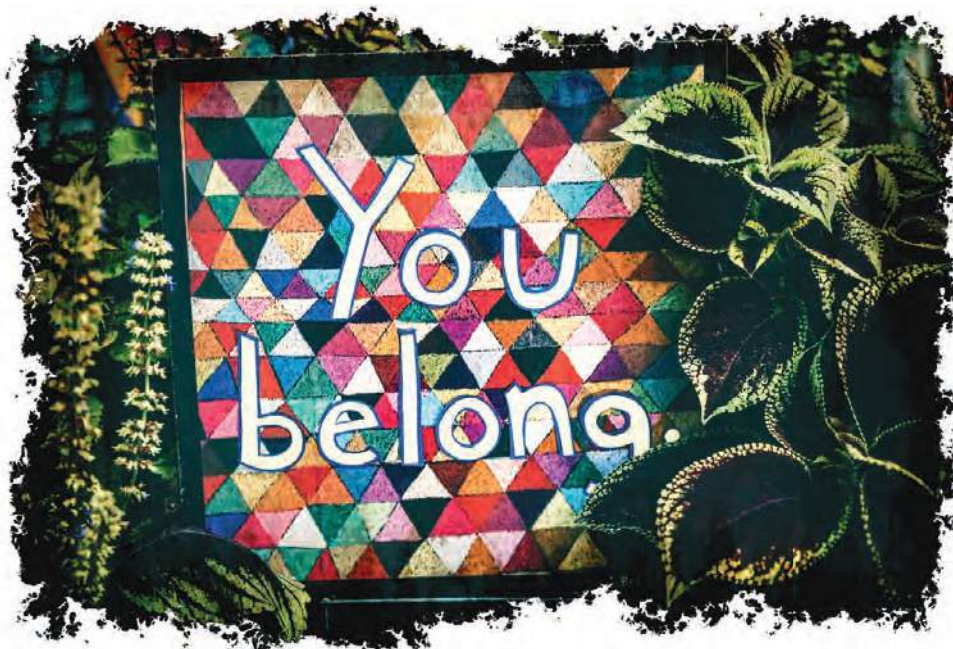


Illustration courtesy Upsplash-License free images



Articles of Interest

Independence Day Parade



Above: Steve Williams's facility "Miss Daisy" and parade participants from Flotilla 74, Brandon and Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach pose for a photo at the parade starting point on July 4, 2024. Photo by Natalie Skaggs

Left: Martin Jordan in the Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg communications van in Brandon's Independence Day parade. Several members serving as safety officers flank the van. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley



Articles of Interest



"Miss Daisy" in the Brandon Independence Day parade. Members walk on either side of the vessel in the 94-degree heat. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley



At the parade's conclusion, participants flush with heat stand under the shade of oak trees to cool off. United States Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley



After the parade, participants gather at Flotilla 74, Brandon in the cooling welcome air-conditioning. Within minutes, Natalie Skaggs appeared with the pizza for them to enjoy. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley



Articles of Interest

The Making of a Successful Event: Members Overcome Numerous Challenges.

By Dorothy Riley

The 2024 Brandon Independence Day Parade was almost a missed opportunity, but thanks to the monumental efforts of William Sage, the flotilla's Fourth of July Committee, and members from three flotillas, we made it a reality. This collective effort is a testament to our unity and shared commitment.

Our journey to the 2024 Brandon Independence Day Parade was not without its challenges. The disbandment of the Brandon Community Council, which had coordinated previous parades, was our first hurdle. But William Sage's determination to identify new sponsors and our collective resilience brought us to the entry deadline, inspiring us all with the power of perseverance.

Next, we ran against parade requirements. The organizers required at least two safety officers per vehicle or 'float,' drivers, and persons to carry our banner. That was a huge ask for our flotilla, as many of our members are seniors and would likely find a two-mile walk in the extreme heat a challenge. Only eight members from our flotilla volunteered to participate. Sage invited other flotillas to join us, and Flotillas 75, Apollo Beach, and 72, St. Petersburg, answered the call. Let us state this more directly: our participation in the Independence Day Parade would not have been possible without their assistance.

