

USCG AUXILIARY
FLOTILLA 7-4, 8THCR

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- CG Birthday
- Training
- Division Mtg

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Sailing on Canyon Lake



The Alamo City Guardian

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

01 OCTOBER 2018

Happy Birthday USCG!



The U.S. Coast Guard celebrated its 228th birthday on August 4, 2018! Flotilla 7-4 observed this occasion with a “cake cutting” ceremony, officiated by Retired CAPT Benigno. CAPT Benigno also made a presentation on the history of the U.S.C.G. He was assisted by our youngest member, Ben Feinstein, who was sworn into the Auxiliary at the meeting before. Following the ceremony, the Spouses Club, chaired by Kristen Shapovalov, provided a lunch for the Flotilla. Family and friends of the Flotilla members fished at the pond, played games, and enjoyed the indoor hot tub and pool. It was a momentous occasion!



AIM – The Academy Introduction Mission Program

The Academy Introduction Mission (AIM) is a program through which potential student applicants become familiar with the entry requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. High school seniors, who apply and are accepted to the AIM program, are invited to the Academy for a one week emersion into the life of a cadet, complete with the designation of a “swab.” During this intense, one week experience, the applicant is exposed to typical life of cadets at the Academy. All of the service academies conduct similar programs. While each academy will have specific organizational goals, they all are seeking to extract the best candidates from the AIM experience.

As a partner in the AIM Program, LTC McNamara (Retired) has worked with the service academies (U.S. Army –West Point, U.S. Coast Guard) admissions processes since 2003. The AIM program was established to provide a “snapshot” of the academy experience, as well as to test the resolve of the applicant. As a retired Army officer, with experience in college level training, as well as the required discipline for military life, LTC McNamara has been able to successfully prepare students for the “cadet” experience. Her most recent interface with the AIM program was in July, when she spent one week in New London, Connecticut, at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Trying on the
Coast Guard to
Size - AIM!



Our Ranks are Swelling



August 4, 2018, Ben Feinstein was sworn in as a member of Flotilla 7-4. He became interested in the Flotilla after reading the newsletter and other information on our website. He is the youngest member in Flotilla 7-4! Welcome Ben!



Awards & Recognition

Its all about serving others. During this quarter, Robert Dittman received his 8th Sustained Service Ribbon. It was his 8th award representing over 6000 hours of service since his entry into the Auxiliary in 2001. Jeanne McNamara got her 4th and 5th sustained service ribbons totaling over 3750 hours since 2015. Ahia Shabaaz received her 2nd award for 1500 hours of service. Jason Kardos received his first. Jeanne was also recognized by the Coast Guard Academy with one of 13 Auxiliary Commendation Medals that Academy Admissions Partners received from across the country. This is pictured on the previous page. Jason Kardos and Lou Manganiello were recognized by mail for their participation at Warrior Weekend in May. Finally, in a special ceremony held at Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio this September, our own Nathan Culpepper was recognized by the ARC for his major advancements in the past year towards independent living. His work in the CG Auxiliary was cited as one of his outstanding achievements.



Auxiliary Sustained Service Ribbon above and the Auxiliary Commendation Medal below! Congratulations to all. Far right photo was taken at the Awards Banquet in San Antonio for Nathan.

Training Ops

The Flotilla has continued to focus on training. The following in-unit classes were taught this year: Emergency Radio Communications, Proper Fit of Life Vests, Correct Wearing of USCG Uniforms, Diversity, Flotilla 7-4 Website, Zika Virus Prevention, and TCO. CPR training will be taught in November. Additional training was done with other organizations, such as the American Red Cross - Stop the Bleed, San Antonio Emergency Operations - CERT; FEMA - CBERNE; Alamo Area Medical Reserve Corps - Zika Virus Prevention and Blood Borne Pathogens and FEMA instructor training. Some training took place outside of San Antonio, such as "Warrior Weekend" in Port O'Connor which included boat crew training besides giving our wounded warriors a day out on the water; Boat Crew and Coxswain training in Port Mansfield; "Gold Side" training held in Port Aransas - Watch Stander: and in Victoria - Marine Safety. In addition, 3 of our members have attended C-Schools, while on funded orders. They have attended AUX-02A & B Auxiliary Leadership & Management School (AUXLAMs), AUX-05A Auxiliary Mid-Level Officer Course (AMLOC), AUX-04 Distance Learning and Website Course, AUX-12 Auxiliary Public Affairs and AUX-10 Information Systems. Any auxiliariast can sign up for C schools and usually include pre-class and post class assignments for completion. You must also have at least BQ status. They must be approved by the flotilla commander. It has been a busy, exciting year!



