



September 2023

Inside this Issue:

In the Spotlight, 1

**Auxiliary Info, 2
Member Activity, 2
Scheduled Events, 2
Public Education/
Trainings, 2
Vessel Exams, 2**

**Dependability in the
Auxiliary.
Understanding the
Mission. 3**

**Auxiliarists
Answer the Call to
Mission, 4
CG in Georgia, 4**

**CG Marathon/5K, 5
Members In Action, 5**

**Noteworthy, 6
Auxiliary Member
Receives Presidential
Award, 6**

Boating Statistics, 7



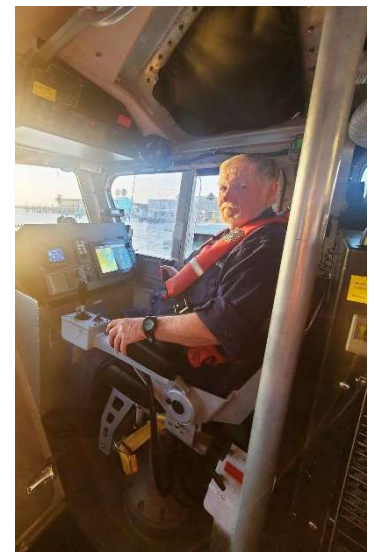
THE ALAMO CITY GUARDIAN



Welcome to our new members! 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. How can our members become and stay active if they don't know what is happening? 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! All ideas/suggestions for articles are welcomed. Read on about our newest Division Culinary Assistant Staff Officer! (By Auxiliarist Karen Duryea, PA)

In the Spotlight:

Auxiliarist Tom Duryea is in the Spotlight. Yes, since time is of the essence, I have selected my husband for this issue (I hope y'all don't mind). Tom is currently serving as a Culinary Assistant (CA) and has recently been promoted to Division CA Staff Officer. He is actively recruiting new CA's for the Auxiliary. He is also working toward his Boat Crew certification. Dr. Tom, as he is known on cruiseships when he lectures on culture and history, loves his retirement job traveling around the world. In his younger day, Tom flew fighter jets for the Air Force, earned the rank Colonel, achieved his PhD in Computer Science and worked as the IT Chief for the Army. He was stationed at Tooele Army Depot when he retired. Tom celebrates his 12 year anniversary to Karen in October. Between them, they have 5 children and 10 grandchildren. When William Shatner signed up for the Coast Guard Auxiliary on his TV show, it inspired Tom, hence he sought out the Auxiliary! The best thing about the Auxiliary is being able to serve alongside Active Duty, states Tom. He also recommends new members learn the various opportunities to serve, try them out and pursue what fits you best! (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, 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.

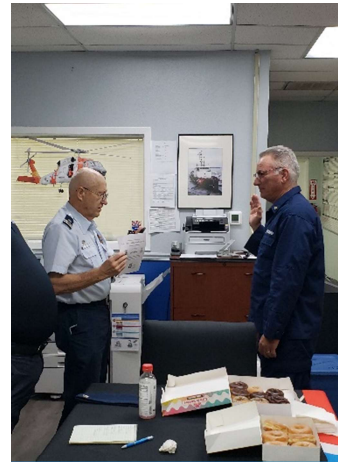
Why Join? <http://join.cgaux.org/> When you join the Coast Guard Auxiliary, you could find yourself on patrol saving lives and property, assisting in marine safety and environmental protection, radio watch-standing, educating the public in boating safety and much more. That's what our members do. We 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:

Joe Littlefield, 8/23, David Shelly, 9/23

Siler Monk, 8/23, Carl Newton, 8/23



Swearing In of new member, Carl Newton
(Photo by Karen Duryea, PA)

2023 Scheduled Events:

October 14, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, CG

Recruiting Station, 8347 Perrin Beitel, San Antonio

October 21, Division Meeting, Sector Corpus Christi

November 11, 10:30 am, Flotilla Meeting, CG

Recruiting Station, San Antonio

December 9, 1 pm, Flotilla Meeting & Auxiliary

Christmas Party! St. Paul Evangelical Church, 108 S. Main St, Cibolo

Public Education:

