



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



Volume VIII
2018 1st Quarter

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THE BEACON

Paddle Sport Safety & AUXPAD!

Paddle sports are on the rise, setting new records about 22 million Americans, that is 7.4 percent of the population are enjoy paddling.

Paddle sport participation is not slowing down. Some of the reasons many people have decided to become paddlers is due to low entry cost, the ease of storage, less maintenance, they are so much easier to get to the water and they are fun!

Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle boarding and kayak fishing have grown dramatically. Between 90,000 and 105,000 canoes and 350,000 kayaks are sold annually, according to industry figures.

With the growth in paddles ports there also has developed has a dark side. With the growth in paddle sports, the number of fatalities has gone up. In the most recent reporting year, 2015, 29% of boating deaths were paddle craft related; in 2016, fatalities climbed even higher. Current efforts to reach the paddling public have fallen dramatically short. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Strategic Plan for 2017 focuses Auxiliary efforts on addressing the problem by expanding outreach to the paddle craft community.

The link below has paddle resources / brochure's as guides to safer paddling, check lists for kayak fishing and some fun (Neither the CG nor the CG Auxiliary endorses) videos on paddle safety.

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=RB-GROUP&category=paddle-craft-safety>

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=B-DEPT&category=paddlecraft-safety>

OFFICERS:

Flotilla Commander:

William Zinner

Vice Flotilla Commander:

Marty Richardson Jr.

FSO-CM & IS & MT:

W. Zinner

FSO-FN & OP:

O. Baffi

FSO-MA & VE:

D. Rimel

FSO-HR:

E. Zinner

FSO-NS:

Nomberg

FSO-PE:

M. Richardson Jr.

FSO-PV:

G. Hayward

FSO-CS & NS & PB:

M. Ruso



Hurricane season is almost upon us again. Let's hope it is a mild one. Whether it is or not we all need to be prepared to protect our families and property. Almost every municipality hereabouts is presenting information to the public aimed at helping them do just that. Locally, the County will be presenting a preparedness program at the Hickman Theater in Gulfport at 1900 on May 31st. The presentation is usually excellent and a lot of literature is available. But, it is not too early to start some of your preparations now. There's lots of information available on line about food, water and support supplies you should be stocking up. Things often forgotten? Gas up your vehicles and generators, get some cash (and change) in case banks and ATMs are not working, notify your distant friends and family of your plans, make sure your cell phone is ready and loaded with important contact numbers. It's shocking how spread out our material assets are until we have to account for them and take steps to secure them.

In addition to your own preparations you are reminded to check your contact information currently on file with the Coast Guard. You can do so by going to <http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php> where you will find **E-Form 7028 "Change of Member Information"**. Access this Form and you will see what's on file for you now. Check it over and, if there are any discrepancies, make the necessary corrections. One of the accompanying documents listed on the Forms Warehouse page contains instruction – I suggest you download and print them. Pay close attention and make sure you complete any changes to the Skills Bank portion as well. Once you have made your changes hit the "Submit" button. That will be forward the Form to me, your FSO-IS, and I will update your file in AUX DATA. This is important because the Auxiliary is now depending on EVERBRIDGE to contact you with warnings and instructions. They will reach out to you via e-mail and telephone and you are instructed to respond. Don't ignore the call. If they cannot reach you notices are sent to Division and the Flotillas and Flotilla leadership is tasked with trying to contact you. Please complete your review and changes by the end of the month at the latest.

The concern, of course, is that you are not prepared to "weather the storm" or evacuate. If we don't know your plans we can't help. Most of our members decide to shelter in place or evacuate to stay with friends or family. Alternatively, they may decide to stay in one of the shelters designated by local authorities. Regardless, the Auxiliary and Coast Guard want to make sure of your safety and plans for after the storm event. They may even want to alert you to rescue and clean-up activities where your skills and experience may come in handy. The most common post event advice is to make sure your family is safe and taken care of and that your property is secured before you volunteer. Try to resist the temptation to help before your own life is stabilized and secure. There will be plenty to do thereafter.

If you evacuate it may prove difficult for you to get back to your home – debris, security, downed power lines, utility failures all represent barriers that must be cleared before you can get home again. Just look at the TV images of neighborhoods damaged or destroyed by a major weather event – better to keep clear for a while until the situation is assessed and stabilized so you are not in undue danger or in the way of authorized recovery efforts.

If you do plan to stay and have completed your own preparations you may be asked to help with securing the Flotilla building. Depending on the forecast impact on Gulfport's water front and the Marina crucial files and all radio equipment must be removed to a safe location. We did that last year but the storm fooled us and petered out between St Pete and Ft. Myers. It took a while to return all the items to the building and reconnect the radio room. But we had to take precautions because no one knew the storm was going to do that. The building is particularly vulnerable to storm surge and winds so we must take each warning seriously. If we need to take this step we will contact you. Again, do not favor the Flotilla over your own family and property.

Let's hope that all this advice is unnecessary and the season only proves to be inconvenient. We are bound to see significant weather events this summer but, perhaps, nothing destructive and traumatic. Your wellbeing is important to the Auxiliary as well as yourself.

Keep your contact information current at AUX DATA using Form 7028. Use link.

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



WHY JOIN THE AUXILIARY? WHY GET OTHERS TO JOIN?

Since its creation by Congress in 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has served as the civilian, non-military component of the Coast Guard. Today, the 30,000 volunteer men and women of the Auxiliary are active on the waterways and classrooms in over 2,000 cities and towns across the nation.

