



June 2023

Auxiliary Birthday

Training

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THE ALAMO CITY GUARDIAN



Welcome back Flotilla 7-4 to our newsletter! Our Flotilla has shifted and grown during the past year and we are moving onto a new chapter of saving lives! Enjoy our new Alamo City Guardian wherein we will highlight a different member each edition to build fellowship amongst the Auxiliary. Ideas or suggestions for articles are always welcomed. Read on about our newest DSO-MS 8CR!

In the Spotlight:

Alex Shapovalov, our new District Staff Officer-Marine Safety, was born in Kiev, Ukraine, in the former Soviet Union. Coming to a different country, learning English and creating a new life for himself tells me Alex is determined as well as being flexible, a desirable trait for leaders. Mr. Shapovalov was employed as a Merchant Mariner in the USSR so it fits that his favorite Auxiliary task is working together with active duty on the Marine Safety missions. He is married to Kristen and has 3 boys. Alex loves traveling with his family and exploring new sights with his boys. He, along with his wife, started a successful residential/commercial property remodeling business. Joining the CG Auxiliary 6 years ago, Alex has shown his devotion by playing many roles: VCDR, SO-OP, SO-MS, FSO-PE, USCG Academy Admissions Partner, as well as serving as a Russian interpreter. Alex shared that he really wanted to join the military reserve but was unable to do so due to his education records being stored in the old USSR; hence the Auxiliary benefits! "There are a multitude of opportunities to serve on the Auxiliary side as well as with active duty, but you get from AUX as much as you put in." Good advice from an inspirational leader whose laughter is highly recognizable!

(By Auxiliarist Karen Duryea, PA)





Flotilla 7-4 San Antonio:

Coast Guard Auxiliary

Cornerstones: Recreational
Boating Safety, Member Services

Operations and Marine Safety, Fellowship

What we do! "America's Volunteer Lifesavers".

Our primary mission is promoting and supporting recreational boating safety and that includes involvement in Search and Rescue efforts, Maritime Domain Awareness, Underway Operations, Marine Safety, Public Education, and Vessel Safety Examinations, both recreation and commercial. In addition to that, we have members with special skills like radio operators, webmasters, computer specialists, pilots, public affairs specialists, and language interpreters. <http://wow.uscgaux.info>

The purpose of the Uniformed Auxiliary:

Our purpose is to assist the Coast Guard. To promote safety and to effect search and rescues on and over the high seas and on navigable waters. To promote efficiency in the operation of motorboats and yachts. To foster a wider knowledge of, and better compliance with, the laws, rules, and regulations governing the operation of motorboats and yachts through safe boating classes. To facilitate other operations of the Coast Guard.

Why Join? <http://join.cgaux.org/> When you join the Coast Guard Auxiliary, you could find yourself on patrol saving lives and property, assisting in marine safety and environmental protection, radio watch-standing, educating the public in boating safety and much more. That's what our members do. We don't just train. We train and perform. Since 1939 the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has safeguarded our Nation's maritime interests in the heartland, in the ports, at sea, and around the globe. Members from all walks of life bring their training and experience as a member of the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard. <http://wow.uscgaux>.

Flotilla Member Activity:

New Members:

Connor Smith, 11/22; Ian Borton, 2/23;
Carl Newton, 2/23; Karen Duryea, 2/23;
Thomas Duryea, 2/23; Jonathan Aisner, 4/23;
and Larry Lopez, 4/23.

2023 Scheduled Events:

June 3, 10-4, TCT/Risk Mgmt Training, Blue Skies,
5100 John D Ryan Blvd, San Antonio
June 10, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, CG
Recruitment Center, San Antonio
June 17, Division Meeting & 84th Birthday
Celebration, Corpus Christi
July 2, Armed Forces River Parade, San Antonio
Riverwalk

Public Education:

Date TBD, Boating Safety Course, REI, Huebner
Oaks Center, 11745 I-10, San Antonio
Date TBD, Boating Safety Course, Coyote
Powersports, 32127 Frontage Rd, Boerne
TCO Certification: TBD
Boat Crew Certification: TBD

Vessel Examinations:

None at this time.

