



# ALERT 11

Volume LXII Issue 3 • Summer 2025



## OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

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*Cover Photograph: Anacortes, Wash – Instructors teaching a Boat America safety class. US Coast Guard photo.*

## Commander's Comments



Ahoy Shipmates,

Our Flotilla has accomplished a lot this year, especially given the percentage of participating members.

Look at the Accomplishments Section later in this newsletter for details on our activities!

For example, our boat crew assisted at the Ski to Sea race, escorted the CGC Eagle to Seattle, and conducted training patrols. We conducted three Boat America classes via Zoom, and Pam assisted Division 2 with an in-person class in Anacortes. In our Flotilla's classes, we educated 24 more boaters on keeping safe on the water. Our VEs have conducted over 137 Vessel Safety Checks and our Program Visitors conducted 132 Marine Dealer Visits. We have commenced our PATON verifications (thanks, Lyle and Peter!). Three of us attended the CGC Terrapin's Change of Command in June. Another three conducted safety training at the Bellingham YC Youth Camp for about 20 kids.

Another example, at our two recent Meetings we had the following speakers: In May – from the Washington State Derelict Vessel Removal Program; and June: Mike King, Whatcom Sheriff's Marine Deputy: program updates and activities. July and August are the summer break on Flotilla Meetings.

Here are a couple Flotilla Program and Unit Plans for your consideration:

- ✳ The boat crew is scheduling Patrols (mostly Mondays). If you are a crew - keep in touch with Manny Eusebio for details.
- ✳ Our Dues Campaign commenced on August 1. Make a plan to either pay (via a check mailed to Manny Eusebio or direct to our PayPal), or notify Pam that you will not be continuing.
- ✳ When putting your Dues check delivery in your calendar, don't forget to (if you have not yet) arrange to complete a Uniform Inspection with me. I can do this at a Meeting or via Zoom. Or if you do not hold a qualification or an office, you can request an inspection exemption. It is important to satisfy this requirement (one way or the other). If it is not addressed, you will go in arrears (on everything) and after 3 years being dis-enrolled. Getting the exemption or conducting the inspection is easy to do. Please contact me to get this done!
- ✳ We are planning on conducting a Hybrid Core Training Blitz this Fall. If you have a question about your currency, please contact me. Many members are over/due on at least one. Know that if you take any of the 5 classes early, it 'resets the clock' on your next due date. Watch your emails for the announcement.
- ✳ Our next Hybrid Flotilla Meeting is Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Please attend (in-person or remotely). Our speaker will be from NOAA's Tsunami Preparedness Program. (Pretty timely!)

Be sure and look at the online calendar to keep apprised of upcoming activities and needs.

Review those activities for what best suits your reason for joining the Auxiliary. Talk to me if you are interested in increasing your participation.

I hope that you will continue to invest in our Flotilla. Your participation is valued; your involvement ensures that our Flotilla programs are viable; and you never know when your efforts might save a life!

*Semper Paratus ~ Semper Tutus*  
Always Ready – Always Safe  
*Pamela Chelgren-Koterba, Flotilla Commander*

# Flotilla Calendar

## August

19 Patrol for QE  
28 Div1 (Zoom)

## September

4 FL11 Staff  
18 FL11 Meeting  
19-21 D13 DTRAIN, Clackamas  
27-28 Seafest at the Harbor  
30 Dues Deadline

## October

2 FL11 Staff

16 FL11 Meeting  
30 Div1 (Zoom)

## November

6 FL11 Staff  
20 FL11 Meeting  
27 CG Sta. Thanksgiving

## December

4 FL11 Planning  
7 Div1 CoW

Please note that some dates are tentative. Please double check closer to the time of the event to confirm.

