

March 2024



A publication of

US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Ninth Central Region - Northern Great Lakes Area, 091-26



TOGETHER WE CAN!

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Welcome to our In Vision 26, March 2024 newsletter. We look forward to sharing this edition with all of you.

As we highlight our events, accomplishments, goals, and important information we hope you are enlightened, encouraged and motivated.

I invite all of you to support our newsletter with articles and photos showing what is happening throughout our Division and beyond.

Lynda Stolt, Editor, In Vision 26

Stronger Together

Time after time our 6 Flotillas help to support one another in many different ways. What are we doing now to support other flotillas and making each other stronger?

- ◆ In an effort to promote recruiting and retention, Charlevoix is assisting Manistique in securing an on-water facility.
- ◆ Our Division's Auxiliary Boat School is an outreach by the Charlevoix Flotilla to work with all of Division 26 Flotillas and beyond to make each Flotilla stronger in their knowledge and skills.
- ◆ Member Training Don Warren taught online TCT and Required 2024 Operations to 27 members of 091-26 on Jan 23, 2024. He also taught a face to face class for a Florida Flotilla on Jan 29, 2024. He will host additional online classes. Be looking for information if you need the class! There are some important changes for the Operations program! Stay tuned! Working as a team on TCT makes us stronger.
- ◆ Charlevoix's Flotilla FC Glen Stolt, will be going to Alpena to assist them and Roscommon with Operations currency in May.
- ◆ 26-01 Upper Great Lakes flotilla had support from many flotillas for the 2023 Top O Michigan boat races. Alpena, Traverse City and Charlevoix Flotillas all helped make it happen. What great support for a wonderful event. We will be supporting the event in 2024 as well. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- ◆ Traverse City and Charlevoix Flotillas are working closely together to promote and improve our Culinary Assistance Program. Training potential CA1s as well as CA1 Instructors to recruit and teach in the Northern Michigan area where many instructors don't care to travel.



ON DECK



WITH COMMANDER JAMES MUNGER

As a multiplying force of the United States Coast Guard, we are Citizen Guardians, engaged in supporting its' missions and its' National, state and community partners, committed to making safe and protected our waterways. We come as proud U.S. citizens, with a diverse set of individual talents, skills, and life experiences, each seeking the training and new skills to work as a team to the benefit of all.

Our personal rewards are in our personal growth and the satisfaction knowing we are part of the team that makes our community and country safe and able to continue to live under the Constitutional rights and freedoms upon which our country was founded and that which we all enjoy.

Our Vision is to provide our Communities, Country, and Organization the mission support, general assistance, protection, and safety services in a safe and sound environment while endeavoring to always be a professional, well-educated, and well-trained organization.

It used to bother me until I realized that if you are doing good things, there will be those who will make it their mission to be negative.

If you are upholding a standard of excellence, putting the mission first, and loving the "job", there will no doubt be people that try to tear you down. Get ready for it because it will happen.

1. Remember that the Boos usually come from the Cheap Seats.

Rarely will you be torn down by someone that is doing better than you. I would almost be willing to say you never will. Successful people do not have time to waste tearing down others. Do not accept

criticism from someone you would not accept advice from.

2. Let them be your fuel.

Winston Churchill said, "Do you have enemies? Good, that means you have stood up for something, sometime in your life." The simple fact that someone takes the time out of their day to try and tear you down means that you are doing something right. Keep pushing!! Prove them wrong!

Don't lower the bar,
just increase your effort

3. Do not respond but be grateful.

What you feed grows, and what you starve dies. When you react or you let them see their words or acts bother you, it feeds them. Their negativity is more about them and their issues than it is about you. Never forget that.

Be grateful that their eyes are on you and you need to influence them to come over to the good side.

If they are hating, then you know they are watching. Be grateful that you have the opportunity to set an example of excellence for them.

Dear Haters,
I have so much more for you to hate.
Just watch.

Finally, we must continue doing what is right for the citizens, our families, our shipmates, and ourselves. I love my fellow Auxiliarists and the mission too much to change what I am doing because someone hurt my feelings. Beyond that do not worry about what anyone thinks - you will never make them all happy.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The loudest BOOS will always come from the cheapest seats... People who invest the least in you will have the most to say about you. Trust your work and keep your circle tight.

The Houghton Lake Resorter

Houghton Lake, Michigan

Munger to serve as USCG Auxiliary commander

December 14, 2023



Roscommon United States Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary Commander James Munger was recently sworn in as the next commander for Division 26.

The ceremony was held Nov. 4 in Mackinaw City at the 9th Central District Change of Watch ceremony.

He was sworn into office by Active-Duty BOSN Charles Palmer, Lt. Joseph Synder and Ensign Noah Adoff from Sector Northern Great Lakes.

Division 26 includes the flotillas in Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Alpena, Roscommon, Traverse City and Marquette.

“It has been and continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary,” Munger said. “The auxiliary is often referred to as a ‘force multiplier’ as we work side-by-side with the active duty and reserve forces of the United States Coast Guard. It is our mission to promote and improve recreational boating safety, provide trained crew and facilities to augment the Coast Guard, enhance the safety and security of our ports, waterways and coastal regions and to support Coast Guard operational, administrative and logistical requirements.”

There are 21,000 auxiliaries serving the nation and communities in 793 local units, who contribute nearly 4 million hours in support of the USCG, including in the classroom, at the ramp and pier and operating 1,800 vessel, 160 aircraft and 1,400 radio facilities.

“I am honored, energized and excited by the opportunity to lead Division 26 as we move forward to meet new challenges and new opportunities. Being sworn into office by active-duty officers from Sector Northern Great Lakes, was the ultimate step in beginning this journey,” Munger said after taking the oath.



**IMPORTANT
DATES**

DTrain

March 21-21, 2024

Charlevoix Boat School

June 7-9, 2024

DIVISION MEETINGS

May 4, 2024 TC Air-Station

September 7, 2024, Station St. Ignace

November 2, 2024, Change of Watch,
Audies Restaurant, Mackinaw City



Share—Link—Engage

[Welcome to the Division 26, District 9CR Web Site](#)

[U.S. Coast Guard Station Charlevoix— Facebook](#)

[U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City— Facebook](#)



2024 NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

1. **National Operations Workshops.**

The Surface Workshop is required for 2024. The Telecommunications Workshop is strongly recommended for 2024. The Air Operations Workshop is a mandatory task included as part of the Air Station Safety Workshop. Like 2023, the National Operations Workshops (Surface/Air/Telecommunications) may be completed via webinar. The workshop training material(s) must be delivered by an Auxiliarist qualified in the respective operations program provided they are either a certified instructor or are under the supervision of a certified instructor. Instructors may use any webinar delivery platform that is available in their region. Instructors are encouraged to work with their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) to determine the proper delivery platform. Self-Attestation is NOT permitted for any of these National Operations Workshops. The workshops will relay significant, needed information, and will take longer than 1 hour (possibly 2 hours) to complete so please plan accordingly. Details for the 2024 National Operations Workshops are listed below:?

 - a. Surface Operations Workshop.

This workshop is required for all boat crew coxswains, boat crew members, personal watercraft operators, paddle craft operators, associated Qualification Examiners (QE), and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification.
 - b. Air Operations Workshop. This workshop is a required element of the annual Air Station Safety Workshop. It is required for all pilots, air crew, air observers, Flight Examiners (FE), and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification.
 - c. Telecommunications Workshop.

