

# MIDWEST MARINER

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



Issue 2 May 2025

HAPPY  
*Memorial*  
*Day*

IN HONOR OF OUR HEROES

## DIVISION BOARD AND STAFF

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The MIDWEST MARINER welcomes all articles on Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary customs, traditions, heritage, history and current events. The right to decline any submission will be based on content. Articles and photos may be sent via email to the editor, Barbara Rhoades at: [bcrhoades@centurytel.net](mailto:bcrhoades@centurytel.net).

### MIDWEST MARINER ARTICLES DUE DATE

1 February  
1 May  
1 August  
1 November

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Table of Contents is "live linked" even though it doesn't show as the normal blue color with an underline.

# STAFF OFFICER REPORTS

## DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - FN

**Tom Phipps**

### FINANCES THROUGH THE YEAR

Now that the unit 7025 forms have been completed and submitted and the audits have been approved, there are some actions that the finance officer can take to make the year-end duties easier.

Using the Auxiliary Unit Accounting System will make the 7025 form less time consuming to prepare. There will be a summary of the year's receipts and expenses by category. The items can then be transferred to the 7025 without having to do calculations. The monthly 7025 reports and bank statements can then be sent to the audit committee and DCDR for review.



The Accounting System includes a bank account reconciliation form. The finance officer must reconcile all unit bank accounts on a monthly basis. The reconciliation will also allow the finance officer to find and correct any errors on a timely basis and will also make the conduct of the audit easier for the Audit Committee since any errors should already have been corrected.

The finance officer should review the audit procedures guide to be familiar with what documentation the audit committee needs to complete the audit. It is also not too early to start working on the budget for the next year. The finance officer can review the receipts and disbursements during the year and compare the amounts to the previous year's figures.

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Auxiliary Financial Controls  
Standard Operating Procedures

Finally, the finance officer should review the Auxiliary Financial and Materials Controls Standard Operating Procedures Manual. This manual contains detailed information on budgets, bank accounts, and financial controls.

**"It has long been an axiom of mine that  
the little things are infinitely the most important."**

**Arthur Conan Doyle**  
***Adventures of Sherlock Holmes***

## DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - IS

Barbara Rhoades

### The DREADED Words

Enter your hours. Oh, how members hate to hear me say that. I have made it as simple as possible by creating an all-inclusive paper (note, I didn't say FORM) where you can enter your hours in terms of what can be easily understandable. If you don't yet have a copy of that, send me an email and I will give you a copy.

I haven't heard from several flotillas about their hours. If you have a meeting, you have hours. If you talk on the phone about Auxiliary activities, you have hours. If you study for a qualification, you have hours.



To make some of the hour reporting easy, my flotilla has a "sign in sheet" and that turns into a 99 entry in Auxdata. I don't even have to fill out the true 99 form as long as I keep the sheet as a record of the hours. The only thing the members have to do is put their drive and prep time on their own 99 (or my all-inclusive paper).

The same thing happens when we do any CT training or other type of training. All gets recorded on one sheet of regular paper and I, as IS, turn the hours into Auxdata.

I don't know how much more I can simplify the process, a sheet of paper and someone who will make the entry into Auxdata. In other words, those *dreaded* words: ENTER YOUR HOURS.



JANE SEABROOK is an illustrator and designer who lives in Auckland, New Zealand. In recent years, her artwork has focused on paintings of wildlife for the Fury Logic series of books. She shares her life with her husband, two teenage children, and a growing menagerie of assorted animals.



## **DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - MT**

**Marilyn Aten**

### **Electric Boats?**

Marina Dock Age, a magazine dedicated to marina & boatyard management, published an article about Electric Boats in the April 2025 issue.

The article by Daniel Natchez president of Daniel S. Natchez and Associates, Inc. is an International Environmental Waterfront Design Consulting Company for waterfront properties including residential, marinas and commercial.

His article covers many questions about electric propulsion for boats. He states, "There is no question that the popularity of electric boats for recreation under 45 feet is on the rise."

Natchez covers many factors related to issues with batteries, fire dangers, Marina infrastructure updates, charging stations and much more as the industry look to the future.

To read the article on page 44 in the April 2025 issue of Marina Dock Age go to: [Digital Issues](#) | [Marina Dock Age](#)



### **Missouri House Bill 1419 Boating Education License**

The 8WR District State Liaison Coordinator, Jeffrey Carlson, talked about different legislative bills being presented in several states in our district during the April Leadership Zoom. He specifically mentioned the Missouri House Bill 1419 being revised to include all waters when relating to boating safety identification cards.