On parade day, participants were asked to wear their

operational dress uniforms and assemble at Flotilla 74 at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday. From there, they were transported to the parade line-up point. Member Steve Williams brought his boat, and Martin Jordan from Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, positioned himself in the communications van behind the boat. The parade route from Lumsden Road to LaViva Plaza in Brandon is 2.3 miles. The designated Safety Officers wearing green vests and carrying whistles were Earl Abbott and George Humphrey from Flotilla 74 and Jennifer Holmes and Elliott Seda from Flotilla 75. Three individuals carried the Flotilla 74 banner in front of the boat. These volunteers were member Brett Skaggs' teenage children, Chase, Haylee, and Alexa Skaggs, and a fourth teen, Michael Cartagena. Brett Scragg's wife, Natalie, was instrumental in helping to transport walkers and pick up the pizza after the parade.

Despite the 94-degree heat, our members safely completed the parade route. Plenty of cold water was available to keep everyone hydrated.

At the parade's end, everyone was heat-flushed and perspiring, and they were glad to return to the air-conditioned flotilla, where they enjoyed pizza, water, festive cupcakes, and soda, but most of all, friendly camaraderie.

We are extremely proud and grateful to everyone who participated

and made this year's parade a success. Ω



William Sage, Flotilla 74, Brandon's Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, took on a lion's share of the work to organize the Auxiliary's participation in the 2024 Brandon Independence Day Parade. He is seen here at the parade's endpoint. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley



Articles of Interest



Many Thanks to Our Heroes!

Flotilla 74, Brandon

Earl Abbott
George Humphrey
August Miller
Vy Pham
Dottie Riley
William Sage
Brett Skaggs
Steve Williams

Flotilla 74 Friends and Family

Natalie Skaggs
Chase Skaggs
Haylee Skaggs
Alexa Skaggs
Michael Cartagena

Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach

Larry Binder
Jennifer Holmes
Ariel Rodriguez
Elliott Seda
Yvonne Gorham

Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg

Martin Jordan

Top: The teenage children of Flotilla 74, Brandon member Brett Skaggs, carried the Flotilla's banner. While uniformed members would have been preferable, we are grateful that Skaggs's children, Chase, Haylee, and Alexa and their friend, Michael Cartagena, volunteered and filled the void.

Below: Steve Williams facility "Miss Daisy" decked out for the parade. Photos this page by Natalie Skaggs



Articles of Interest

News and Program Updates from our Staff Officers

August Miller, Flotilla Staff Officer-Materials:

I ordered and received 50 Vessel Safety Check decals, 50 Vessel Safety Check forms, 25 paddle craft inspection forms, and five recycle litter bags.

August Miller, Flotilla Staff Officer-Navigation Systems:

I attended the District 7 Navigation Systems workshop on Wednesday, May 24, and June 26.

Earl Abbott, Flotilla Staff Officer-Diversity:

See the Diversity article published in this issue.

Tanner Piliego, Flotilla Staff Officer-Information System:

Piliego entered all hours submitted and updated both the Recreational Boating Safety-Partner Visitations and Vessel Safety Check completed to date.



William Sage, Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources:

In May, we reported that the applicant flow slowed in April. We have three names on our E-Responder Report. Charles Wood and Vy Pham

just received their numbers. Harry R. decided not to join and will reconsider joining next year. We have a new name on our report. Juan Rojas is interested in joining and said he will work on his application this weekend. Hopefully, Mike Cartelli will receive his number in the next week or two.

We hope to see a few more interested people soon.



ATON in Tampa Bay. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabeis

The three on the E-Responder report are:

1. Michael Cartelli – Waiting on member number
2. Harry R. – To be removed from the E-Responder Report, said he will wait until next year.
3. Juan R. – Said he will work on his application this weekend.

In June we reported that Mike Cartelli is still waiting on a member number. Dottie recently sent a help desk ticket inquiry about his application status.

We hope to see a few more interested people soon. The three on the E-Responder report are:

1. Juan R.—I called him on June 28. He is still interested. He was delayed in completing his application due to family obligations and a vacation. He said he would be working on his application.
2. Huberto L. – I am reviewing his application and will forward his information by Monday, July 3.
3. Charles B. – I received his information on June 25 and talked to him on June 28. He is very interested and has a 32-foot boat he may want to get certified as a facility.

Steve Williams, Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations:

On June 27, the Auxiliary facility 'Miss Daisy' participated in a mission that included a security zone check on the Skyway bridge and a C-127 air drop in the Gulf of Mexico.

