



April 2025
Flotilla 07-04

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THE ALAMO CITY GUARDIAN



HAPPY SPRING!!

This new season brings a busy time of year for the Auxiliary! We have a handful of vessel examination opportunities available to secure your VE status for the year! We have a few boating courses on the schedule and, our favorite, Safe Boating Week! I encourage you all to take a peek at the Boat Safety information in this Newsletter, go online and print off boat safety rules, PFD fitting information and/or Wear Your Lifejacket to Work Day flyers and pass along to friends, co-workers, colleagues and family. There are various opportunities available. Keep reading and you may find an area that sparks your interest! We all need to encourage, motivate and educate another so we can have a positive impact on our Active Duty Coast Guard!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER CHARLES MANLEY

Charles Manley was born here in the Alamo city. He has been married to Amanda for 7 years and recently adopted 7 yr old Benjamin. He enjoys assisting Benjamin with his little league baseball, volunteering his tech experience at Great Oaks Fellowship, playing the valve trombone and painting. In fact, Charles had a piece of art on display at the SA Airport!

Our FC is a Commercial Lines General Account Manager at USAA and a 3rd generation Auxiliarist! He joined the Auxiliary in 2007 due to his autistic brother-in-law's influence in becoming part of this adventure. Charles feels his Auxiliary career really took on a life in 2020. He admits he loves keeping records – a perfect fit for Information Systems, AuxData and the AUP Systems! An achievable goal for Charles is reaching a National Staff position in records. Another unique fact about our FC is that he is a Ham Radio operator – one of three in the SA flotilla.



Charles encourages others by reminding them that the Auxiliary is what you make of it. There are a lot of jobs, you just have to discover your niche and go for it! Thank you for leading us through 2025!

(Articles & Photo of Charles Manley by Auxiliarist K. Duryea)



**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 Activity:

Tracy Huff is in BQ status.
Seth Burnett is pending status.
Thanks to Jeannemarie McNamara for following up on potential members!

2025 Scheduled Events:

- April 4-6, Division Mtg, So Padre Island
- April 5 Ship 26 Vessel Exams at Canyon Lake Yacht Club
- April 13, 11-2 pm, Fishing Tournament Vessel Exams at Braunig Lake
- April 19, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting Blue Skies, 5100 John D Ryan Blvd., SA
- May 9-10, Wings Over South Texas, NAS 11001 D St, Corpus Christi
- May 17, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting Blue Skies, 5100 John D Ryan Blvd., SA
- May 17-18, Joint VE days with Flotilla 7-11, Corpus Christi
- May 31, 10 am-6 pm, Boat Safety Class, REI, 11745 I-10, San Antonio
- June 21, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting Blue Skies, 5100 John D Ryan Blvd., SA
- June 28, 10 am-6 pm, Boat Safety Class, REI, 11745 I-10, San Antonio
- July 19, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting Blue Skies, 5100 John D Ryan Blvd., SA

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR ANY CHANGES

Public Education:

- May 31, 10 am-6 pm, Boat Safety Class, REI, 11745 I-10, San Antonio
- June 28, 10 am-6 pm, Boat Safety Class, REI, 11745 I-10, San Antonio
- Boat Crew – contact Alex Shapovalov
- Culinary Assistant – contact Tom Duryea

Vessel Examinations:

- April 5 Ship 26 Vessel Exams at Canyon Lake Yacht Club
- April 16, VE's for Girl Scouts, Camp La Jita, Utopia
- April 13, 11-2 pm, Fishing Tournament Vessel Exams at Braunig Lake Ramp
- April 23, 9 am, Canyon Lake & Cranes Mill
- May 17-18, Joint VE days with Flotilla 7-11, Corpus Christi, location TBD

Vessel Examinations (cont'd)

Every Vessel Examiner has to complete 5 VE's each year to maintain their VE status. Let Charles or Bob know if you want to participate in any of the above noted VE dates. The more the merrier!!



Also, please note that if the boats are on the water as you perform the safety checks, you Must Wear Your PFD.

Auxiliarists Answer "The Call to Mission"!

Culinary Assistance

April 28-May 3, Tom Duryea will be underway on the Clamp, out of Galveston, preparing meals for the crew as they were repairing buoys. Alongside him will be a fellow Auxiliary CA being trained to earn his official title to serve on Cutters. Tom is looking forward to serving the active duty in 2025.

Tom continues to work with Jack Whalen, DSO-CA to ensure the Auxiliary trains competent new Culinary Assistants to serve on bases and placed on cutters.

