

USCG AUXILIARY, 8TH COASTAL DISTRICT, DIV 1

the Panhandle Anchor line

Welcome to the first quarter *Panhandle Anchor Line*, for 2024, the Division 1 digital newsletter.

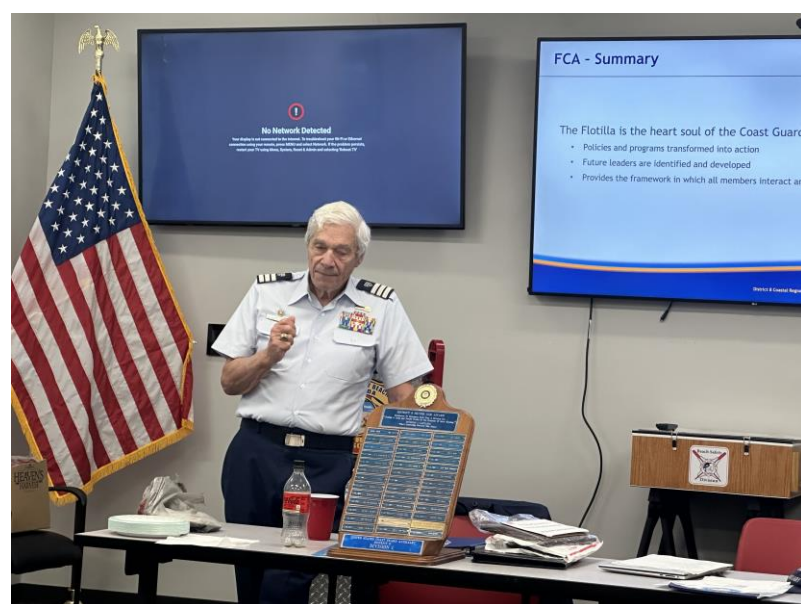
In this addition,

- ✦ We will take a brief review of our first meeting of the year, held January 27th, at the Panama City Beach fire station 30
- ✦ The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission holds its first safe boating class workshop, in several years, for class instructors, on their new policies and procedures
- ✦ Coastie makes some appearances at a couple of events
- ✦ The Division participates in the Okaloosa County Pre-Season Water Safety Meeting
- ✦ The 8th Coastal district holds the annual DTrain in Grapevine Texas
- ✦ The Division supported the Emerald Coast Boat & Lifestyle Show
- ✦ The Destin Flotilla has the most active public education program in the Division
- ✦ One of the Divisions members receives recognition from the Commandant of the Coast Guard
- ✦ The Panama City Beach Flotilla serves up breakfast to the active duty at their quarterly station meeting
- ✦ The Pensacola Flotilla is the fastest growing Flotilla in the Division

The 1st quarter meeting took place on January 27th at Station Panama City. The meeting was called to order by Division commander, Mike Fitzgerald. Reports were

given by the respective division staff officers that were present. The minutes of the previous meeting and the division financial were approved. The host Flotilla for the next meeting will be Pensacola and the meeting will be held on Saturday, April 27th at the naval air museum. Other topics discussed included, a challenge coin for the division was discussed, the budget was also reviewed, appendices to standing rules are being reviewed considered. Additionally several new officers were sworn in After the meeting adjournment and Lunch, the division conducted a Flotilla Commanders training session.

This training was designed to familiarize Flotilla Commanders with required administrative procedures, policies and protocols.

