



April 2024

Inside this Issue:

In the Spotlight 1

Auxiliary Info 2

Member Activity 2

Scheduled Events 2

Public Education/

Trainings 2

Vessel Exams 2

**National Safe Boating
Week 3**

**The Diversity Corner:
meet a CG Hero 3**

**Answer the Call to
Mission 4**

Members in Action 5

Hot Jobs in Auxiliary 6

CG Marathon/5K 9

Event Calendar 9

Auxiliary Culinary 9

Noteworthy 11

Boating Statistics 12



THE ALAMO CITY GUARDIAN



The Alamo City Guardian is Flotilla 081-07-04's Quarterly Newsletter. My goal is to build awareness of the Flotilla's activities - past, present and future. We all need to encourage, motivate and educate another regarding Coast Guard Auxiliary activities and trainings as well as how we can best assist our Active Duty Coast Guard! I have included two articles from the Navigator Express that are rather lengthy. I hope you read them as one of them describes the "Hot Jobs" in the Auxiliary today and the other highlights the need for Culinary Assistants among our active-duty.

In the Spotlight:

Edward Siler Monk, one of our newest, youngest and energetic members, was born in Oconowoc, Wisconsin. He goes by Siler, is single, an RN and works two full time jobs. Siler has a hectic and fascinating life – working FT as a private duty home health RN plus pursuing his Ph.D in Nursing Science (biomedical field relating to clinical research) FT. The research he is conducting is focused on identifying the relationship between traumatic stress, biomarkers and delayed immune system recovery in certain cancer populations post-treatment. Amazing work! You have to ask him about it! Mr. Monk joined the Auxiliary in July 2023 because he wants to contribute his skills to the Coast Guard and is eager to serve our nation and directly support their missions. He believes the Auxiliary provides many opportunities to augment the active-duty and those choices are only increasing. Siler's favorite Auxiliary activity is Boat Crew, however, in his free time he enjoys



playing games with friends and exercising. Siler has admitted he has done a bit of everything – from tornado chaser, fencing coach, teaching plus working in various clinical settings (ER, psych ER, cardiovascular ICU, ICU, transplants and oncology). His personal goal is to serve as medical support while underway on a cutter. Siler says supporting the Polar Star or the Eagle would be awesome! I hope he has the opportunity to do so. Siler would be an incredible asset on any cutter! (Photo and article by Auxiliarist Karen Duryea, PA)



Flotilla 7-4 San Antonio:

Coast Guard Auxiliary

Cornerstones: Recreational

Boating Safety, Member

Services Operations and

Marine Safety, and 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: Trae Howard

Welcome Trae!

2024 Scheduled Events:

April 6-7, The Great Air Show, JBSA Randolph
April 13 – Division Mtg, Sector Corpus Christi
April 20, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, Schertz
Public Library, 798 Schertz Parkway, Schertz
May 11, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, Blue Skies
West, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd, S.A.
May 25, Boating Safety Class, REI, San
Antonio (help needed)
June 8, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, Blue Skies
West, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd, S.A.

Public Education:

Risk Management Training – April 13, Sector
Corpus Christi
Culinary Asst. Training – Online: April 17 & 24
(class full); May 8 & 15, 6PM ET; July 17 &
24, 6PM PT. In Person: July 12, 13, 14
Boating Safety Course – May 25, 10AM @ REI
San Antonio. Alex needs assistance in class!
Boat Crew – contact Alex Shapovalov
Culinary Assistant – contact Tom Duryea

Vessel Examinations:

Canon Lake, Cranes Mill and JBSA boats were
all safety checked on February 20th.
April 21st – Boat Safety Checks for a Fishing
Club at Lewis Funeral Home, San Antonio.
Contact Joe Littlefield if you can help out!

Why We Do What We Do:

KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

*Texas law requires all children under 13 years
must wear a life jacket (PFD) while a vessel is
underway. The PFD must fit properly, be in
good condition and USCG approved.*

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.



Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day

Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is Friday, May 17, 2024.

Let's flood social media with life jacket images and boating safety tips. We love boating – let's share it with others. It's easy to participate. Wear your life jacket at work (or at home), snap a picture and share on social media with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacket atworkday. Be sure to tag us too! (@Boating Campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) **Hint**, there may be prizes awarded throughout the day from the Safe Boating Campaign for the most creative photos!

Following Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is National Safe Boating Week from May 18-24, 2024. This is a great opportunity to continue the momentum from Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day by sharing favorite boating memories and safety tips on social media.

National Safe Boating Week

National Safe Boating Week is May 18-24, 2024! Join us in sharing daily boating safety tips throughout the week on social media. In many areas, the water is open! It's now more important than ever to share about boating safety within our communities. Feel free to share the post from our Facebook page (Safe boating council) Thank you for your support in encouraging others to boat responsibly! Remember to use the hashtag #nationalsafeboatingweek. Learn more at SafeBoatingCampaign.com.



THE DIVERSITY CORNER: MEET A COAST GUARD HERO

by JeanneMarie C. McNamara, PA1

The first quarter of each calendar year is chock full of memorable events. The federal government has chosen to highlight and honor different people and ethnic groups throughout the year because of the rich diversity of our nation. A complete list suggested by the Department of Defense and Homeland Security can be found at Special Observances (defenseculture.mil). In brief, the DoD has designated the third Monday of January as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The entire month of February is designated as Black History Month, while March is designated as Women's History Month.

In light of these observances, I would like to introduce to you a true Coast Guard Hero. Her name is Lieutenant Ronaqua A. Russell, USCG and we met last summer during our tour together working on the staff for the leadership program AIM for rising high school seniors run by the Admissions office of the Coast Guard Academy.

Lt. Russell was born and raised in the United States Virgin Islands. In 2008, she became a member of the graduating Class of 2012 at the United States Coast Guard Academy. While there, she excelled in her studies and was commissioned as an Ensign. She was selected for CG Flight School in Pensacola FL. After 2 years of study, she became a fixed wing aviator. Then in 2017, Lt. Russell was assigned to the 8th CG District where she flew numerous missions including search and rescue (SAR) and environmental monitoring. She also functioned as the ALO – Auxiliary Liaison Officer and got to know many of our operational CG Auxiliarists.

During Hurricane Harvey, she flew through dangerous weather conditions providing visibility and communications to our pilots and thereby, allowing SAR operations to take place. The success of the CG's response was largely due to her aeronautical skills in providing critical information throughout the storm. As a

result, Lt. Russell was presented the CG AIR MEDAL by President Trump – the highest aviation award the CG has. In addition, she was installed into the Wall of Honor which highlights Coast Guardsmen who have achieved this award and is located at the Coast Guard Academy in New London CT. Her citation reads, “Lieutenant Russell is cited for meritorious heroic achievement in aerial flight from 24 August to 11 September 2017 in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey.

This category four hurricane released more precipitation than any other tropical cyclone in U.S. history. Making landfall on three separate occasions, Harvey discharges as much as 52 inches of rain throughout 28,000 square miles during a five-day deluge. As an HC-144 First Pilot, Lieutenant Russell’s aeronautical skill was paramount to the successful response in the face of extremely hazardous weather.

Due to widespread outage to air traffic control infrastructure, she provided expert navigation through thunderstorms, heavy turbulence, and moderate icing just hours after Hurricane Harvey made landfall. As the second fixed wing asset to attempt landing at Air Station Houston, Lieutenant Russell acted as pilot monitoring while executing a non-precision circling approach to minimums in heavy rain with less than one mile visibility. After breaking out, she quickly assessed the landing environment, provided visual traffic separation from numerous low flying helicopters, and deftly chose the best runway to land, allowing safe delivery of eight mission essential personnel and 800 pounds of life-saving equipment. Lieutenant Russell’s actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue and recovery effort in Houston.