This workshop is strongly recommended for all operators and owners of Auxiliary radio facilities. It is strongly recommended for those currently holding Telecommunications Operator (TCO), in training for TCO qualification, and using AUXCOM as their "grandfathered" qualification for radio operation. This does not apply to the operation of radios on aircraft or vessels which are covered by crew certification.
 - d. The 2024 National Operations Workshop presentations (Air, Surface, and Telecommunications) are located at the following link: [National Operations Workshops - 2Nan](#)
2. **National Vessel Examiner and Instructor Workshops.** The Vessel Examiner (VE) Workshop is required for 2024. The Instructor (IT) Workshop is strongly encouraged. These workshops are intended to be viewed by members and completion logged via a self-attestation form as described below.
 - a. VE Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Vessel Examiners, and those currently training to become Vessel Examiners, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The VE Workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website (in the Member Zone) at: [Member Training \(uscgaux.info\)](#).
 - b. IT Workshop. This workshop is strongly encouraged for all certified Instructors and those currently training to become Instructors, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification. The 2024 IT Workshop will soon be available through the E-Directorate website. Please continue to check the site for posting. The IT Workshop will be located in the "What's New!" page at: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=E-DEPT&category=WHATSNEW>.
 - c. Members who individually view the VE or IT Workshops in their entirety must submit a Workshop Attestation Form to their Flotilla Staff Officer-Information Services (FSO-IS) for entry into AUXDATA II (this form is located in the same location as the VE and IT Workshop presentations listed above). In order to make data entry easier, IS officers may collect forms for all their members required to complete these workshops and make one entry into AUXDATA II using the last day of the month of the Activity/ Task Completion date. Note: When adding the VE Workshop task to Activity Logs in AUXDATA II use the task named "Vessel Examinations Workshop" in the Workshops task category list. Similarly, when adding the IT Workshop to the Activity Logs in AUXDATA II, use the task named "Instructor Workshop" in the Workshops task list.

BOSN3, Jason Kellermeyer



USCG AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION AND CHAIN OF LEADERSHIP (COL)

by Commander James Munger.

One of the things many experience in becoming a member is understanding the organizational structure of the Auxiliary as well as a lot of organizational jargon. Keeping this in mind plus working with the AAMS and interviewing prospective members, I put the following together to help you and prospective new members understand some basics of the Auxiliary.

Local unit is the Flotilla – flotilla members elect a Flotilla Commander (FC) and Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC). The Flotilla Commander appoints Flotilla Service Officers (FSO) who assist the Commander in the overall operation of the flotilla. The FC and VFC are elected by the members of the individual flotillas for one-year terms and can serve for two consecutive terms. Each flotilla is made up of individuals Auxiliarist. A Flotilla generally must have at least 12 members. A unit with less than the minimum can become a detachment to a larger flotilla.

Division. The division is made up of flotillas in a certain geographic area. The Division is led by a Division Commander (DCDR) and a Vice Division Commander (VCDR). The DCDR and VCDR are elected by the Division Board members for one-year terms and can serve for two consecutive terms. The Division Board is comprised of a board who are the Flotilla Commanders, the Division Commander, Vice Division Commander, and the District Captain (DCapt). The DCDR appoints Division Service Officers (SO) who assist in the overall operation of each Division.

District. The District is made of various Divisions in a geographic area. The District board is made up of the various Division Commanders who elect the District Captain (DCapt). The DCapt appoints District Service Officers (DSO) who assist in the overall operation of the District. The DCapt are elected by the members of the District Board for one-year terms and can serve for two consecutive terms.

District Commodore. Each District is led by a District Commodore (COMO). The COMO is assisted by a Chief of Staff. The COMO answers directly to the Active Duty USCG. That person is known as the Director of the Auxiliary or DIRAUX. The COMO is elected for a single two-year term.

Change of Watch (COW). Newly elected officers at the Flotilla, Division, District and Commodore level generally take office following an "official" Change of Watch Ceremony where they are sworn in. COW are also used by the Active Duty Coasties when their leadership changes and members of the Auxiliary are often invited to these ceremonies.

MOST COMMON COMPETENCIES

The USCG and Auxiliary have developed a number of "competencies" that are related to the mission of boater safety. It is up to the individual Auxiliarist to choose which competency or competencies that they would like to obtain.

- Crew Member (boat)
- Coxswain
- Personal Watercraft Operator
- Pilot
- Air crew
- Air Observer
- Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program
- Culinary Assistant (AUXCA)
- Vessel Examiner (VE)
- Uninspected Passenger Vessel Inspection (UPV)
- Public Affairs (PA)
- Public Education/Instructor
- Interpreter corps
- Qualified watch standing at Coast Guard active-duty units or Auxiliary.
- Radio facilities, including Telecommunications Operators.
- Aids to Navigation verification and AtoN repair.
- Environmental Patrols
- Auxpad (paddlecraft)

Flotilla Service Officers (FSO) Division Service Officers (SO), District Service Officers (DSO)

Service (Staff) officers provide supervision over a specifically authorized, functional or activity area, and are granted authority commensurate with responsibility for these duties. The staff officers may find it necessary to coordinate functions and activities with other staff officers to accomplish the following purposes:

Communications: The FSO-CM, in coordination with local Coast Guard commands, prepares a flotilla-wide plan for radio communication between the flotilla's land-based and mobile radio facilities and Coast Guard radio facilities. Communications planning should also conform to requirements of emergency plans issued by higher level Auxiliary and Coast Guard authority.

Communications Services: The FSO-CS is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the flotilla's website and social media in full compliance with the Auxiliary's web and social media policies. The FSO-CS should coordinate and cooperate with the FSO-PB and FSO-PA to ensure that both electronic and printed media are used to their fullest extent in providing consistent, up-to-date information to the membership and to the boating public.

Diversity: The FSO-DV ensures that plans for managing diversity are carried out and works to improve diversity management throughout the flotilla.

Finance: The FSO-FN has custody of unit funds, invoices and receives dues from the members, receives all moneys from flotilla events for which there is a charge, and pays all flotilla obligations authorized by the FC or, in the FC's absence, the VFC. Unit finances are governed by Section 5N of the Auxiliary Manual and by the unit's standing rules. All Auxiliary unit funds shall be promptly deposited to accounts containing the appropriate unit designation and the words, "U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary."

Human Resources: The FSO-HR prepares a plan for obtaining new members and the retention of currently enrolled members. This plan should provide guidance to members on the techniques and procedures for using public education classes, vessel examination stations, boat shows, boating booths, etc. as locations for recruiting. Emphasis must also be placed on the importance of early training of new members and their early participation in flotilla activities.

Information Services: The FSO-IS must develop a plan for the periodic collection and reporting of data concerning the activities of the members. Instructions regarding the categories of information required, channels and procedures for collection, and the frequency of reports should be provided for the use of each member. This staff officer is responsible for AUXDATA II which is the computerized database used by the Auxiliary to track all missions, training, competencies and awards.

Marketing and Public Affairs: The FSO-PA should prepare a plan for use in publicizing public service activities of the flotilla. This planning involves the collection, preparation and distribution of schedules and promotional information for boating courses, vessel examination stations, and membership in the Auxiliary. Collected information pertaining to flotilla activities should also be furnished to the SO-PA and, when appropriate, state and county authorities for inclusion in their public service publications. Further information for the guidance of FSO-PAs may be found in the Auxiliary Manual and in the Public Affairs Officer's Guide, COMDTINST M5728.3 (series).

Marine Safety and Environmental Protection: The FSO-MS coordinates the flotilla's role in the Auxiliary Marine Safety and Environmental Protection program. This broad of diverse program contains an array of activities.

Materials: The FSO-MA coordinates and orders materials for flotilla activities such as boat shows, VSC stations, and flotilla sponsored member training and public education courses.

Member Training: The FSO-MT maintains awareness of the training needs, desires and opportunities within the flotilla. It often happens that a flotilla needs training but lacks a qualified instructor or has a willing and able instructor but only a few students for the class. The FSO-MT is responsible for coordination of these circumstances so that all who desire training may have it, and all qualified instructors have meaningful opportunities to teach.

Navigation Services: From Coast Guard authority, the FSO-NS obtains information and data concerning federal, state and privately-owned aids to navigation for which the flotilla is responsible. A number of these aids are then designated to each member in the program with responsibility for inspection and reporting during the year on their condition and the accuracy of their location.

Operations: Surface operations must be coordinated to ensure that patrols are properly allocated and scheduled and that the required number of surface facilities is available to carry out Coast Guard support requirements. This officer is normally responsible for preparing a flotilla program for the assignment of patrol dates, times and areas to flotilla operational facilities during the boating season.

(Continued on page 6)

Publications: The FSO-PB collects and edits written articles and photographs and uses them to create and publish a periodical publication telling the story of the flotilla and its people, events, activities, and missions. All unit publications are subject to review and approval by DIRAUX in accordance with established district policy.