New Member, Tracy Huff

"Just stopped by and chatted with the Mexican Coast Guard in Costa Maya."



Auxiliarist, Tracy Huff in Costa Maya. (provided by Tracy Huff)

NATIONAL BOATING SAFETY WEEK – MAY 17 – 23 !!

"America's Volunteer Lifesavers". Our primary mission is promoting and supporting recreational boating safety and that includes boating safety courses, vessel safety examinations and motivating folks to wear their Lifejackets (PFDs)!

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.



Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day-May 16

More boaters are on the water than ever before! For the annual celebration of Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day and National Safe Boating Week, the National Safe Boating Council encourages boating enthusiasts to share with their local community about responsible boating via social media, launch

point reminders, outreach events, vessel safety checks, and more.

We encourage all boaters to participate in Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day on May 16, 2025, the day before National Safe Boating Week. No matter where boaters are working, they can join in the fun by wearing their life jacket and posting creative pictures on social media for a chance to win a prize.

How to Participate

Boaters share a picture of themselves wearing a life jacket at work (or home) on social media along with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday and tag @boatingcampaign ([Facebook](#), [X](#), or [Instagram](#)). Winners will be chosen randomly throughout the day to receive boating swag from the Safe Boating Campaign including dry bags, stickers, and more! (Courtesy of National Safe Boating Week)

Why We Do What We Do: 2023 Boating Statistics

In calendar year 2023, the Coast Guard counted 3,844 accidents that involved 564 deaths, 2,126 injuries and approximately \$63 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents. The fatality rate was 4.9 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate



Kids sailing with PFD, photo courtesy of National Safe Boating Council

represents a 9.3% decrease from the 2022 fatality rate of 5.4 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. Compared to 2022, the number of accidents decreased

4.9%, the number of deaths decreased 11.3%, and the number of injuries decreased 4.3%.

Where cause of death was known, 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 87% were not wearing a life jacket. Where length was known, 4 of every 5 boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length. Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 17% of deaths. Where instruction was known, 75% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 15% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.



Woman kayaking, photo courtesy of National Safe Boating Council

There were 145 accidents in which at least one person was struck by a propeller. Collectively, these accidents resulted in 23 deaths and 133 injuries. Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and machinery failure ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Where data was known, navigation rules violations were a contributing factor in 53% of accidents, 34% of deaths, and 60% of injuries. Collisions (with vessels, objects, groundings) were the most frequent first event in accidents, attributing to 56% of accidents, 24% of deaths, and 53% of injuries. Where data was known, the most common vessel types involved in reported accidents were open motorboats

(45%), personal watercraft (19%), and cabin motorboats (13%). Where data was known, the vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were open motorboats (44%), kayaks (17%), and personal watercraft (8%).

Texas is third highest in reports of boating deaths and third highest in reporting boating incidents among all of the states! (Courtesy of National Safe Boating Week)

For further information and flyers to post online or at your work place, go to safeboatingcampaign.com or national boating week.



THE Great Texas Freedom Fest
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO PRESENTS
Fort Sam Houston MacArthur Parade Field
APRIL 12
3-9:30 P.M.
FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA FINALE
SPONSORED BY HEB
FREE ADMISSION! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
FOOD TRUCKS AXE THROWING
FITNESS CONTESTS SHOPPING VENDORS STEEL
INTERACTIVE INFLATABLES PETTING ZOO
SPAZMATICS
FLYOVERS MILITARY DEMONSTRATIONS
MILITARY STATIC VEHICLE DISPLAYS
323rd ARMY BAND BAND OF THE WEST

Fort Sam Houston is hosting the Great Texas Freedom Fest – April 12, 3-9:00 pm.

The USCGC EAGLE Soars

The 295-foot barque EAGLE is the flagship of the U.S. Coast Guard. She serves as a training vessel for cadets at the Coast Guard Academy and candidates from the Officer Candidate School. The EAGLE is the only active-duty sailing vessel in America's military, and one of only two commissioned sailing vessels, along with the USS Constitution.

Training on EAGLE: The primary mission of the EAGLE is training. Every cadet who attends the Coast Guard Academy will spend a minimum of six weeks on board EAGLE. In addition to learning the nautical traditions of their profession, cadets learn basic seamanship and navigation skills as well as important team-building and leadership skills. Try doing that at any other college.



Why Sail-Training? So, why train Coast Guard cadets on a tall ship when most will spend their careers on state-of-the-art ships and aircraft? Because the ways of old still have much to teach. The conditions and situations that you face under sail can't be replicated either in a classroom or aboard today's modern ships.



