

MARCH-APRIL 2023



WET GAZETTE

Department of Homeland Security

US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 11-10

Dunedin, Florida

Gordon Thomas, Commander

Eddie Townsend, Vice Commander

Rob Bonnem, Immediate Past Commander

Gary Walkup, Publications Officer



(Photo credit USCG)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



We are now approaching our fifth month into our new administration and I am pleased how much we've achieved as we are settling in to our new duties. We are gaining new members. We've sworn in a new member last month and presently waiting on three more applications.

As new members have joined, we've been assisting them to get through their CORE courses and uniform acquisition. Those achieving BQ status have assumed positions and duties including a flotilla historian. Our Flotilla Staff Officer meetings are now live and our Flotilla meetings will be live by June. Educational programs are part of each Flotilla meeting and utilized to orient new members and refresh the old salts with information about the Coast Guard and the

Coast Guard Auxiliary. A number of various programs are planned for future meetings.

In June we will be celebrating our 65th charter year by attending a Thresher's baseball game. This annual event has been popular. This year's event will draw attention as our 65th celebration will be announced. The flotilla meeting that month will also have a presentation about our inception and growth over the years. We are preparing for the National Safe Boating week in May with live boat safety courses, Program Visits with posters to display, and a "Wear your PFD to work" activity. We will receive a proclamation from the City of Dunedin recognizing our dedication for promoting Boat Safety. We have manned booths at the Lakeland Fun and Sun Air show, Hope Spot event in Dunedin, and the Tall Ships in St. Petersburg. We will staff a special family event with the Sheriff's Office and will have a 29 ft. boat there on display, which will be a great recruitment source. We're still keeping up with our social activities. In addition to the Threshers ball game, we have a lunch event for all members on the first Friday of each month and have a kayak day and lunch at Werner Boyce Park. The key to our success is how much our members are willing to participate in many of the activities we have. If the first four months are any indication of what we have to look forward to this year, we are going to have another great year. I appreciate the efforts by all who are working to continue to make us a great flotilla.

Gordon Thomas, FC (photo provided by author)

Communications Report by Scott Birdwell, FSO-CM

- Activity



One (1) radio watch shift on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Dunedin Radio to support “B4” and “Big Time” surface facilities during training missions within the Area of Operations on the Intercoastal Waterway and the Gulf of Mexico.

Upcoming radio watch shift at Dunedin Radio to support facilities B4 and Big Time training missions on Saturday, May 20, 2023



Photo of radio gear by Scott Birdwell, FSO-CM

Vessel Examinations

On April 22, 2023, Flotilla 11-10 performed eight vessel inspections at Caladesi Island for the Grady White Boat Club. After conducting the inspections, the boat club served grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, potato salad, chocolate cake, corn bread, and cookies. Seated at the table are Dave McGee, Gordon Thomas, and Allen Leimbach.



Photo by Paul Hargrett



Dave McGee conducting a vessel inspection. Photo by Gordon Thomas



U.S. COAST GUARD



AUXILIARY AVIATION

AUXAIR Report March-April 2023 by John C. Landon

I was issued orders for 5 flights, flying to SRQ (Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport). I picked up crew and conducted a maritime observation mission (MOM) and training patrol south. One flight was cancelled due to insufficient crew. Red tide seems to have dissipated somewhat along the coast. I practiced uploading search patterns from Foreflight (an aviation app) to my Garmin GNS 530W via Bluetooth so that the autopilot can fly the search pattern, greatly reducing pilot workload and maximizing available observation time.



MH 60 doing practice hoist off Clearwater Beach



**Ann Bennet, Observer from Local Clearwater Flotilla,
Former Navy Commander
Photos by John Landon**



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FSO-PV REPORT

By Robert Bonnem

“FSO-PV” (Flotilla Staff Officer-Program Visitation) for April, 2023

A total of 6 partner visits were made. No new partners were added. Racks and supplies are in place, restocked and on display in all locations visited. We have good levels of racks and supplies in stock at the flotilla classroom. 2023 Class schedule brochures are available. Coast Guard children’s activity books are in stock. Flotilla 11-10 is constantly recruiting new Partners with more onboard in the near future. No new PV’s have been qualified.



Public Education (FSO-PE)

About

The Public Education Department is charged with training and certifying a cadre of experienced recreational boating safety instructors, in support of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary's mission to improve recreational boating safety through public education and outreach, and providing all necessary materials and support to that mission.



Programs

- Plan, organize and direct programs and activities to promote and publicize boating safety
- Training, qualification, and currency maintenance of instructors
- Maintain the master Online Public Education Calendar



**Buddy Casale, Award-winning Flotilla Staff Officer -Public Education
Flotilla 11-10 Public Education Report for April, 2023**

- 3 Students completed the Boat America Safe Boating course.
- The Navigation Seminar was moved to May 27.

**Beginning May, 2023 all courses and seminars will be held in person at the
Flotilla 11-10 classroom, at 51 Main Street, Dunedin Fl 34698**

Photo by Gordon Thomas





Like to paddle? AUXPAD is the Coast Guard Auxiliary's program promoting paddlecraft safety ashore and afloat. Similar to the boat crew program, AUXPAD Operators are trained to handle their craft safely and undertake missions under orders. Their training prepares them as safety ambassadors to the paddling community, where they promote safety on the water, and also through Vessel Safety Checks, Public Education, and Program Visitation.

