



FLOT Lines

Flotilla 74 Brandon

District 7

USCG Auxiliary

Issue 3 2022

Flotilla 74 Brandon Celebrates National Safe Boating Week

By Dorothy Riley



Hilario Benitez Rivera, Flotilla 74 Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations, coaches Clark Pittman in conducting Vessel Examinations May 22 at Williams Park boat ramp. Under Rivera's supervision, Pittman completed the required examinations to earn the Vessel Examiner qualification. Photos by Dorothy Riley

(Note: See more member NSBW photos on page 6.)

May 21-27 was National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). Members of Flotilla 74, Brandon conducted their major event Sunday, May 22 at Williams Park boat ramp by conducting vessel examinations and reminding all boaters to wear life jackets, brush up on boating safety skills, and prepare for the boating season.

National Safe Boating Week is the annual kick-off of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

While only a few members conducted vessel examinations, others came out in civilian clothing wearing life jackets to help spread the "Wear It" lifejacket campaign message and to show support for their fellow members.

Charles Hayes, a member of Flotilla 14-2 Arlington was also present. Hayes, an Auxiliary Paddle Craft instructor, came from Jacksonville the day before to train Clark Pittman paddle craft safety with his kayak

and stayed to participate in our National Safe Boating Week event. Thank you, Mr. Hayes.

Participants included:

Monty Montanez
Charles Hayes
Dorothy Riley
August Miller
Charlotte Miller
Hilario Benitez Rivera
George Humphrey
Dugles (DJ) Peters
Clark Pittman
Laurence Vandeyar
Chris Alexander
Ray Langley



Thanks to everyone who came out to support our flotilla! Ω

FLOT Lines



Flotilla Staff Officers

August Miller
Navigation Systems,
Materials

Gerald Banach Member
Training

Richard Strehl, Jr.
Finance
Public Education

George Papabeis
Public Affairs
Operations

Dottie Riley
Publications

William Sage
Human Resources

Hilario Benitez Rivera
Program Visits

Clark Pittman
Member Training
Secretary of Records

Hilario Benitez Rivera
Vessel Examinations

Tanner Piliego
Information Systems
Communication
Services

Newsletter Flotilla, 74 Brandon

William Sage, Flotilla Commander

Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Vice Commander

Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
3006 South Kings Ave., Brandon, Florida

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We're on the web!

www.cgaux74.org

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



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Articles of Interest



July 4, 1776 is celebrated as American Independence Day, but this omits a lot of the history both before and after that date.

The Boston Massacre occurred in 1770. The Massachusetts colony was the first to aggressively resist “taxation without representation.” After the Boston Tea Party in 1773, the British Parliament imposed the so-called Intolerable Acts in 1774, closed the Boston Harbor, revoked Massachusetts’ charter, and placed the colony under the control of the British government.

The First Continental Congress was formed in early Sept. 1774 by 12 of the 13 colonies to petition King George III for peace and to protest taxation. That eventually led to the Battle of Lexington April 19, 1775.

The colonies responded by establishing the Continental Army led by General George Washington. What started out as resistance became a full rebellion. All

thirteen colonies attended the Second Continental Congress where the Declaration of Independence, was drafted and ratified on July 4, 1776 .

The American colonists were aided by France and to a lesser degree, Spain, and the war raged on until April 1782.

The British government accepted American Independence with the ratification of the Treaty of Paris on Sept. 3, 1783. From 1770 to 1783— it took 13 long and bloody years to achieve self-rule!

Why do we celebrate July 4 to mark our nation’s independence instead of say, the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 when Great Britain first recognized the colonies as a separate nation, or Cornwallis’ surrender to General Washington in 1781? The 13 colonies chose the day that they signed the Declaration of Independence— the day they declared themselves “a new nation under God”—July 4, 1776. Ω



From the Helm

William Sage Flotilla Commander



I was trying to decide what to write in this column for the newsletter and three words came to mind. Those words are **Fellowship**, **Opportunity** and **Purpose**. Those are three things that are going on in the flotilla at present. And these are three things that, individually, all members can pursue and experience at their own pace.

