

SUMMER, 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



Shipmates, it is hard to believe that we are half-way through the year. I guess it is true that time goes fast when you are having fun! We are now in the summer doldrums but still find ourselves busy and productive. Vessel exams, partner visits, and boat safety courses are ongoing, live flotilla meetings and staff meetings are showing good attendance. Social activities are ongoing with our 65th anniversary celebration being the most recent. New projects are coming up in August and this fall. New members are increasing our numbers from all sources. Some are new, some are transfers, and some are coming back out of retirement.

One fact is obvious to me. Handling a flotilla is a very dynamic exercise! It is a moving target that is challenging on a daily basis! We start off with a set number of members each with duties and tasks that are necessary to run a flotilla efficiently. Then life happens. We have those who pass on, those who move, and new members who join and need training. I am constantly submitting help tickets to District 7 to keep up with the changes that challenge our flotilla to remain on an even keel. We have duty requirements that keep changing and add additional tasks onto those duties. This is a normal course of events as an organization continues to evolve and increase efficiency. You have all graciously accepted these challenges with positive attitudes!

I cannot express how much I appreciate so many of you who have willingly stepped forward to assist in keeping our flotilla running efficiently. Whenever I need more to be done, I have received positive responses from those who I make requests. I even have a number of you who come forward to ask what can they do to help. This can be a challenge since large organizations sometimes don't move as quickly as we would like. We don't always have a course that you need right away, or a place to get all your uniforms, or a position that you can take on, or you may have an ID still in limbo. Hang in there and be assured it is being worked on. It is perfectly okay to question us to check your status if an issue is taking longer than you think it should.

Now for the simile. Running the flotilla is like being a coxswain on a boat. It starts off with a coxswain and crew starting out in the morning with everyone's duties assigned and good weather with final destination in mind using our charts and GPS system.

Then one of the crew gets sick or needs to return to land. The weather changes and the seas get rough. There is a mechanical failure along the way or an issue which requires a course change to a completely different destination. Along the way, we get messages on channel 16 requiring assistance elsewhere. We misread the tides for the amount of time we are out and have grounded or that fog came in so quickly we have slowed to a crawl, neither accomplishing our original duties or unable to get home quickly. In spite of all this, the crew reacts with its expertise and handles each event as it arises and eventually, we dock back home with some success with minimal wear and tear.

I am proud that our flotilla as a volunteer organization doing our duties at a high level and are continuously learning how to do improve in our jobs as well as we can.

Gordon Thomas, FC (photo provided by author)



(U.S. Coast Guard photo)

Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater recently received a C-27 J twin-engine aircraft

The C-27 J aircraft will eventually replace the aging Lockheed C-130 aircraft, many of which are almost as old as I am, first being flown in 1956! The C-27 J Specifications include:

Length: 74 feet 6 inches, Wingspan: 94 feet 2 inches, Height: 31 feet 8 inches

Maximum Weight: 70,000 pounds, Cruise Speed: 290 knots, Range: 2,675 nautical miles

Endurance: 12 hours

Communications Report by Scott Birdwell, FSO-CM



1 radio watch shift at Dunedin Radio to support Flotilla 11-10 B4 on training mission, Marine Observation Missions, within the Area of Responsibility on the Intra Coastal Waterway; Sun, 4 June. Birdwell and Leone operating the radio console. Opportunities: Upcoming radio watch shift at Dunedin Radio supporting B4 training mission, Sun 16 July.



Photo of radio gear by Scott Birdwell, FSO-CM

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FSO-PV REPORT

By Robert Bonnem

(Flotilla Staff Officer-Program Visitation)

FSO-PV report for Flotilla 11-10 for June 2023. A total of 6 partner visits were made. No new partners were added. Racks and supplies in place, restocked and on display in all clients visited. We have good stock levels of racks and supplies to fill them with in the flotilla classroom. Class schedule 2023 brochures are available. Coast Guard activity/coloring books are in stock, Flotilla 11-10 is constantly working on recruiting new Partners and more will be onboard in the near future. No new Program PVs 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

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 Public Education Report June 2023