On board EAGLE, cadets find themselves suddenly out of their element. Totally dependent on wind, waves, and currents, they quickly learn how these forces of nature affect a vessel. They gain unmatched skills in ship-handling, decision-making, and meeting unexpected challenges. They learn the importance of crew members working together to handle the ship safely. That's college exceeded. (Article and photos courtesy of US Coast Guard Academy)

FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S GOALS

In the next few Newsletters, I'll post one of the five goals our Flotilla Commander has for 2025, as a reminder and encouragement to all of us of how we can be involved in supporting our Coast Guard. Since spring is the time of year to plan boating activities.....

Public education / Vessel safety

Our primary way of helping people in our community is through our knowledge on and off the water. We currently have one place to do training events @ REI off Huebner Oaks. I would like to expand that especially as the boating license is now starting to become a requirement (finally) in the state of Texas for those born after 1993. I would also like to continue building on our vessel safety examinations even though the lake is down. We need to go by the local marinas and let them know that we can inspect vessels when they are on their trailer. They don't have to be in the water to be inspected. Also, we need a FSO-PV if you know someone that would be willing to step into that role. (By FC Charles Manley)

Coast Guard News

Coast Guard Cutter Reliance returns home after 60-day maritime border security patrol. USCCG Press Release | March 14, 2025

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Reliance (WMEC 615) returned to their home port in Pensacola, Monday, following a 60-day patrol in the Florida Straits, Windward Passage and Gulf of America.

Reliance deployed in support of Homeland Security Task Force – Southeast (HSTF-SE) and Operation Vigilant Sentry (OVS) while underway in the Seventh Coast Guard District's area of responsibility, where crew members contributed to safeguarding America by patrolling U.S. maritime borders.

While underway, the crew assisted in the interdiction of 12 aliens attempting to reach the United States unlawfully by sea, including several young children. Crew members provided humanitarian aid and care until the aliens were repatriated to their country of origin.

Reliance maintained presence and directed operations for additional Coast Guard assets to deter dangerous and unlawful alien migration departures in the Windward Passage, which enabled other Coast Guard crews to assist with joint force operations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-led mission at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

While at sea in the Eighth Coast Guard District area of responsibility, Reliance's crew patrolled the U.S.-Mexico maritime border in the Gulf of America to deter illicit activity such as illegal maritime migration, fishing and smuggling at sea.

Reliance's crew also worked with two nearby Coast Guard air stations to conduct flight operations and maintain critical ship-helicopter interoperability.



"I am enormously proud and impressed by the Reliance crew's exceptional professionalism, versatility and adaptability, which they demonstrated across multiple dynamic, high-profile and demanding missions during this patrol," said Cmdr. Aaron Kowalczyk, commanding officer of Reliance. "Their tireless commitment to the aggressive deterrence of alien maritime migration ventures and the relentless compassion displayed in their dedication to the Coast Guard's humanitarian mission was exemplary, once again saving countless lives while safeguarding our borders."

Established in 2003, HSTF-SE is the DHS-led interagency task force charged with directing operational and tactical planning, command and control, and functions as a standing organization to deter, mitigate and respond to maritime mass migration in the Caribbean Sea and Florida Straits.

OVS is the 2004 DHS plan that provides the structure for deploying joint air and surface assets and personnel to respond to irregular maritime migration in the Caribbean corridor of the United States. Its primary objectives are to prevent the unnecessary loss of life at sea while deterring and dissuading maritime mass migration alongside our federal, state and local partners.

Reliance is a 210-foot, Reliance-class medium endurance cutter with a crew of 77. The cutter's primary missions are counter-narcotics and migrant interdiction operations, living marine resources protection, and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Coast Guard Offloads More than 6 Tons of Cocaine — Worth \$140M — at Miami Beach Port *Miami Herald*
Military News, By Milena Malaver, March 07, 2025 (Miami Herald staff writer David Goodhue contributed to this story)

A U.S. Coast Guard cutter crew on Thursday offloaded more than 12,000 pounds of narcotics at a Miami Beach port that the agency says is worth hundreds of millions of dollars on the street. Members of the Cutter Valiant dropped over 6 tons of the cocaine at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach — valued at more than \$140 million — from six interdictions in the Caribbean Sea conducted by U.S. and allied forces, according to the agency.

About 17 suspected smugglers were detained during the operations that involved multiple agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard

cutters Valiant and Joseph Doyle, the Royal Netherlands Navy's HNLMS Groningen, the Royal Canadian Navy's HMCS Harry DeWolf, the U.S. Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team Pacific, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations.