Opportunity is everywhere; you have to grab onto it and go with it. It is restricted only to what you want to do within the flotilla. If you feel like doing vessel exams, take the course online and set up a time to get checked out by our Flotilla Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations. Once certified, you can begin participating in examining vessels. Want to become involved in communications? We do not have a radio center, but you can take the exam, get certified, and volunteer to stand watch with another flotilla.

Purpose - The definition of purpose is “the reason for which something exists or is done; an intended or desired result or a determination or resoluteness.” Everyone who joins the Auxiliary has a specific reason for joining. It is different for each of us. Once members become qualified and begin participating, it stimulates interest among other members. By pursuing their purpose, they contribute to the overall purpose of the flotilla.

I decided to join the Auxiliary due to taking a Boating Safety class from Galen Johnston at the flotilla. He mentioned opportunities for anyone who wanted to volunteer their time and efforts. I attended one or two meetings, felt comfortable with the members and submitted my application. Since then, I have done Marine Program Visits. In my pre-retirement life, I worked in human resources for 40 years and said I would never do that again. So, now I am the Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources (go figure) and found that I enjoy helping new members come aboard. Then I work with them through member training to help them become qualified to find their purpose.

Fellowship – This is what it is all about. Fellowship is where the rubber meets the road. We are all dedicat-

ed to promoting boating safety through various programs.

We do not get paid in a material sense. However, the more we work together, the more support we give each other and the more we enjoy being together, planning and accomplishing things. On May 22 at Williams Park, we had about a dozen flotilla members. Other than painting the flotilla building in April, it was the first gathering we have had like that since pre-COVID. Everyone seemed to enjoy working together toward a goal: promoting boating safety.

As one of our brochures tout: “knowing that you belong to a special group of people directly participating in helping save lives gives your membership a special meaning.” You actually give our flotilla membership meaning.

Things to come – Member Steve Williams has offered his 28-foot boat to become a “Facility” for the flotilla. George Papabeis, our Flotilla Staff Officer -Operations is working diligently to get it certified and on the water with the Auxiliary banner. Once that is done, we hope to get boat crew classes going again. We will be able to get more missions with the Coast Guards’ approval and get on the water again. That is exciting for our flotilla.

In closing, I want to thank all members who have been getting their core and other courses completed. Division 7 is rightfully pushing to get this accomplished. Every member should strive within the next several months to get this done and one qualification course out of the way. It will be helpful for you, the flotilla, and the Auxiliary.

Thank you for your efforts.Ω



From the Helm



Dorothy Riley Flotilla Vice Commander

Our new members inspire me. They are a diverse group: young, middle-aged, and senior who possess a wide range of skills, qualifications and ambitions. They are talented, enthusiastic

about learning, and eager to serve. They humble me.

We have many seasoned members whom we rarely, if ever, see. I wish they would come to meetings or attend events so that they may also be inspired.

Over time, enthusiasm or motivation to participate in the Auxiliary may wane. To our uninvolved members, come and meet our newer members who will undoubtedly remind you why you joined the Auxiliary in the first place!

From the preamble to the member oath you took when you joined the Auxiliary:

“The satisfaction you derive from your Auxiliary membership will be in proportion to your level of participation in the organization’s activities. The success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will depend upon the extent of your participation and upon the quality of the Auxiliary leaders that you, the member, select.”

When members do not participate, they sacrifice their enthusiasm and enjoyment.

I thank every member who contributes to the success of Flotilla 74 Brandon! Ω



Remember:

“The satisfaction you derive from your Auxiliary membership will be in proportion to your level of participation in the organization’s activities. The success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will depend upon the extent of your participation and upon the quality of the Auxiliary leaders that you, the member, select.”



NSBW



William Sage



August Miller



Hilario Benitez-Rivera and Clark Pittman



Hilario Benitez-Rivera and Charles Hayes



George Humphrey and Dugles (DJ) Peters.

(All photos May 22 at Williams Park by Dorothy Riley)



NSBW



The National Safe Boating Council developed these images for use on days one through seven during National Safe Boating Week. We encourage you to share these images on your social media pages to promote safe boating practices. Boating safety is a year-round concern.

