



# Dunkirk Bearings 34

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*The Official Newsletter of USCG Auxiliary Dunkirk Flotilla 092-03-04*

## **FLOTILLA COMMANDER:**

Douglas J. Hamernik, FC 092-03-04  
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## **FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER:**

Jeffrey J. DeYoung, VFC 092-03-04  
[deyoungjeff@yahoo.com](mailto:deyoungjeff@yahoo.com)

## **2016 FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS:**

Comm Services	FSO-CS Sara J. DeYoung
Diversity	FSO-DIV John E. Dlugosz
Finance	FSO-FN Katherine Hamernik
Human Resources	FSO-HR Judith Elaine Hafner
Information Systems	FSO-IS Douglas J. Hamernik
Member Training	FSO-MT Margaret Wagner
Materials	FSO-MA Judith E. Hafner
Operations	FSO-OP Steve A. Brennan
Navigation Systems	FSO-NS Robert Poulson
Public Affairs	FSO-PA Judith E. Hafner
Publications	FSO-PB James E. Stenger
Public Education	FSO-PE Sara DeYoung
Visitor Program	FSO-PV Jeffrey DeYoung
Secretary Records	FSO-SR James E. Stenger
Vessel Examination	FSO-VE Robert D. Bennett

## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**Dunkirk Flotilla Commander Doug Hamernik's Messsge:**

Congratulations Flotilla 34 members! Together we accomplished a very successful "cast off" in 2015 and are well "underway" to a successful year in 2016. As your Commander, it has been a smooth ride for me. Early on, I was able to witness how well our Flotilla was developing into a team, *always ready* to do your best! Soon after, It was with great pride to accept the "Flotilla of the Year" award on your behalf at the 9th Eastern Region District Conference. This was particularly noteworthy because we were chartered as the newest Flotilla in the District just 18 months earlier! During that period of time, FL 34 completed close to 5,000 Auxiliary "mission" hours, including time spent performing elected and appointed leadership and, staff duties, recreational boating safety support, training support, and Auxiliary logistical and administrative support duties. We represented the CG Auxiliary at several public affairs programs including the Dunkirk Memorial Day Parade and the

**See COMMANDER'S MESSAGE, Page 2**

Our name, "BEARINGS 34" reflects compass readings taken with a handheld compass to determine your position on the water. Our MISSION is to serve as a volunteer, civilian component of the US Coast Guard. Our organization supports Boating Safety Education, Vessel Safety Examinations, Search & Rescue, and other missions in support of the U.S. Coast Guard. For more information, go to [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)

Flotilla 34 meets at the Chautauqua Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (CNRC), 10836 Temple Rd., Dunkirk, NY. Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1900 hours. Prospective members are welcome to attend meetings by invitation of a FL-34 member. Contact the Flotilla Commander for more details.

Forward items of interest for publication in the Flotilla newsletter to the Commander during a regularly scheduled meeting. Point of contact for the publication of "Dunkirk Bearings 34" is FSO-PB Jim Stenger.

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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"Ready, Set, Wear It" national event to kick off "National Safe Boating Week." We participated in live radio broadcasts to promote recreational boating safety measures and were involved in "The Great Lakes Experience Festival" to help focus efforts toward improving the environment, ecology, recreation and tourism within our region. With the help of Hamburg Flotilla 32, we sponsored three "About Boating Safety" classes, with a total of 37 students attending. Additionally, many of our members became VE and PV qualified, increasing our total number of Vessel Examiners to 12 as well as increasing our Program Visitors to eight. Several members devoted numerous classroom hours during the cold weather months attending SABOT and Boat Crew qualification classes. Now that the water temperatures on Lake Erie permit boating, our members are continuing their boat crew certification training aboard our new CG Auxiliary facility "NUMA 2". So, I assure you, there is no doubt in my mind that we are accomplishing our mission, to be "Semper Paratus," and doing it as a TEAM!

Sincerely,  
s/Douglas Hamernik

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### USCG AUXILIARY 9ER COMMODORE'S AWARD "FLOTILLA-OF-THE-YEAR 2015"

#### PRESENTED TO ALL MEMBERS OF FLOTILLA 34, DUNKIRK, NY



Flotilla 34 members Kathy Hamernik, Sarah DeYoung, Jeff DeYoung, FC Doug Hamernik and John Dlugosz accept the Flotilla-of-the-Year 2015 Award on behalf of Flotilla 34 members. The award was presented during D-Train, March 2016. *(Photo submitted by: Jim Stenger, FSO-PB)*

## USCG AUXILIARY AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Photo of ABS class instruction conducted by FL34 members Robert Bennett, Doug Hamernik, Sara DeYoung and Jeff DeYoung in Ashville, N.Y. (*Photo submitted by: Jim Stenger, FSO-PB*)

### FLOTILLA HIGHLIGHTS

***Flotilla 34's first Operational Facility "NUMA 2"*** was approved for operations by the USCG this past Spring. The 27 foot STAMAS I/O is owned by FSO-OP Steve Brennan. Steve and several fellow FL-34 members have been preparing the facility for use this past year, as well as working diligently to become Boat Crew Qualified.



