

Dear Auxiliarists of Flotilla 17-11,

The U.S. Coast Guard and other military branches celebrate April as the Month of the Military Child. This month acknowledges military children's distinct challenges and sacrifices while supporting their families and the country. The Coast Guard honors this month with various activities and events to celebrate these young heroes. The leadership invites our Flotilla members to enhance this recognition through public education, public visits, and vessel examinations.

Mark H. Crary

Flotilla Commander

Flotilla 17-11, Orlando-Winter Park

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Rafael Jovet-Ramos “RJ”

Flotilla Vice Commander



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary - Public Affairs - Music Program

We are excited to share that our Flotilla music program, the Orlando Coast Guard Auxiliary Band, is on a remarkable journey, reaching new heights every day! We are thrilled to welcome our new band leader, Emily



Nichols, from the Army National Guard Band, as we elevate our mission to the next level. We invite you to join us in this exciting venture! Visit cgauxband.org to print out your music parts and remember to bring a music stand. If you're passionate about music or know someone who would be enthusiastic about joining, don't hesitate to reach out to Michael Martin at info@cgauxband.org for more information. Let's make incredible music together!

I'm thrilled to announce that several Flotilla 17-11 members splashed at the Orlando Boat Show, held at the Orange County Convention Center from April 4-6! This event was an exhilarating opportunity for our Auxiliary Members to dive into the world of boating. The show featured



an incredible range of boats, from luxurious yachts to delightful small crafts under one roof!



Our attendees were fully immersed in dynamic seminars, where seasoned experts shared invaluable insights and tips, making it an unforgettable experience for boating enthusiasts of all levels. The excitement didn't stop there—participants had the

chance to connect with over 100 fellow boating aficionados, all united by a passion for promoting boat safety. This event was a fantastic platform for spreading awareness, focusing on

critical topics like the need for life jackets, the benefits of safety courses, and the importance of steering clear of alcohol while on the water. We also highlighted the significance of staying alert to weather conditions and potential hazards that could impact our adventures on the water. This was also a perfect opportunity to showcase our auxiliary members' vital role in the community. Together, we're committed to assisting with numerous vessel examinations, ensuring that safety and preparedness are prioritized in every boating experience. So let's give a massive applause to our dedicated members who poured their time and energy into this event, all fueled by their passion for boating and community safety!



A well-crafted Heavy Weather Pre/Post-Storm Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is vital for bolstering safety, minimizing potential damage, and ensuring the seamless continuity of boating operations amidst extreme weather events. This SOP is a comprehensive guide, equipping us with the foresight to anticipate heavy rainfall, fierce winds, and flooding. It sets the stage for proactive measures to make all the difference when nature



unleashes its fury. On April 21, 2025, two passionate and dedicated Flotilla 17-11 members, Ron Olgin and Ryan Jovet, were responsible for implementing the Heavy Weather Pre/Post-Storm SOP at the picturesque Lake Fairview Marina. Their commitment shines brightly, exemplifying our unwavering dedication to the goals outlined in our plan. By ensuring that the designated marinas adopt effective strategies to safeguard property from damage, mitigate environmental impacts, and maintain open communication channels for prompt responses, we are significantly enhancing our readiness and resilience in the face of daunting weather challenges.



National Safe Boating Week is a vital annual reminder for boaters to embrace safety and responsible practices as the boating season unfolds, especially before the busy Memorial Day weekend. This week inspires boaters to recognize potential hazards, acquire essential safety skills, and take the necessary precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience on the water.

We proudly congratulate our two remarkable Auxiliarists, who have been essential in promoting National Safe Boating awareness and education. On May 3rd, Commodore John Holmes and our Color Guard Leader, Daniel Oliveras, from 17-6, taught the Safe Boating Course to 16 students and faculty members at Rollins College. We are filled with pride as they represent our flotilla and the Auxiliary during this crucial time for boating safety.



Coast Guard leadership has recognized that active-duty recruiting is vital to the success of our mission. In response, the Auxiliary has taken a bold step by establishing the Coast Guard Recruiting Support (CGRS) division at the request of the Coast Guard Recruiting Command. This



initiative strengthens local recruiting efforts and enhances remote recruitment as an invaluable "force multiplier." Our specially trained Auxiliary members work hand in hand with local Recruiting Office leadership, including the Recruiter in Charge (RIC) and specialized Coast Guard recruiters, to attract the best talent to serve in our ranks. Together, we are committed to

building a stronger Coast Guard, and your support is essential to achieving this vision! Let us celebrate our Vice Commander, Rafael Jovet-Ramos, for being accepted and vetted through the Coast Guard Recruiting Command to serve at the Orlando Recruiting Office.