Public Education: The FSO-PE collects information from flotilla instructors and prepares a flotilla schedule of course offerings within the flotilla area for distribution to the public at boat shows, marine events, and safe boating booths. This officer also coordinates and supervises the public education efforts of members to eliminate friction, duplication of effort and misunderstandings that might arise.

Secretary/Records: The FSO-SR maintain a copy of the flotilla standing rules and other records as required for correctness and continuity of flotilla administration, sends meeting notices and agendas before each meeting, prepares and distributes meeting minutes, and maintains copies of all flotilla minutes, correspondence, and records.

Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program: The FSO-PV promotes and coordinates the flotilla's RBS Program Visitor program, including the recruiting, training, and qualification of new visitors. The FSO-PV should monitor individual visitor efforts to determine when and where flotilla assistance may be helpful.

Vessel Examination: The FSO-VE should collect information early in the year concerning the location of marinas, launching ramps, shopping centers, etc. where VSCs should be

conducted. Following consultation with vessel examiners, the FSO-VE prepares a flotilla plan listing all VSC station locations and dates coordinating and encouraging cooperation with other flotillas.

D-TRAIN: D-Train is a District level training program. Generally held twice a year. Provided training for all auxiliaries.

N-TRAIN: National level training program that generally takes place twice a year. Provides training for the leadership of the Auxiliary.

AUXDATA II: This is the computerized data base that is used by the Auxiliary and Active Duty to track time spent on missions, training, and other activities along with tracking competencies, awards, and PPE (personal protective equipment). It also includes the personal data of all auxiliary members. Individual auxiliaries have access that allows them to enter their time spent on missions, training and other activities. Staff Service Officers have additional access to approve the individual entries and access data to prepare reports. Access to AUXDATA II is granted when a new member receives their member number.

AuxDirectory: This is an online membership directory that contains basic information about the individual auxiliary members. Access to this directory is granted when a new member receives their member number. The directory is based on information contained in AUXDATA II.



USCG Auxiliary, 9th Central Region DTRAIN March 21-24, 2024

DTRAIN Registration Information

Excellence in Readiness

The DTRAIN Committee, working in conjunction with Member Training, has developed these training sessions to operationalize and enhance your decision-making abilities, sharpen communication skills, and cultivate a high-performance teamwork ethos, aligning with our theme of "Excellence in Readiness."

Register online for classes, fun, & meals
<https://www.districtnine.org/>

Hotel Information

Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, Port Huron
800 Harker Street, Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone: (810) 984-8000

Room Block: UC2



Each attendee will be required to present a tax-exempt document upon check-in. Copies will be provided at the registration table upon arrival. I anticipate the rooms to go quickly, so please signup as soon as possible. Special pricing locked until 2/26/24.



STATION CHARLEVOIX REOPENS

Senior Chief Bradley Bishop cuts the red ribbon in celebration of the re-opening of the Charlevoix Coast Guard Station following months of closure due to water damage.

31JAN24



In August 2023, Station Charlevoix closed the doors after the roof and roof repair failed. Berthing areas and the mess hall were the most affected with flooding of rooms and showing signs of black mold and high Co2 levels.

During the shutdown the station was staffed with minimal crew and a mobile trailer was brought in to house rotating crew and comms equipment. The crew provided simple meals for themselves from their trailer, brought meals in or ate out. With the perseverance and commitment of Senior Chief Bradley and his crew, the welfare of the community and the ability to act as needed continued to be their priority.

On January 15, 2024 the Station was able to reopen (with the exception of the galley). A new retrofitted vent hood motor would be needed before meals can be prepared.

Senior Chief Bradley said "January 31st 2024 marked an incredible moment in Station Charlevoix's history, the completion of the roof project. An issue that has been lingering over the Station personnel for nearly 5 years was finally brought to an end.

There were some Bumpy roads for sure but with "Grit, persistence, and Team work" the Sector and Station joined forces and were able to manage through! "

Station Charlevoix hosted a re-opening and ribbon cutting including a celebratory breakfast to commemorate the reopening. In attendance was: Captain James R. Bendle of Sector Northern Great Lakes, Suite St. Marie, MI., the VR team from sector that handled the logistics of the renovations, and CWO Roper, Sector Northern Great Lakes Supply Officer.

The galley, with creativity and the use of an outdoor griddle prepared bagel breakfast sandwiches, pastries, and a fruit salad. Charlevoix's CS2 Vincent along with CWO Roper and CA1s Glen and Lynda Stolt of the Charlevoix Auxiliary worked around the issues of the vent hood and prepared a delightful breakfast for all in attendance.

Special Shout out to the below for their unwavering contributions to our success!

- ◆ Capt Bendle - Sector Northern Great Lakes Commander
- ◆ CDR Swintek - Deputy of Sector Northern Great Lakes
- ◆ CWO Roper - Helped the Galley
- ◆ CDR Viezca - Response Dept Head
- ◆ LCDR Roets - Logistics Officer
- ◆ CMC Rausch - Command Master Chief
- ◆ Sarah Van Horn, President of Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce – supplied the Ribbon and Shears
- ◆ Glen & Lynda Stolt - Galley work
- ◆ Crew of Station Charlevoix
- ◆ And many others...



Captain Bendle
Senior Chief Bishop



Left to Right: CA1 Glen Stolt,
CA1 Lynda Stolt, CS2 Vincent,
CWO Roper.



Captain Bendle recognized members of Station Charlevoix that were instrumental in the renovation/recovery processes.



Left: BM3 Fitzgerald
Middle: MK Bowman
Right: Senior Chief Bishop

Boat School 2024

June 7-9, 2024 at Station Charlevoix
SAVE THE DATE / PLAN AHEAD

After receiving a Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation from the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, a featured article in our District publication of "[Mainstream](#)" as well as the Coast Guard National Publication of the "[Long Blue Line](#)" winter 2024, we are enthusiastic to bring you this year's Charlevoix Auxiliary Boat School 2024.

Attend and you can receive both classroom and hands-on evolutions covering Small Boat Operations, Search and Rescue execution, Surface to Air Communications, Telecommunications and

Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Program training. Become qualified as Crew or Coxswain or get re-qualified.

If it doesn't
CHALLENGE you
it doesn't
CHANGE you

Our dedication to train enhances readiness of US Coast Guard Auxiliary members and improves our ability to support our Coast Guard units.

Plan ahead and book your accommodations. Charlevoix has a lot of Airbnb and VRBO that some of you may want to take advantage of and go in on together.



[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

You will receive information and reminders once registration is closed.

Mark Constance with UpNorthVoice.com

Let's *Do This* Together.

FROM OUR DISTRICT CAPTAIN

Randy Lawton, DCAPT-N
Traverse City Flotilla 26-10

I am in my second and final year as the 9th Central District Captain – North. In this role, I represent divisions 26 and 30 on the district's Executive Committee (EXCOM) and am a voting member of the district board. District Captains (DCAPT) serve a one-year term and can serve two terms in succession, the same as division commanders. There are three DCAPTs in the district.

The EXCOM generally meets monthly (with some minor exceptions) and handle routine things that do not need board approval. Each DCAPT has been assigned one of the District Commodore's priorities to address. Mine are recruitment and retention, support to the active duty and leadership development.

The district board meets three times a year – in January virtually and at both the Spring and Fall D-Trains. This fall, the board will be electing a new District Commodore (DCO) and Chief of Staff (DCOS) as well as all three DCAPTs. COMO Mitrowski will remain a board and EXCOM member as IPDCO.

In the Chain of Leadership and Management, I report to the DCO and the commanders of the divisions as well as the AUX Sector Coordinator (ASC) for Sector Northern Great Lakes, Dr. Dave Hansen, report to me. Dr. Hansen and I meet with the Sector Chief of Staff and AUX Liaison monthly.

Another DCAPT duty is to represent the DCO at official functions. In that role I will be attending several unit changes of command this summer including the Air Station and Station Charlevoix.

