



- May-Safe Boating Week/Month
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Sailing on Canyon Lake



The Alamo City Guardian

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

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Change of Watch



(L-R): FC JeanneMarie McNamara and VFC Alex Shapovalov Swearing In ceremony conducted by Aux Bessie Souris (Photo by staff)

Flotilla Commander JeanneMarie McNamara, MS, MT (BB-ASCP) was a clinical laboratory officer in the U.S. Army. Her career included both active and reserve duty and spanned 23 years. It included periods as a Personnel and Training Officer, Clinical Laboratory Officer and Blood Bank Supervisor, Detachment and Company command time, Instructor at both the Academy of Health Sciences Laboratory School at Fort Sam Houston and the Joint Medical Planners Course in Washington, DC. She served in Desert Storm as the Chief of the Crisis Action Center for the Armed Services Blood Program and retired as its Deputy Director as a Lieutenant Colonel. FC McNamara has also taught at both the high school and college levels

for more than 20 years where she taught both Chemistry and Forensic Science. Upon retirement from the military, she became an admissions counselor for both the U.S. Military Academy (West Point, NY) and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (New London, CT). In 2015, she joined the CG Auxiliary serving in both NJ and TX. Some of her duties and positions were VFC, FSO-HR and FC at the flotilla level. She was on the National Staff of the Auxiliary as Branch Chief of the Academy Admissions Partners Program and is currently ADSO-IM [Plans] for district 8CR. FC McNamara is married to Kevin McNamara who taught for 47 years and is an active member of the Knights of Columbus. They have 3 children and 3 granddaughters. They love traveling, spending time with family and seeking out new adventures.

Alex Shapovalov, Vice Flotilla Commander was born and raised in Ukraine, where he attended the Kiev Merchant Marine Academy, and served as a Merchant Mariner in the Soviet Northern Fleet. After immigrating to the United States in his early twenties, Alex became an American citizen through the naturalization process.

Alex is the owner of an upscale home remodeling and roofing company in San Antonio. He volunteers as a leader in Boy Scouts of America, and has for over eight years; and holds the rank of brown belt in American Karate.

Alex joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2017, fulfilling his desire to serve his country; staying true to his mariner roots. Alex immediately devoted his time and efforts to all available training. He has served as a Staff Officer at the Flotilla and Division levels; is a Russian Linguist in the Interpreter Corps, Vessel Examiner, an Instructor, Public Affairs Officer, and USCG Academy Admissions Partner and is working on his Marine Safety qual.

In 2017, both Jeanne and Alex assisted in support efforts for Hurricane Harvey.

SEMPER PARATUS: Flotilla 7-4

Change of Watch 2018

Flotilla 7-4

A special thank you to the Change of Watch Committee.

Aux JeanneMarie McNamara, LTC, USA Retired, FC, FSO-HR, Co-Chair

Aux Warren Moore, PhD, FSO-DV, SO-CL, Master of Ceremonies

Aux Ahia Shabaaz, PhD, LCDR, USPHS, Outgoing Vice Flotilla Commander, FSO-SR, Co-Chair

Aux Alex Shapovalov, Incoming VFC, FSO-CS/MS, SO-PA, Assistant Chair

Special Guests included.

Jack Granger, Office of the Director of the Auxiliary, 8CR

Aux Adam and Destiny Barry, FC, SO-CS, BA-CS, 081-07-05

Aux Dennis and Imelda Marrero, VFC, DSO-OP, 081-07-05

Aux Carolyn Simpson, FC, 081-07-09

Aux George Simpson, IPFC, 081-07-09

Aux Bessie Souris, DSO-MA, SO-MA, FSO-MA/HR, 81-07-10

Aux Geoff Souris, IPFC, SO-SR, 081-07-10

Special Guests from Blue Skies included.

Captain Pasquale "Pat" Benigno, USCG (RET)

Lt. Colonel, Al and Kathy Ramsey, USAF (RET)

CM Sgt. Bill and Maj. Kathy Odle, USAF (RET)



The occasion was celebrated at the Blue Skies Village of San Antonio, Texas. Special Recognition went to the Dining Staff for their outstanding support of CG Auxiliary efforts throughout the year.