Find these images and other resources at:

<https://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/national-safe-boating-week-may-21-27-2022/>



Articles of Interest

PADDLESports: An Increasingly Popular Summertime Activity.

Dorothy Riley

Paddlesports are increasingly popular. Kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards are cheaper than boats and can be transported more easily. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has a great deal of information about paddlesports on their Recreational Boating Safety web page at:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=B-DEPT&category=for-paddlers>

ONE. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

Wear a properly fitting U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times on the water.

TWO. DON'T DRINK WHILE PADDLING

Avoid alcohol, which impairs the coordination and balance you need to control a canoe, kayak, or raft.

THREE. STAY LOW

Learn how to enter and exit your boat safely and stay low in your boat when possible. Most paddlesport-related drownings are the result of capsizing.

FOUR. KEEP YOUR BALANCE

Don't overload your boat. Distribute passengers, secure gear evenly and low, and leave your dog on land.

FIVE. PRACTICE THE WET EXIT

Learn how to get out of, hang on to, right, and re-enter your capsized boat.

SIX. DON'T GET LEFT IN THE COLD

Dress for the weather conditions and be prepared for cold-water immersion. Hypothermia is a danger any time of year.

SEVEN. PLAN AHEAD

Know the water you're paddling, plan your day of paddling, and file a "float plan" so that someone knows where to find you and when you plan to return.

EIGHT. NEVER PADDLE ALONE

Companions can come to your aid if you get in trouble. New paddlers should paddle with someone more experienced—it's a great way to learn and remain safe if there's a mishap.

NINE. BE IN COMMAND

Know how to move your boat forward, back, and sideways, and how to stop using paddle strokes. Watch ahead for hazards like undercut rocks, bridge pilings, large branches and trees, big drop-offs, or other boats. (*In Florida fresh waters, be on the lookout for alligators too!)

TEN. LEARN ABOUT YOUR BOAT

Consider taking a canoe or kayak safety class. Call 1-800-929-5162 or visit www.acanet.org to learn about classes offered by the American Canoe Association. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary also offers "Paddler's Guide to Safety" and The Auxiliary Paddlecraft Program (AUXPAD.)

(Source: United States Coast Guard "Paddle Safe-Have Fun" brochure.)