I've been an Auxiliarist for 25 years and have served in both elected and appointed leadership positions in two flotillas and two divisions. As 2024 winds to an end, I plan to step back from elected leadership, but will likely still serve as a staff officer (I'm currently SO-MS). We need new leaders to step up! I encourage all members to consider this. The work isn't too demanding or time consuming and the organization can't exist without leaders. Those of us who have gone before were mentored by our predecessors and we are only too happy to work with anyone who steps up to the plate at any level. PLEASE consider running for VFC or FC even if you hold an appointed position.

Division 26 is one of the more active divisions in the district. It is because of you, the members, who go on patrols, teach PE classes, conduct vessel exams and do all the other things necessary to a vibrant organization. Thanks to each and every one of you for your contributions to Division 26, 9th Central District and the USCG Auxiliary in general. Semper Paratus!



Step Up
LEADERS



Why Do We Do What We Do as USCG Auxiliaries?

I have lived a life of service as a health care provider. My patients were always a priority. For 40 of the 45 years I practiced medicine I was on call 24/7 as my choice. I always felt if I was to care for them properly I had to be available to them. If they had questions about an issue I wanted to be involved in their decision making so as not to delay care. With my need to serve, and my inability to serve in the military during the Vietnam Nam era when I found the Auxiliary it was a no question decision to join. I had wanted to serve and now found a way to serve my country. Perhaps an element of survivor's guilt was a factor. Since joining I have looked for any opportunity to be in a position to support the Coast Guard. I serve as boat crew (working on Coxwain), ATON verifier and DSO -NS, Vessel Examiner, Assistant Pollution Responder, Partner Visitor, Instructor, telecommunications operator, Culinary Assistance and Culinary Assistance Instructor. I have been FC and now serve as VFC. My first 4-5 years in the Auxiliary were frankly quite disappointing since we trained a lot, but never really served in any meaningful way. I trained as crew but only did marine patrols with training but no real Coast Guard support. I've never been called to serve in a SAR Mission. I've never been called for a pollution response. I've inspected vessels and visited partners, but these didn't really seem to be active support of the Active side as I saw it. Then in year 5, a sudden need arose for ATON/PARON verification since, due to manpower shortages, there were ATONs that require annual inspection and verification that had not been done in 3 years. A real manpower need arose. I was doing something for the Coast Guard that they could not accomplish without the Auxiliary. Several of my Flotilla members started watchstanding – again a manpower shortage issue. The galley at our air station is a 5 person billet. It is currently served by a culinary staff of 2, one of whom is supposed to be administrative but now has to cook regularly. The meals were cut to lunch and dinner on 5 days a week – down from 3 meals a day on 7 days each week. I help usually twice a week at a minimum because there is a real visible need.

I was recently explaining the Auxiliary to a new friend and the response was “that sounds so fulfilling”. I get to fulfill my need to serve and get daily acknowledgement of my service from the active duty Coasties with whom I interact. Each one is incredibly appreciative and amazed that all we do now to support them in their shortages. Force multiplier is not just a term -it is a reality for the Auxiliary. My mantra for my 45 years has been “Make a difference”. I am now convinced that through my Auxiliary service, I do really “make a difference”.

James Frick, 091-26-10

* * * * *

I have been asked many times over the years “Why did I join the Auxiliary?”. Several years ago when we first purchased our cottage at Houghton Lake, I began to inquire with local marinas, the local Sheriff's Marine Patrol and State Police Barracks if anyone regularly monitored the VHF marine radios. The

answer was none, but the Marine Patrol suggested that I contact the local Coast Guard Auxiliary as they might do so.

Honestly, until then I didn't even know that the Auxiliary existed and also had no knowledge that the coast guard would be on an inland lake.

WHY?

Well, contact was made and I was invited attend a meeting of the Roscommon Flotilla, 091-26-03. At that meeting I found out that the flotilla did not regularly monitor marine radios even though their meeting room was equipped with a nice marine radio set-up. Several members of the flotilla suggested that I join and I could help to create that service.

Having spent the majority of my adult life in law enforcement and fire service, the activities of the Auxiliary sounded interesting and I completed an application that evening.

Being an active member of the Auxiliary and particularly the experience of working along side the active duty coasties, has also helped fill a gap in my public service life. When I turned 18 I began the process of joining the military but for some family reasons, was unable to complete the process. Not serving in the military is something that I have always deep down regretted. As a side note, at that time in my life, I don't believe I even knew the coast guard existed.

While my career in law enforcement and fire service has been rewarding, my experiences in the Auxiliary have been even more so. Working in an organization where there is mutual respect for everyone whether active duty or auxiliary is amazing. Working to improve boating and water safety through all of the missions in very fulfilling.

I have really enjoyed my role in working with the AAMS and being a small part in bring new members on-board all across 091.

Last year my wife Karen, who is also an Auxiliarist, become Coastie Operators. What a hoot!!!! Working with Coastie and seeing how kids and adults interactive with him is great.

As the new DCDR for 091-26 I am honored, energized and excited by the opportunity to work with everyone as we move forward to meet new challenges and opportunities. Being sworn into office by Active Duty BOSN Charles Palmer, Lt. Joseph Synder and Ensign Noah Adoff from Sector Northern Great Lakes was definitely a highlight of my auxiliary career.

As for my initial reason to attend that flotilla meeting, since becoming an Auxiliarist I have been to establish two approved fixed VHF marine radio facilities in Roscommon County to provide regular monitoring. Also excited to be part of the Mobile Communications and Command Trailer that Division 26 has established.

James G. Munger, Ph.D
Division 26 Commander (DCDR)
SO-CS, SO-HR, ADSO-HR, BA-HQEB

New Members

My name is Patrick Morris. I joined the Traverse City Flotilla last Fall and recently finished my BQ requirements. There are a lot of acronyms to learn! I am looking forward to getting involved this year. Culinary support and water activities are two of passion areas.



Fall hiking trip to Iceland with some friends

commitment last fall.

A little about myself-

My family and I live in Okemos. I wanted to be part of our flotilla because my family and I are in TC a great deal of the summer. We have family in the area and plan to make the move up eventually.

I grew up in the CG. My dad was career as were my aunt and uncle. Some of my closest childhood friends went into the CG.



Family trip to Glacier NP in Montana.

Born at the base in Ketchikan, we had two tours on Governors Island NYC, a tour in Hawaii, Cape Cod and Cleveland. My dad started out at the air base in Traverse when he returned from Vietnam. I've long had the auxiliary on my mind and decided to make the

I enjoy sailing and cooking. I cooked my way through school and do the majority of the cooking at home. I work for an Ag engineering firm specializing in vegetable storage systems. I specialize in international sales as the sales and marketing Director.

My wife is a Nurse and we have 3 kids including a Senior in HS which is making our 2024 a very busy year. We also added a golden retriever to the mix last Summer.

I look forward to meeting everyone and contributing. The CG has been a part of my life since day 1.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Leadership

Where do you begin? The Auxiliary has many classes and courses for you to take, However, we seem to get overwhelmed with all the material that is tossed at us. Not just one class but 6 classes and more. Let's simplify the process.

There are two classes for the new member. Core Training and the BQII (Basic Qualification) courses. Another recommended class is the AFLC (Aux. Flotilla Leadership Course). This Course is intended for Flotilla Commanders and Vice Flotilla Commanders but, recommended for ALL members! Without these classes it is challenging to understand how the Auxiliary works.

As a new Flotilla Commander or Vice Commander you need to understand what makes the Auxiliary work. Start [CORE](#), [BQII](#) and [AFLC](#) courses to begin your Leadership Team Work!!

Respectfully,

Don Warren, DSO-MT, SO-MT, FSO-MT
And past BC-TLM for Leadership Development

SNOW AND ICE – PRETTY BUT DANGEROUS

James G. Munger, Commander
USCG Auxiliary Division 091-26.

Winter weather brings our lakes ice and snow. Lots of charts and graphs on “safe ice” thickness but what effect does snow have on the ice?