Pictures (l-r) TCO training by Bob Puharic, Warren Moore assisting at Diversity training, AUX-04 class in Kansas City, MO, and finally Zika Virus training by Ahia Shabaaz.

Division 7 meets at Blue Skies



ABOVE: Cheeseboard from the Friday fellowship evening. All who were able to make it enjoyed the light snacks and refreshments hosted by the Division and Flotilla 7-4. BELOW: FC McNamara accepts the NCAO 3-Star Diversity Award on behalf of the members of the flotilla.



For the second time this year, Division 7 met at our Flotilla home in San Antonio. It was preceded by a Division social on 21 September where members of the Division Board (Flotilla Commanders) and the Division Staff got to catch up on what had transpired over the past months. Interim meetings were held via webinar. The nominees for Commander were Brian Childs and George Simpson. For Vice Commander, Robert Dittman, BH Galvan and Geoff Souris ran. George and Robert were both **nominated from the floor. The Division elections took place and Brian “Jumper” Childs was elected** as Division Commander for a second term. Our own, Robert Dittman was elected as the Vice Division Commander. Staff reports were given by the officers present or via conference call. Flotilla Commanders or their voting representatives (VFC or IPFC) were present for the elections. The District Captain (voting for the COMO) and the IPDC are also members of the Division Board with a vote. After our break for lunch, COMO (elect) Charles Maricle congratulated the new leadership and conducted a brief presentation on his goals for the District in the year to come. Alex Shapovalov did a briefing on Public Affairs while Roy Pell briefed us on upcoming ICS training to be held at Sector Corpus Christi, Valent Hall on Saturday, 27 October 2018. To take this course you must have completed ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800 prior to the class. Special Congratulations to Flotilla 7-4, 7-5 and Division 7 all received the NCAO Three-Star Diversity Award from the National Auxiliary Diversity Office. It was the first time Flotilla 7-4 and Division 7 were recipients of the award. Other members of Flotilla 7-4 present for the meeting besides FC McNamara were: Robert Dittman, IPFC/FSO-LP, VDCR (elect), Debra Gawron-Rosario, FSO-IS/MT, Ben Rosario, FSO-FN and Alex Shapovalov, FSO-CS/MS and SO-SR.



FLOTILLA MEETINGS

06 OCT 2018
Blue Skies of Texas
5100 John Ryan Blvd.
San Antonio 78245
1000-1200 hrs.

03 NOV 2018
Blue Skies of Texas
5100 John Ryan Blvd.
San Antonio 78245
1000-1200 hrs./CC Room

01 DEC 2018
Blue Skies of Texas
5100 John Ryan Blvd.
San Antonio 78245
1000-1200 hrs./CC Room

22 DEC 2018
Change of Watch - COW

UPCOMING EVENTS

06 OCT 2018
TCO Training - Part 2
1200-1400 hrs./BSTW

03 NOV 2018
Flotilla ELECTIONS,
TCO Training - Part 3
1200-1400 hrs./BSTW

01 DEC 2018
Certified First Aide Training -
Fee \$ involved. Will also give you
CG Auxiliary Qualification/BSTW



22 DEC 2018
Change of Watch - COW
Blue Skies of Texas
5100 John Ryan Blvd.
San Antonio 78245
1730-1930 hrs.

Family members are welcome



**NACON report:
Next Newsletter**

Flotilla 7-4, Website

**USCG Auxiliary
Flotilla 7-4, 8thCR**

5100 John D. Ryan Blvd
San Antonio, TX 78245

Meeting the First Saturday of the Month
1000 - 1200 hrs.

Prospective articles and photos are to be sent via email to:
universalawareness@yahoo.com OR
mcnamara.uscgaux@gmail.com

Guardians of the Inland Waters