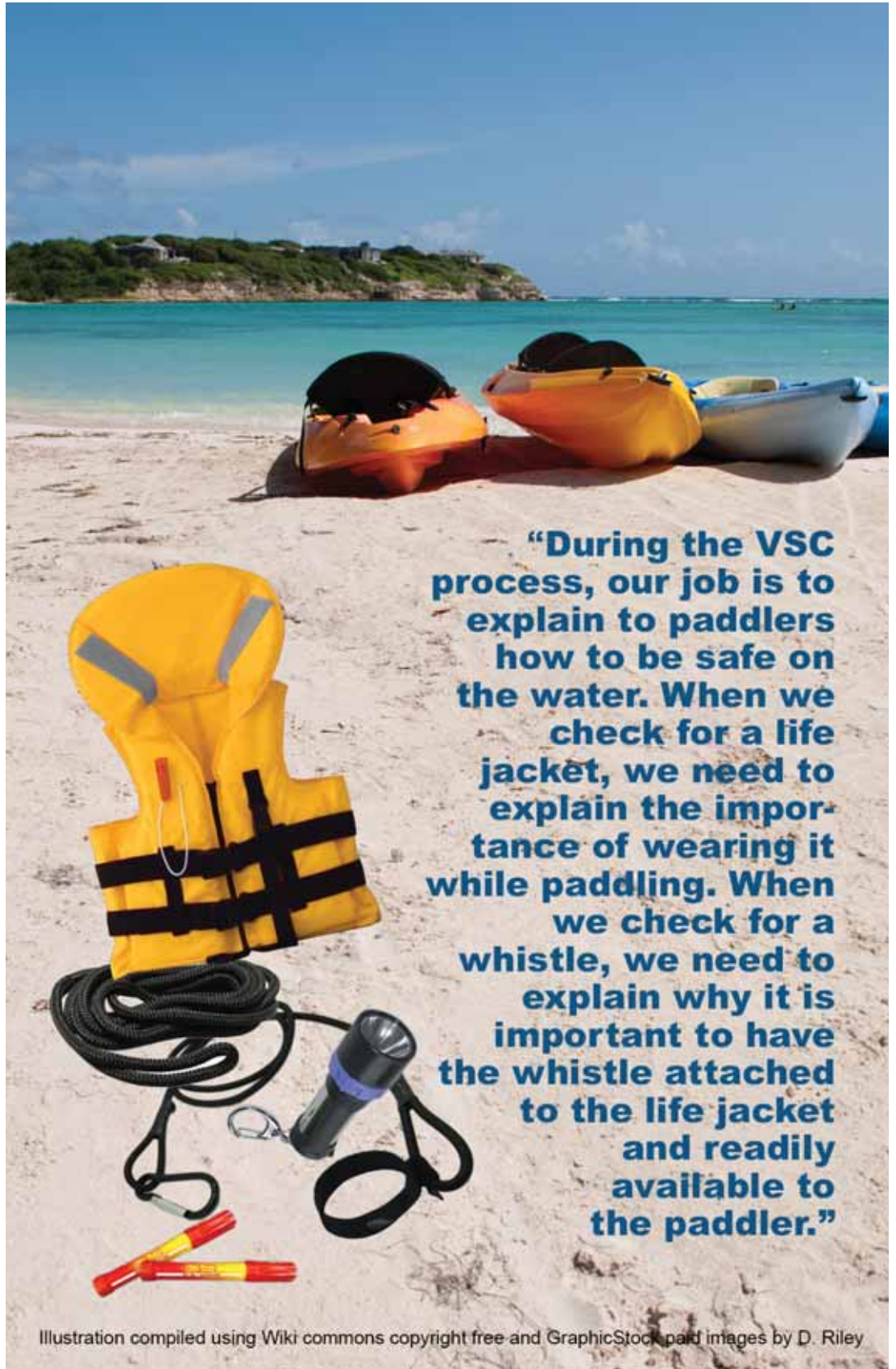


Articles of Interest

Paddleboats and Vessel Examinations

The U.S. Coast Guard in a decisional memo dated Oct.3, 2008, classified paddleboards as vessels in accordance with Title 1 United States Code, Section 3.

Kayaks and canoes are eligible for Vessel Safety Checks and present an opportunity to educate boaters. Don't overlook this chance to save a life!



“During the VSC process, our job is to explain to paddlers how to be safe on the water. When we check for a life jacket, we need to explain the importance of wearing it while paddling. When we check for a whistle, we need to explain why it is important to have the whistle attached to the life jacket and readily available to the paddler.”

Illustration compiled using Wiki commons copyright free and GraphicStock paid images by D. Riley



Articles of Interest

It's Raining Fish!



(No kidding. This headline is for real!)

SAN FRANCISCO-JUNE 2022— Thousands of fish are falling from the sky in San Francisco.

Residents across the city reported hearing loud splats on their roofs, only to find out it was raining anchovies. Thousands more have washed up along the San Francisco Bay Area's shore.

One theory for the fish falling from the sky is that large seabirds like seagulls and pelicans are dropping these fish at random locations across the city, but that explanation does not account for the sheer number of anchovies raining from the skies..

Anchovies are spawning in unusually large numbers in Lower San Francisco Bay Area. The anchovy population has exploded from just 29 in April to over 2,600 in June.Ω

(Source: timesnownews.com)

Photo below: National Park Service



Member News



Top: William Sage, Flotilla Commander, presents a certificate of appreciation to Tanner Piliego during the July 12 meeting for all of the work he did cleaning and organizing the flotilla building and storage room.

Bottom: William Sage presents the Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award for service Aug. 25 to Nov. 2020 to members August Miller, George Papabeis and Michael Debetta. Photos by Dorothy Riley.



Articles of Interest

More...



NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK
BOAT RESPONSIBLY



Flotilla 74 Brandon member George Papabeis served as the photographer for a National Safe Boating Week event on May 24 in Sarasota in Division 8. Flanked by Sarasota area law enforcement, members of the Coast Guard and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers are Toni Borman, District Captain-West, and Jonathan Laronge, Staff Officer-Public Affairs Division 8.

Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs Flotilla 74, Brandon

Bragging a little more about member, George Papabeis...

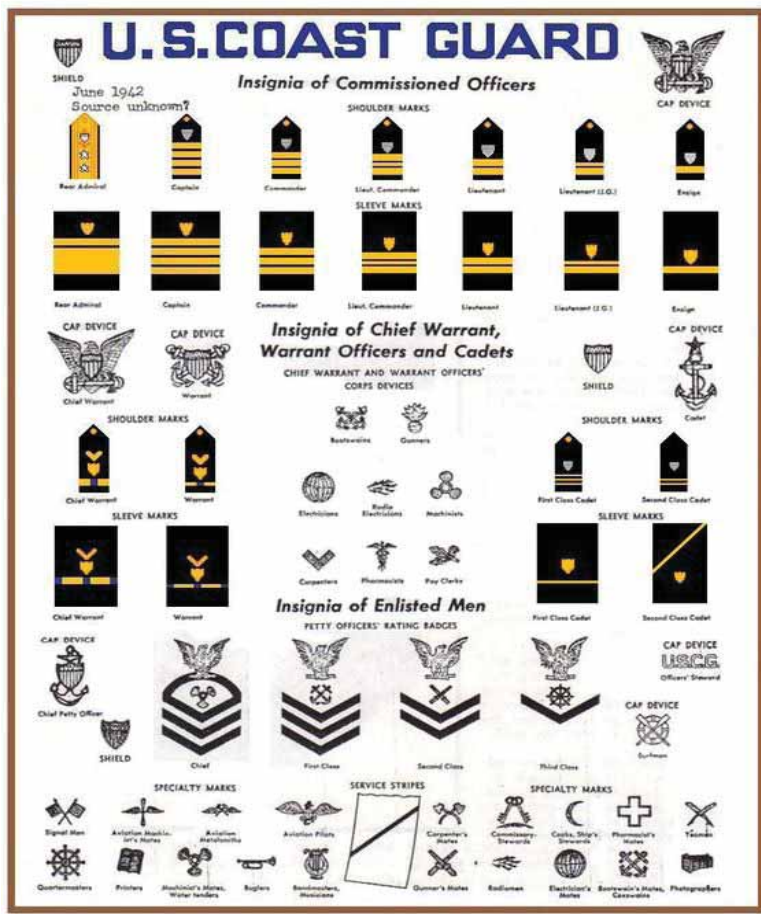
George Papabeis' photo videography skills are widely appreciated. Toni Borman, District Captain-West recruited him to photograph and film the visit by Captain Troy P. Glendye, Chief Director of Auxiliary to Division 8 and Station Cortez June 27, 2022.



STATION CORTEZ Coxswain Zachary Tapp (Flotilla 82, Long Boat Key) and Captain Troy P. Glendye, Chief Director of Auxiliary, exchange quips while underway aboard the USCG Auxiliary Facility "Niche II". Auxiliarists Chis Juall and Amber Porter (Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg) in the background. Photo by Auxiliarist George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs Flotilla 74, Brandon.