Held on held on February 16, 2019 the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-4 Change of Watch & Awards Dinner was a special annual event finally held after the end of the government shutdown. This event represents a smooth change over period in leadership for the flotilla .

Prior to the ceremony a cocktails hour was hosted by Warren Moore and Ahia Shabaaz. Members, friends and family visited, shared experiences, and met new friends... all-the-while, enjoying a robust offering of Hors d'oeuvres. As a special touch the Hors d'oeuvres represented the cultural diversity of the Flotilla!

Thank you, Warren and Ahia!

Master of Ceremonies

Aux Warren Moore:

Warren led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced our guests and provided introductions for the various award recipients.



Captain P. Benigno provided the opening convocation for the event. In addition, the Captain shared many stories from his time in the Coast Guard especially while serving in Alaska

Music : Singer - Jeanine Erwin, Pianist - Gayl Ganskow, members of the Village Voices of Blue Skies.



After providing heart felt singing of the Army, Airforce, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard hymns our musical guests shared some inspirational thoughts about the caring and moving stories of the people of Houma Louisiana and there support of the Coast Guard during the shutdown.

Door Prizes

Special Thanks to HEB, Office Depot, Starbucks, Ahia Shabaaz and Warren Moore who provided door prizes. The raffle was fun and beneficial for the flotilla operational budget.



Change Of Watch Awards and Recognition



(L-R) Swearing in of new staff officers; Hurricane Harvey award for Aux Dittman with his father; Visit from District HQ—Jack Granger, Commandant's Letter of Commendation Award for Aux Shabaaz and Certificate of Appreciation for Kristen Shapovalov for her outstanding efforts in behalf of the Spouses Club.

Join the Coast Guard Auxiliary!

"The purpose of the Auxiliary is to assist the Coast Guard as authorized by the Commandant, in performing any Coast Guard function, power, duty, role, mission, or operation authorized by law." Please visit the [National Join The Auxiliary Web Site](#) and fill out the form by clicking the Get Started button at the bottom right of the page and someone will contact you.

THE SAN ANTONIO BOAT & OUTDOOR EXPO! FREEMAN COLISEUM EXPO HALL, March 21-24, 2019.

www.saboatandoutdoorexpo.com/

Safe Boating Week



The Boat Show and Outdoor Exposition is held each winter in San Antonio. It gives

the Auxiliary an opportunity to promote boating safety and recruit new members. Sea Scouts participated as well this year. See additional photos in the insert.

USCGBOATING.ORG

Our Mission: To minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats, through preventive means, in order to maximize safe use and enjoyment of U.S. Waterways by the public.

Safe Boating week is the third week of May each year. The Coast Guard Auxiliary focuses its efforts on reaching out to the community and encouraging safe boating practices each year. As part of the event, we conduct program visits to local stores that sell boats and personal water crafts and vessel exams at Canyon Lake.

Auxiliary Awards

-  COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
-  PLAQUE OF MERIT
-  COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
-  AWARD OF OPERATIONAL MERIT
-  AWARD OF ADMINISTRATIVE MERIT
-  AWARD OF MERIT
-  CG SUSTAINED AUXILIARY SERVICE AWARD
-  SECRETARY'S OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD
-  COAST GUARD UNIT COMMENDATION
-  COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION
-  COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION
-  CG AUXILIARY GROUP ACTION AWARD
-  COAST GUARD BICENTENNIAL UNIT COMMENDATION



-  COAST GUARD AUXILIARY HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD
-  COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE RIBBON
-  COAST GUARD RECRUITING SERVICE RIBBON
-  SPECIALTY TRAINING RIBBON
-  OPERATIONS PROGRAM RIBBON
-  EXAMINER PROGRAM RIBBON
-  INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM RIBBON
-  AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP SERVICE RIBBON
-  FLOTILLA MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
-  *AMOS MEMBER RESOURCES AWARD
-  *AMOS VESSEL EXAMINATIONS AWARD
-  *AMOS PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD
-  *AMOS OPERATIONS AWARD