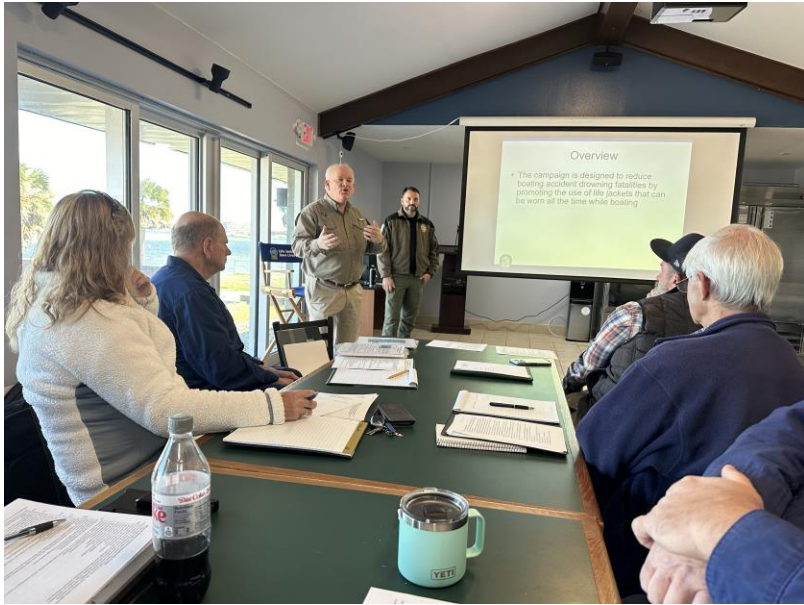


The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Conducted a class for those who teach the basic boating safety class "Boat America" The workshop was primarily attended by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary from Division 1 but was open to those originations that hold safe boating classes. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an update to educators on new and upcoming changes to the states requirements for students to qualify for the certificate and card that recognize them as legally permitted to operate a boat of 10 HP or greater. Full requirement (*anyone born on or after January 1, 1988 is required to either have successfully completed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved boating education course or have passed an equivalent course or temporary certificate examination.*)

The workshop was held January 20th at Coast Guard station Destin. Just a few of the changes coming include, new slides for the Florida specific section of the class and new questions for the Florida section as well.

The workshop was led by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Officers Brian Rehwinkel, Management Analyst II
✧ And Lt. Nicholas Korade



The mascot of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, “Coastie” has made several appearances this past quarter for the Panama City Beach Flotilla, they include,

The Panama City Beach children’s Marti Gras Parade, held January 26th



Blountstown's River Fest, held at Neal's landing on February 24th



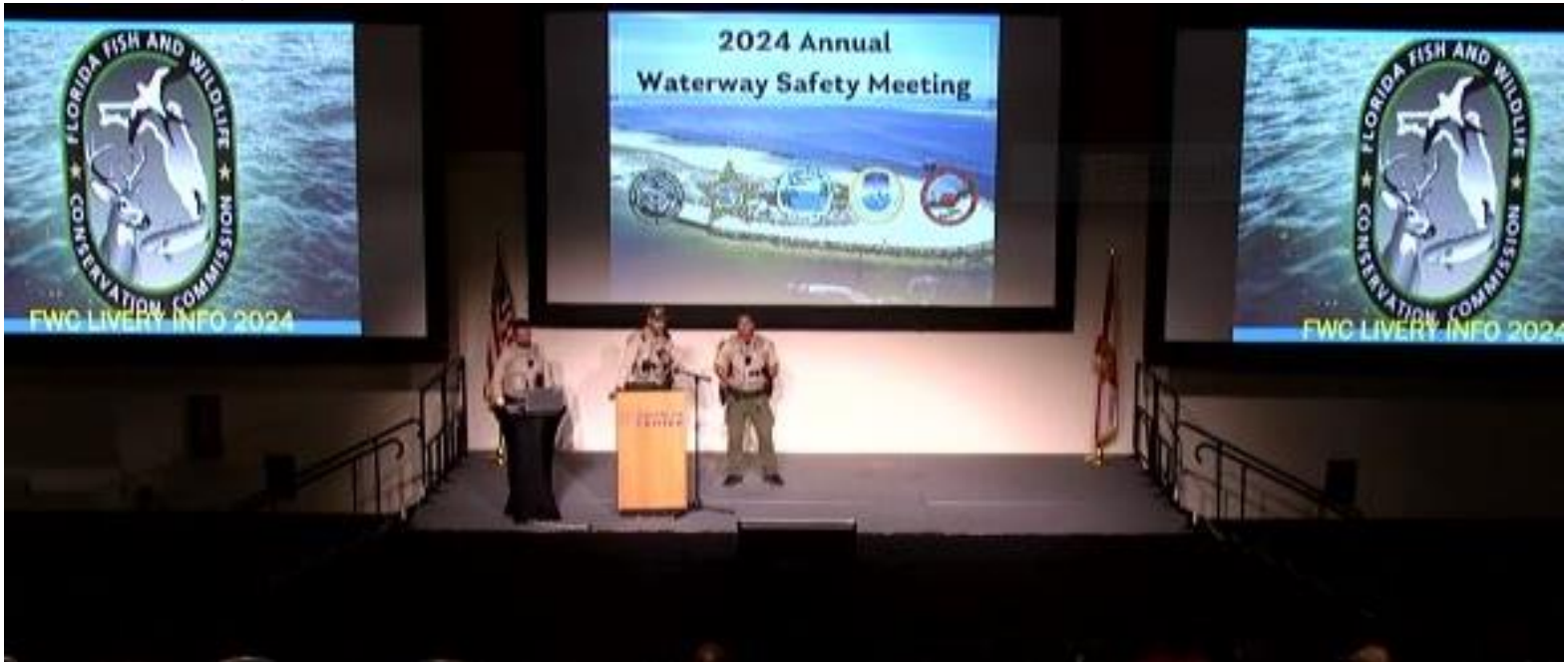
☼ Covert church school, of Panama City "Law Enforcement Day", March 7th



