



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
FLOTILLA 7-16
Gulfport, Florida



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2020 2nd Quarter

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THE BEACON



A Message

I (Marcella Ruso VC) live just around the corner from our Flotilla and during the Contra 19 virus was able to take my walk at Clam Bayou. I have always found that no matter what there is always a message and I found mine right on the steps of one of my favorite places!



OFFICERS:

Flotilla Commander:

Marty Richardson Jr.

Vice Flotilla Commander

M. Ruso

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W. Zinner

FSO-FN & OP:

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FSO-MA & PV & VE:

D. Rimel

FSO-HR:

E. Zinner

FSO-NS:

Nomberg

FSO-PE:

M. Richardson Jr.

FSO-PA:

G. Hayward

FSO-CS & NS & PB:

M. Ruso



And Look at that it even ended with a "Happy Tail"!

We will get through this.



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<http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php>



Coast Guard rescues two kayakers near Admiralty Island

They were exhausted but unhurt.

- By [Michael S. Lockett](#)
- Monday, May 4, 2020 4:24pm

Coast Guardsmen from Station Juneau rescued two kayakers from Couverden Island after they became exhausted and darkness was falling on Friday evening.

“They recognized that ‘Oh my gosh, we put ourselves in a really bad spot, and before it gets worse, we’re going to call for help,’ and that was the right thing,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Nate Littlejohn, a Coast Guard public affairs specialist, in a phone interview. “They did the right thing.”

The kayakers beached on Couverden Island and called the Coast Guard for help on a cellphone, Littlejohn said. Station Juneau deployed a 45-foot Response Boat-Medium and returned the kayakers to Statter Harbor. The Coast Guard did not provide the identities of the rescued kayakers, as is their policy.

“They had gone about 23 miles over about a nine-hour period. They were exhausted and they underestimated how much effort it would take to get back,” Littlejohn said. “If you leave out of somewhere on an outgoing tide, it could be a lot harder to come back.”

Neither kayaker was injured, Littlejohn said, but they were under-equipped to spend the night outdoors or to call for help. They didn’t have a backup communications device, survival equipment, cold-weather gear or sufficient food or water, according to a Coast Guard release.

[Calm waters for now but storms on the horizon for Juneau’s businesses](#)

“Every spring and early summer, we get dozens of calls like this. It’s a really common mistake in the springtime. We’re all excited after being pent up,” Littlejohn said. “People are in a rush to get out, people haven’t done the proper maintenance and proper planning. We’re asking folks to pump the brakes a little and do some proper planning.”

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“Every spring and early summer, we get dozens of calls like this. It’s a really common mistake in the springtime. We’re all excited after being pent up,” Littlejohn said. “People are in a rush to get out, people haven’t done the proper maintenance and proper planning. We’re asking folks to pump the brakes a little and do some proper planning.”

Hypothermia can be a real threat for the unprepared given the often-tepid temperatures of Southeast Alaska’s summers, Littlejohn said.

“The big thing is that even in the height of summer, it gets chilly at night. It doesn’t need to be below freezing to get hypothermia, it happens when your body dips below the proper temperature,” Littlejohn said. “That water is always cold. You can find yourself in a situation where it’s windy, you’re wet, and you’re hypothermic in the middle of summer.”

Tips for staying safe

If you’re hurt, in distress or stranded, call 911 immediately if possible, Littlejohn said.

However, the Coast Guard offers advice for how to avoid getting to that point.

“Wearing a lifejacket is the No. 1 thing you can do to increase your chances of survival if you end up in the water,” Littlejohn said. “Hands down. Doesn’t matter if you’re a child or adult.”

Filing a float plan is also a sensible precaution, he said. Writing down where you’re going and when you’re planning to be back, as well as any other details you, before leaving it with someone you trust, can save lives.

Boating sober, checking the weather and tides, making sure safety equipment is present and in working condition and having several forms of communication, are other recommended steps.

Dressing for the weather with proper warming layers, survival gear, and waterproofing is also strongly recommended by the Coast Guard.

• Contact reporter Michael S. Lockett at 757.621.1197 or mlockett@juneauempire.com.

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Still Planning via email



Howard and Bill are mulling over options for keeping GPR on the air following a serious hit by a hurricane. They assume that the Flotilla building will be abandoned during the storm and immediately after. Flooding and/or wind damage could mean we would not be able to operate out of that building for an unknown period.

They believe our location puts us in a key position to assess local damage and report same to any NETs that might be established. They also believe that we could help fill the gap if R21 is out of commission for a while. Our effectiveness will depend on our ability to re-occupy the Flotilla building or establish a good temporary ACU - I see the latter as very probable; a significant storm surge could flood our building and, tsunami-like, take away any resources remaining in the aftermath.