October 1, 7 pm Boat Crew Academy, Online

(See Alex Shapovalov for Boat Crew Trng)

October 12, 7-9 pm Culinary Assistant (CA) Online Training

October 19 & 26, 6-9 pm CA Online Training

October 24, CG Auxiliary Instructor Training

November 30 & December 6, 6-9 pm CA Online Training

January 18 & 25, 6-9 pm CA Online Training

(See Tom Duryea for Culinary Assistant Training)

Date TBD, Boating Safety Course, Coyote

Powersports, 32127 Frontage Rd, Boerne

Vessel Examinations:

None at this time. Resume in Feb/March.

Why We Do What We Do:

KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

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.



Dependability in the Auxiliary. Understanding The Mission.

By Rob Kumpf, AUXPA2
National Director of Training

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a uniformed volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard, a federal military branch that serves under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. We all know this, but how many of us have spent time reflecting on what that really means? Yes, we are volunteers, and do not receive payment for the duties we perform, but this does not mean we should drop our responsibilities when things become challenging.

Being a “volunteer” in the Coast Guard Auxiliary means something slightly different than being a “volunteer” in other organizations where the stakes might not be as high. A “volunteer” in the Auxiliary means that we are given the choice of what missions we wish to perform, what roles we seek, and the time we put into those missions and roles. **The “I’m just a volunteer” mentality is lethal to the reputation of the Auxiliary** as a force multiplier that our active and reserve shipmates can depend upon as their mission continues to expand.

Once we accept a mission or commit to a role, we have left the normal realm of being a “volunteer,” and we have entered a realm where **we need to fulfill the requirements of our role or the mission.** I am not suggesting we not set limits—a healthy balance is essential, an Auxiliarist should never put their health, family, or paying job at risk to fulfill their obligation to the Auxiliary, but I am suggesting that once we commit, we do the work required. Some of this work we do can be arduous, possibly tedious, but once we say we will do it, we

have to follow through so as not to let our members and our service down. **The consequences of being undependable can be vast and lasting for the individual, and the entire Coast Guard Auxiliary.** Let’s face it, administrative tasks are not the thing that Hollywood makes movies about, nor are they the things recruiters highlight to prospective recruits. There are not thousands upon thousands of people attempting to join paying organizations to do paperwork, much fewer organizations where those tasks are done without pay.

Yet, **our organization comes to a screeching halt without the less exciting or seemingly tedious tasks being attended to and completed with care.** Now, do not get me wrong, I would love to spend most of my time in the Auxiliary flying high above the surface on SAR missions or ice patrols, aboard a cutter smashing through ice or dropping ATONs, or traveling to faraway locales such as Alaska, Hawaii, or Guam to teach a course, but this is not what the mission calls on me to do. The mission calls for me to sit in more Zoom meetings or phone conferences than I thought humanly possible; the mission calls for me to spend time writing briefing memos and reports or responding to more emails than I can count. While not always exciting, these things make it possible for the Auxiliary to conduct its other missions.

Our training programs would not survive without the paperwork and the less exciting tasks, and I volunteered to take on the mission. Each of us volunteered to join the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary—the world’s premier volunteer life-saving organization—and we are rightly proud to wear the uniform and do what we can when we can. **We need to be dependable; we must strive to improve our skills.** Not all daring rescues and excitement—commitment and dependability, no matter what the task, make us the group our nation’s Coast Guard turns to when they need critical gaps filled.

Their need for us continues to grow, and in new ways, are we prepared and willing to take on the roles they need us to take? Will we abandon them when some of the duties are less exciting than

what we wish we were doing? **Let's re-commit to putting the mission before our desires and serving the Coast Guard family in whatever ways we can.** I firmly believe that through good training, dependability, and commitment, a great many new and exciting ways of serving the Coast Guard will become available to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We must prepare to embrace the challenge and excel. (Navigator Express 2nd Quarter 2023) (Emphasis Karen Duryea, PA)

Auxiliarists Answer "The Call to Mission"!