### ACRONYMS

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>B'ham</b>  | Bellingham                                       |
| <b>CoC</b>    | Change of command event                          |
| <b>CoW</b>    | Change of watch                                  |
| <b>DTRAIN</b> | Districtwide training event                      |
| <b>FL11</b>   | Flotilla 11                                      |
| <b>?</b>      | Placeholder when the exact date is not yet known |
| <b>PPE</b>    | Personal protective equipment                    |
| <b>QE</b>     | Qualification exam                               |
| <b>RSSO</b>   | Rescue and survival systems officer              |
| <b>TBD</b>    | To be determined                                 |
| <b>VSC</b>    | Vessel safety check                              |



## Emergency Management Team

CDR Jantzen, Chief, Emergency Management & Force Readiness; Sector Puget Sound, recently stated that they were moving ahead with establishing a Sector Puget Sound Auxiliary Emergency Management Team. This team will work directly with the SPS EM staff to support contingency exercises, ICS training, and contingency planning initiatives. A few examples of projects envisioned for auxiliaries include:

1. A project currently underway and supported by Auxiliary includes identifying emergency supplies and the appropriate management systems to outfit outlying units in the event of a natural disaster.
2. Assist in exercise development and execution (this includes attendance at the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program course).

3. Assist in ICS course development and training throughout the AOR.

This team will be incorporated into the Active Duty Emergency Management team and we will meet monthly (typically Friday). The meeting will include a one-hour hybrid business meeting that aligns active projects and Aux support. For those who can attend in person, the meeting will be followed by lunch in the galley to promote team unity and fellowship. Auxiliarist Stephen Hueffed is the SPS Auxiliary Emergency Management Team Coordinator. Any Auxiliarist interested in joining the team should contact him directly at [s.hueffed.uscgaux@gmail.com](mailto:s.hueffed.uscgaux@gmail.com). Once an Auxiliarist is added to the team roster, Stephen will communicate meeting details and provide virtual links as needed. The next meeting is currently scheduled for 15 Aug.

## Auxiliary Escorts USCGC Eagle

The USCGC Eagle arrived in Seattle on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The Northwest District reports that dozens of Auxiliary boat crew members provided an escort to the Eagle. The Auxiliary teams came from the various flotillas in the

Puget Sound including our Flotilla to provide the escort, and then performed training in the area for the rest of the day. The Eagle was open for public tours the next day.



*Seattle, Wash – Boat crew members escorting the USCGC Eagle. US Coast Guard photos.*

## Bellingham Yacht Club Class

The Bellingham Yacht Club asked our Flotilla for a boating safety class for their youth program. Pam, Peter, and Leslie instructed the students in various safety topics.



*Bellingham, Wash – Water safety instruction. US Coast Guard photos.*

## Boat Crew Patrols

This summer boat crew members of the Flotilla have been performing many patrols. They have been out on the water verifying the location of some of our science buoys and running search patterns. They also used the WA360 race as practice for locating and identifying boats

in our AOR. The most recent patrol was to transfer the boat to Edmonds marina in order to escort the USCG Eagle into the bay and to Pier 66. This was a joint effort with other flotillas in the division.



*Salish Sea, Wash – Auxiliary Boat Crew provided support to the WA360 race. US Coast Guard photos by Manny Eusebio.*





*Bellingham, Wash – Auxiliary Boat Crews on patrol. US Coast Guard photos by Leslie Parks.*

## Division 2 Public Ed Class

Pam assisted instructing a Boat America class in Anacortes. There were eleven students at the class. Boat America is a boating certificate class that offers an

in-depth and interesting boating safety course, and provides the knowledge needed to be better prepared to boat safely.



*Anacortes, Wash – Boat America class. US Coast Guard photos.*



## Terrapin Change of Command

The Bellingham based USCGC Terrapin has their change of command ceremony this July 10<sup>th</sup>. The change of command ceremony is where the commanding officer of the cutter is relieved by a new commanding officer. The departing skipper was LTJG Katya L. Armbrecht and the new skipper is LTJG Jane A. Alandydy. The Terrapin is one

of the Coast Guard's 87 foot Protector class cutters. Typical missions for the cutter include combating drug smuggling, illegal immigration, marine fisheries enforcement and search and rescue support.



*Bellingham, Wash – USCGC Terrapin Change of Command Ceremony. US Coast Guard photos by Peter Border.*

## Sea to Ski

The flotilla provided a safety patrol for Sea to Ski. Manny Eusebio, Jeff Shaw, and Moti Krauthamer were the boat crew for the patrol and they reported that the patrol

went smoothly without any problems. No kayak leg rescues were necessary and everyone is home safe and sound.