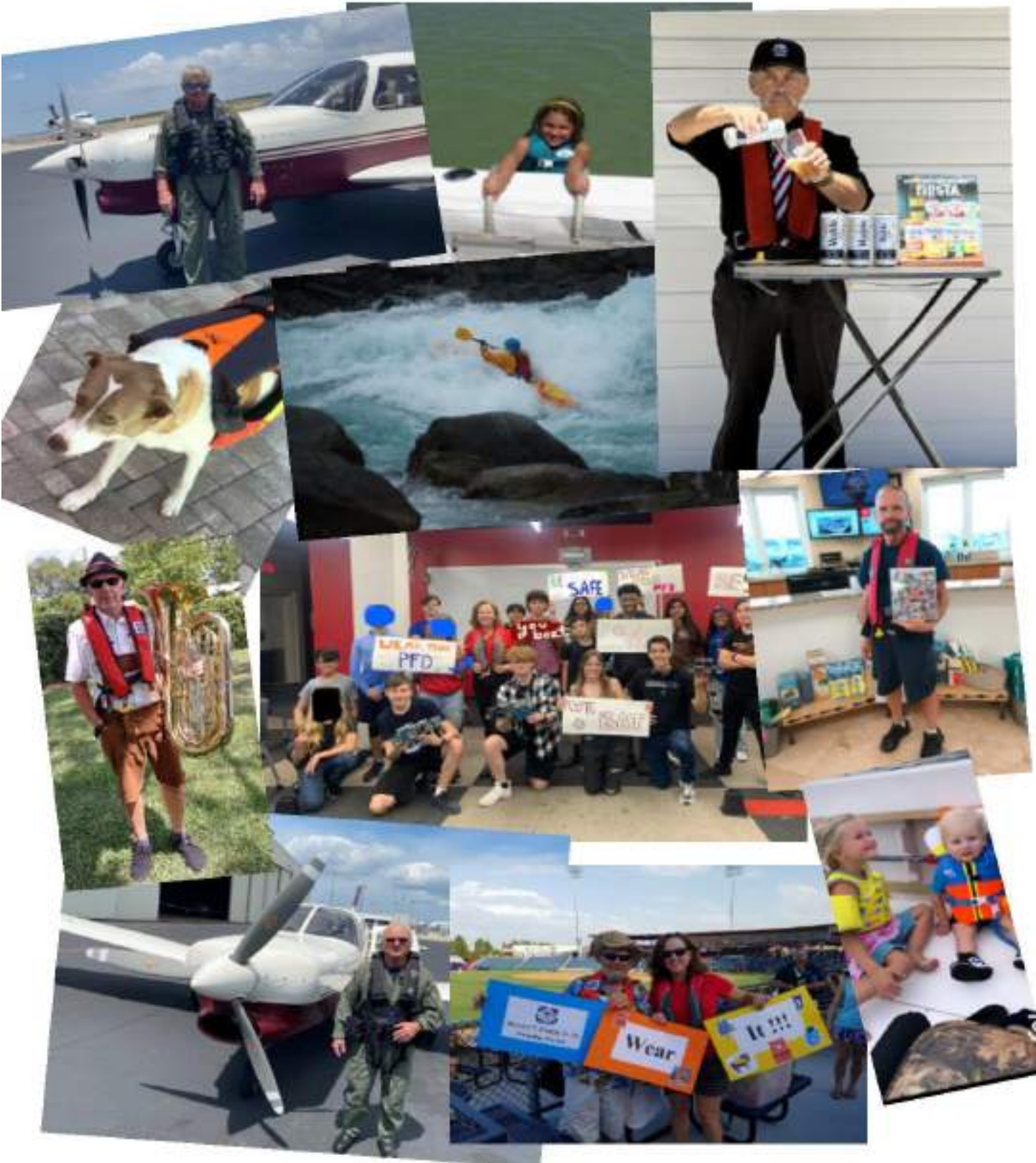
The return to our classroom was successful with 13 Boat America students graduating. Many thanks to our instructors for stepping up and making this presentation happen. Student evaluations for the instructors and course were favorable. A special thanks goes out to those returning to instructor duties. We are awaiting the debut of our newest Instructor Rob Bonnem IPFC. We are also awaiting requests from our members to become Instructors. Please contact Doug Simpson FSO-MT or me. Thanks & Regards
Buddy Casale, FSO PE, CGAUX Flotilla 11-10
631-379-1110 boatinbud7@gmail.com

(Photo by Gordon Thomas)

During "National Safe Boating Week", Flotilla 11-10 participated in "Wear your PFD"

National Safe Boating Week 2023.