In addition, Lieutenant Russell is the first African American female aviator in the Coast Guard to receive the Air Medal. Her courage, judgement and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.”

Lt. Russell returned to District 8 as a fixed-wing flight instructor in late summer 2023 after a tour at the Miami CG Air Station. She is now stationed in Sector Corpus Christi with duty at the Naval Air Station training CG, Naval and Marine Corps pilots. We are thrilled to have such a skilled pilot back in our sector – here’s hoping that it will not be too active a hurricane season this year.

On a final note, CG Auxiliarists who have aviation qualifications may join the CG Aviation Association known as the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyls and attend their meetings with their counterparts from Active duty, Reserve Component and Retired CG Aviators. This meeting is held annually in November at locations around the country, usually near a CG Air Station.

[Auxiliarists Answer “The Call to Mission”!](#)

Small Boat Stations **Port Aransas** and **Port OConnor** have great need for Culinary Assistants as their active-duty Culinary Specialists are reassigned to different ports. The OICs have called upon Tom Duryea to help them out. Tom put smiles on the active-duty’s faces by filling their bellies during the week of February 26 to March 1st. He also filled in the gap at Port HARFAC, Corpus Christi on January 17 and 18.

Tom Duryea cooking on the CG Cutter Manta.





Active-duty Coast Guard enjoying a meal.

Training for CA's is described in the last article of this Newsletter. In addition, the basic CA course may be taken online. After completing the basic CA course, hands-on training is provided at one of the small boat stations. Once you become certified as a CA, you may be called upon to assist an active-duty Culinary Specialist or a Senior Auxiliary Culinary Assistant at a station. As a CA you can also assist with cooking at Auxiliary functions.

Members in Action:

Vessel Examinations

Carl Newton, Jeannemarie McNamara, Alex Shapovalov, Tom Duryea and Karen Duryea performed Vessel Examinations at Canyon Lake, Cranes Mill Marina and JBSA Marina on February 20th. 107 boats were safety checked that day!! Thank you all for accomplishing this task in one day!!



Jeannemarie McNamara and Alex Shapovalov at Canyon Lake performing VE's.

Jeannemarie McNamara kicked off this year by performing 7 VE's in January.



The VE Team: Jeanne McNamara, Carl Newton, Tom Duryea, Alex Shapovalov and Karen Duryea at Canyon Lake.

Darlene Beeson went after 5 friend's boats and checked off her VE's for the year!

All Vessel Examiners! Please remember to get your 5 boat safety checks in this year to maintain your VE status!

Keep up the great job of VE's! Last year our Flotilla performed approximately 180 VE's – highest number of VE's in our region!!



You might run into a duck or two while on the lake!

HOT JOBS IN THE AUXILIARY

By Matthew Thompson, AUXPA3, National Branch Chief – Publications Support

There is no doubt that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers exciting opportunities for members to augment the Coast Guard's active duty and Reserve personnel. The possibilities for service are endless. Whether it's in the ice above the Arctic Circle, on the sunny beaches of Florida's Space Coast, high in the sky over the Great Lakes, or somewhere out in cyberspace and beyond, the Auxiliary is there to be the force multiplier that provides the workforce to keep the Coast Guard moving.