Coast Guard crew with confiscated drugs.

The seized contraband was the result of six interdictions in the Caribbean Sea, and 17 suspected smugglers were transferred ashore to face federal prosecution in U.S. courts. "These seizures are a testament to the Coast Guard's continued dedication to safeguard America by securing our maritime borders," Lt. Jesus Martinez Borges, a Seventh Coast Guard District enforcement officer, said in a statement. "The Coast Guard and our partners work tirelessly to deny drug trafficking organizations access to smuggling routes bound for the United States. Our efforts contribute to federal investigations and prosecutions that further seek to disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal activity abroad, which threaten Americans here at home."

The Coast Guard detailed four of the interdictions in a press release Thursday. On Feb. 2, a Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard air crew located a suspicious vessel in international waters about 30 miles north of Venezuela. The crew of the Groningen, along with a U.S. Coast Guard crew embedded on the ship, intercepted a speed boat with five people on board, and hauling about 6,220 pounds of cocaine, according to the agency.

The same day, an HC-144 Ocean Sentry plane from Coast Guard Air Station Miami detected a boat traveling in international waters about 35 miles southwest of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle intercepted the vessel, catching three people and confiscating about 2,200 pounds of cocaine, according to the press release.

On Feb. 14, a Dutch patrol airplane crew spotted a boat traveling about 18 miles north of Venezuela. Two patrol boats launched from the Groningen with U.S. Coast Guardsmen aboard chased after the speed boat, but the vessel found Venezuelan international waters before they could catch it. However, the speedboat crew jettisoned about 571 pounds of cocaine during the pursuit, which the Coast Guard recovered, per the agency.

Then on Feb. 17, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations airplane crew spotted a boat traveling in international waters about 50 miles northeast of the Dominican Republic, according to the Coast Guard. The Cutter Valiant launched a patrol boat crew, which intercepted the speedboat, catching five suspected smugglers and seizing 1,280 pounds of cocaine.

“The Valiant crew’s interdiction is one of many law enforcement actions highlighting the time-tested partnership and outstanding coordination of the Seventh Coast Guard District, Coast Guard Sector San Juan, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Caribbean Air and Marine Branch,” Cmdr. Matthew Press, commanding officer of Valiant, said in a statement.

[Noteworthy:](#)

Members Concerns

With saddened hearts, we share that Darlene Beeson has lost her husband. We are very sorry for your loss and offer our thoughts for your healing.

Jeannemarie McNamara has undergone major surgery in which she is recovering. We wish Jeanne a restful and complete recovery.

Meetings!

Please make an effort to attend the Flotilla meetings, either in person or on Zoom.

Vessel Examinations:

If you wish to become a Vessel Examiner, the workshop is online. Once complete, email the certificate to Tom Duryea.

Please note that National has directed us to wear our PFDs whenever we are on a dock. That means during all boat safety checks! New PFDs have been ordered for all Vessel Examiners.

Uniforms: Our Flotilla has some new & used uniforms in our storage. Feel free to ask to check them out!

Trainings: Let the FC or VFC know if you wish to pursue Training sessions to meet PQS requirements.

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

(Written material by Auxiliarist Karen Duryea unless specifically stated)

[Questions? Who Do I Contact?](#)

Flotilla Commander (FC), Charles Manley
Charles.r.manley@gmail.com
Vice Commander (VFC) Robert Puharic
Wf3h@comcast.net
HR/PA, JeanneMarie Mc Namara
mcnamara.uscgaux@gmail.com

Semper Paratus

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

Flotilla Meeting: 3rd Sat. of Month,
10:30 am, Location: Blue Skies, 5100 John D Ryan Blvd, San Antonio, 78245

Virtual meetings are now available.

Division 7 Meeting: April 4-6, So Padre Island, TX.

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 - "Boaters should remain vigilant on the water as most incidents occur when you might least expect them – in good visibility, calm waters and little wind," said Capt. Amy Beach, Inspections and Compliance director. "The most frequent events involve collisions with other vessels, objects or groundings, which is why it is so important to keep a proper lookout, navigate at a safe speed, adhere to navigation rules and obey navigation aids."

Deaths occurred predominantly on vessels operated by individuals who had not received boating safety instruction. The Coast Guard reminds boaters to wear serviceable, properly sized and correctly fastened life jackets. In addition to wearing a life jacket and taking a boating safety course, the Coast Guard recommends all boaters attach the engine cut-off switch, get a free vessel safety check and boat sober.

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>

2025 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.

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