Pictured are FL34 members Jim Stenger, Jim Lindstrom, Steve Brennan and Margaret Mary Wagner. Also pictured is coast guard wannabe Cooper Stenger. (*Photo by Tracy Stenger*)

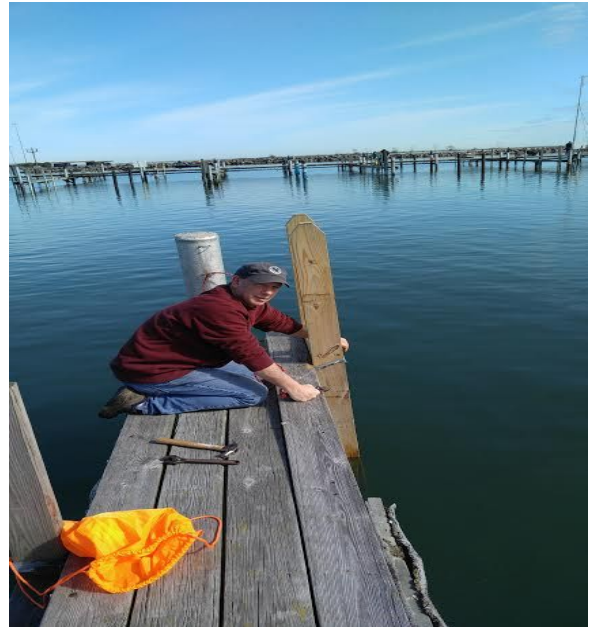
## FLOTILLA HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

### The Dunkirk Yacht Club is home to Flotilla 34's new facility "NUMA 2"

Flotilla members help maintain the docks and offer Boater Safety instruction to DYC members..



Dunkirk FL34 member Margaret Mary Wagner cleaning the dock during Maintenance Day at the Dunkirk Yacht Club (Photo by Jim Stenger).



Dunkirk FL34 member Steven Brennan repairing the dock during Maintenance Day at the Dunkirk Yacht Club (Photo by Jim Stenger).

**Flotilla 34 designs unit logo** - FC Hamernik appointed a committee to design a Flotilla logo to display on the unit's webpage and other public affairs materials. With the help of Sara DeYoung (our unofficial FL-34 artist), the committee presented a drawing representing the ideas presented by the committee to Hae Jude Designs in Silver Creek. The drawing features the historic Dunkirk lighthouse, a landmark along the shores of Lake Erie. The draft logo was approved by FL-34 members, and members made a motion to "pass-the-hat" in an effort to assist with the logo copyright expense. Over \$300 was contributed by members during the April Member's Meeting. Congratulations FL-34!



## FLOTILLA HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

**USCG Mandated Training (AUX-MT)** - FC Hamernik announced *FL 34 exceeded its goal of 90% completion rate for all 10 required USCG mandatory training courses*. The USCG mandates all CG AUX members complete eight mandatory competency courses, in addition to two introductory FEMA courses. Two of the competency courses only have to be completed once (Ethics and Influenza training), and the other six courses must be completed once every five years (Civil Rights Awareness; Prevention of Sexual Harassment; Privacy Awareness; Security Education, and Training Awareness; Sexual Assault Prevention; and Suicide Prevention). *Members who need to complete this training can receive assistance by contacting FSO-MT Mary Margaret Wagner. If you need this training, do it now. Members not completing all mandatory training courses will be restricted from participating in official USCG Auxiliary related activities (ie. elections, SABOT training, etc) and they cannot be recognized for personnel-related actions (ie. ID card issuance / updates; or award recommendations, etc).*

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**Do you need assistance logging into FEMA** to complete the ICS 100 and NIMS 700 mandatory courses? If so, contact our Flotilla Staff Officer for Member Training (FSO-MT) Margaret Mary (Peaches) Wagner to arrange for personal log-in assistance. FEMA courses only need to be completed once. Be sure to copy your completion certificates and give a copy to our FSO for Information Services Doug Hamernik to obtain credit in AUXDATA for completion of the training.

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**Safe boating practices:** FL34 members and fellow Division 3 Coast Guard Auxiliarists helped promote safe boating practices on lakes and waterways in Western N.Y. during “National Safe Boating Week”. On May 21st, Flotilla 34 Auxiliarists met with boaters at the Dunkirk Pier and participated in “Ready, Set, Wear It!” activities. Families were encouraged to enroll in boater safety courses and learned how to properly wear Coast Guard approved life jackets.



## FLOTILLA HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Dunkirk Flotilla members joined forces with Hamburg FL32 member Mark Kowal and USCG Commander (Ret.) George Burns III while marching in the **Dunkirk Memorial Day Parade**.



