

Waypoints

DIVISION 15, 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION December 2021

Coast Guard Station Memphis Commissioned

The Coast Guard held a ceremony in early August for the commissioning of Coast Guard Station Memphis, its newest station, at the FedEx Event Center in Cordova, Tennessee.

Presiding over the ceremony was Cmdr. Erick Neussl, Sector Lower Mississippi River deputy commander and in attendance were Capt. Ryan Rhodes, Sector Lower Mississippi River commander, and Lt. Jamal Scarlett, Western Rivers chaplain.



The crew of Station Memphis stand in front of a 29-foot Response Boat-Small boat at the station commissioning, August 10, 2021. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Carlos Galarza)

Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Rollins is the designated officer in charge of Coast Guard Station Memphis. Petty Officer 2nd Class William Mcevoy is the executive petty officer and Petty Officer 1st Class Dennis O'Connor is the engineering petty officer.

The station is responsible for search and rescue, recreational boating safety, ports, waterways, flood response, and coastal security. The station's area of

responsibility ranges from mile marker 720 to mile marker 750 on the Mississippi River, numerous lakes in Arkansas, and is deployable to the Gulf of Mexico for hurricane flood response.

Multi-Agency Training Exercise in North Little Rock

On October 28th two facilities, Sawbuck and Anodyne, and crews from the Central Arkansas Flotilla assisted boatcrews from Coast Guard



Auxiliary Facility Anodyne and USCG 29' Response Boat from Station Memphis. (Photo by PA3 Blake Sasse)

Station Memphis in a multi-agency law enforcement training exercise on the Arkansas River in North Little Rock. Auxiliary crews provided screening services as the other agencies conducted anti-terrorism scenarios.

2022 Flotilla Elected Leaders

Central Arkansas Flotilla - Zach Taylor (FC), Mikaela Felcher (VFC).

Fort Smith Flotilla - Ken Pevehouse (FC), Jodie Haralson (VFC).

Hot Springs Flotilla - David Keyser (FC).

Memphis Flotilla - J. Aaron Mohundro (FC), VFC pending.

Michael Strobel (1954-2021)

On December 10, 2021 Michael Strobel unexpectedly passed away. Michael joined the Central Arkansas Flotilla after his son Preston began his education at the Coast Guard Academy. Early on his focus was on the Academy Partners Program and helped many youths determine if a career in the Coast Guard was



*Michael Strobel on his last patrol in October, 2021.
(Photo by PA3 Blake Sasse)*

right for them. He loved being on the water and served as a coxswain and just recently earned the rare Qualification Examiner rating. One of his two facilities was "Sawbuck", a fishing boat that has been passed down through generations of flotilla members. For several years he was on the

Sector Lower Mississippi River flood punt team, which was no easy feat as it requires members to meet Coast Guard physical fitness standards. He also served as a State Liaison Officer and Division Operations Officer. He was the Central Arkansas Flotilla's Operations Officer and was a qualified Public Affairs Officer 3 and for many years organized the flotilla's participation in the Little Rock Marine Expo. His loss is a devastating blow to the Auxiliary in Arkansas.

Central Arkansas Flotilla

The Central Arkansas Flotilla returned to in-person meetings in November. After training on lines and knot loads, Bob Evans recognized the flotilla's other Auxiliary Culinary Assistants Sheranda Hines and Caleb Miller for their service to the program and announced that Sheranda recently earned the Culinary Assistance Instructor Qualification.

In late October the flotilla held a station workday and completed numerous repair and maintenance tasks that had accumulated during the pandemic.



*Bob Evans (left) presenting the new Culinary Assistance program patch to Sheranda Hines (right) in November 2021.
(Photo by PA3 Blake Sasse)*

*Lyndsey Clyburn power washing the side of the Auxiliary Station North Little Rock.
(Photo courtesy of Lyndsey Clyburn).*



Fort Smith Flotilla

Ken Pevehouse, Flotilla Commander, reports that the flotilla conducted two operational patrols this fall, Vessel Examiners conducted exams, and the station roof was repaired.

Hot Springs Flotilla

David Keyser, FC

COVID-19 has placed many stumbling blocks in the way of our routine activities, including our Marine cleanups. The Hot Springs Flotilla started a new program, "Shore Patrol", on November 13th in which members get out on the lake shore and pick up litter.



Trash picked up by the Hot Springs Flotilla in November, 2021. (Photo by Debbie Blackburn)

Our first attempt was limited to the area around the Auxiliary Station, Albert Pike Road, Treasure Island Road and Sunset Cove Marina. In total we picked up over 2,000 pounds of trash and debris. Water levels in Lake Hamilton are five feet lower than normal and this made shore clean up much easier. We plan to hold another Shore Patrol in the spring before Lake Hamilton begins to refill.

Waypoints is the official quarterly newsletter of Division 15, 8th Western Rivers Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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