On July 4, Miss Daisy participated in the Brandon Independence Day parade with members from 72, 74, and 75 and family members.

Division 7 is looking at dates (TBA) to start the yearly



Articles of Interest

News and Program Updates from our Staff Officers



Flotilla 74 facility 'Miss Daisy' serves as a float in the Brandon Independence Day parade. Members from four Division 7 flotillas. USCG Auxiliary photograph by Dorothy Riley

currency for crew and coxswain training in our area. There are several missions scheduled for C-127 drops this month to work with Station Sand Key.

Dorothy Joan Riley, Flotilla Staff Officer-Publications:

We published a newsletter in May and hope to publish the current issue before the end of July. We need your photographs, articles and reports.

Matthew Stephen, Flotilla Staff Officer-Partner Visitations:

I had two new visits with the Seminole Heights Branch public library and Ultimate Marine, both in Tampa and a re-visit with the University of South Florida Riverfront Park boat-

house in May. In June, I had a new partner visit with Tampa Riverwalk Rentals. They rent kayaks and paddleboards. I re-supplied the University of South Florida boathouse and got them some new material.

Challenges — The heat is a constant obstacle, but our most pressing challenge is the need for more qualified program visitors. This is a crucial area where we need to focus our efforts.

Matthew Stephen, W Flotilla Staff Officer-Vessel Examiner:

We conducted two days of Vessel Safety Checks during National Safe Boating Week. We had nine vessel safety checks, of which eight passed. We also gained another qualified Vessel Examiner on the first day of National Safe

Boating Week, and a second Vessel Examiner started on his personal qualification standard by conducting one vessel safety check. I also completed 33 Vessel Safety Checks at the University of South Florida (USF) boathouse. (Seven canoes, twelve kayaks, and fourteen paddleboards.)

In June, I conducted 37 paddlecraft Vessel Safety Checks at Tampa Riverwalk Rentals and finished the remaining 18 at USF Riverfront Park. Thus, 88 paddlecraft safety checks have been completed thus far for the year.

Challenges – The heat and boaters who did not want a vessel safety check. Ω



Articles of Interest

Meeting News



Flotilla meetings are opportune times for short trainings, presenting awards to acknowledge our members, enjoying fellowship, and hearing from guest speakers.

By Dorothy Riley



Carl Templer, Brand Ambassador for the Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) Sector St. Petersburg pays a visit to Flotilla 74, Brandon on June 11 and tells the members about the benefits of shopping or booking excursions through the CGX. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley



Chris Hunt, Flotilla Staff Officer-Member Training caught no break after being away for some weeks. His first week back, the members prevailed upon him to present a brief, fifteen-minute training during the July 9 flotilla business meeting. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley



Articles of Interest

Bookmark this page to quickly locate important resources:

<https://cgaux.org/members/resource-links.php>



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

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Saturday, July 6, 2024

Member Resources Home

Chief Directors Office

What's New

Job Aids & Resources

Member Resource Links

Forms Warehouse

Manuals & Publications

Aux Officer / Directory

National Help Wanted

New Member Info

National Help Desk

SEARCH NATIONAL SITE

Enter Search Term(s):

SECURITY LEVELS

National Terrorism Advisory System



NO CURRENT ADVISORIES

Put this widget on your web page

Member Resource Links

USCG Auxiliary members one stop page with links just for members. All members should read Auxiliary Policy

Member Input

Our content below depends on members input. If you don't see a link that you feel is needed, let us know! You can submit your feedback via the national help desk. When submitting your ticket please insure you place "Member Resource Links" in the subject line, in the content area provide the URL of the page you would like us to link to, and why you feel it is important.