*Bellingham, Wash – Sea to Ski safety patrol. US Coast Guard photos by Manny Eusebio.*

## Sandy Point Vessel Safety Checks

Auxiliarist Steve Bell spent a cool and rainy morning at Sandy Point Marina performing Vessel Safety Checks in support of their Opening Day festivities and the start of National Safe Boating Week. The organizers had four boats on the list to be inspected and Steve was able to complete all of them in a few hours. Of the four only two passed, but the ones that did not pass learned what

changes were needed to pass. In both cases, they were provided the new QR code card so they could access the Federal Regulations, and one vessel was provided a Pollution Placard, a MARPOL Trash Placard, and a Carbon Monoxide sticker. The vessels that failed can be inspected again once they solve their deficiencies.



*Sandy Point, Wash – Steve Bell performing Vessel Safety Checks. US Coast Guard photos by Steve Bell.*

## FEMA Geospatial Damage Assessments

In January of this year, the Coast Guard and FEMA started a joint project where Auxiliarists would assist FEMA in performing geospatial damage assessment. This is a process where the damage from storms and other disasters is recorded in a geographic information system (e.g. a computer map). That process is an essential step in allowing FEMA to issue a disaster declaration and allow federal dollars and assistance to flow.

Auxiliarists were trained on FEMA's mapping system, and after passing a qualification exam, were assigned to a team that could be called up in the event of a disaster.

There are two basic forms of identifying and assessing the damage to structures. For some disasters, footage will be taken from an aircraft, and input into the mapping system. This allows a before and after top-down view of the area. Specific features are looked for, and if a

structure meets that criteria, it is assigned a damage rating. In some disasters, this type of imaging is not available, and so called "open-source" imagery must be used. This is photos and videos of the area that were not specifically taken to assess damage and posted online. A common example would be news footage of the area. If a specific structure can be identified, and damage noted, that building can be given a damage rating in FEMA's mapping system.

I went through this process earlier this year, and was recently called up for the flooding in Texas and New Mexico. In a team of 20-30 people, we were able to find open-source imagery and identify numerous damaged buildings in Ruidoso, New Mexico. After 2-3 days of work, there was sufficient number of damaged structures that a federal disaster declaration was declared for that area.





# US Coast Guard FSLTP Portal - NON-FOUO ONLY

## Data Information and Disclaimers (No PII, PHI, LES)

USCG's ArcGIS Online facilitates information sharing between governmental, non-governmental entities and the public. However, in accordance with data use agreements and in consideration of privacy and confidentiality, some data may not

*Bellingham, Wash – FEMA tool for geospatial damage assessment. US Coast Guard photo by Mike Hayner*

## Member Training

Congrats to Manny for completing the requirements for AuxOp!!

We will have a hybrid Core Training Blitz in the Fall.

| Course/s                                | Members completing   |
|---|----------------------|
| ANNUAL RISK MGMT TCT REFRESHER TRAINING | Peter Border         |
|   | Jeff Shaw            |
|   | Lyle Schrag          |
|   | Pam Chelgren-Koterba |
|   | John Salinas         |
|   | Jeff Halbrook        |
|   | Nico Lacchini        |
|   | Sarah Parker         |
|   | Jeff Schutzler       |
|   | Manny Eusebio        |
|   | Leslie Parks         |
|   | Joie Cosby           |
| OPERATIONS WORKSHOP                     | Jeff Shaw            |
|   | Lyle Schrag          |