(Photos were submitted by auxiliary members and their families, collated by Gordon Thomas, FC).



David McGee, Flotilla 11-10's new Rescue and Survival Systems Officer

(Photo by USCG)

The Coast Guard is updating their policies on Rescue and Survival Systems equipment, including Type III PFD's, MD-3283 inflatables, SAR Vests with PLB, Raincoats and Pants, and the Cold Water 1-piece thermal suit.

The Flotilla 11-10, Rescue and Survival Systems Officer is David McGee. He'll be conducting online training via Zoom that should take about an hour. The first session will be on July 12th at 7:00 PM. Additionally, David will inspect the Rescue and Survival Systems equipment every 6 months, but those who have a SAR vest will still need to inspect and test their PLB every month and record the condition.

David McGee will be at the July 13th flotilla meeting to conduct the inspections.

Please bring your Rescue and Survival Systems equipment (including personally-owned equipment) to the meeting. If you won't be at the meeting, he'll work with you to inspect your equipment at a later date.

If you do not have any of the listed Rescue and Survival Systems equipment, there is no need to attend the Zoom training or the equipment inspection at the Flotilla meeting.

Facebook Update (or lack thereof)



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.



If you look at Flotilla 11-10's Facebook Page, you may get an error message. An “algorithm” decided the Flotilla Page violated community standards. When this happens, no explanation is provided, only the message below.

“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”**. You may have seen that Facebook recently fired over 20,000 employees. Facebook has literally **BILLIONS** of subscribers, and some of them are in the same boat as we are (the nautical term is appropriate, don't you think?) , but a small percentage of three billion subscribers is still a lot of people, so it's unlikely that a real person will review our Page.

Fortunately, I've backed up our Page, and will work to rebuild it over the summer. The link will need to be slightly different, and I'll publish this as soon as it's accomplished.

(By Gary Walkup, FSO-PB)



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.

Beer and wine prices were checked and were competitive with local stores like Total Wines and Leukens. We 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

“Reply To All” email etiquette by Gary Walkup FSO-PB



I laughed after reading a recent email from Gordon Thomas, Flotilla Commander, regarding email etiquette, especially the overuse of the “reply to all” button.

Many years ago, when email was relatively new, I was a department manager at a large midwestern Ford /Lincoln/ Mercury dealership. My desktop computer alerted me to an incoming email from another manager, only to find yet another Internet “hoax”.

At that time, my children were much younger. The other manager knew that our family watched “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood” on TV, attached an article and asked if I knew that Fred Rogers was a decorated U.S. Navy “SEAL” before he hosted the popular TV show.

I thought this was unlikely, so it only took a moment of online searching to determine that Fred Rogers not only wasn’t a Navy SEAL, but had never served in the US military! I hit the reply button (or so I thought) and politely blasted the other manager for being gullible.

Whoops! I’d inadvertently hit the “reply to all” button and in milliseconds the other 150 employees knew how gullible this particular manager was. About two minutes later, the manager stormed into my office and blasted me for telling all 150 employees about her gullibility.

Well, the manager WAS gullible, but I didn’t need her screaming at me. I learned my lesson the hard way. Motto: **BE CAREFUL WITH THE “REPLY TO ALL” BUTTON!**



From RADM Douglas M. Schofield

I just wanted to send a note recognizing the Auxiliary’s 84th birthday and to say thanks for all the work you and the entire Auxiliary team do to support District Seven and the citizens of our great nation. The CG Auxiliary makes a tremendous impact, and I couldn’t be more proud to serve with such a great team of volunteers. From service aboard our cutters, to interpreting, to the team’s work at the Southwest Border, and to serving as chefs, pilots and even chaplains, your team makes ours better. Thanks for all you do!