Here's a link to the NEW Paddlecraft handbook!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VYgM9jV5EF2ng6Nbkh3c1Ibi>

Flotilla 11-10 Participates in Sector JROTC

By David McGee

On April 12, 2023, Sector St. Petersburg held an open house for high school JROTC candidates and students. This program featured many of the duties and roles available to Coast Guard members. Educational displays included Environmental Pollution Control, Law Enforcement, Medical, Culinary, Human Resources and Damage Control. Attendees had the opportunity to board and tour the Coast Guard Cutters Diamondback and the Pablo Valent. The students also observed a MH-60 Jayhawk Coast Guard helicopter make a simulated water rescue.

One of the educational tables was firefighting and damage control presented by David McGee of Flotilla 11-10, who used his previous experience and skills to demonstrate firefighting equipment that may be on board United States Coast Guard vessels. Students practiced donning the firefighting equipment, some more successfully than others. The exercise included photographic evidence, much laughter and the reward was a cookout!

This open house provided an opportunity for students to understand the role of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary. These students are approaching their immediate future after high school and the hope is they continue with the Coast Guard, another military branch or if their future takes a different path, the USCG Auxiliary. It was a great opportunity for everyone!



MH-60 “Jayhawk” Coast Guard helicopter Photo by David McGee



David McGee demonstrating firefighting equipment.



The Page U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 has been unpublished because its content didn't follow Facebook's Community Standards. It will not be visible and you won't be able to add new people to work on the Page.



You've heard about "AI", otherwise known as "artificial intelligence", but sometimes the "intelligence" part is missing. If you look at Flotilla 11-10's Facebook Page, you may get an error message. An "algorithm" decided the Flotilla's Page violated community standards. When this happens, no explanation is provided, only a message *"We know we don't always get it right when we decide to take something down. If your content was taken down and you think it doesn't go against our Community Standards, you may be able to request a review of the content and we'll take another look at the decision we made if we can."* I've requested a review by a real person, and we'll see what happens but Facebook qualified this with "if we can"

Boat Crew Training



Our “Facilities” now have more powerful propulsion than the oars pictured in the illustration on the left, but many of the principles of seamanship are the same!

On April 14, Flotillas 11-10 and 11-01 performed a joint safety training exercise where both trainees and qualified crew members practiced seamanship skills.

The exercise included knot and rope work, assisting a disabled boat, towing safety, steering, navigation, and following search patterns during night operations.



It was a beautiful evening for a joint operation and a great opportunity for Division 11 Flotilla members to work on individual and team skills. In the photos, the facilities “Bigtime” (Coxswain Tim Dolan) and “B4IV” (Coxswain Harvey Prior) are practicing "Taking a boat in an alongside tow" and "Standing a Tow Line Watch".

Photo by David McGee



WELCOME



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MEMBERS

unlimited shopping privileges
at the **Coast Guard Exchange** and on **shopCGX.com**
is NOW AVAILABLE for all CG Auxiliary Members!
(Must be an active member in their assigned flotilla.)

Have you heard? UNLIMITED shopping privileges! What's new about this? Previously, Auxiliary members were not allowed to purchase alcohol or cigarettes at the Coast Guard Exchange.

I spot-checked the beer and wine selection at the Clearwater Air Station Exchange, and found that the prices were competitive with local stores like Total Wines and Leukens. I understand but have not verified that the purchases are tax-free, so if you're in the area, stop by (with your ID) and see if they stock your favorite libation!



UNITED STATES
**COAST
GUARD**

PROTECT / DEFEND / SAVE



Looks like a nice place to relax, eh?

If you served in the military, you may have heard about special “reduced-rate” vacation resorts JUST for members of the Armed Forces. Coast Guard Auxiliary members are now eligible to stay at special Coast Guard vacation spots all over the United States! Check ‘em out!



For more information, look at the Coast Guard Recreation website

<https://www.coastguardmwr.org/coast-guard-lodging>

Last month St. Petersburg hosted the “Tall Ships Festival”

Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary members from all over the area helped make this a resounding success.

Many thanks to all those who assisted!



Shore Side Team

- Ron Shouse 78
- Michelle Evans 11-1
- Matt Copeland 11-7
- Dave Brown 78
- Samy Hannah 78
- Linda Bernard 72
- Gary Walkup 11-10
- Karen Meade 11-10
- J C Anson 11-10
- Lisa Repetto 11-1
- Chelsea Miller 11-10
- Arlene Merseal 11-1
- Steve Rea 11-1
- Gordon Thomas 11-10
- Cono Casale 11-10
- Ernest Cannon 11-8
- Brenda Burger 78
- Parks Honeywell 11-10
- John Madril 72
- Frank Lopez 77
- Tom Doyle 11-1

Surface Ops Team

- Dean Hoskin 72
- Anne Marie Woolsey 78
- Tony Hooper 72
- Dean Bell 79
- George Papabeis 74
- Steve Williams 74
- Charles Lambeth 78
- Tony Novellino 78
- Tracy Adkins 72
- Orrle Baffle 78
- Val Fernandez 78
- Dennis Smith 75
- Pat Stone 75
- Larry Binder 75
- Hector Romero 75
- Galen Johnston 75
- Samy Hannah 78

*Tall Ships Visit
Tampa Bay*

Joe Rice Johnson III
SO-PA Division 7
Event Coordinator
Photo: Dan Helou

*“Special Thanks to all who volunteered to make this event a spectacular success”
Dan Helou, Captain, District 7 West*