Why We Do What We Do:

Where the cause of death was known, 75 percent of fatal boating incident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims, 85 percent were not wearing a life jacket.

"Most incidents occur in benign conditions—calm waters, light wind, and good visibility—under which you may least expect to end up in the water, which is why it is critical to wear a life jacket and engine cut-off switch at all times as they are designed to save your life," stated Captain Troy Glendye, Chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety.



The **Recruit, Train,** and **Mentor Cycle**

By Rob Kumpf, AUXPA2
National Director of Training

When one examines the results of exit interview surveys, a pattern begins to emerge that explains how we lose many of our members. This pattern is a lack of clear communication and managed expectations, a lack of training, and missed opportunities to mentor our members. ***Recruiting, and, more importantly retaining new members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary are essential to our organization's future.***

More than 80% of current Auxiliarists are above 65 years of age, and with fewer and fewer prospective new members enrolling each month, we could be in trouble soon. With less than 22,000 members, the Auxiliary is facing a harsh reality —are we still worth the investment we receive from the Coast Guard? ***Are we going to be able to maintain our growing mission requirements*** or the training standards if we continue to shrink? The truth is that we do not have solid answers to these questions because we do not know how the Auxiliary of the future will look; this article aims to offer some ideas on successfully recruiting, training, and mentoring new members, so they stay with us for longer than the average five years. ***The recruit, train, mentor (RTM) Cycle is crucial to the survival of the Auxiliary.***

Recruiting can be challenging, especially if you do not live in a “target-rich environment” with many opportunities to meet potential recruits. This is where we need to become more inventive, and some ways in which we can do this is by doing ***targeted recruiting***. One idea might be to use social media assets such as Facebook and Instagram to push messaging to ***local college students*** studying critical skills such as those found in STEM. We have programs where students like these can get free training and exposure to careers within the Coast Guard that might pave the way to

a career for them. Statistics show that young people recruited by Auxiliarists who then go active tend to return to the Auxiliary or even maintain membership during their careers. We are more than a boating club, expand your recruiting pool to match the changing needs of the organization. The Auxiliary of the future will include much more than the traditional surface operations and recreational boating missions, ***we need to diversify our talent pool if we mean to remain relevant to the Coast Guard's missions.***

Training new members is key to retaining them in our organization. ***No one wants to join a service-oriented organization, pay dues, buy uniforms, and then sit there on their hands.*** Many folks who disenroll from the Auxiliary state that the lack of training drove them to quit. Make time to train Auxiliarists, new and seasoned, at every opportunity as a unit. If your flotilla or division does not have a program, use your network to find a way to ***get members involved in training*** being held elsewhere; they will get qualified and then bring that program to your unit. If you need assistance with training, your new Training Directorate leadership is here to assist you and your members in any way can.

Mentoring members is vital to their success in our organization. ***It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that we are providing our members with mentorship so they can grow into successful and active Auxiliarists.*** Assign good mentors to new members, and you will see them soar to new heights, retaining them for longer, and allowing them to turn around and mentor others. Mentorship is one of the most precious things a seasoned member can provide to those joining our ranks. A member does not need to stick to just one mentor, either; they can have many across an array of fields. Mentoring makes us better people, better Auxiliarists, and better leaders. (emphasis added)

Auxiliarists Answer “The Call to Mission”!