RADM Douglas M. Schofield, Commander, Coast Guard Seventh District, Director, Homeland Security Task Force - Southeast (HSTF-SE)

New Color Guard Policies

The Auxiliary Ceremonial Color Guard (AUXCCG) Standard Operating Procedures, AUX-SOP-010(B), is posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX) web site: SOPs (uscgaux.info). Developed by the Auxiliary Public Affairs Directorate in consultation with the Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1) and the Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard, it provides guidance to standardize and enhance the appearance and performance of Auxiliary Color Guards. The Auxiliary Director of Public Affairs (DIR-A) serves as the AUXCCG national program manager. To ensure awareness of this SOP and standardization of Auxiliary Color Guard operations, all Auxiliarists performing Color Guard activities were initially required to successfully complete the AUXCCG Personal Qualification Standards (PQS), including the 25-question online open book AUXCCG exam, by 30 June 2023. The AUXCCG exam was recently made available through the Auxiliary Online Classroom. Accordingly, the deadline for completion of the AUXCCG PQS has been extended to 31 December 2023. Auxiliarists are not authorized to participate in Color Guard events after that date without having completed the AUXCCG PQS.



Thanks to Gordon Thomas, FC, for this article on National Safe Boating Week

National Safe Boating Week Proclamation



Four members of the Dunedin Flotilla 11-10 attended the meeting at City hall in Dunedin May 18, 2023 at 18:00. From left to right are David McGee FSO-VE, Gordon Thomas FC, Marilyn Hendricks historian, and Parks Honeywell Past FC.

During the meeting we received recognition of the duties that we perform in Dunedin for boat safety. We were honored to receive the Proclamation recognizing National Safe Boating Week for May 20-26, 2023 stepping off activities the whole week.

Photos by random member of audience



Above is a photo of the Proclamation presented to the Dunedin flotilla 11-10 on May 18, 2023. It recognizes boat safety activities including the importance of taking boat safety courses, wearing PFDs while on the water, and boating without intoxication.

Vessel Safety examination at Marker 1 Marina during National Safe Boating Week



Vessel examiners from left to right:

Harv Prior DCDR 11, Gordon Thomas, FC, David McGee FSO-VE, Allen Leimbach FSO-NS



National Safe Boating Week display at Marker 1 Marina

Allen Leimbach prominently displaying National Safe Boating Week with a collage of photos showing members wearing their PFDs.



New Work Uniforms!

Although running behind schedule, the Coast Guard will soon be adopting new work uniforms. The new “CGWU” (Coast Guard Work Uniform) will replace the old “ODU” (Operational Dress Uniform). A similar work uniform is already used by the US Navy and has reportedly worked out well. One advantage is the addition of an easily replaceable rank tab, so an advancement of rank doesn’t mean hours of sewing or a new uniform. Here’s what’s happening!



(Coast Guard Photo)

The last uniform change experienced by the USCGAUX was in 2012 when the tucked version of the ODU was replaced with the untucked version. While the untucked ODU has served the Coast Guard well, it is now time for the Coast Guard’s work uniform to be updated to include a uniform that is conducive to warm or cold environments, have identification patches placed on the sleeves of the Uniform (the National Ensign on one and an Organization Patch on the other) and, for the Auxiliary, new breast-tapes on the uniform blouse that will help to distinguish between the Auxiliary and the Active Duty.

In addition, the Coast Guard has made a business decision that the CGU will not be available in sizes that are larger than the sizes worn by the Active Duty; this means that the CGU may not be available to some of our members. The tailoring of two uniforms to make one to work around sizing issues will not be allowed when the CGU is rolled out. In conjunction with the sizing availability, grooming standards for Auxiliarists are being further defined for members who choose to wear the CGU. The AWU allows those members who opt not to follow some the grooming standards to remain active and valuable members of the USCG AUX.

The second paragraph indicates that the new work uniform for Auxiliary members will NOT be available in sizes larger than sizes worn by Active Duty. Active-Duty Coast Guard have height/weight standards. Individuals who may not fit into the new work uniforms can opt for the new “AWU”. Here’s a link!

[Alternative Work Uniform](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FLOTILLA 11-10

A favorite summer activity is the annual family “Take me out to the ballpark” day at BayCare Stadium in Clearwater, including hot dogs, hamburgers, and lots of cold drinks. This year the event was especially significant with Flotilla 11-10 celebrating its 65th anniversary. A good time was had by all!



(Photos by Gordon Thomas)