This legislation is aimed at enhancing boating safety across the state. It was proposed by Representative Mayhew to repeal and replace existing regulations regarding boating safety identification cards, which are essential for anyone operating a vessel in Missouri waters.

The primary purpose of House Bill 1419 is to ensure that all individuals born after January 1, 1984 possess a valid boating safety identification card while operating a vessel. This card serves as proof that the individual has successfully completed an approved boating safety course or passed an equivalency examination. The courses must be certified by the water patrol division and include programs sponsored by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

To view Missouri House Bill 1419 go to: [CitizenPortal.ai - Missouri House Bill 1419 mandates boating safety identification cards for operators](#)

## **DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - PA**

**Jeff Blair**

### **Strengthening and Promoting the Coast Guard Auxiliary**

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, a vital civilian component of the United States Coast Guard, plays an essential role in supporting missions that promote boating safety, environmental stewardship, and disaster response. However, the continued success of the Auxiliary hinges on the preparedness and engagement of its members. To meet the ever-growing demands of their work, there is a pressing need to improve and expand the Auxiliary's member training programs—programs that are fundamental to equipping new and existing members with the skills, knowledge and confidence to fulfill their responsibilities effectively.

I realize I'm stepping into the member training arena with this article and my AOR is public affairs. However, I strongly believe that the two areas go hand-in-hand. Better-trained and more knowledgeable members are better equipped to effectively communicate the Auxiliary and Coast Guard message of safe boating, environmental consciousness and community-focused service. By enhancing training programs, we empower members to confidently represent the organization while reinforcing its mission and values.



At its core, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is built on a mission to serve the Coast Guard, the community and the nation. Yet, for many new and even long-standing members, the full scope of the Auxiliary's mission and the myriad ways they can contribute, remain unclear. Comprehensive and engaging training programs are key to helping bridge this knowledge gap. By creating a thorough understanding of the Auxiliary's objectives and missions, members are better positioned to identify how their unique skills can support both the organization and the broader Coast Guard mission.



This is particularly important in a time when the demand for Auxiliary services is growing. From search-and-rescue operations to public education on boating safety, the Auxiliary's role is more critical than ever. Effective training helps ensure members are ready to meet these challenges head-on while understanding the impact of their contributions on the Coast Guard's overarching goals.

For many, joining the Auxiliary is a way to give back to their communities and support their country. However, without adequate training, this sense of purpose can quickly turn into frustration. New members, eager to make a difference, often find themselves overwhelmed by the complexity of the organization and unclear about how they can get involved. Similarly, long-time members may face new challenges as the scope of the Auxiliary's mission evolves. Enhanced training programs can address these issues by providing a structured and engaging way for members to learn.

Core training should focus not only on operational skills—such as navigation, search-and-rescue techniques, and vessel inspection—but also on understanding the broader mission and values of the organization. Equipping members with both practical skills and a clear understanding of their role fosters confidence, competence and motivation. Moreover, training programs should incorporate mentorship opportunities, pairing new members with experienced leaders who can guide and inspire them as they integrate into the organization.

Continued from 6 Virtual training is an area that has greatly expanded over the past few years, much of it stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. With the Auxiliary being a strictly volunteer force, time commitment often becomes a challenge for some members. While many members are retired and may have more flexibility, there is an equally large number of members who are still part of the workforce and need to balance their paid employment with volunteer responsibilities. Virtual training offers a practical solution to this challenge, providing members with accessible and flexible learning opportunities.

Recently, 8WR Chief of Staff Chris Ware conducted several core training sessions, virtually, designed to help both new and existing members complete or renew required core training. These sessions have proven to be invaluable in supporting members who may not have the time or ability to attend in-person training events. Expanding these virtual training opportunities to cover additional topics and skill areas would significantly benefit the Auxiliary by ensuring its members are well-prepared to handle a wide range of situations. Furthermore, it would enhance the Auxiliary's ability to assist the Coast Guard in promoting safe boating practices within local communities.



Improved training programs benefit more than just the Coast Guard Auxiliary; they have a ripple effect on communities, the Coast Guard itself and the individual members. Communities benefit from the Auxiliary's enhanced ability to provide boating safety education, environmental protection and emergency support. The Coast Guard, in turn, gains a more prepared and capable auxiliary force to supplement its operations, ensuring critical missions are carried out effectively.

On a personal level, members gain far more than technical skills through comprehensive training. They develop leadership qualities, build teamwork skills and foster a sense of camaraderie with fellow members. For many, these experiences translate into personal growth and a deepened sense of fulfillment. The Auxiliary becomes more than just a volunteer organization—it becomes a source of pride and purpose in their lives.