More from the Boat Show



Boat Show Photos (L-R): Aux Culpepper and Poppen await questions from the Boating Public; Flotilla Members and Sea Scout Saturday at the Boat Show; Aux Rosario explained the nuances of the VE to show participants, 4 classes were taught by members; Aux K. Lathrop and VFC Shapovalov and explained the benefits of membership to attendees; Saturday morning - flotilla meeting just before the Boat Show.

www.safeboatingcampaign.com www.uscgboating.org

May 17th, 2019 is *Wear Your Lifejacket To Work Day*

May 18th is *Ready Set Wear It Day*

The United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) has a National Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program. The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is published on the [uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org) webpage.

"Every year, more than 70 million Americans participate in recreational boating. Recreational boating has significant economic impacts and is an important part of the American heritage and culture".



<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=A-DEPT&category=nsbw>

February was Black History Month!

In Remembrance:

Olivia Juliette Hooker (February 12, 1915 – November 21, 2018) was an American psychologist and professor. She was the last known survivor of the Tulsa race riots of 1921, and the first African-American woman to enter the U.S. Coast Guard in February 1945. Hooker became a SPAR (Semper Paratus Always Ready), a member of the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve, during World War II, earning the rank of Yeoman, Second Class, YN2, during her service. [1][2] She served in the Coast Guard until her unit was disbanded in mid-1946; she went on to become a psychologist and a professor at Fordham University. She was born in Muskogee, OK and died at the age of 103 in White Plains, NY.

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivia_Hooker



Disaster Spiritual Care Training:

TCRT (Texas Crisis Resiliency Team)

Training for anyone desiring to provide spiritual encouragement to survivors in the aftermath of a disaster or traumatic event.

Date: 24-26 April 2019 (Wednesday – Friday) 8 AM to 5 PM

Location: San Antonio EOC 8130 Inner Circle Rd San Antonio, TX 78235

Cost: \$100.00 (Reimbursed for those residing in Bexar or adjacent counties) Make Reservations by: 17 April 2019

For information and registration contact: Dan Franklin E-Mail: DanRFranklin@gmail.com Phone: 210-842-8221

Register at: <http://texascrisisresiliencyteam.org/crisis-response-training/>

Training Topics:

- Basics of Crisis Intervention
- Understanding Traumatic Stress
- Encouragement Thru Listening
- Loss and Grief
- Spiritual First Aid
- Religious Diversity
- Cultural Diversity
- Suicide Awareness
- Working with the Media
- Working with Children and Trauma
- Working with Senior Adults and Trauma
- Maintaining the Resiliency of the Spiritual Care Provider

<http://texascrisisresiliencyteam.org/crisis-response-training/>

Meetings, events, and training

06 April 2019 Flotilla Meeting

Diversity Training

24-26 April 2019

Texas Crisis Resiliency Team Training

04 May 2019 **NO** Regular Flotilla Mtg

04-05 MAY 2019

AuxWEA 2-Day Course - limited to 10 Division Members. Must pre-Register.

17-24 May 2019

Safe Boating Week

06 June 2019 Flotilla Meeting

Training: Uniforms/70295/70305

22 June 2019 VE Day at Canyon Lake And Picnic—CGAuxiliary 80th Anniv.

08 July 2019 **NO** Regular Flotilla Mtg

Division Meeting, Sector-HQ

Corpus Christi, TX

03 AUG 2019 Flotilla Meeting

CG Birthday Picnic - BSTW Gazebo

1230-1530 Food, Fishing, Swimming

07 SEP 2019 Flotilla Meeting

Sea Scout Orientation/Core Training

Find us on Facebook and YouTube



And our Website

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-07-04>

FEMA Training Online:

<https://training.fema.gov/>

District 8 Website:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081>

Follow us online for flotilla date additions, events and changes.



Flotilla 7-4 Website QR Code

Meeting Location:

Blue Skies of Texas West
5100 John Ryan Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78245

1000—1200 hrs.

Mtg followed by training as needed.