Okaloosa County held its annual water safety meeting in the Destin Ft Walton Beach Convention Center, on Thursday, February 8, 2024

The organizations included,

- Okaloosa County Sheriffs Marine Unit's presentation focused on - BUI enforcement, County Ordinances, Boating Safety, and Idle Speed/No Wake Zone Violations
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission presented information on - Operating a livery business
- USCG provided information on - Water Safety, Charter Regulations, Gulf Coast Illegal Charter Task Force
- National Park Service Covered the - 2024 Season Commercial Permitting Requirements for Crab Island
- USCG Auxiliary, speakers included, Doug Richie, D-Capt east and Larry Messenger from the Panama City Beach flotilla, they spoke on - Boater Safety and the Paddle Craft Safety Initiative





The 8th Coastal District held its District Training, (D-Train), in Grapevine, Texas, from February 22nd through the 24th. D-Train offered many opportunities to Advance Your Skills with a wide variety of training. This extended weekend brought together members with special skill sets and educational opportunities designed to advance and refine our member's capabilities. This event also provided members the chance to update all currencies as well as gaining new knowledge. The networking and fellowship that D-Train provides is always a favorite of those who attend





The Emerald Coast Boat & Lifestyle Show was held on March 1st through the 3rd at Aaron Bessant Park in Panama City Beach

The show featured boats displayed from all major manufacturers and representing the latest in boats, high tech engines, electronics and marine accessories. Boats ranging from entry level bow riders, pontoons and center consoles all the way up to the next generation

The Coast Guard Auxiliary manned a display that emphasized safety on the water and provided informational handouts for boaters of all ages as well as providing guidance to those with questions on utilizing our waterways in the safest possible manner

✦ DCDR Mike Fitzgerald also conducted a UPV vessel exam while at the show



The Destin Flotilla has something special happening with their public education program Bruce Fister, from the Destin Flotilla explains some of their formula for success.

For the past several years Flotilla 1-4 of Destin, Florida has been teaching safe boating classes at *Emerald Coast Marine*, in Niceville, Florida.

Emerald Coast Marine has taken a great interest in safe boating for their boat club members, those to whom they sell boats, and the public at large.

They host the classes in their conference room the third Saturday during the months April through October.

Emerald Coast Marine does all the marketing for the classes.

We teach the class from the Coast Guard Auxiliary's "Boat America" material supplemented with a slide show tour of Destin Harbor and its surroundings.

Annamarie Worrell, Boat Club & Client Coordinator from *Emerald Coast Marine*, takes a personal interest in supporting our classes and we owe her and *Emerald Coast Marine* great ✨ thanks for her partnership with the Flotilla in safe boating education.



Bruce Fister, FSO – PE, Destin Flotilla

Commandant Fagan Recognizes Division One 8CR East Member

(Reprint from Commandant Fagan's Facebook page.)

Meet Auxiliarist Don Kittsmiller of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District 8CR Flotilla 1-9!

AUX Kittsmiller serves in the Panama City Beach community as a Division and Flotilla Marine Safety Officer, Aids to Navigation Flotilla Officer, Auxiliary Liaison Officer, and Auxiliary Chef. His Flotilla cooks meals for U.S. Coast Guard Station Panama City every quarter as well as on Christmas and Thanksgiving for members on duty. As a retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer, he said, “I know how hard it is to stand the watch when you’ve got family at home. These people appreciate it.” AUX Kittsmiller retired from the Navy in 1985 after serving tours on several aircraft carriers, destroyers, and numerous duty stations ashore from Key West to Maine to San Diego. What drew him to the Coast Guard Auxiliary? He says he was having a garage sale when a member approached him, asked a couple of questions, and said ‘You ought to think about joining.’ “Next thing I know, I’m in and turning and burning,” said Kittsmiller. AUX Kittsmiller says this is his way of giving back after benefiting from his time in the military. “It’s a joy to work with people that appreciate what you’re doing,” he added. As someone with prior Navy experience, we asked him what his experience has been working with the U.S. Coast Guard. “Totally different,” Kittsmiller answered. “For instance, we would never in the Navy have an enlisted man running a ship or running a station. That’s a total flip over for us, but it works good. Everybody that I see running these stations are well-qualified and they do a good job. It’s just something that didn’t happen in the Navy.” We’re grateful for Auxiliarists like AUX Kittsmiller who play a vital role in our Coast Guard missions.