They are pretty sure that, with planning and preparations starting now, we could be ready to pick up and bug out. Whether that means establishing a temporary, fixed base ACU or a portable rig depends on how far the storm reaches into our immediate community and the damage done thereto. A station in a box looks like the best bet whether we carry it to someone's home and leave it there or move around to avoid damage.

Actually, I see the creation of this box to be the least of our problems; especially now that members are sheltering in place anyway. It would be a relief to be working on something tangible. I expect the less obvious barriers will be with permission and licensing. It is here that your knowledge will be helpful - we turn to you for advice.

If we cannot set up an antenna that will be tall enough to match the performance of our current set-up we may have to settle for limited range and a role as a relay station. At least we could participate. I will send a copy of this memo to the FC, VFC and the VFSO-CM and we can start there.

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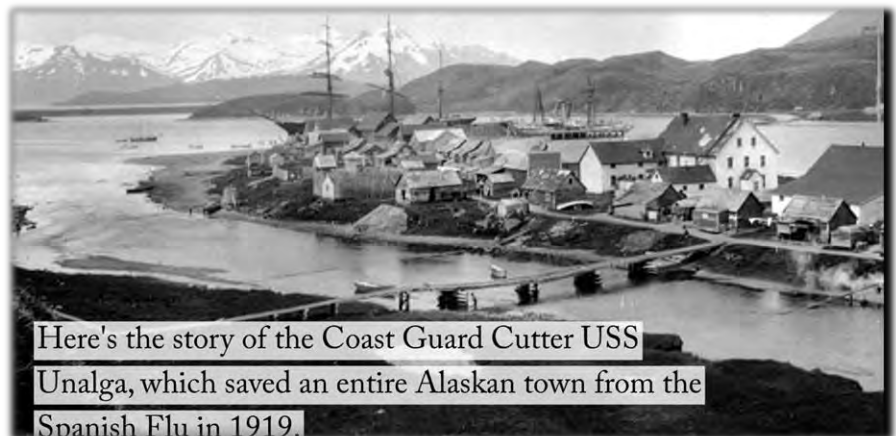
<https://www.facebook.com/uscgauxflotilla7.16/>

E-Directorate What's New!

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=E-DEPT&category=WHATSNEW>

"ABS Course" and "Suddenly In Command" Classes held at the Gulfport Flotilla for the public will resume as soon as we are given the OK.

Risking Lives to Save Lives



Here's the story of the Coast Guard Cutter USS Unalga, which saved an entire Alaskan town from the Spanish Flu in 1919.

<https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/o/COVID-19/Articles/Unalga-Video.mp4?ver=2020-05-07-182742-233×tamp=1588890522459>

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Commander Richardson Jr.

DC Article for 2nd QTR Beacon News Letter

I cannot believe we are halfway through the 2nd quarter of 2020... Seems I was just getting use to the 2020 date idea. We have settled into "Stay at Home" "Social Distancing" and no U.S. C.G. Auxiliary operations orders such as Recreational Boat Safety Course, radio watches, boat operations. Now is the time to start looking at "operations" both at home and in the Auxiliary. We as of this writing (May 13, 2020), have not received clearance to get back to "normal" from the Coast Guard, even as the State of Florida begins Phase 1, and 2 of reopening. Soon, I hope.

A couple of items of interest.... I have received more requests for our Boating Safely course than almost any other time in the last 3 three years.... People are buying boats and have getting out on the water, and want to do it safely. I hope we can teach the June 13, 2020 class.

Secondly, many of us may have been "Bored" (not me. Busy busy busy with projects) I haven't had time to do a number of things like reading, taking on line courses, and de-cluttering my desk at home. They are still on my list.

As we head into June it is time for Hurricane season to start. The USCG has started to it contact protocols. We've had our Flotilla Call Tree drill and an Everbridge drill exercise. Please check your contact information to ensure it is correct, it is imperative we contact every member and get a response. This is about keeping us safe and helping each other out if needed. Please contact our IS FSO Bill Zinner if you need assistance with updating your info.

For the last half of 2020 we are looking at some exciting events and operations. First is to increase our presence in the local schools to promote Recreational Boating Safety, Wearing PFD's and keeping our waterways free of litter and pollution. Secondly, to get trained in presenting the paddle craft safety course for the public. Paddle boats are a very fast-growing segment of recreational boating. Remember to plan on attending our July 4, 2020 activities.

Remember to social distance, be smart and thoughtful about keeping yourself, family, and friends healthy.

Your Flotilla 7-16 Commander
Marty Richardson