The nearly 20,000 members of the Auxiliary form a diverse workforce with a significant amount of experience and knowledge that can be used to support the Coast Guard and further enhance its mission success across the globe. The Coast Guard recognizes this and understands that many Auxiliarists train to perform the same activities performed by Coast Guard personnel. Because of this, there are now more opportunities than ever for an Auxiliarist to work alongside members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve. Opportunities include augmenting Coast Guard personnel in the areas of Public Affairs, Marine Safety, Surface Operations, and Emergency Management, amongst others. ***Areas of expertise that are in particularly high demand include Aviation (AUXAIR), Culinary Assistance (AUXCA), Cybersecurity (AUXCYBER), Linguistics (Auxiliary Interpreter Corps), Medicine (Auxiliary Health Services), and Ministry (Auxiliary Chaplain Support).***

AVIATION. AUXAIR is an integral part of the Coast Guard search and rescue team and its homeland security forces. AUXAIR is an Auxiliary operational program organized on the district level rather than at the flotilla or division levels. AUXAIR aviators have varied aviation backgrounds, and many have prior military experience. AUXAIR aviators volunteer their aircraft as facilities, just as surface operators volunteer their boats. AUXAIR participates in many Coast Guard missions, including Search and Rescue, Waterways and Coastal Security,

Marine Safety and Pollution Response, Aids to Navigation, and Ice Reconnaissance. AUXAIR also conducts Logistic Transport Missions.

Auxiliarists involved in AUXAIR take Auxiliary aviation training, completing the syllabus for their level of qualification. There are three qualification levels for pilots, similar to active-duty Coast Guard: Aircraft Commander, First Pilot, and Co-Pilot. AUXAIR does not offer flight training for pilots. Rather, it builds on what certificated pilots already have learned. Non-pilot crew positions include Observer and Air Crew. Observers generally handle communications between aircraft and Coast Guard units, assist the pilot with navigation, keep records while in flight, and focus their attention outside while searching. Observers are the payload for search missions. AUXAIR cannot perform most missions without the Observer. Air Crew are observers with additional training and qualifications. After having their knowledge and skills approved by an Auxiliary Flight Examiner, they may be certified by the District Director of Auxiliary as Pilots, Observers, or Air Crew in the AUXAIR Program.

AUXILIARY CULINARY ASSISTANCE

(AUXCA) AUXCA support the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary for all culinary needs by promoting and providing culinary assistance to Coast Guard units (both on land and at sea) and to Auxiliary units, supporting the Coast Guard National Strategic Plan, and training and maintaining a high degree of proficiency. The AUXCA program enables members to participate in the program on one of two levels, depending on their abilities and needs. An AUXCA1 performs duties that are in direct support of the Coast Guard and may also assist the Auxiliary. An AUXCA2 can support Coast Guard Auxiliary events only. An AUXCA2 is not eligible to work in or for any Coast Guard unit, cutter, or event. AUXCA Specialists receive classroom and hands-on training by certified AUXCA Instructors and/or active-duty Culinary Specialists using Coast Guard Approved AUXCA Program guides. The initial preparation and training are similar for both levels of AUXCA, but the training

circumstances, currencies, and mandatory participation hours are different.



The galley on a cutter at HARFAC Corpus Christi. (Photo by Auxiliarist Tom Duryea, CA)

AUXILIARY CYBERSECURITY AUGMENTATION PROGRAM (AUXCYBER)

The Auxiliary Cybersecurity Augmentation program (AUXCYBER) has been established to allow qualified Auxiliarists with a broad range of expertise in cybersecurity and cyberspace operations to augment the Coast Guard cyberspace workforce. As the missions and responsibilities of the Coast Guard have expanded, so has the need for cybersecurity personnel to perform missions supporting different Coast Guard commands. Auxiliarists in the AUXCYBER program may support Coast Guard Cyber Command (CGCYBER), its units, and Coast Guard commands at the Area, District, and Sector level in cybersecurity activities including Cybersecurity Outreach, Awareness, Education, and Training, Facilities/Vessel Inspections, Review of Cybersecurity Amendments of Facility Security Plans and Facility Security Assessments, Cyber Exercise Support, CGCYBER, Cyber Protection Team (CPT) Augmentation, CGCYBER, Maritime Cyber Readiness Branch (MCRB) Augmentation, and Cybersecurity for Recreational Boating Safety Missions.

