



# Sailing with Seven

DIVISION 7 (CENTRAL AND SOUTH TEXAS) DISTRICT 8 COASTAL  
WRITTEN BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB), PHOTOS BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB) AND  
BESSIE SOURIS (DSO-MA)

ISSUE NO 3  
June 2019



## Contents

- 01: 2019 Warrior Weekend
- 02: Room for Improvement
- 03: GAR 2.0 Training is Underway
- 04: Around the District

## 2019 Warrior Weekend

By Bessie Souris

The thirteenth annual *Warrior Weekend* was held at Port O'Conner, Texas, on May 18<sup>th</sup> with 650 *warriors* (wounded veterans) participating. The *Warrior Weekend* organizers said they had veterans from Hawaii to Puerto Rico. More than three-hundred boats and their Captains were registered to take the *warriors* out for a day of fishing. Radio, phone, and Facebook messages went out over the air waves resulting in the good-hearted citizens of Port O'Connor and the surrounding area coming to aid as volunteers in the event. All 650 warriors had a full day of fishing, riding around, and just enjoying the off-and-on sun of the day. Winds average fifteen knots during the afternoon, and that added to the excitement and experience.

A Coast Guard helicopter (helo) from Sector Corpus performed a rescue demonstration at Port O'Connor's King Beach for the *Warrior* families. A man-over-board dummy known as 'Oscar' was thrown from the helo and the rescue swimmer was lowered down by cable wench. The shallow waters allowed some of the children to venture out and watch up close with the added lesson learned about rotor wash and how to avoid it. This demonstration was a hit and very much enjoyed by all. The helo also flew around the fishing *warriors* who greatly appreciated that the Coast Guard was on duty and looking out for them. The families were treated to an open house tour of U.S. Coast Guard Station Port O'Connor then on to lunch and a magic show back at the big tent set up at the Port O'Connor Community Center.



Crew of the *Beast* – US Coast Guard Auxiliary

The Auxiliary facility, the *Beast*, was crewed by Bessie Souris and Dr. Peter Nguyen of Flotilla 07-10, along with Louis Manganiello (07-04) and Allan Mark (07-05). Previous National Commodore James Vass, owner, coxswained the facility. A U.S. Coast Guard three-man small boat joined worked alongside the auxiliary for the water side watch. Together, they patrolled the water ways as the *warriors* were being loaded and unloaded, ensuring that a *No Wake Zone* was adhered to by all boaters for the safety of the warriors (orange shirts) being loaded and unloaded, as well as delivering verbal advisories to the waiting captains.

As the *warriors* departed and returned, the auxiliary crew spoke with them, giving words of encouragement and praises on their catches. The auxiliary was proud to do their part in lifting spirits and spreading smiles and laughter among the *warriors*. While the warriors were fishing, the auxiliary patrolled the Intracoastal Waterway on lookout for hazards or any boaters in need of help, ensuring a safe and fun day for all.



James Vass – Coxswain of *Beast*





# Sailing with Seven

DIVISION 7 (CENTRAL AND SOUTH TEXAS) DISTRICT 8 COASTAL  
WRITTEN BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB), PHOTOS BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB) AND  
BESSIE SOURIS (DSO-MA)

ISSUE NO 3  
June 2019



An exciting highlight was when the auxiliary performed the duty of escorting a tug pushing two barges down the intracoastal waterway through the mass of boaters. What a challenge because the boaters were disembarking their honored passengers. The crew got a warm thank you from the tug captain for our help.

Flotilla 07-10 set up and manned a Communications Station on the deck of Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) Sherry Housley's home, just down the street from Froggies Boat Ramp and bait shop where the warriors were being embarked on the waiting fishing vessels. Flotilla Commander (FC) Jack Ward (07-10) was in command of the Communications Station and was joined by the communications (comms) members Tommy Hargrove, Sherry Housley, Paul Fenrich, and Chad Pigott. Their task was to keep the radio guard for the Auxiliary facility and acted as a communication go-between with Coast Guard Station Port O'Connor. Sherry Housley and Geoff Souris were outfitted with walkie talkies and a golf cart helping with communications from the dock and beach areas providing a stop gap solution in area communications as well as providing transportation for the Coast Guard Station personnel that were helping keep order on the docks and the dock side handling.



