

SAN ANTONIO, TX  
FLOTILLA 7-4



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Sailing on Canyon Lake



# The Alamo City Guardian

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## In the Spot Light! Blacksmithing - It's not just about horses!

Russ Poppen, PA/PB, 01JUL22

This summer I have had the continuing pleasure of volunteering with the National Park Service. As a volunteer I have been sharing my knowledge of history, agriculture, steam locomotives, and blacksmithing. Currently I am conducting presentations on blacksmithing. Although I am using these skills in a historic setting the Coast Guard has an active blacksmithing program. S part of the curriculum Coast Guard Engineering and Architecture students have the opportunity to learn their skills at the Mystic Seaport Shipsmith Shop in Mystic, Connecticut.



Picture source: dvidshub.net/image68e

Additionally, the Auxiliary has many such opportunities. It may be a surprise to many the variety and number of skills development programs that are available through the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The programs in the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary open up many doors for those wanting to serve this country. In addition to retirees wishing to remain active... opportunities exist for vocational and college students, those who might meet auxiliary entrance standards but not all of the active military standards.

On a regular basis I am asked –where can a person learn blacksmithing? In addition to sharing locals of some fine technical schools; I am able to discuss the Coast Guard program. This often leads to sharing about other opportunities



within the Coast Guard and within the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Interested in the Auxiliary? Check out our web link at: <http://join/cgaux.org>

Picture Source: <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/images/Blacksmithforge.jpg>

### Flotilla 7-4 San Antonio:

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Cornerstones:**  
Recreational Boating Safety, Member Services  
Operations and Marine Safety, Fellowship

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### 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/>

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### 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.

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### 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.com>

### The Alternative Working Uniform Program?

The Alternative Working Uniform Pilot Program (AWUPP) is being conducted in the 1st Southern (1S) and 8th Coastal Regions (8CR) of the USCG AUX from 1 OCT 2021, through 31 DEC 2022. The Program's purpose is to introduce the new Alternative Working Uniform that members may opt to wear instead of ODUs or the new Coast Guard CGU being rolled out over the next two years to active duty. The tucked ODU is no longer an authorized uniform since 12/31/21. The CGU will be made available to Auxiliarists in Fiscal Year 2024 when the Untucked ODU will begin to be phased out. The program is allowing members of the 1S and 8CR evaluate the AWU's performance. The uniform is authorized anywhere the ODU is currently authorized for wear.

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### SAVE THE DATES

**SEPTRAIN 2022 – NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**  
**SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18**

Preparations for SEPTRAIN 2022 are in full swing so save the above dates and plan now to be part of the training and fellowship that only a District Training Conference affords.

SEPTRAIN will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Airport Hilton at 901 Airline Drive in Kenner, LA. This year we will be electing a new District Commodore, District Chief of Staff and 3 District Captains. In addition a slate of training opportunities that will appeal to all Auxiliarists is being prepared and the 8<sup>th</sup> Coastal Region's Shining Stars program will be in full swing. **Watch your e-mail in box for registration, training schedule and reservation information.**

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### Auxiliary University Program



The **Auxiliary University Programs (AUP)** is a United States Coast Guard Auxiliary-managed initiative established in 2007. Today AUP now has nearly 250 members in 14 units representing over 50 colleges and universities across the United States. The Auxiliary University Program (AUP) prepares undergraduate and graduate students for future public service inside and outside of the Coast Guard. AUP provides the opportunity to attend college while learning to about boating safety, homeland security, and gaining operational and leadership experience. AUP has a positive track record of getting a large number of its graduates into CG Officer Candidate School (OCS).

<http://www.cgau.edu/about/> and <https://n.wikipedia.org>



## Diversity Corner:

Re-posted by Russell Poppen, FSO, PA/  
PB

Source: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=D-DEPT>

Diversity & Inclusion is about acknowledging differences and adapting practices to create an inclusive environment in which diverse skills, perspectives and backgrounds are valued. It is about understanding the individual differences among our members that arise from a broad range of backgrounds and lifestyles, recognizing the value of using those different perspectives and ideas to enhance the quality and outcomes of our mission.

Our diversity is shaped by a variety of characteristics including age, ethnicity, gender, disability, language, religious beliefs, life stages, education, career, sexual orientation, personality and marital status. Additionally, Diversity & Inclusion means accepting, welcoming and valuing the differences inherent in every individual and recognizing the contribution that a diverse and inclusive membership can make to our organizational effectiveness and operational performance.