AUXILIARY INTERPRETER CORPS

Members of the Auxiliary Interpreter Corps translate and interpret written and spoken languages into another language. Due to the

fact the Coast Guard operates on a global scale, they need to be able to communicate with individuals or groups that don't speak English. Professional interpreters can be very costly and unfamiliar with Coast Guard terminology. Furthermore, they are not always ready or qualified to assist.

Auxiliary interpreters conduct a wide variety of missions. Some are domestic, while others may be abroad. Missions include air medevac, boarding teams, cutter deployments, communications watch standing, foreign VIP tours, foreign training events and conferences, basic emergency training at Coast Guard units, translation of documents, speeches, training materials, and media articles, participating in courts of inquiry where witnesses do not speak English, translating radio recordings from foreign vessels involved in accidents, and other authorized Coast Guard missions. Any member of the USCG Auxiliary who speaks a foreign language in addition to English may apply online.

Interpreters' competency levels are graded based on the Coast Guard interpreter grading system, as set forth by the International Language Round Table (ILR) and the Defense Language Institute (DLI). The higher the number, the more mastery of the language. Areas of tested competency are Interpretation, Translation, and Oral Communication. The Division Chief of the Interpreter Corps appoints any member of the Interpreter Corps who has a proven track record in a specific foreign language and who is willing to perform competency-level testing.

AUXILIARY HEALTH SERVICES AUGMENTATION PROGRAM (HM)

The Auxiliary Health Services Augmentation program allows credentialed Auxiliary health care professionals to volunteer their skills in clinics and sickbays where the Coast Guard is already providing similar levels of healthcare. As the missions and responsibilities of the Coast Guard have expanded, so has the need for healthcare personnel to perform routine healthcare and to be available for backfill. Auxiliarists may request privileges to perform tasks they are already certified or licensed and

must submit verification of licensure, training, and additional information. If the Coast Guard can utilize an Auxiliarist's specific skill set, they may be authorized to perform duties as outlined in the privileging guidelines established in the Coast Guard Medical Manual.

Credentialed Coast Guard Auxiliarist Health Care providers are only placed at clinics requesting need. Assignments will be coordinated between the Coast Guard Office of Health Services Work Life and the local Coast Guard clinic Manager or Senior Medical/Dental officer. Auxiliarists are expected to work at least two days a month. In addition to working in clinics and sickbays, Auxiliarists can also volunteer to work at small boat stations and assist with search and rescue (SAR) efforts as a member of a SAR boat crew. In the past, the program only allowed physicians to participate. In more recent years, the program has been expanded to include dentists, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, psychiatrists, social workers, and certain other allied healthcare professionals such as Emergency Medical Technicians.

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN SUPPORT (ACS)

Coast Guard Chaplains are officers of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps who are assigned to duty within the U.S. Coast Guard. They hail from a variety of denominations and provide religious ministry to Coast Guard members and their families. They play a vital role in supporting the overall mission execution of the Coast Guard. However, due to the limited number of Chaplains assigned to the Coast Guard, they may be prevented or delayed in the timely response to requirements for service. Because of this, the Coast Guard created Auxiliary Chaplain Support (ACS) Program.

The ACS Program supplements and supports Navy Chaplains serving with the Coast Guard by expanding the religious ministry capacity within the Coast Guard to better meet the needs of its members and their families. Auxiliarists with clergy credentials must meet many of the same qualifications as members of the Navy Chaplain Corps, and Chaplain of the Coast Guard administers the ACS Program

and its associated qualification and training requirements. The ACS Program does not replace Coast Guard Chaplains, but supplements and supports their mission. ACS Chaplains serve under the direct supervision of a designated Coast Guard Chaplain and must coordinate and report all religious ministry support to that Chaplain.

Finding people who are interested in learning a new skill or donating their time and established skill set starts at the flotilla level. Members are encouraged to speak to their mentors, Flotilla Commanders, and Member Training Officers and seek out qualifications that are of interest to them. Participation in various programs offered to the members allows Auxiliarists opportunities to see, experience, and interact with individuals, places, and environments that they may not have the chance to deal with in another workplace setting. The opportunities can be both challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding.