Pictured are Dunkirk Flotilla 34 members Jim Stenger, Doug Hamernik, Flotilla 32 member Mike T. Kowal Jr. and Pack 267 Cub Scout Cooper Stenger. Not in photo: Commander (Ret.) George Burns III (Photo by Tracy Stenger).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Erie County Fair** will be here August 13 - 21. Mark your calendar. This is a another good opportunity to promote the USCG Auxiliary and safe boating practices to families throughout WNY. Division SO-PA Judy Hafner coordinates this event with members of FL 32. Together they set-up a table display in the Conservation Building with brochures, PFDs and other safety equipment. Let Judy know if you can help-out. Everyone is welcome.

**Family Night with the Herd** Division 3 is hosting a Bisons baseball game for USCG Auxiliary members and families on Friday evening, August 26th at 7:05 P.M. This is the last "Herd" Friday night home game with fireworks. Plan to join the fun and enjoy fellowship with your fellow Auxiliarists. Inform FC Hamernik if you are interested in attending.

### **Fall D-Train to be held in Dunkirk:**

FL 34 members are highly encouraged to enroll in CG Auxiliary training courses this fall during the '9th Eastern Region District Training program'.

D-Train will once again be held in Dunkirk at the Clarion Hotel on September 16 & 17. This year, a five day Auxiliary Leadership and Management course will be held during D-Train. AUXLAMs classes are scheduled for September 14 - 21; submit an STTR form through FC Hamernik.



Pictured are Dunkirk Flotilla member Jim Stenger and fellow AUXLAMs students, Kathy and Steve Trenton from FL 31 in Ogdensburg, N.Y. Photo taken during SABOT training exercise on the St. Lawrence River.

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**FL34 members bid farewell** to long-time member “Chaplain” David Noves and new-timer Robert Scott. Both Dave and Bob resigned from the Auxiliary for personal reasons. We wish them both well and thank them for their service. **Farewell gentlemen, and “bon voyage.”**

**Do you know a CG Auxiliarist worthy of special recognition?** Nominations are being accepted to recognize members during the fall D-Train conference and the Division Change-of Watch. Division staff will assist with writing nominations.

**Do you know when duty calls** you must be assigned duty by your Flotilla Commander or Coast Guard Command? Notify the Flotilla Commander in writing, email or a text message when you intend to perform a Coast Guard mission while in uniform.

**Do you know there was an incomplete VSC form** observed during a CG boarding incident? Be sure to complete all VE forms in their entirety. Include the date the decal was awarded. Do not include your AUX Member ID number on the form. FC Hamernik suggests using Flotilla ID 092-03-04 instead.

**Do you know our CG Auxiliary membership dues** are due by September 30, 2016? Please plan to forward your annual dues payment on-time to FSO-FN Kathy Hamernik.

**Do you know the AUXPAD program** extends boating safety outreach, promotes life jacket wear and operator compliance with Coast Guard regulations to the growing paddle craft community?

If you are interested in becoming trained in AUXPAD operations, the 9th Eastern Region is compiling a list of Auxiliary members interested in courses specifically designed for paddle craft operation. Notify FC Doug Hamernik or FSO-MT Margaret Wagner if you would like more information.

**Do you know the goal of a MOM patrol** is to provide increased maritime domain awareness through the observation of critical areas of maritime interest? Areas of interest include ports and waterways, vessels, land based infrastructure and possible targets and vulnerabilities, such as oil refineries and critical infrastructure. Significant sightings should be reported to the Coast Guard Operational Commander through the Buffalo Sector Operations Center.

(Information provided from: *Missions: Auxiliary Programs in Action* by CDR Terry M. Johns, USCG Director of Auxiliary, D5NR [http://www.5nr.org/downloads/diraux/MOM\\_OPS.pdf](http://www.5nr.org/downloads/diraux/MOM_OPS.pdf))



## DIVISION, DISTRICT AND NATIONAL NEWS

In follow up of a national **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance** fundraising effort, Commander Clark Godshall is pleased to report that Auxiliary members throughout the Division made a substantial contribution to CGMA this year. CGMA funds are used to help restore financial stability for Coast Guard families coping with a short-term financial crisis. Thank you everyone for supporting this worthwhile organization and helping out our extended CG family members who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives.

In a message concerning **military transgender service**, the Secretary of Defense recently announced the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard, will begin the process of updating policy to allow transgender members to serve in the military. The policy will be effective NLT 1 October 2016 to give the Services time to develop necessary agency-level procedures and training plans. Full implementation of the policy is to occur no later than 1 July 2017 (Source: <https://www.uscg.mil/announcements/alcoast.as>).

A **National Commodore Three Star Award for Excellence in Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT)** was recently established. This is an annual award recognizing Flotillas that achieve at least 90% of their members recorded as having completed all 10 Auxiliary Mandated Training courses, and who are current in the AUXMT requirements. Details on this award may be found at: [cgaux.org/mt/AUXMT\\_NAhttp://tdept.CO\\_3-Star\\_Award\\_2016-01-11.pdf](http://tdept.CO_3-Star_Award_2016-01-11.pdf)

**The US COAST  
GUARD AUXILIARY**  
  
**SERVICE ON LAND,  
SEA AND IN  
THE AIR.**



**USCG AUXILIARY**  
  
**PROMOTING  
BOATING SAFETY  
SINCE  
1939**