Despite what a lot of folks think, the snow actually acts like a blanket, insulating the ice and preventing the formation of clear, blue ice. While the ice itself is below freezing, the water below remains warmer. The snow also hides cracked and weak ice as well as open water. Daily temperature

fluctuations also cause the ice to expand and contract, creating cracks and pressure ridges that can affect ice strength. So, the elephant in the room (the question) is snow

covered ice safe? The fact is that ice covered by snow should ALWAYS be presumed to be unsafe. Since the snow layer acts as an insulating blanket, it slows the freezing process. This means that the ice under the snow layer will be thinner and weaker. So, what does unsafe ice look like? The thickness and quality of ice can vary within inches or a few feet of clear ice. Ice that is slushy, whitish, or otherwise discolored is not as strong as clear ice. Watch for wet areas on the ice and steam coming up through large cracks on the ice – these are dead give-a-ways that the ice is unsafe. If the ice at the shoreline is cracked or squishy, stay away. You should stay off ice during thaws and be on constant watch for thin, clear or honeycomb shaped ice. Dark snow is another sign of weak spots.

Because ice is only ten percent lighter than water, ice does not have much buoyancy. It actually does not take much weight to push it underwater. The reason why ice can support heavy loads such as humans, vehicles and shacks is because the strength of the ice allows loads to be distributed over a larger area. Imagine a square foot of ice under your feet. That area of ice alone does not have sufficient buoyancy to support you, but the surrounding ice allows the load to be distributed. When the ice is covered with snow,

100% of the ice surface is pushed further downward into the water resulting in the ability to support any weight being completely reliant upon buoyancy. The buoyancy by itself is not sufficient to support any additional load (weight).

Here is a good example. Assume that prior to the snowfall there was a good, solid layer of 3-inch-thick clear ice. Ten inches of snow on top of that ice is more than enough weight



to push the entire ice layer under the water. The ice layer will begin to melt and crack allowing water to flow into the snow creating slush. The topmost layer of snow that does not turn to slush

actually helps insulate the slush layer preventing it from freezing.

Deeper snow on the ice will cause havoc if you get rain. The rain will soak into the snow causing it to get heavy and “slushy”. The added weight (and it has to be a LOT of weight) can cause the ice to sink, so that cut holes will have water flowing out of them instead of in to them. It can also create slush pockets, where the wet snow freezes over the top but remains fluid underneath. Now because these “pockets” remain fluid, they can absorb and retain heat from the sun, so that the ice beneath can start to deteriorate.

Spud your way out and back. Wear proper clothing and carry proper safety equipment. Never forget to let someone know your “ice plan.”

The ultimate goal of ice fishing is to have a fun, thrilling, and exciting experience, so you need to be well prepared in order to enjoy the full adventure. No fish is worth your life.

[Survival Skills Guide](#)



Ice floe rescue



Flotilla Highlights

Traverse City
091-26-10



Traverse City Coast Guard Auxiliary Recognizes Midwestern Broadcasting for Commitment to Boating Safety

FC Dick Lavanture

Traverse City, MI - On Friday, February 16, the Traverse City Coast Guard Auxiliary presented an award upon Midwestern Broadcasting in recognition of their unwavering support of the Recreational Boating Safety Program (RBS) across Northern Michigan. With a network spanning eight radio stations, Midwestern Broadcasting's dedication has significantly contributed to spreading vital boating safety awareness, extending from Lake Huron to the Upper Peninsula and as far south as Baldwin, Michigan.

For over 80 years, Midwestern Broadcasting has been a stalwart presence in the region, serving as a reliable source of information and advocacy. Their commitment goes beyond mere broadcasting; they actively engage in public service announcements (PSAs) covering Boating Safety Courses, disseminating safety reminders during the boating season, and hosting discussions with key figures such as the Air Station Commander, Captain Schanno, and various members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary like Dianne Walker who heads up our RBS program.

Dick Lavanture, the Auxiliary Flotilla Commander, and Jim Frick, the Flotilla's Vice Commander, had the honor of presenting the award to Chris Warren, General Manager of Midwestern Broadcasting. Warren's leadership has not only supported Coast Guard Auxiliary 091-26-10 but has also been instrumental in aiding the Traverse City Coast Guard Air Station.

Traverse City takes immense pride in its

designation as a Coast Guard City, recognizing the importance of its presence in ensuring boating safety and maritime security. The partnership with Midwestern Broadcasting underscores the significance of collaboration between public and private entities in fulfilling this mission.

"It is so important to have such an asset available to assist our mission of Boating Safety," Lavanture emphasized, expressing gratitude for Midwestern Broadcasting's enduring partnership.

As the boating community navigates through ever-evolving challenges and opportunities, the collaboration between Traverse City Coast Guard Auxiliary and Midwestern Broadcasting stands as a beacon of commitment to safety and service. Through continued cooperation, they aim to enhance boating safety awareness further, ensuring that every journey on the water is as safe as it is enjoyable.

For more information on the Recreational Boating Safety Program and upcoming initiatives, please visit the Traverse City Coast Guard Auxiliary website.



One very exciting prospect that our flotilla is anticipating this year, is the Vessel Examinations for two local marinas. The owners of these marinas contacted Flotilla Commander James Munger in the fall of 2023, inquiring about conducting vessel examinations in the spring/early summer of 2024. Between these two marinas, there is possibility of 200 to 300 examinations. That would be in addition to the 150 or so that the flotilla averages every year.

Roscommon
091-26-03

Flotilla Highlights *continued*

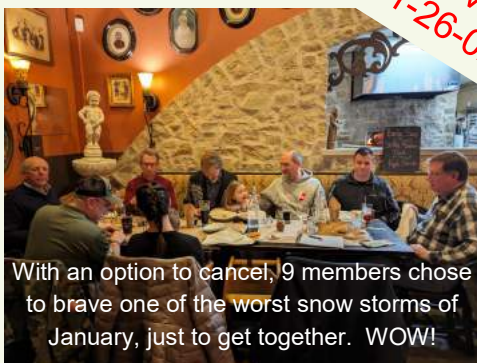
Charlevoix
091-26-02

- Our Charlevoix Flotilla began 2024 with their first of three Winter gathering. January 15, 2024 we gathered at Café Sante in Boyne City. This is a fun way to still get together during our slower/colder months when some members are down south staying warm and operations come to a halt.

Getting together under a casual, informal atmosphere keeps us connected and strong.

We still share pertinent information and make plans for future events/happenings. It is always a good time.

- February 19th we gathered at The Foundry in East Jordan for a full meeting followed by dinner and fellowship with 13 in attendance.



With an option to cancel, 9 members chose to brave one of the worst snow storms of January, just to get together. WOW!

Upper Great Lakes
091-26-01

EVENTS TO SUPPORT IN 2024

- Mackinaw City Memorial Day Parade (May)
- Engineering day (June)
- Fourth of July Parade Cheboygan / Indian River (July)
- Top O Michigan boat racing marathon (August)
- Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel safety check BLITZ
- Christmas Tree Event to be held in early December stay tuned for further information and look in the paper! They need assistance in many areas!

The history of the Christmas tree ship

[Another event/organization our flotilla supports and is always a big hit](#)
(The Coast Guard Connection)



Burt Lake State Park. PV displays.
Tom Griseto FC



Don Warren and Tom Griseto hand information out at the Indian River township sale



Laurence W. Leighton

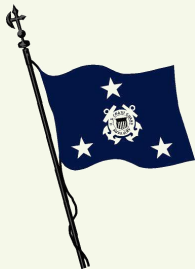


Laurence Leighton Obituary published on Legacy.com by Dryer Funeral Home, Inc. on Feb. 7, 2024.