27 AUGUST - 04 SEPTEMBER 2017: A Category 4, Hurricane HARVEY, struck the East Texas coast. Hardest hit was Houston. One-third of the city was completely flooded. Nearly 135,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. 7 of our members at the time were mobilized in support of the operation - 4 of whom are still current members: Roberto Ortiz-Diaz and JeanneMarie McNamara for watch-standing and air operations while Bob Puharic and Alex Shapovalov were involved with transporting vehicles in a convoy that involved our members and members from 7-5 (Austin).

Coast Guard On Mission in Georgia

28 SEPTEMBER 2023 CHARLESTON, S.C. — A Coast Guard Air Station Savannah aircrew rescued two men, Thursday, after their 34-foot fishing vessel sank 50 miles offshore Savannah, Georgia.

CG Sector Charleston watchstanders received a report from CG District 7 of an emergency position indicating radio beacon activation from a fishing vessel 50 miles offshore Savannah. District 7 contacted the vessel's registered owner who stated the vessel was offshore fishing with approximately two people aboard. Charleston issued an urgent marine information broadcast and attempted to contact the vessel with no results. An Air Station Savannah helicopter crew diverted to the vessel's position provided by the EPIRB.

The responding aircrew arrived on scene, commenced searching and located two people in a

life raft after they launched a flare to alert the aircrew of their position. The aircrew hoisted the men and transported them to Hunter Army Airfield. No medical concerns were reported.

"The mariners demonstrated remarkable skill in deploying their lifesaving equipment, enabling our crew to locate them within minutes upon arriving on scene," said Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Anderson, aircraft commander during the case. "The mariner's effective use of their EPIRB and signaling flare played a pivotal role in the success of this case."



"This case demonstrates the importance of having layers of communications effectively taking the "search" out of search and rescue," said Scott Szczepaniak, recreational boating safety specialist, Coast Guard Seventh District. "Anyone venturing offshore, including recreational boaters, should consider carrying an EPIRB, and a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), as an extra layer of security. A properly registered VHF-FM marine radio, equipped with digital selective calling and programmed with the vessel's MMSI and connected to a GPS, should be your first layer of security. Cell phone coverage can be spotty or non-existent and phones are not built for the rigors of the marine environment and should not be your only means of communication offshore." (Navigator Express, photo courtesy of CG Sector Charleston)

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?raceId=105215>

Members in Action:

Armed Forces River Parade: On July 2 Alex Shapovalov, Tom Duryea and Karen Duryea supported our Active Duty Coast Guard in the River Parade on the San Antonio River Walk.



(Photo courtesy of CG Auxiliary)

Boating Safety Course: Alex Shapovalov held the student's attention at the boating safety class taught at REI on August 19. Tom & Karen Duryea assisted.



Coast Guard & CG Auxiliary Birthdays: We celebrated our 84th Birthday, along with the Active Duty Coast Guard on August 5. Sharing sandwiches, chips, tea, and birthday cake outdoors amongst members and active duty was awesome! Thank you to all who participated!



We also sworn in two more members: Joe Littlefield and Siler Monk.



Member Award

Bobby Gosschalk received an Award for his superior service as our Program Visit Officer during the September Flotilla meeting.



Alaska CG Station Visit: Alex Shapovalov visited USCG Small Station Valdez while in Alaska this summer.



(Photo courtesy of Alex Shapovalov)

Program Visits: Bobby Gosschalk, Karen Duryea and Dave Shelly visited 20 marine dealers and retailers to update literature and check on interest for safety classes on September 26 & 27.

Culinary Assistants: Tom Duryea is headed out to Port Aransas to train two new Culinary Assistants this November.

Noteworthy:

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

Elections for new Officers will be held during our November meeting! We will be voting for a new Flotilla Commander & Vice Flotilla Commander!

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

Who Do I Contact?