Each year, Auxiliarists save almost 500 lives, assist some 15,000 boaters in distress, conduct more than 150,000 courtesy safety examinations of recreational vessels, and teach over 500,000 students in boating and water safety courses. The results of these efforts save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year. So, you want to help America ...the USCG Auxiliary is more than just boats...

Be Part of the Action & Help Save Lives!

Since the recreational boating population in the United States is growing rapidly, the Coast Guard Auxiliary needs a few good men and women like you. As an Auxiliarist, you will have the opportunity to select and participate in one or more of the Auxiliary's major programs. If you feel strongly about the rewards you can get from serving your community, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is the right place for you! Either through on- water Operations, the Auxiliary's Public Education Program, Courtesy Examination Program, Radio Watchstander, Coast Guard Recruiting, Marine Environmental Protection or Coast Guard Administration.

Increase Your Skills

The Auxiliary and the Coast Guard provide specialized training on all aspects of boating, as well as leadership and administration. Auxiliarists receive valuable training in seamanship and related skills, and enjoy the sense of confidence of knowing that they are better and safer boaters.

Auxiliarists provide direct operational and administrative support to many local Coast Guard units. You can wear the Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform and become part of Team Coast Guard. When you qualify through training, you can take part in Search and Rescue operations, stand radio watch at the Coast Guard Station, work with the Marine Safety Office on pollution matters or work in the Recruiting Office.

We provide boating safety classes for youth and adults and examine recreational vessel for safety equipment to ensure that our neighbors will be safe on the waterways. Our boating safety classes are reaching record numbers and we need you!

In all activities, enjoy fellowship - the good company of other Auxiliarists at meetings and training sessions, on patrols and other missions, and at ceremonies and social events. One of the Auxiliary's trademarks is good old-fashioned hospitality. Friends, neighbors and interested members of the public are always welcome to attend one of our flotilla meetings. You'll find a special camaraderie among Auxiliarists that's hard to beat. There's time to relax and have fun at Auxiliary outings, training sessions, patrols, CMEs, classes, and conferences. Auxiliarists make lasting, meaningful friendships. Knowing that you belong to a special group of people and directly participate in helping save lives gives your Auxiliary membership a special meaning.

Alphard_victor Romero/L.C. Hatcher <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=054-25-07&category=recruitment>

Contact Us:

Telephone:

727-322-3040

Email:

auxgulfport@gulfport.com

Website:

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-07-16>

"The Beacon" or Facebook

Submissions:

MarcellaRuso@gmail.com



Congratulations to members at our Feb. and March 2018 meeting!

Top Left: Terry Hershman, Certificate of Appreciation

Top Right: Gerald M. Hayward, Certificate of Appreciation, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation, and Vessel Safety Checks

Middle Left: Ellie Zinner, Flotilla Certificate of Appreciation

Middle Middle: Dani Locklear, Flotilla Certificate of Appreciation

Middle Right: Matt Hethcott, Flotilla Certificate of Appreciation

Bottom Left: Marty Richardson Jr. Flotilla Certificate of Appreciation

Bottom Right: Don Rimel, No. 1 in Vessel Exams

We Missed You.... Congratulations!!!

Kim M. Davis, CG Operational/ Administrative Support, Honor Roll, Sustained Auxiliary Service

Casey McCormick, Search Coordination and Execution

Matthew H. Hethcoat BM2, Certificate of Appreciation

Jessica R Hathaway, Public Education

Hansen, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

Shentell, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

John Davis, Marine Dealer Visits

Orrie Baffi, Certificate of Appreciation

Kevin L Yeaton, VE-RBSVP



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Facebook Posts



United States Coast
Guard Auxiliary:
Flotilla 7-16

@uscgauxflotilla7.16

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Upcomming Events:



ON GOING COURSES:

A \$65 course (BS&S) that includes textbook, 12-week class and your certificate.

Special DISCOUNT rates are available for couples, families and groups of two or more! Call 727-322-3040 or auxgulfport@gulfport.com (Auxiliarist's come the 3rd Saturday of each month and coteach)

Don't forget to visit our Facebook Page, this is also a place for us to list events.

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

AVIALABLE COURSES ON LINE:

Welcome to the New National Testing Center

List of Training Courses, Exams, and Manuals... **and take a course.**

<http://ntc.cgaux.org/TrainingCourses.php>

VISIT VETRIANS AT BAY PINES:

Quarterly visits: ... Aug. 14th, 2018

Meeting time: 6:00pm

Place: Main Entrance

Additional information: haywardsnotary@aol.com

Contact Us:

Telephone:

727-322-3040

Email:

auxgulfport@gulfport.com

Website:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-07-16>

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Past Events:



VA VISIT

May 8th Gerald M. Hayward organized another rewarding visit to the V. A. at Bay Pines. The V.A. is a wealth of living history and visiting the men and women who have served our country is truly and honor.



We were also lucky to be one of the first to get to take a tour of the newly remodeled wing. Our vets will now be private rooms.

Additional information: Contact Gerald @ haywardsnotary@aol.com



Marty and Terry provided About Boating Safety (ABS) instruction to 16 people held in the Gulfport Coast Guard Axillary building with assistance from Bill and Ellie.

For us that is a new high! Certified instructors please come help or get certified to support the most successful program our flotilla puts on.

Additional information: Contact Marty @ merichardsonjr@att.net