



Soundings

District 13, Flotilla 44
Port Angeles, Washington
Issue 1, January 2020



In the Pilothouse

First of all, I want to tell you that I feel honored to have been chosen, once again, to lead Flotilla 44 as Flotilla Commander. If you haven't attended recent Flotilla meetings, you may be unaware how active we are becoming as a unit, and what amazing new opportunities we have to serve.

Secondly, I am pleased to introduce this newsletter to you. It is the culmination of many meetings, discussions, and plans. Many thanks go to Randall Zempel for his hard work in setting up this attractive and informative publication. Going forward, I expect to see our newsletter published quarterly, at first, and more frequently as we become operationally busier through the next year. These coming newsletters will help "fill in the gap" and help you stay connected to our Flotilla, even if you cannot attend all of the meetings.

vr,
Jim Armstrong, FCO

Forward Lookout

In October and November, last year, Auxiliary members across the nation met with every single US Coast Guard command to find out how we can better integrate with their operations. This project was referred to as "Gap Analysis."

While the results have been forwarded to National for review and analysis, we already have some opportunities to have a meaningful relationship with the Active Side.

One of the on-going needs the active Coast Guard units would like us to fill is in Food Service. They simply do not have enough cooks to meet their needs. The US Coast Guard is asking for more assistance at their land based galleys and cutters in-port and underway. This type of unselfish duty is really appreciated by Active Duty members. It makes it possible for them to attend training or be with their families at critical times, whilst the AUXFS is serving their shipmates.



Qualified AUXFSs complete 24-33 hours of basic food services training, along with completing a series of PQS to demonstrate their skills. The training emphasizes safety and sanitation, working in a galley and basic food preparation. A certified and experienced USCG CS is the instructor for the training, often assisted by a unit Food Service Specialist.

Experience is not required, just enthusiasm!

If you are interested in participating in this valuable service, please sign up for a non-reimbursable class:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f48adae22a0fe3-food>

More information about the program is on the National website:
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=auxchef>

Port Lookout

Station Port Angeles

Station Port Angeles was established on 5 September 2003. Co-located with Group/Air Station Port Angeles at the tip of Ediz Hook, Station Port Angeles was established to meet the challenges of a dynamic international border with Canada, and the growing Homeland Security mission in and along the Straits of Juan de Fuca.



Station Port Angeles has an area of responsibility that covers the central and eastern Straits of Juan de Fuca, from Pillar Point to the southern tip of Whidby Island. The primary missions include Search and Rescue, maritime Law enforcement, Ports and Waterways Coastal Security, boating safety, commercial fishing safety, and maritime environmental protection. Station Port Angeles annually responds to approximately 75 search and rescue cases, and performs nearly 200 law enforcement boardings. Station Port Angeles works closely with Coast Guard Sector Seattle, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout Jefferson and Clallam counties.

Boats from Station Port Angeles can be seen patrolling throughout the year performing a variety of missions from Port Angeles to Port Townsend and the San Juan Islands.

Aft Lookout

The United States Coast Guard, one of the country's five armed services, is a unique agency of the federal government. We trace our history to 4 August 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, we expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the Life-Saving Service. The nation then had a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and, until the Navy Department was established in 1798, we served as the nation's only armed force afloat. We continued to protect the nation throughout our long history and have served proudly in our nation's conflicts. Our national defense responsibilities remain one of our most important functions even today. In times of peace we operate as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing our laws at sea, protecting the marine environment, our vast coastline and ports, and saving life.



U.S. Revenue Cutter Bear, circa 1890, on patrol off Alaska.

Painting by James A. Mitchell, III

The U. S. Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times a military force and federal law enforcement agency dedicated to maritime safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We enforce Federal laws on the high seas, the nation's coastal waters and its inland waterways. We are unique in the Nation and the world.

Downloaded from: <https://www.history.uscg.mil/home/history-program/> edited by R. Zempel.

Starboard Lookout

Our annual elections are complete and our Flotilla Commander will be selecting his Flotilla Staff Officers. If you have a passion for any of the following Flotilla Staff positions, contact Jim Armstrong.

Navigation Services (NS)

Coordinates chart updating patrols, verification of private aids to navigation, and the prompt reporting of discrepancies in ATONS (Aids to Navigation) and informs flotilla members of all developments.