In August 2022, the US Coast Guard sent out a call for auxiliary support of southwest border operations requested by the US Customs and Border Protection Agency. Several Auxiliarists from across the United States answered that call. From among them are two men we know, Tom Duryea and Bob Puharic. The CBP agency needed personnel to perform logistical support services as part of CBP’s operations along the U.S. Southwest Border. Bob Puharic served in Eagle Pass, where he spent more time down range than the Sr. Team Leader. He was recognized separately with an ACLOC for his contributions as a team leader and his willingness to fill in at the border on short notice. Tom Duryea served in El Paso; his duties involved a series of projects to improve life for the migrants and Border Patrol agents, the grounds, as well as serving meals to the migrants. Commenting on the Auxiliary’s assistance, Bill Hanlon, the Director of ER Management stated, “It demonstrated the Auxiliary’s exceptional capabilities to plan and execute a multi-op period Incident Command System (ICS) operation. Both Auxiliarists received a Special Operations Service Ribbon. Congratulations and thank you for your devotion, Bob and Tom!



The Auxiliary Team in El Paso.
(Photo courtesy of CG Auxiliary)

Sea Scouts

Duane is joining the National Quarterdeck making him the first scout from Ship 74 to hold a National Leadership Position.....and....

Gayle passed her Quartermaster Bridge of Review. She is the first QM in Ship74, Oak Tree District and the first girl to earn all three top awards: Eagle, Summit and Quartermaster!!!



(Photo courtesy of CG Auxiliary)

Members in Action:

One of our newest members, Larry Lopez, has brought his boat up to Alaska and is going to try and work on qualifications while there. Keep warm Larry!

Awareness is key to our mission! We were present at Cibolo Community Night on May 19, passing out safe boating information to parents as their children threw rings around the floating duckies!

ENS Rachel Widman graduated from Coast Guard Academy May. She is native to San Antonio. Her first duty assignment will be USCGC Valiant, stationed in FL. She will be a deck/boarding officer. We wish you the best in your new career!

ENS Rachel Widman (left) with



JeanneMarie C McNamara, PA1, FSO-HR, ADSO-EM (PAO), DIR-S. (Photo courtesy of CG Auxiliary)

Training During Monthly Meetings! Training sessions to meet PQS requirements will be offered at our monthly meetings so members can start making their qualifications!

New Culinary Assistant & Division Staff Officer!



Auxiliarist Tom Duryea completed his Culinary Assistant training in March and was appointed the SO-CA in May! Congratulations Tom! There is a big need for Culinary Specialists in the Coast Guard and Culinary Assistants in the Auxiliary. Opportunities to serve in galleys on cutters and in stations abound! (Photo by Auxiliarist, Glenn Colaco)

A new Culinary Assistant course is starting on June 15, 2023. This course will have two parts—the initial online class then in person training at a Station after completion of the online class.

Tom Duryea serving up hot lunch at the Port Aransas Sector.

Boating Safety -The Latest Statistics: May 11, 2023 (NBSAC), the U.S. Coast Guard released a summary of statistics on calendar year 2022 recreational boating incidents, revealing that there were 636 boating fatalities nationwide in 2022, a 3.3 percent decrease from the 658 deaths in 2021. From 2021 to 2022, the total number of accidents decreased 9 percent (4,439 to 4,040), and the number of non-fatal injured victims decreased 15.9 percent (2,641 to 2,222). continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2022, accounting for 88 deaths, or 16 percent of total fatalities.

Semper Paratus

Staff Officer Reports Due: no later than the last day of the month!

Flotilla Meeting: 2nd Sat. of Month,
10:30 am, Location: USCG Recruiting Center
8347 Perrin Beitel, San Antonio, TX 78218
Virtual meetings are no longer available.

Division 7 Meeting: 4 times/year at Sector HQ,
Corpus Christi, TX or virtually.

8CR District Meeting: 2 times/year. Locations vary
within the District's 8 states.

District 8 Website:

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

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

**Find us on Facebook, YouTube®
and on our Website:**

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-4 San Antonio
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-07-04>

Sea Scouts: <https://seascout.org/southern-region-news/texas-sea-scout-academy>

2023 Diversity Holidays:

<https://www.diversitybestpractices.com>

FEMA Training Online: <https://training.fema.gov>

CGAUX.ORG is the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
official web portal.

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