Laurence William Leighton, age 77, passed away on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at Munson Medical Center. Larry was born June 6, 1946, son of Laurence and Paisley (Grauman) Leighton in Oceanside, California. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Kimberley Leighton; son, Brandon (Shannon) Leighton; stepdaughter, Kelly McMillan (Travis Lamming); 7 grandchildren, Lilli, Rylee, Landon, Jack, Brooklyn, Jane and Braxton; sister-in-law, Janet (Art) Budreau; special cousin, Tyne Hyslop and many beloved cousins and friends. Laurence was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Christopher Leighton and his brother, Robert Leighton. Laurence attended High School at Flushing graduating in 1964, he served in the US Marines in Vietnam, returning home in 1969 he attended Western Michigan University. Laurence married Kimberley (Morgan) on February 13, 1988, in Flushing, sharing 36 years of cherished memories. He worked for

Buick as a robotics electrician retiring in 1999 also for Chrysler in Sterling Heights retiring in 2009, moving to Higgins Lake with Kimberley to enjoy their retirement. Laurence was an avid sailor, which eventually led to his serving the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. He was caring and invested in his community, always networking to help others. He enjoyed family and friends, was fun loving and always an excellent conversationalist. He will be greatly missed by his grandchildren, neighbors, and close friends. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, from 11 AM until time of service at 1PM at Dryer Funeral Home, 101 First St. Holly, officiated by Pastor Ed Pedley. Immediately followed with Military Honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers you can make memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Hospital www.dryerfuneralhome.com

N-TRAIN 2024 Will be Held Virtually



Agostino "Gus" Formato, National Commodore, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary reported, there are several reasons why your Auxiliary Leadership determined that the only course of action that makes sense is to shift N-TRAIN 2024 from an in-person to a virtual event.

On 18 JAN 2024 the House and Senate passed a third continuing resolution (CR) for fiscal 2024. That CR avoided a partial government shutdown that would have occurred on 19 JAN 2024, but it will expire between 1 and 8 MAR 2024. N-TRAIN 2024 was scheduled to run between 3 and 10 MAR 2024. If Congress failed to either pass a budget or another CR before then, we would have been without funding for the scheduled C School instructors, students, and many reimbursable incidental expenses, and no active-duty members would have been able to attend. Moreover, waiting until the very last moment to cancel N-Train would be disrespectful of our members who have lives outside the Auxiliary.

Further mandating the decision now is that the deadline for cancelling N-TRAIN without a significant financial penalty from the was, 22 JAN. While we could have stood by and hoped that Congress would pass a budget or another CR in time, hope is rarely an effective strategy, so the decision had to be made now. Waiting to see whether Congress acted in time to hold an in-person event would have been irresponsible.

Finally, your Auxiliary is facing a severe shortfall in funding for the programs that are targeted at supporting our primary mission of protecting the lives and property of the nation's recreational boaters, support the Coast Guard, and support Auxiliary operations. Converting from an in-person to a virtual N-TRAIN will save thousands of dollars to fund those programs.

Please standby for further information. A schedule of events, meetings, and addresses from Coast Guard Leadership will be forthcoming.

Diverted Mission to Photograph a Fuel Spill

Submitted by John Maynard, 091-26-01 Upper Great Lakes Flotilla

Last August, Coast Guard Auxiliary Observer Robert Stowe and I were scheduled to fly a Marine Observation mission from Bois Blanc Island, where we live, up to Sault St. Marie and then south along the St. Mary's River to Drummond Island. Stowe and I are members of the Upper Great Lakes Flotilla. We were tasked to look for boats in distress, pollution and to photograph the Soo Locks and commercial traffic we encountered along our flight.

The night before our mission, however, I received a phone call from Air Station Traverse City. The Air Station issues our flight patrol orders. Operations Officer Commander Leo Lake requested that we divert our planned mission to photograph the freighter Manitowoc, which was anchored a mile off Manistee and was leaking fuel.

The next morning, Stowe and I departed Bois Banc Island at first light for the one hour flight to Manistee. We located an oil slick about a mile off-shore and north of the anchored Manitowoc, a 50 year-old, 193-meter freighter.

We circled the ship for more photographs before heading back to Bois Blanc Island. Along the way, we transmitted photographs to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Lake Mission, which was managing the spill recovery.



Freighter Manitowoc last August anchored off Manistee.



Fuel spill from the Manitowoc off Manistee last August



Pilot John Maynard

Observer Robert Stowe



2024 Division 26 Operation Events, **TOGETHER WE CAN** . . .

Glen Stolt, Charlevoix FC, SO-OP 091-26
231-557-6050

Below is a list of opportunities to get underway and build patrol hours. Please take advantage of as many opportunities that will fit into your schedule. Don't limit yourself to personal flotilla events. Build your experience! Volunteer to crew outside your area, learn new skills, get to know other flotillas and experience new waters.

Sector Northern Great Lakes is our radio guard for **ALL PATROLS** unless instructed otherwise – Call in on Channel 16, then switch to a working channel as instructed.

Sector Northern Great Lakes 906-635-3236

ALL PATROLS check in via phone with the local Station when you START and when you END your patrol, so they know an Aux asset is on patrol to respond if a local case comes up.

Charlevoix: 231-547-2565

St Ignace: 906-643-6402

Marquette: 906-226-3312

With regard to the calendar:

Let me know if . . .

. . . you see an error or omission.

. . . you can dedicate your service to an event.

. . . you have a regular event or regular patrols to add to the calendar.

Glen Stolt, SO-OP Division 091-26

goodseamaritan@hotmail.com

231-557-6050



May 2024

18-24 - National Safe Boating week

25-27 - Memorial Day Weekend

June 2024

7-9 - Charlevoix Boat School -
Charlevoix Training and On-water
skills

14-16 - Bay Harbor in water Boat
Show Possible Patrol and Tabletop

22 - Bay Harbor Car and Boat Show

23 - East Jordan Freedom Fest FW
Fireworks patrol

June 27-30 - Cherry Festival Air
Show Patrols needed

July 2024

3 - Bay Harbor Fireworks Fireworks
patrol

July 4 Fireworks Patrols:

TVC Cherry Festival

Boyne City

Petoskey

Harbor Springs

6 - Cherry Festival Fireworks

13 - Boyne Thunder Race Patrols –
L CHX, E.R, Nport, Pet/Harbor Spgs

20 - CHX Venetian -AquaPalooza

22 - Chicago to Mackinaw Race
Stand by

15 - Bayview to Mackinaw Race
Standby

26 - CHX Venetian – Fireworks Day
Patrol/ escort or FW patrol

27 - CHX Venetian – Fireworks Day
Patrol and escort

July 2024 continued

26-28 - Lt Traverse Ugatta Regatta
Patrol

28-August 6, 2024 Grand Haven
Coast Guard Festival

August 2024

July 30 – Aug 4 Roger City Nautical
Festival

August 3 Elk Rapids – Harbor days
Fireworks patrol

10-11 - Top O Michigan boat race
Patrol

11 - Hessel Art and Boat Show

17 Jobbie Nooner -Oyster Bay, Lake
Charlevoix Patrol

September 2024

2 - Labor Day Bridge walk tbd

September Paddle Antrim Patrols
Needed - tbd

October 2024

**Respect Is Its Own
Reward**

Shipmates, please take a few minutes to discuss this information with your members at your next meeting.

“You either believe that people respond to authority, or that they respond to kindness and inclusion. I’m obviously in the latter camp. I think that people respond better to reward than punishment.” –Brian Eno

It is said that in the Auxiliary we are all recruiters. However, we are also all leaders.

We are all leaders, whether or not we want to admit it. Simply being a member of something bigger than yourself puts us in that position. Remember when you first started, you saw all the shipmates who previously joined your unit as those who probably knew way more than you did, and you looked to them for guidance and assistance. You may have thought that you might not be accepted by your peers. Almost by default, the new member sees all of us as leaders, not just elected or appointed ones.

What do we do with that responsibility? First, to our shipmates, we need to quickly assess their background, interests, and abilities. That’s where we can shine--by demonstrating our commitment to the Coast Guard Motto: Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. In Devotion to Duty, we show that we value our newest member’s untapped diversity by making that

assessment, appointing a mentor, and get them involved right away. Respect is the basis of showing regard and consideration for others and their rights and ideas. Respecting others encompasses diversity. It really covers everything. Everyone is obviously unique and brings their own skills and abilities to the Auxiliary. It is our job as leaders to support that diversity and by doing so, maximize what is set forth in the mission-set of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary. By doing all this and aligning ourselves with that mission-set, we exemplify our dedication to high standards of behavior, and therefore edify Honor.

Shipmates, all these things help in rewarding our people. Rewards motivate people to work towards desired outcomes, whereas punishments can cause people to drop out or act out of fear rather than out of a desire to achieve a goal. Rewards, big or small, foster a positive atmosphere overall in any unit. Rewards provide people with recognition and appreciation for their work and can bring on increased productivity and satisfaction—leading to accomplishments. Our discussion here was more focused on intangible rewards, but the tangible—public praise, an informal letter or certificate of appreciation, formal recognitions, and medals are necessary as well. Use them all to continue to make all of us successful.