✧ Thank you for your dedication and service

Quarterly breakfast at Station Panama City

On a quarterly basis the active duty convenes a full station meeting and the first item on the agenda was Breakfast! Which was provided by the Panama City Beach Flotilla.

The menu included, scrambled eggs, French toast, sausage patty's, bacon, Juice and coffee

The event helps build a solid relationship between the local auxiliary and the active duty in addition to providing galley experience for those who are CA1 qualified



Let's get growing

The growth for the Pensacola Flotilla has been a focus of Ken Phillips, FC and Harley Willis, VFC. They set a goal for growth this year when they started in January, Harley says, *"We set a goal to have 40 by the end of month April" and it looks like we will hit that number this week. We also set a goal for 60 in total membership by the end of the year"*

Since the beginning of the this year the Flotilla has added 11 new members, 2 transfers and 1 App in process with 8 more prospects right now.

VFC Willis shared some of the flotilla's (Secret Sauce) to achieve exceptional growth

"We are growing this in a few ways, none that are new to the Aux.

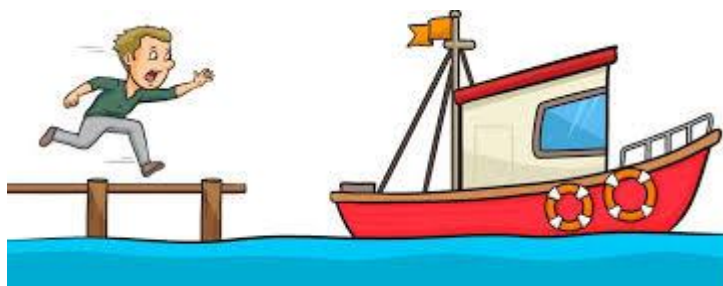
- *Word of mouth, from members along with VE's and talking it up.*
- *We check The National Join Website regularly and following up promptly.*
- *Excitement of the leadership to grow the membership, adding a diverse new group of all ages. The youngest 17 and one in the AUXUP program.*
- *We also are adding new members with the skillsets to help build the FSO staffing positions like CM and Website enhancements*

We really believe that we can grow to 100 plus members once we get back to the basics and focus on the 4 cornerstones with Fellowship driving the other three to keep people engaged and interested in serving our internal and external partners"



File photo

Don't Miss the Boat



April 30, Joint Agency Search and Rescue meeting at CG Station Destin (by invitation only)

May 17, Wear Your Life Jacket to Workday

18 – 24, National safe boating week *USCG National Safe Boating Week nationwide kickoff will be at CG Station Destin on May 20th. Everyone is invited.*

22, National Maritime Day

27, Memorial Day

July 9, Sea scouts birthday

10 - 13, Red, white and blues week, featuring the Pensacola beach air show

August 4, National Coast Guard day

FROM THE BRIDGE

Mike Fitzgerald

Division Commander, Division 1, 8th Coastal

The year is off to a great start. Over 2,000 hours, 100 program visits, and 100 vessel exams entered in AuxData, The Anchor line details much of what we have done,

We have added:

- 18 new members, of which 14 are in Pensacola. Great Job Pensacola!
- 2 new Aids to Navigation Verifiers
- 1 Culinary Assistant
- 1 Qualification Examiner
- 2 RBS Visitors
- 1 Vessel Examiner

Doug Ritchie

District Captain – East

Proud Traditions, Worthy Missions is our new Auxiliary slogan coming soon, recognizing all the land, sea and air missions we do publicly and embedded with Active-duty for our citizens, communities and Nation. Be proud and respectful as you properly wear the uniform in public and with our Active-duty units, as you go about your varied tasks. It is truly an honor and knows that you are key to Team Coast Guard's success, serving in the most unique volunteer organization in the world, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Take care of your Shipmates and help them improve and succeed. In so doing, we are even more effective in our many missions and our efforts are more rewarding as we pull in the same direction together. Thank you again for your dedication to volunteer service in the "trained volunteer reserves" of the United States Coast Guard.