About the Auxiliary	Learn about the Auxiliary (Overview, Mission, Organization and History)
AUX04 C-School	AUX04 Distance Education Technology Training (Basic)
AUX10 C-School	AUX10 Distance Education Information Services (IS)
AUXDATA	AUXDATA II Production Login
AuxDirectory/AuxOfficer	Member Log In / Create or Change Password
Auxiliary Division Procedures Guide	Division Procedures Guide
Auxiliary Flotilla Procedures Guide	Flotilla Procedures Guide
Auxiliary Internet Resource Site	A.I.R.S Website
Auxiliary Manual	Auxiliary Manual COMDTINST M16790.1G
Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual	Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual COMDTINST M16798.3E
Auxiliary Policy	US Coast Guard Auxiliary Policy Statement
AUXOP Operational Program Rqmts	AUXOP Info
Awards	NAC National Awards Forms / Auxiliary Certificate Database
Boating Safety Division (CG-BSX-2)	Coast Guard Boating Safety Division (CG-BSX-2)
C School	One Stop Portal for all Auxiliary C School programs
CG Finance Center	CG FINCEN
Chief Counsel	Chief Legal Counsel
Directorates, Groups and Departments	Directorates, Groups and Departments
Forms	Forms Warehouse Home / PDF Forms / Electronic Forms (E-Forms)
Job Aids & Resources	Selected Job Aids & Resources for the Auxiliarist
Knowledgebase	Knowledge Base
National Help Desk	Submit A Ticket / Knowledge Base
National Testing Center	Welcome / Training Courses / Take a Test
New Member Reference Guide	New Member Reference Guide
Per Diem Rates	Traveling for the Auxiliary? Check destination Per Diem Rates
Shop CGAUXA	Shop Auxiliary for member Discounts and Deals
Training Manuals & Publications	Auxiliary Manuals — includes Commandant Instructions and more
Uniform Information	The Auxiliary Uniforms
Webforms	Interactive 7029 Webform / Questions and Answers
Website Quick Checklist	Website Quick Checklist / Legacy / WOW II (aka "Pushbutton")
What's New	Current Auxiliary What's New Blog Posts
WOW II	WOW Website Platform Information / Log Into Auxiliary WOW II Website



Articles of Interest

Dangerous Heatwave Threatens Us All: Be Prepared!

By Dorothy Riley

The current heat wave in the United States is causing dangerous conditions for people nationwide. Temperatures are soaring well above average, and the heat index makes it feel even hotter. The heat wave is expected to continue, and it is essential to take precautions to stay safe.

As of July 9, 2023, the highest temperature recorded this year is 54.4°C (129.9°F) in Furnace Creek, California. This is the second time in a row that Death Valley has set the world record for the hottest temperature ever recorded. The previous record was 54.0°C (129.2°F), also recorded in Death Valley on June 30, 2013.

As the planet warms, we expect more extreme heat events. It is essential to be prepared for these events and to stay safe.

Here are some tips for staying safe during a heat wave:

- Stay indoors as much as possible.
- If you must go outside, wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing.
- Drink plenty of fluids, even if you are not thirsty.
- Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which can dehydrate you.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Use a fan or air conditioner to stay cool.
- Check on older adults, neighbors, and relatives.



The heat wave is especially dangerous for young children, the elderly, and people with chronic health conditions. These people are more likely to experience heat-related illnesses, which can be fatal.

If you experience any of the following symptoms of heat-related illness, seek medical attention immediately:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Fatigue
- Excessive sweating
- Pale or flushed skin
- Rapid breathing
- Rapid heartbeat
- High body temperature (above 100 degrees Fahrenheit)

The current heat wave reminds us of the dangers of climate change. As the planet warms, heat waves become more frequent and intense. It is essential to take steps to stay safe during these extreme weather events.

As the planet warms, we expect more extreme heat events. It is important to be prepared for these events and to take steps to stay safe. Ω



Heat Claims More Lives Than Other Weather Events

By Dorothy Riley

Heat waves are silent killers. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), heat is the leading weather-related cause of death in the United States, on average claiming more lives annually than floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and lightning combined.

Here's a breakdown of estimated annual deaths by weather event in the US:

- Heat: 1,200 - 1,300 deaths
- Cold: 700 deaths (depending on methodology)
- Floods: 88 deaths (average over 30 years)
- Tornadoes: 72 deaths (average over 30 years)
- Lightning: 36 deaths (average over 30 years)

It's important to note that these are just estimates, and the actual number of deaths can vary depending on factors like data collection methods and the severity of weather events in a given year. However, the statistics clearly show that heat significantly threatens public health.

2023 saw a record number of heat-related deaths in the US, with estimates ranging from 2,302, according to official reports, to a possible 11,000, according to some studies [PBS News, AP News]. The increase in heat deaths compared to previous years adds weight to the severity of the issue. Ω

Image by Martin Zangerl on Unsplash



Articles of Interest



Coast Guard Auxiliary Celebrates 85th Anniversary

By Lt. Chris Booth, USCG

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrated its 85th anniversary with a ceremony held at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. on June 20th, 2024. The ceremony was attended by Coast Guard and Auxiliary leadership and recognized the Auxiliary's rich history as a primary promoter of recreational boating safety and as an integral force multiplier for Team Coast Guard.