Participation in one of the programs listed in this article, or any other Auxiliary program, can be very rewarding regardless of expertise or abilities. In the Auxiliary, rewards come in all shapes and sizes, but the biggest reward is satisfaction in knowing that you have done well and provided a service to the country and the Coast Guard.



Siler Monk teaching knots at March meeting.

4th Annual Coast Guard Marathon & 5K Walk/Run

Coming up April 5-7, 2024! Join the Active-Duty Coast Guard in this Marathon, Partial Marathon or 5K Walk/Run through Elizabeth City, NC! It's a virtual 5K yet we can all gather & walk together. A team has been created for anyone who would like to register for it. I hear the t-shirts are really nice! The team is Seasoned Soles, password is BSTW. Here is the link for registration:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/RaceGroup-1388993?raceld=105215>

2024 EVENT CALENDAR

CG Marathon & 5K Walk/Run – April 5-7 (North Carolina or virtual)

The Great Air Show – April 6-7

Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day: May 17

Armed Forces Day – May 18

National Safe Boating Week: May 18-24

CG Auxiliary Birthday – June 23 – 85 yrs!

Coast Guard Birthday – August 4 – 234 yrs!

Veterans Day – November 11

AUXILIARY CULINARY: GOOD FOOD AND GREAT EXPERIENCES. THE AUXILIARY CULINARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

By William Garvey, Branch Assistant – Publications Support

As all members know, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary primarily focuses on keeping recreational boaters safe. We accomplish that objective through public education, vessel examinations, monitoring aids to navigation, conducting safety patrols, radio watchstanding, and dealer visits, among other activities. With that in mind, it seems unlikely that many, if any, volunteers join the Auxiliary with the anticipation of scrambling eggs, dicing zucchini, frosting cakes, or scrubbing pots and pans. And yet, so many of those members who do earn their way into a galley through the Culinary Assistance Program consider that duty among the most rewarding available to Auxiliarists. The primary reason for that reaction, cited by virtually every Culinary Assistance Specialist (AUXCA), was the chance to personally interact with hard-working

active duty and reserve members of the Coast Guard. All AUXCAs can do so at a Coast Guard station, base, or cutter. If on a cutter, AUXCAs may perform their duty either in port or underway.

“By far, it’s the best program I’ve ever been in,” is Barry Chapman’s assessment. A veteran Auxiliarist whose certifications include Instructor, Vessel Examiner, and Public Affairs Specialist, Mr. Chapman is an AUXCA1 and Branch Chief for the Culinary Program in the Pacific area. “It’s such a privilege to work with the Coast Guard,” he adds, “they’re a great bunch of people.” And the chance to support them directly by serving hearty meals becomes “almost an addiction,” he says. “I can’t get enough.” Accordingly, he makes a point of signing on for kitchen duty at Base Los Angeles/Long Beach in San Pedro, CA, at least one day a week. “I really enjoy working with and assisting the Coast Guard,” commented Garrison Bromwell. Mr. Bromwell is an AUXCA1 and Branch Chief for the program in the Atlantic Area. His hands-on kitchen skills are much appreciated by those assigned to Station Saginaw River in Essexville, Michigan, where he helps with breakfast twice a week. But beyond that, he’s also applied his gifts to feeding hungry young people aboard cutters in the Great Lakes, Bering Sea, and once off the coast of Ecuador.