Michael Brown, BC-DUP Outreach (Diversity & Inclusion Directorate)

“Wings and Wheels”

Submitted by: Terry Conner, Air Observer, Trainee

“From an aviation career perspective, last year's Wexford County Airport “Wings and Wheels” event was a great success.” Keith R. Newell, Airport Manager, Wexford County Airport.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Traverse City 091-26-10, was honored to host a booth at the Wexford County Airport’s “Wings and Wheels” event. We were able to provide U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary pamphlets for boating and aviation information to the public. We found that families were interested in the Auxiliary’s Boating Safety classes. This was a great opportunity to get information to the community on the various programs that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary provides.

We were one of the twenty one aviation career booths trying to raise the awareness to the public of the opportunities available in the aviation field.

- * Cadillac Aircraft Services
- * Cadillac Area Modelers Society
 - * Civil Air Patrol
 - * EAA Chapters #234
- * Federal Aviation Administration
 - * Guardian Flight
 - * Kalitta Air
- * Legacy Aviation Training Center
- * Michigan Air National Guard
 - * Michigan State Police
 - * Northwest Soaring Club
- * Northwestern Michigan College
- * Northwoods Aviation
- * U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Traverse City 091-26-10
 - * U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
 - * U.S. Navy
- * Western Michigan University
- * Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club
- * Wexford County Emergency Operations Center/911 Drone Operation
- * Wexford Missaukee Career Tech Center

Wexford County Airport Manager, Keith Newell is hoping to expand the career booths to 30 for the next “Wings and Wheels” event on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Lynn Ross, Air Crew
Terry Conner, Air Observer, Trainee



UPDATED UNIFORM POLICY

Updated uniform policy has been issued.

Uniform inspections will be required for all active members starting in 2024. Passing the inspection has become part of maintaining any qualification. Exception is provided for members who do not have any qualifications and are not active in missions.

Inspection may be conducted by an FC, VFC, IPFC, or other elected officer.

Uniforms shall be properly pressed, clean, fit, and maintained in good repair. The nature of Auxiliary uniform policies occasionally justifies the authorized wear of specific items until they are no longer in serviceable condition. For uniform items, no longer serviceable condition is defined as being in a condition that detracts from the purpose of projecting the Coast Guard's high standards of pride and professionalism. A uniform item shall be considered no longer serviceable when any aspect of it is irreparably damaged; creased or bunched in an inappropriate and irreversible fashion; torn; soiled; stained; frayed; worn; discolored; faded; inappropriately altered; repaired in a manner that results in an inappropriate or unprofessional appearance; or officially declared obsolete.

Inspections include presentation and review of an Auxiliarist's ID card. If the Auxiliarist's ID card is expired or the photo no longer resembles their appearance, it is the Auxiliarist's responsibility to obtain a new ID card as soon after inspection as possible. If the inspection is performed by photo(s) or virtually, the Auxiliarist may sanitize the ID card blocks for Date of Birth and Blood Type before mailing or displaying it.

Those authorized to perform uniform inspections may not specify the uniform to be worn. Dinner Dress Jacket uniforms, Hot Weather Uniform (HWU) versions, the Auxiliary jump suit, flight suit, or any organizational clothing (defined as Coast Guard unit-owned clothing that is issued to individuals) are not authorized for the purpose of this annual inspection.

The AUXDATA II entry may be made by an elected or Information Services (IS) staff officer in the Auxiliarist's COLM at flotilla, division, or district level.

Auxiliarists, unless exempt, who do not undergo this uniform inspection requirement during the calendar year shall lose their currency and eligibility to be assigned to duty in all their competencies for the following calendar year.

Components

Men's Pants are available at this link: [Men's Pants](#)

Women's 5.11 pants: [Women's Pants](#)

Shorts are available seasonally: (must be within two inches of knee): [Shorts](#)

Shirts are available at this link: [Shirts](#)

Caps are available at this link: [Caps](#)



Honor our Auxiliary by
wearing the uniform
properly

Cheboygan Coast Guard connection

Sherry Nelson, and co-chair Joanne Cromley, direct the, **Cheboygan Coast Guard Connection** group, doing things to give service members “a home away from home,” during their time in Cheboygan.

The committee meets monthly, and Auxiliary members are invited to participate in the meetings, planning, and all events.

When new service members arrive, usually in the summer, the **Cheboygan Coast Guard Connection** works with the Chamber of Commerce to have a Welcome Picnic for families. Bags are distributed that include information about services and businesses in Cheboygan that would be useful to the new families.

They hold quarterly potlucks for service members and their families—held either at a local business or local Township Hall, which



features a wonderful playground for children. Auxiliary members, Connection members, and Community

members are asked to bring food to the potluck for the families to enjoy – giving them time to socialize during off-duty time.

In April they recognize Coast Guard members’ children with a personal note thanking them for their service, including a certificate for a treat from a local ice cream shop.



Open Base Day in July, 2023, featured the Auxiliary, Connection members, City and County

services and law enforcement, for ship’s tours and distribution of information. The Auxiliary had a table at the event. More than 800 community members attended. As the ship will be away for repair summer of 2024, that event is on hold.



When appropriate, the Auxiliary forwards information of interest to community members, such as the online Boating Safety Classes, which the Cheboygan Coast Guard

Connection distributes to respective networks.



The Christmas Tree Ship project in November featured more than 50 volunteers helping to load trees on the ship,

which went to Chicago for distribution to needy families. The weekend following the loading, the entire community was invited to wave off the ship. More than 100 attended.



For the past 3 years, the Cheboygan Coast Guard Connection raised funds to gift each service member with an ornament commemorating their time in Cheboygan. Some of the ornaments are available for sale to the public also.



The Community Skate, honoring Coast Guard members and their families, was held December 28. The ice time was donated by a community member—skating and skate rental were free to everyone.

These events have been in place for the last 3 years. In addition, the Cheboygan Coast Guard Connection has given presentations at Rotary and DDA/Main Street meetings to advise community leaders about the programs. The City of Cheboygan website also features a Coast Guard page outlining some highlights. The Cheboygan Coast Guard Connection appreciates their interaction with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE



MEMBERS ARE NEEDED for our Culinary Assistance Program!



Our Coast Guard is short personnel and the Auxiliary is being asked to assist.

Our Auxiliary Culinary Assistance program continues its search for members interested in cooking for our Active Duty at Station galleys or aboard cutters. Opportunities also await to serve at CG Change of Commands and other VIP events as the needs arise.



Our District, 091 has 30 CA1 specialist and our Division, 091-26 currently has only 4 CA1 specialist. **Our Northern Region is in need of our service.** Many stations have very limited culinary support.

We have stations throughout our AOR that will benefit from the direct services we can provide them through our Culinary Assistance Program.

Hear from some CA1s why they serve in the Culinary Assistance Program?

Being a CA-1 in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, this allows me to interface with the Coast Guard face-to-face versus other auxiliary opportunities like Boat Crew, vessel exam, Ice patrols Tele-communication you don't necessary work, face-to-face with the coast guard ,

This is why I added Culinary to my Coast Guard auxiliary activities.

This activity makes me feel great and giving back to the community to the military families in helping the Culinary Specialist have time off to do their family activities gives you a grand sense of accomplishment and self-worth.

Brian L Eickel

I help at stations (boat force), cutters (Auxiliary Cutterman) My past duties were Ice Rescuer, J.O.O.D. As CA1, I now volunteer to work in the galley, wash dishes (other duties) to allow our active duty members to work on their qualifications and training in their Coast Guard rates.