As the Auxiliary looks to the future, it's clear that training programs must evolve to meet the needs of a dynamic and diverse membership. Embracing technology, such as virtual training platforms, can make learning more accessible and engaging. Additionally, expanding specialized training opportunities can help members develop expertise in emerging areas, such as cybersecurity or advanced search-and-rescue techniques. Collaboration with the Coast Guard to ensure alignment with current operational needs will also be key to ensuring training programs remain relevant and impactful.

Ultimately, investing in the training and development of its members is an investment in the future of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. By equipping members with the tools they need to succeed, the Auxiliary will not only strengthen its capacity to serve but also inspire a new generation of dedicated volunteers ready to uphold its proud tradition of service.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has always been defined by the dedication and commitment of its members. By improving and expanding its training programs, the organization can ensure that this dedication translates into meaningful action, allowing members to serve their communities, their country and themselves with excellence and pride.





## DIVISION STAFF OFFICER - PB

Barbara Rhoades

### Writing an Article for Publication

Every month, I struggle to get articles for our three publications: Wing Dam, Midwest Mariner and Western Rivers. Since I have been putting information together for all of my working career and in the publishing of these three newsletters, it is not a stretch for me to come up with words to create an article.

I know that not all members have the luxury of putting words on paper as I do. But let's remember back to when we were in school and how the teachers got us on the path to completing our writing assignments. First, they asked us to write an outline about the topic. (For me, that was harder than just writing the article).



From there, we expanded on each bullet point. Once that was done, we filled in the blank spots and proofed our work.

This is where you can take what you learned in school and put it to work in real life. Put a piece of paper on your desk. When a thought about what you plan to write about for your next article comes to mind, make a note of it on the paper. I send out three notices about the articles being due. This reminder might be the push you need to remember something to add to your article.



The point is that close to the time to send your article, you should have a list of thoughts to create it.

Hopefully, this will give you some help in getting your words on paper for the next article you need to write.

For those of us who lived through the 1950's, do you remember these things?





## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Taking the Proctored Navigation Rules Test

Alan Main FC 03-06

The Series 70 Navigation Rules Exam can be taken on-line through the National Testing Center and is a closed book Proctored exam. Facing this test often seems like a daunting task to accomplish. I went through the Series 70 and completed the examination after some due diligence of studying those rules. I made notes of some helpful tips and websites that offered great instruction for personal study at home.

Interesting enough, I found the Sea Scouts offer two very good instructional videos that complement each other and are located on You Tube. Each one is about 90 minutes long and provides instruction in an informal manner while offering tip to help recall and maintain the information. They are:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkWPzsOdbb0>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP3uOFTGkFg>

An acronym that proved helpful in recalling the hierarchy or order of responsibility they provided was:

**Our New Rods Catch Fish So Purchase Some (order of responsibility)**

- **O**vertaken
- **N**ot Under Command (NUC)
- **R**estricted in Ability to Maneuver (RAM)
- **C**onstrained by Draft (CBD) Engaged in dredging, surveying, or underwater ops,
- **F**ishing - commercial
- **S**ailing
- **P**owerboat
- **S**eamplane

Other training aids to assist in recall were

*Red over Red - Captain is dead (NUC) Not Under Command by "exceptional circumstances"*

*Three whites in a row - Boat in tow (RAM) Restricted in Ability to Maneuver*

*Red/White/Red - Restricted ahead (RAM)*

*Three Reds in a row - No Room Below (CBD)*

*Green Over White - Trawling at night (Fishing Commercially)*

*Red over White - just fishing tonight (Fishing Trolling)*

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### *Red over Green - A Sailing Machine (Sailing)*

*White over Red - Pilot boat Ahead*

*Diamonds are a girl's best friend - 2 Diamonds appear on passing side of dredge (2 green lights at night)*

*Even to Port - Starboard is odd. Determines **direction** regarding sound signals, regardless of in-land or International*

Study, watching videos and taking notes will be great preparation. I would strongly suggest taking some on-line practice tests. A couple that I like are:

- <https://www.uscgq.com/> USCGQ
- <https://www.raynormaritime.com/NavRules/>

Once scoring 90%+ consistently on 60 questions practice tests, I felt I was ready to take the proctored test. It worked for me - I hope this may help you as well.

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### **Obituary** **Valued U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Member**



Our flotilla was saddened to learn this week of the death on one of our most valued members, Auxiliarist Someone Else. Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Auxiliarist Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal member's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, a meeting to attend, one name was on everybody's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can do that FSO position". It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our flotilla. Whenever there was a need, everyone assumed Someone Else would make the difference and fulfill the need.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now that Someone Else is gone, we are left to wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who will follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember... we cannot depend on Someone Else anymore.

Author unknown (slightly changed from original text)