Terry Schwinghammer, of Flotilla 96, Wiggins Pass, is an AUXCA1 who’s on breakfast and lunch duty every Monday at Station Ft. Myers Beach, Fla, which was heavily impacted by Hurricane Ian last September. While making omelets and flipping burgers, he says, “We get to know the active-duty men and women,” most of whom are young and so appreciative and polite. That Galley duty,” he continues, “helps them to understand we’re there to augment their service,” adding, “It’s an honor and pleasure to work in this capacity with them.” Among Auxiliarists, the opportunity to “Get up close and personal” with regular service members is almost unique to AUXCA1s, according to John Frassanito, the SO-CA for Sector Charleston. He says that face- to-face interplay afforded those Culinary Assistance

Specialists is unequaled in any other Auxiliary role.”

For any Auxiliarist curious about what galley qualifications are required of program applicants, the list is so short it's essentially non-existent. Never opened a can of beans, toasted a slice of bread, or cracked an egg? No problem. “You don't have to know anything,” assures Mr. Chapman. “We'll teach you from boiling water and all the way up.” Mr. Bromwell adds, “This isn't Cordon Bleu cooking. Usually, we are trying to feed a bunch of hungry 20-year-olds where quantity is important.” There is an AUXCA2 rating in addition to the AUXCA1 rating. While the initial training is similar for both levels, advanced training, currency, and mandatory hours of participation are less stringent for AUXCA2s. Significantly, AUXCA2s can only support Auxiliary events and may not serve in or for any Coast Guard unit, cutter, or event. Furthermore, achieving an AUXCA2 status increases the requirements for earning an AUXCA1 rating. Accordingly, Mr. Chapman notes that only some Auxiliarists entering the program take up the AUXCA2 track. The steps to achieve galley competence as a Culinary Assistant are well defined and begin with the applicant receiving a favorable Personnel Security Investigation, being in Approval Pending (AP) or higher status, and being interviewed and approved by your division's SO-CA. A health screening and two-dose Hepatitis A vaccination are also required of AUXCA1 applicants.

Once all that is done, the AUXCA Basic Course is next. The 22- hour program is spread over three days. It involves online instruction on sanitation, processes, and protocols and hands-on tasks performed in a USCG galley under the supervision of an AUXCA Instructor or active-duty Second Class Culinary Specialist (CS-2) or above. It concludes with a written exam. After completing the course, the candidate must complete the AUXCA Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS) at a USCG galley within one year to attain an AUXCA qualification. Subsequently, every AUXCA must complete an online food safety class annually, and an AUXCA1 must log at

least 12 hours of galley service per year to remain current. Before any AUXCA-1 can volunteer for assignment to a cutter, the member must have logged at least 40 hours working in a galley, be in reasonable health, have no medication with special storage requirements, and be approved by their district's DSO-CA or Branch Chief.

In addition to those written rules, as detailed in the AUXCA Standard Operating Procedure, there are several practical, unwritten rules shared by veteran AUXCA1s:

- Be reliable and commit to galley duty on a specific day and time, then show up as promised. The active-duty galley leadership needs to be confident about any AUXCA-1's dependability before assigning them regular responsibilities.
- Be flexible. An injury or family emergency can create an unexpected and immediate need for assistance in a galley.
- Respond, if able, with a positive spirit. If a necessary meal ingredient is missing, a seasoned AUXCA can identify a good substitute or devise an alternate meal offering
- Be resourceful. Also, heavy seas and 20-degree lists can make for quite a mess in a cutter galley and storeroom, and require hours-long clean-ups—all part of life on the water and Devotion to Duty (sometimes messy).
- Keep things sanitary and safe. A failure to heed this primary requirement could sicken and immobilize an entire station, making crews unable to respond to emergencies. Wash your hands thoroughly and often.
- Respect that every CS has a way of doing things in their galley; make a point of complying with it. It's their galley, after all, not yours. However, do ask questions since that's how one learns. Once familiar with the routines, don't hesitate to make suggestions, albeit respectfully, that you think might improve circumstances for all involved.
- Resign yourself to a dollop of tedium. Slicing and dicing 40 pounds of zucchini is time-consuming, repetitive, and boring. But while doing it, think of the “Thank You” that will follow.
- Go ahead and laugh. Every active-duty member deal with challenges, is probably far from home, and is regularly confronted by new

people whose customs, references, and more are unfamiliar. And then there's mealtime, and the serving of some edible that's never before graced a now wary young person's plate. Everyone is adjusting, but it's all shared, all good, and all one big family. So go ahead and smile and expect some of the same in return.