|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
|   | Pam Chelgren-Koterba |
|   | Jeff Halbrook        |
|   | Nico Lacchini        |
|   | Sarah Parker         |
|   | Manny Eusebio        |
|   | Leslie Parks         |
|   | Joie Cosby           |
| VESSEL EXAMINATIONS WORKSHOP                        | Steve Bell           |
|   | Lyle Schrag          |
|   | Nico Lacchini        |
| FLOTILLA LEADERSHIP COURSE                          | Pam Chelgren-Koterba |
|   | Manny Eusebio        |
|   | Leslie Parks         |
| FINGERPRINT TECHNICIAN EXAM                         | Steve Bell           |
| INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP                                 | Peter Border         |
| RBS PROGRAM VISITOR WORKSHOP (WK-16)                | Peter Border         |
| ATON/A/V WORKSHOP                                   | Pam Chelgren-Koterba |
| COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP                             | Nico Lacchini        |
| COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALTY (AUXCOM) COURSE            | Manny Eusebio        |
| WEATHER SPECIALTY (AUXWEA) COURSE                   | Manny Eusebio        |
| SEAMANSHIP SPECIALTY (AUXSEA) COURSE                | Manny Eusebio        |
| PATROLS SPECIALTY (AUXPAT) COURSE                   | Manny Eusebio        |
| INTRO TO MARINE SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION   | Manny Eusebio        |
| ICS100 - INTRODUCTION TO ICS ONLINE                 | Joie Cosby           |
| ICS700 INTRO TO NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM | Joie Cosby           |
| INTRODUCTION TO RISK MANAGEMENT LMS COURSE          | Joie Cosby           |
| SUICIDE PREVENTION                                  | Steve Bell           |
|   | Lyle Schrag          |
|   | Nico Lacchini        |
|   | Monica Jackson       |
| SECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARENESS           | Nico Lacchini        |
|   | Monica Jackson       |
| PRIVACY AWARENESS                                   | Nico Lacchini        |
|   | Monica Jackson       |
| SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION COURSE                 | Nico Lacchini        |
|   | Monica Jackson       |
| ETHICS TRAINING                                     | Monica Jackson       |

## Navigation Systems

Two of our AVs have commenced PATON verifications (with two discrepancies reported). They completed 12

(of 44) PATONs, but no Bridges yet. Mid-August is the expected start of major activities.

## Awards in 2025

The following members from our flotilla have been awarded in 2025.



Awarded to any member who completes five cumulative years of Auxiliary membership. Each additional five years receives a bronze star.

Ray Ulrich – 5 years

Nico Lacchini – 10 years (One bronze star)

John Salinas – 15 years (Three bronze stars)

Jeff Shaw – 20 years (Four bronze stars)



Auxiliarists who complete the Operational Auxiliarist program may wear the AUXOP device

Manny Eusebio: AuxOp



Awarded for support to CG units and missions, which includes surface operations, air operations and operational watch standing

Lyle Schrag: Aux Operations Service – 5<sup>th</sup>



Awarded for instructor and/or instructor aide hours.

Pam Chelgren-Koterba: Public Ed Service – 12<sup>th</sup>

## Flotilla Staff Officers

The following members are your Flotilla Staff Officers.

Please contact them if you have any questions or ideas, or wish to get involved in a particular type of activity.

| Office | Name                 | Email                    |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| FC     | Pam Chelgren-Koterba | pamck.cgaux@gmail.com    |
| FSO-CS | Mike Hayner          | mhayner@pnwsoft.com      |
| FSO-FN | Manny Eusebio        | eusebio.e@gmail.com      |
| FSO-HR | Steve Bell           | captsteve78031@gmail.com |
| FSO-IS | Nico Lacchini        | nico@lacchini.com        |
| FSO-MA | Leslie Parks         | parksfamilee@comcast.net |
| FSO-MT | Pam Chelgren-Koterba | pamck.cgaux@gmail.com    |
| FSO-NS | Pam Chelgren-Koterba | pamck.cgaux@gmail.com    |
| FSO-OP | Manny Eusebio        | eusebio.e@gmail.com      |
| FSO-PB | Mike Hayner          | mhayner@pnwsoft.com      |
| FSO-PE | Raymond White        | rayewhite@gmail.com      |
| FSO-PV | Peter Border         | pmborder@msn.com         |
| FSO-SR | Leslie Parks         | parksfamilee@comcast.net |
| FSO-VE | Steve Bell           | captsteve78031@gmail.com |

## Parting Shot



*Seattle, Wash – A surprise occupant of a kayak. US Coast Guard photo by Station Seattle.*