Rear Adm. Wayne Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, served as the presiding official for the ceremony and spoke on the wide variety of contributions the Auxiliary has made to the nation over its 85-year history. Auxiliary National Commodore Gus Formato also provided remarks thanking the hundreds of thousands of Auxiliarists who have volunteered over the eight-plus decades and spoke on the exciting future that the organization has in store in the years to come.

The ceremony also included a number of special recognitions for the Auxiliary. In appreciation of the Auxiliary's service over the last five years, the Auxiliary received a letter from President Joe Biden thanking the organization for its many contributions to the safety of our nation's waterways. The Auxiliary was also recognized on the floors of Congress, as Representative Nick LaLota (R-NY) read aloud a proclamation that expressed appreciation for Auxiliarists and their dedication to volunteerism. A copy of this proclamation was presented to Commodore Gus Formato, National Commodore at the ceremony for display in the Chief Director of Auxiliary office at Coast Guard Headquarters. In recognition of the Auxiliary's commitment to service of America's boating public and augmentation of Coast Guard missions, Rear Adm. Arguin also presented to the Auxiliary, on behalf of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, a Coast Guard Unit Commendation.

Finally, the ceremony was concluded with a very special recognition, as the Auxiliary was presented with the American Campaign Streamer. This streamer recognizes those who helped protect and defend the United States during World War II and brings light to the Auxiliary which provided national defense support during the early stages of that conflict following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in December 1941. Rear Adm. Arguin, on behalf of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, affixed this streamer to the Coast Guard Auxiliary flag, which is now authorized to display this streamer on its organizational flag.

You can read the full article in My CG at: <https://www.mycg.uscg.mil/News/Article/3813054/coast-guard-auxiliary-celebrates-85th-anniversary/>



Articles of Interest



On behalf of the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Rear Adm. Wayne Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, presented a Coast Guard Unit Commendation to the Auxiliary to honor 85 years of service. COMO Gus Formato, Auxiliary National Commodore, accepted the award on behalf of the Auxiliary. To his right is Benjamin Feril, Auxiliary Chaplain. USCG Auxiliary photo by Hector Corrales

Click on
image
to hear
Rep. Nick
LaLota's
speech.



Congress honored the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary with a proclamation read by Rep. Nick LaLota recognizing the significant and enduring contributions of Auxiliarists across the nation. Lieutenant Chris Booth from the Office of the Chief Director of Auxiliary at Coast Guard Headquarters described the proclamation as, "Truly unforgettable recognition that serves as a fitting tribute to the selfless volunteerism continuously exhibited by Auxiliarists as they educate America's recreational boating public and augment important Coast Guard missions." This special acknowledgment highlights the unwavering dedication and impact of our volunteers supporting Team Coast Guard.

<https://youtu.be/0kaE-rB1O9U?si=zrANtX7LREuulNaJ>



WE WANT YOU TO BE A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



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USCGA-P

FLOT is a military acronym meaning "forward line of own troops." FLOT line or "forward edge of battle area" (FEBA) are technical terms used by all branches of the U.S. armed services to designate the forward most friendly maritime or land forces on the battlefield at a given point in time during an armed conflict.

We are not a military force engaged in armed conflict. We are, however, the front-line of the struggle to save the lives of recreational boaters, and we face this great endeavor armed with Vessel Safety Checks, Public Education classes and all the other Recreational Boating Safety programs in our arsenal. Our newsletter banner serves as a reminder of this mission.

FLOT Lines is a publication of Flotilla 74, Brandon, District 7 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, located at 3006 S. Kings Ave., Brandon. The Auxiliary an organization of dues-paying unpaid, civilian volunteers whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. Articles may be reprinted with the express consent of the author or photographer with proper credit given to same. For permissions or for more information, please contact the editor, Dorothy Riley, SO-PB, Email address: dottieriley@gmail.com

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Be sure to attend flotilla meetings

***When:* 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.**

***Where:* Flotilla 74, Brandon**

3006 S. KINGS AVE, Brandon, FL

***Why:* Membership is more rewarding
when you participate-
and bring a friend!**