Communications Officer (CM)

Encourages the establishment of land-based Auxiliary fixed and mobile VHF-FM radio stations and promotes participation in communication drills, including training exercises in search and rescue communications for vessels and air-craft.

Communications Services Officer (CS)

Arranges for and coordinates computer communications systems, including e-mail, Web site development and administration, and other "paperless" forms of communication.

Finance Officer (FN)

Supervises all financial matters; collects and disburses funds and maintains complete and understandable records of all financial transactions; maintains an annual budget; ensures that annual flotilla audits are performed.

Human Resources (HR)

Develops and implement programs and activities to promote the growth of the Auxiliary, by obtaining

new members, so that all nearby boating areas will be better served.

Information Services Officer (IS)

Maintains systems to record member activities in each mission category and supervises reporting to higher Auxiliary levels while providing feedback to individual members.

Materials Officer (MA)

Maintains an inventory of current Auxiliary materials and equipment including forms and literature. Assists members in ordering educational materials, uniform items, and consumable supplies. Maintains lists and issues units non-expendable items.

Member Training Officer (MT)

Organizes and encourages a continuous program of formal and informal training activities to assure members achieve higher levels of knowledge and expertise about subjects related to Auxiliary programs. Strives to upgrade the qualifications of active members.

Operations Officer (OP)

Coordinates organized boating activities; schedules safety patrols, regatta patrols, chart updating patrols, support missions, etc. Ensures that such activities are performed in accordance with current Coast Guard policies.

Public Affairs Officer (PA)

Develops and coordinates media activities to obtain favorable and supportive publicity for Auxiliary programs. Organizes speakers' bureaus, etc. Prepares articles and photographs for submission to local newspapers and journals. Promotes and maintains relations with the public including businesses, clubs and other organizations.

Publications Officer (PB)

Editor and publisher of the flotilla newsletter/bulletin. Develops and maintains a file of photographs of flotilla activities. Directs clearance, development and distribution of all unit publications. Also submits articles for publication.

Public Education Officer (PE)

Schedules and coordinates public education classes conducted by the flotilla and assures that flotilla instructors are qualified and equipped to teach.

Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program (RBSVP)

Has supervision over all Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program matters and makes and maintains close contact with local community Partners, current records of visitations, plan and perform workshops, member PV training, and ensures that all forms for PV are correctly completed and promptly forwarded.

Secretary/Records Officer (SR)

Records and publishes minutes of the flotilla; maintains mailing lists, rosters, and current copies of the flotilla's Standing Rules; maintains the administrative records of the flotilla.

Vessel Examinations Officer (VE)

Oversees and coordinates the free Vessel Safety Check program to educate the boating public about required safety equipment.

On Deck

***** Attention all VEs *****

The USCGAUX National site and Safety Seal.net lists Vessel Examiners by ZIP Code so boat owners can request a VSC. To add your contact information to the site, go to:

<http://www.safetyseal.net/GetVSC/EnterNewExaminer.asp> and enter your information at the bottom of the page. Boat owners in our area can go to the site, find examiners in the area, and contact them via email. If the majority of our VEs are listed here, we may increase our number of VSCs for the year.

Recruitment

Now is a good time to make 2020 a record-setting year for new members. Bring a friend to a meeting – discuss the Auxiliary with neighbors – get the word out that we exist, do very useful services, and enjoy ourselves in the process. One excellent way to get our message out is to address local service clubs (Rotary, Lions, Elks, VFW, etc.). PE classes and PA events are other great sources of new members.

Report Your Hours

It is essential for the good of the Auxiliary and for the good of the USCG as well, for all members to report their hours and missions. Only half of our members file their 7029s regularly. Aside from the flotilla records and the addition to the USCG budget that those hours represent, the mileage as recorded in the Annual Member Letter is usually deductible on income tax. Please file your 7029s regularly – everyone benefits.

Calendar

18 JAN 10:00 – Flotilla meeting, Air Station Pease Building

15 FEB 10:00 – Flotilla meeting, Air Station Pease Building

21 MAR 10:00 – Flotilla meeting, Air Station Pease Building

Every Thursday 9:00 – Flotilla fellowship, Traylor's Restaurant, Port Angeles

Ground Tackle

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Flotilla 44 Website: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=130-04-04>

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