For your consideration, on behalf of the National Commodore, the Diversity & Inclusion Staff and our members, we strongly encourage not only a Diverse & Inclusive membership but that you engage in a *Diversity of Mission*. We challenge you to recruit new members and retain current members by informing them of the many mission sets available beyond those of Air and Surface Operations, Recreational Boating Safety activities and Public Education. Although these missions are at our core existence, there is so much more... Let's do more!

Elected leaders and staff officers must implement strategies specific to the needs of their local units. Plans must be consistent with the requirements set forth in the NACO's Strategic Plan and Diversity &

Inclusion Statement. Our team stands ready to provide any assistance requested in support of your local program.

Ask of yourselves and your shipmates, "Are you mission capable and mission ready" When the call comes, what do you, our diverse team, have to offer? Be as diverse in your ability to offer your services to your community and

the United States Coast Guard as you are in your acceptance of the wide array of diverse cultures that make up our Auxiliary!

## National Commodore's Official Policy (NACO Alex Malewski)

<http://cgaux.org/leadership/diversity.php>

For more information on how the United States is moving forward on LGTBA issues, visit the White Houses page for the "[It Gets Better](#)" reform act.

It is the policy of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to ensure that all citizens, regardless of race, gender, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, religion, or physical or mental disability have an equal opportunity to become a volunteer of this organization. It is after all, part of our mission to become the volunteer organization of choice.

As the National Commodore, I will personally lead the diversity initiatives and challenge all who serve to do the same through leadership, mentorship, service, and example. As someone committed to diversity, I understand that providing training is one of the strategies that helps build an inclusive environment, which is crucial to attracting and retaining top talent, building member engagement, and fostering creativity and innovation. Our Strategic Plan for Managing Diversity will guide us in our efforts towards accomplishing this goal.

Diversity of thoughts, ideas, and competencies of our people, keeps the Auxiliary strong and empowers us to mission readiness and excellence. Diversity is an imperative to the Auxiliary; it can increase morale and impact our success. In essence every member is responsible for fostering an inclusive team atmosphere and being a contributing part of Team Coast Guard.

The Auxiliary is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment, a journey guided by the deeply held values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty, as America's Guardians, we understand that diversity is not a problem to be solved, but is an asset to be developed.

**The Coast Guard Auxiliary Notes:**



Coast Guard Tall Ship Eagle file photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ruben Reed

**Galveston visited by CG Academy 3/c cadets aboard the Barque Eagle, June 2022:**

At 295 feet in length, the **Barque Eagle** is the largest tall ship flying the stars and stripes and the only active square-rigger in United States government service. Eagle has served as a classroom at sea to future Coast Guard officers since 1946, offering an at-sea leadership and professional development experience as part of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and Leadership Development curriculums. Aboard were 3/c cadets from the academy completing their 3-week coastal sail.

Several members of Flotilla 7-4 and Sea Scout Ship 7-4 were on hand to the at-

tend the open house held Saturday 11 June. In addition, a welcome picnic was held for all new CGAS (CG Academy Scholars) and CG Academy incoming Swabs (Freshman, 4/c) from Texas was held in Galveston concurrently. It was the first time **Eagle** has visited the Texas shores since 1972.



Flotilla members aboard the Barque Eagle: (l-r) Charles Manley in the new AWU, Daniel Oaks in his Sea Scout Skipper uniform and Mary Oakes, in the traditional ODU. Former flotilla member and Past FC, Robert Dittman, was also present but not pictured.

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**Boating Safety - The Latest Statistics:** The U.S. Coast Guard released statistics on calendar year 2021 recreational boating incidents, revealing that there were 658 boating fatalities nationwide, a 14 percent decrease from 767 in 2020. From 2020-21, the total number of accidents decreased 16 percent (5,265 to 4,439) and the number of non-fatal injured victims decreased 17 percent (3,191 to 2,641). Alcohol continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents, accounting for 86 deaths — or 16 percent of

**Semper Paratus**

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

Due to Covid 19 Pandemic Information may change

**Flotilla Meeting:** Virtual and in person  
**Thurs evenings 1830 - 1930 pm (April-Oct)**  
 Christ Episcopal Church Hall, San Antonio  
**Sat mornings 1000-1200 (Nov-Mar)**  
 Blue Skies of Texas - West, San Antonio

**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.

**Other Events: TBA**  
 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  
<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-07-04>

**Sea Scouts:** <https://seascout.org/southern-region-news/texas-sea-scout-academy/>  
**2022 Diversity Holidays:** <https://www.diversitybestpractices.com/2019-diversity-holidays>

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

**District 8 Website:**  
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081>

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



**Flotilla 7-4 Website**  
**QR Code Meeting Location:**  
 April - October:

Christ Episcopal Church Hall  
 510 Belknap Place  
 San Antonio, TX Thurs. 1830



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