The value of the AUXCA Program is underscored by its growth, as noted by Paulette Parent, the program's National Division Chief. She describes it as "a force multiplier" with "over 400 active AUXCA1s who serve the Coast Guard in all 18 districts." She says the program's appeal and opportunities are compelling, ranging from "working in a small boat station (often independently), to sailing aboard a cutter heading out to sea to save lives and protect our shores." For those interested but hesitant, she shares that "Often at the beginning of a class, I see the students waiting a bit anxiously anticipating what they are getting into." But as the training develops, she says, "They learn and gain to experience what it means to work in a galley, and I see them become more self-assured and comfortable with their surroundings. They are having fun and enjoying one of the best experiences the Auxiliary has to offer." "There is no greater reward," she continued, "than handing a meal to active-duty shipmates, seeing them smile and hearing, 'Thank you!'"

In addition to providing tasty, nutritious, and generous meals to help Coast Guard members do their jobs and allowing Auxiliarists to interact with them and demonstrate their support, there's one more benefit to the AUXCA1 role. When Auxiliarists report to a galley task, that can free a CS not only to relax and spend quality time with family but maybe to sit down, pick up a knife and fork, and finally enjoy a home-cooked meal.

Noteworthy:

Meetings!

There has been low attendance at our Flotilla meetings as of late. We have not had a quorum to enable us to vote on any new items. Please make an effort to attend the Flotilla

meetings. Our VFC has asked for your input on whether the date (2nd Saturday) or location (Blue Skies) needs to be discussed to enable higher attendance. Feel free to email Tom at tfduyrea@yahoo.com with your comments.



March Flotilla Meeting

Vessel Examinations: Please note that National has directed us to wear our PFDs whenever we are on a dock. That means during all boat safety checks.

Uniforms: Our Flotilla has some new & used uniforms in our storage locker. Bobby donated a nice pair of dress shoes, size 10. Feel free to ask to check them out!

Trainings: Training sessions to meet PQS requirements will start being offered at our monthly meetings so members can start making their qualifications! Last month we learned how to tie knots, thanks to Alex and Siler! If you have an idea for a training, please let our FC and VFC know!



Emails! Please watch your emails for further events including VE's and parades. We need your help in furthering our mission of boating safety and coming alongside the active-duty Coast Guard!

September 11th: We would like to participate in a 9/11 memorial event. If you know of an event that would be appropriate, let us know.

(All narrative by K. Duryea unless specified; photos by Tom Duryea or Karen Duryea unless specified.)

Questions? Who Do I Contact?

Flotilla Commander (FC), Joe Littlefield,

jmlittlefield13@gmail.com

Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC), Tom Duryea,

tfduryea@yahoo.com

Human Resources (FSO-HR), JeanneMarie C.

Mc Namara,

mcnamara.uscgaux@gmail.com

Public Affairs (FSO-PA), Karen Duryea,

karenduryea14@gmail.com.

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: Blue Skies, 5100 John D Ryan

Bldv, San Antonio, 78245

Virtual meetings are no longer available.

Division 7 Meeting: April 13, 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.

Boating Safety -The Latest Statistics: Where cause of death was known, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 85% were not wearing a life jacket. Where instruction was known, 74% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 14% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.

**SPREAD THE WORD.....
.....KIDS DON'T FLOAT!!!**

(NEITHER DO ADULTS!)

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>

2024 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.

All Photos are taken by members of the flotilla & are considered property of the CG Auxiliary unless otherwise designated.

This publication was produced at no expense to the U.S. government.