Articles of Interest



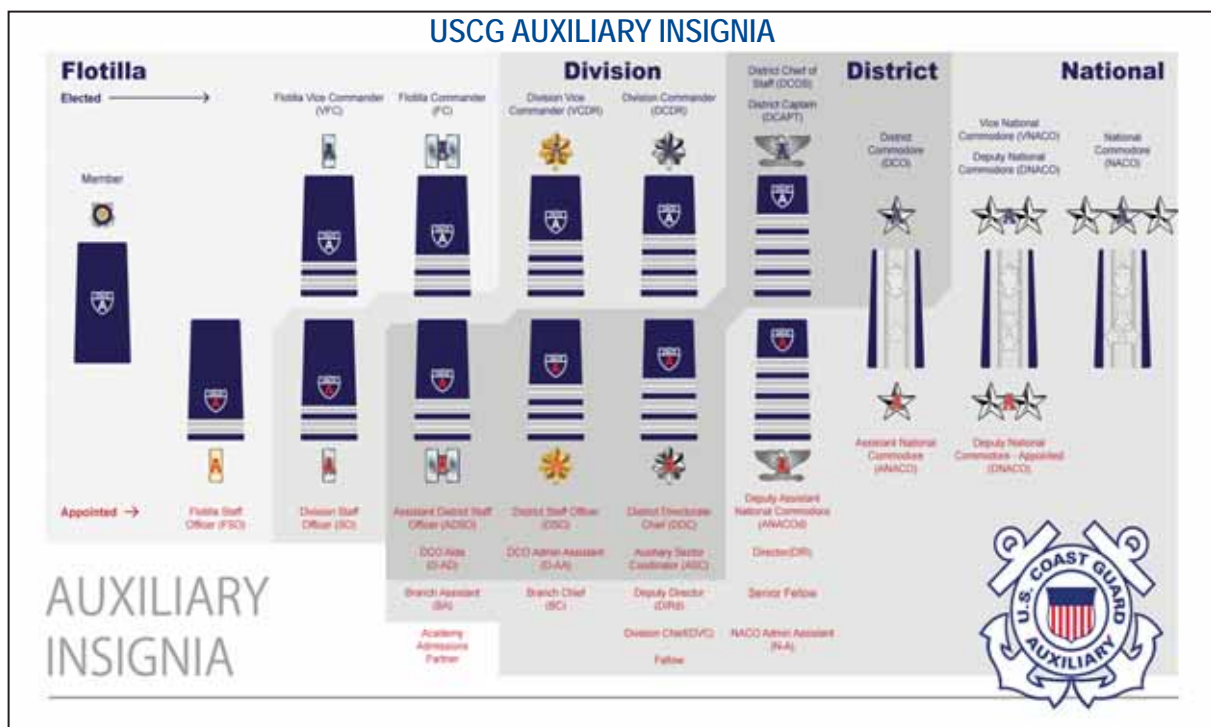
Can You Properly Identify These Insignia?

For Auxiliary members whose former military experience may be Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps—or members with no military background at all, the Coast Guard ranks and insignias may be a bit confusing. Fortunately, our members who may have served in the Navy are not quite so befuddled. The Coast Guard and Navy insignias are virtually the same.

Auxiliary members who interact with the Coast Guard should recognize ranks and insignias. There are several videos on YouTube that help members understand. Watch these videos as often as it takes to memorize the Coast Guard insignias.

US Coast Guard Ranks in order: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAuR3B4OrHs&t=43s>

USCG Rates and Ranks Video Study Guide (2018 UPDATED): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrUEXFvneSU&t=208s>



Articles of Interest

2023 Auxiliary Dues Are Payable Beginning in July.

By now, every member of Flotilla 74, Brandon has likely received the notice from William Sage, Flotilla Commander, that 2023 member dues are being collected.

Members paying by check should mail their dues to Richard Strehl, Flotilla Staff Officer-Finance. (See the Auxiliary directory for his address or send him an email.

To pay dues electronically, notify Sage and he will send a link. While July might seem a bit early, the flotilla is on a tight schedule to renew or cancel memberships after September and there are always stragglers!



Free-to-use photo from Pixabay



D-TRAIN 2022

US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7 Board Meeting & Training

SEPT 13 - 18, 2022

Florida Hotel and Conference Center
1500 Sand Lake Road
Orlando, Florida, 32809
407-859-1500

<https://uscga-district-7.org/dtrain.php>

\$129.00 room rate per night (For reservation mention Coast Guard Auxiliary)

Any questions, please call or email James Nickles, Conference Coordinator at (407) 390-9611, jimnickles2@gmail.com



COVID-19 information - If either the member or guest is not fully vaccinated, the member must submit a written negative FDA-authorized COVID-19 test result 72 hours prior to arriving at DTRAIN. This applies to the member or their guest. Submit to John Holmes, District Chief of Staff at ohn.holmes@cgauxnet.us





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- Civilian Employees
- Immediate Family Members
- PHS Officers and Chaplains
- Reserve Members
- Retired Military Personnel
- Surviving Family Members

CGMA, it's mutual.

The 2022 CGMA Fundraising Campaign started April 1.

Individual donations to Coast Guard Mutual Assistance may be made at any time at:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cgma/>

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 frontline 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.

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