Dockside at *Warrior Weekend*

The mission was a success! Everyone went home safely, and a valuable community service was performed.

## Road to Improvement Emergency Response Results

The *Everbridge* emergency contact system was tested for the district in May and then again in June. The news is good; we improved test execution and response from the first to the second test.

Words of wisdom from Geoff Souris:

"Some of the problems Division 7 encountered was failure to respond to the call out, responses not being received by Everbridge due to a system trouble, and late responses. In reverse order, late responses are minor in comparison to the other two problems. Better late than never definitely holds true in this case, so it is always preferable to call late than to have no response at all. Responses not being received by Everbridge is something that, during a disaster, can be expected when cell towers go down. If you try to respond and get a call back, please don't ignore it. Try moving to another location, sometimes only a few feet work, and respond again. If after trying that, please contact me and I will forward your response up the chain. A 'failure to respond' is a big problem. Remember, this is a test of the system only and is done in a period when we aren't facing a disaster in our area. The purpose is to see if contact may be made with you now instead of trying to reach you when you may be hurt or in need of help. If you don't make the effort to respond, then the system is of no use when you need it."

"Everbridge runs for 4 cycles over a 12-hour period. In those 4 cycles of 3 hours each. Each hour there are 10 attempts made to contact a person by phone, email, or text. If a person has a house, cell, or business number listed then there is an attempt at each of those numbers. So, in a 12-hour period there between 36 and 48 attempts to make contact. To stop this process, it only takes one response from a member to shut it off for that member."

"Also, Everbridge's contact list is pulled from AuxData approximately every two weeks. It is possible for a new member to have to wait nearly a month to be placed on Everbridge."





# Sailing with Seven

DIVISION 7 (CENTRAL AND SOUTH TEXAS) DISTRICT 8 COASTAL  
WRITTEN BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB), PHOTOS BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB) AND  
BESSIE SOURIS (DSO-MA)

ISSUE NO 3  
June 2019



For members who have left the Auxiliary, apparently Everbridge is additive when making the call out list. The data pulls from AuxData, which would show dropped members, do not replace the older list. This creates a problem where members can only be dropped by hand after their status is verified.”

## GAR 2.0 Training Underway

Green-Amber-Red (GAR) 2.0 training is underway throughout the Auxiliary. There are two components; the course on AUX LMS (learning management system) and the proctored course provided by the US Coast Guard.

The new methodology focuses more on team conversation to drive consensus than calculating numbers to measure against a scale. This brings the Auxiliary in line with the same training as the Active Duty. The class included some dramatic role playing by some boat crew teams to showcase the new methodology in action. All Coxswains were provided the new GAR 2.0 laminated cards with multiple evolution support as a quick reference. This is required for many of the Auxiliary programs as well as leadership roles.



GAR 2.0 Class held in San Antonio, Texas. Multiple Flotillas represented throughout the division and district.

## Around the District

### Operations Outlook

- Division: Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> Patrol at Corpus Christi Marina for fireworks

Please contact [d8crdivision7@gmail.com](mailto:d8crdivision7@gmail.com) to add to the operations calendar or visit the webform at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-07&category=CALENDAR>.

All operations, boat, VE, flight, public affairs, etc., shall be on the operations calendar. The foundation of the Auxiliary is the Flotilla, but we can all support each other as a division.

The better informed we are, the better we perform our public service as a team. Any flotilla event can easily be a division event, and that is how we can shine above the rest.

### One team, one fight! All call for articles

Please send articles that are of interest to the division to Jason Kardos (SO-PB), [jasonkardos.uscgaux@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonkardos.uscgaux@yahoo.com)