Flotilla Commander (FC), Charles R. Manley,
charles.r.manley@gmail.com
Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC), Daniel Robert
Oakes, oakes.daniel98@gmail.com
Human Resources (FSO-HR), Jeannemarie C. Mc
Namara, mcnamara.uscgaux@gmail.com

Public Affairs (FSO-PA), Karen Duryea,
karenduryea14@gmail.com

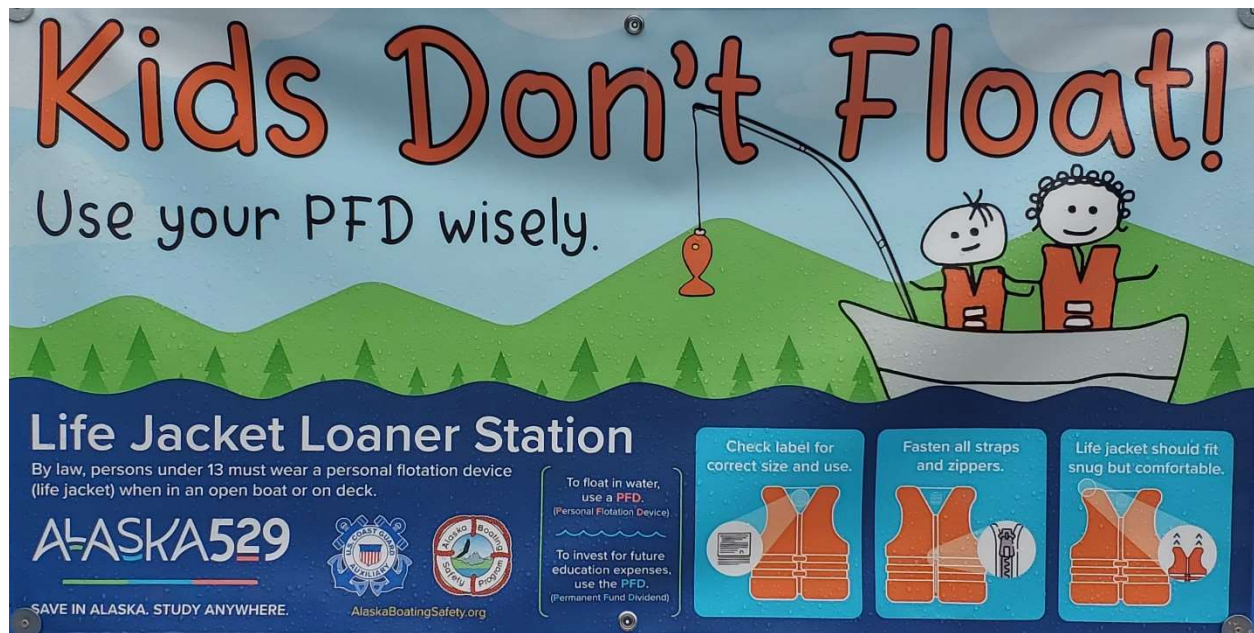
Auxiliary Member Receives The Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Award!

At the January District 11 North Division 5, Suisun Bay meeting, 2023 Commander Robert Bain, and past Division Commander Thomas Sarnicola presented Glenn Hunter with the United States Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Award in recognition of Hunter's twenty-two years of service to the US Coast Guard auxiliary having contributed approximately 7,000 hours of service. Hunter received a gold medal, a letter from President Joseph Biden, and a certificate of appreciation signed by former President Donald Trump.

Glenn often speaks about the pride he has for his father, Glennwood, who served in the US Army during World War 2 and received the Bronze Star before being discharged as First Sergeant. In that same spirit, Glenn joined the Auxiliary after the terrorist attack on New York on September 1, 2001. Glenn has obtained numerous Auxiliary qualifications, served as Flotilla Commander for two separate units, and currently serves at USCG Station Vallejo as Auxiliary Unit Coordinator. In 2022, Glenn coordinated a successful Boat Crew Academy which graduated five new crew members.

The Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Award was created by President George W. Bush in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers make to the nation. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation was chaired by Senators Robert Dole and John Glenn. Its purpose is to recognize leaders from all walks of life and to highlight the best of the American spirit of those who improve their communities through volunteer service. (By Thomas Sarnicola, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, Flotilla 5-2, Vallejo, CA, Navigator Express)

During their travels to Alaska, Tom & Karen noted this awesome sign posted by the water.



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.

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.uscgauaux.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.uscgauaux.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.

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.