Anonymous

I've been a CA1 for only seven months. I joined the Auxiliary in 2020 and for the most part served in various RBS functions: Vessel Examiner, FSO-VE, Program Visitor, FSO-PV and while I'm still active in those I wanted to do more to support our active duty crews. Initially I started down the path towards boat crew qualification and completed most of the shoreside tasks. But as I looked at the active duty boat crews I realized that while I'm in very good shape



for a 72 year old... I'm still 72! I didn't want to 1) be a liability for these 20 to 35 year old Coasties and, 2) didn't want to hurt myself attempting to keep up with them. But as a sailor on Lake Erie I wanted to find a way to serve those who serve us. I spoke with the Sr. Chief at Station Belle Isle on the Detroit River and he asked if I wanted to cook because they were short personnel and really needed support. That launched me on my Culinary Assistant path. Took the classes, got my PQS check-off at the station by the CS1 and started working one day a week. The active duty are so very appreciative of our work and it's been so much fun making breakfast & lunch for them. I spend January – March in southwest Florida and coordinated with the CA1s supporting Station Ft. Myers Beach to cook there one day/week. FMB is really interesting: they lost their station to Hurricane Ian and the crew has been working out of temporary trailer quarters and the galley is a rented food truck! The new station has been constructed and is slated for occupancy this month (February 2024). It will be quite an experience helping move into and start up operations in a brand new galley!

John Gialanella
091-18-07

I love working with Active Duty crews. They come in tired and looking for a good meal. The best part is making meals they have not had

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before.

Most are willing to try something new if an Auxiliariist makes and serves it.

COMO Susan Thurlow

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I have just been certified as an AUX CA1 and have yet to have any assignments as such. It'll be a while before I do as I am recovering from a total knee replacement surgery. As for why I obtained this qualification, that's a little bit more intricate. I joined the Auxiliary because they offered a chance to be operational, and became a Boat Crew Coxswain. With the revamping of the program, I was going to be beached. As I said I joined to be part of the operational aspect, not necessarily all the administrative stuff that comes along with the various positions in the Auxiliary. So, although I'll never be a Michelin 3 star chef, and sometimes have to be supervised to operate a microwave, this seemed like a good way to still be operational. I could go to different stations or even serve aboard cutters. Prior to the galley at my station being shut down, I saw the need to assist the CS2 in the galley, just as I saw the need to serve as a watch stander in comms. It's a matter of supporting the missions of the Active Duty in any way we can. **We are the pier they moore to, and the constant they can count on to assist in completing their missions.**

Robert M. Wolff AUX CA1

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I had the privilege to serve on the Mackinaw Cutter back in November, 2022, as

Culinary Assistant in the galley. They were short one culinary hand in the galley, so I was picked to support this Christmas Tree Run. It was a wonderful experience, traveling to Chicago on a 12) day mission. We left the Straits for Wisconsin in a storm that mirrored the Gales of November. Once leaving Milwaukee Wisconsin, we headed over to the Chicago port to celebrate the Christmas Tree delivery of 1200 trees to the needy. After a short layover, we left port to return to CG station, Cheboygan.



During our venture back, the Mackinaw deck crew set winter buoy's all the way back.

It was a lot of work and long hours in support to the CA crew in the galley. However, what made the journey worthwhile; I received a

"Letter of Appreciation" from the Commodore of the CGC Mackinaw (WLBB 30) for the work that I did in the galley of the Mackinaw Cutter.



John and other auxiliariist at the Chicago Station

John Rose

* * * * *

What are the rewards for being an AUXCA?

The best reward is a thank you from a young Coastie after they have eaten a meal that you prepared. Even better is when they exclaim "Awesome - better than my Mom's cooking!" or even "can I get the recipe?" As an AUXCA-1 you are part of a team - you might be working in a galley with several Coast Guard Cooks (Culinary Specialists -- or CS's) or might be working by yourself but you are a part of a team that covers each Coast Guard Dining Facility. The station or cutter's Officer in Charge is the leader and the CSs (who might not be there) are still part of the same team. The CG is known for having the best food in all the services (maybe second only to the Submarine corp) so you get to keep up that tradition.

And as an AUXCA-1 there are other possibilities - an all expense paid cruise in the Arctic (in springtime) which only required you to work 8 or so hours a day helping serve meals to 140 members of the crew of the USCGC Bertholf is just one of many possibilities. You can also work at small boat stations or even larger venues -- one group on the east coast regularly feeds the families of the graduates of the CG boot camp at Cape May -- 40 some times a year. Frankly - you get to serve and thereby fulfil some of the core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

And you get to learn how to cook - how to cook eggs to order on a flat top grill that's rocking and rolling with the Cutter slicing through heavy weather or how to chop zucchini for those 140 hungry souls. And you can have some fun -- kidding the Master Chief who would never eat anything green (especially the zucchini) or the BM1 who would only eat eggs in a burrito - every single day. Sometimes you get opportunities to serve special events - having the Commandant take a plate of food from you can be an exhilarating experience.

Personally, obtaining the AUXCA1 device meant as much to me as my AUXOP pin or COXSWAIN device. It doesn't get much better.

If you are interested in taking part in this program you need to know a secret -- when you start out you don't even need to know how to boil water - we'll teach you how to do everything in a real hands-on program. Your training will start out with the theoretical - basic food handling, tool safety, and sanitation and then move to slicing, dicing, boiling, braising, peeling,



CA1s, Dick Lavanture and James Frick

Working hard,
Having fun and
Building Relationships
at Air Station Traverse City

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serving and cleaning up. When you complete your qualification process you'll really be ready to learn from the best in the business (CG Culinary Specialists regularly win all-services competitions).

Contact your Division CA officer for information on how you can join this elite group.

Garrison L. Bromwell, BC-HCE

Join the TEAM
Join the MISSION



The AUXCA Program serves to support the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for all culinary needs. It is a very rewarding program for all participants regardless of expertise or abilities. There is a place in the AUXCA program for all members.



Email Lynda Stolt, SO-CA 091-26 lyndastolt@gmail.com for more information.

Closing Thought

Mission First, People Always

Captain James R. Bendle

Opportunity - at a small remote Sector, amazing opportunities are readily available to gain professional skills, qualifications, explore educational opportunities, advance or promote, recreate, and volunteer in our community. We must support and encourage each other in these bold endeavors.

Unity - together we will advance Coast Guard initiatives, strengthen existing partnerships, forge new ones, and personify teamwork in everything we do. This unified approach will drive operational excellence, inform warranted risk taking, maximize safety, enable the security of our waterways, and ensure effective maritime governance across the Upper Peninsula and beyond.

Respect - this core value is essential to a productive workplace and team. We must instill a culture of inclusion where every member of our team feels valued and inspired to reach their true potential. Respecting the profession, our proud traditions, the maritime community, tribal nations, and each other is foundational to our shared success.

Service - we perform a dangerous mission in the harshest of environments and must act with a bias for action. The Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard, maritime public, and citizens from the U.S. and Canada are counting on us. Be professional, proud of your service, strive to become a master of your craft, and serve with honor and distinction.

This Sector is **OURS**; every member plays a crucial role in accomplishing our missions, taking care of each other, our families and loved ones, and protecting our national interests. Together, we will ensure our Sector remains one of the finest units in our beloved Coast Guard.

With Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty

2024 Division Commander - James Munger 2024 Vice Division Commander - Dora Jasinski

2024 9CR Division Staff Officers

John Knapp, SO-AS (SeaScouts)	James Frick, SO-NS (Navigation System)
Lynda A. Stolt, SO-CA (Culinary Assistance)	Randolph Lawton, SO-MS (Marine Safety)
David Montgomery, SO-CM (Communications)	Glen P. Stolt, SO-OP (Operations)
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Dennis Dufford, SO-MT (Member Training)	

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Stanley A. Sionkowski, FC; Karen Munger VFC 26-03 Roscommon
Matthew Mousseau, FC; John Knapp, VFC 26-04 Alpena
Richard A Lavanture, FC; James C. Frick, VFC 26-10 Traverse City
George P. Kelly, FC; Michael T. Marsden 26-11 Marquette

"All that you do is significant and important! Share it with others in this publication"

Lynda Stolt, SO-PB, Editor for IN VISION 26 - Is there something you would like to see in

Thank you to our March 2024 In Vision 26 Contributors

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Commander James Munger	Don Warren	COMO Susan Thurlow
District Captain Randy Lawton	John Maynard	Robert Wolff
James Frick	Glen Stolt	John Rose
Patrick Morris	Terry Conner	Garrison Bromwell, BC-HCE
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