

SOUTH SOUNDINGS

USCG Auxiliary Division 3

September 2025

Volume XVII

No. 8





SOUTH SOUNDINGS

Is the newsletter for Division 3 of the USCG Auxiliary. Division is located in the Southern Puget Sound from Des Moines to Olympia, WA

2025 DIVISION BOARD

Division Commander Robert Hamilton
Division Vice Commander Vacant
Imm Past Div Commander Neil Christenson
Flotilla 32 Commander Craig Brown
Flotilla 33 Commander Jeff Bocott
Flotilla 38 Commander Michael Tilson

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Marine Safety Vacant
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Navigation Systems Vacant
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Public Affairs Ivan Dubro
Public Education Anthony Merola
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Program Visitor Anthony Merola
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Vessel Examination Vacant

Cover Photo

USCGC Eagle underway in
Elliot Bay
Photo by
Ivan Dubro

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Next Deadline: September 29, 2025

Submit to:

rdmalmberg@comcast.net

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SEPTEMBER DIVISION 3 MEETING



The Division meeting will convene on 5 September 1830 hours via Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85800302205?pwd=HNI9EqV7xuqn17y7oWA6Q8xxQAJjXE.1>

Meeting ID: 858 0030 2205
Passcode: 213699

DIVISION OFFICERS

We continue to experience several vacancies – please consider your capabilities & schedule and sign up for any office you can support. Remember – you hold the pen, we'll move the paper. Free training provided! Vacancies in priority of fill are:

1. Operations
2. Information Services
3. Vessel Examination
4. Member Training
5. Materials
6. Navigation Systems
7. Marine Safety
8. Communication Services

AUXDATA II CLOSING



AUXDATA II will shut down on 20 September 2025 as outlined in ALAUX 032/25. Leadership is currently engaged in actions to maintain program availability, but we need to prepare for the system to go offline for at least three weeks. I am not

aware of a record export feature, so you'll have to manually copy all of your data.

Recommended actions:

Individual Members: Back up your data by creating print screens of your Detail, Related, Skills and Availability, and PPE pages. Be sure to capture Member Status History, Member Activities, Competencies, Member Tasks, Awards, Member Offices, and Patrol history. Catch up on all of your hour logs now!

Flotilla Commanders: Recommend you run and save all of your regular monthly report. Run a complete member roster as well. If you do not have an FSO for a particular office, run that FSO report data and maintain it on file.

Flotilla Staff Officers: Run the current version of your reports and keep them on local file.

Auxdata II teams are aware of the situation – look for more guidance to follow.

FALL DTRAIN

DTRAIN will take place 19-21 September at the Monarch Hotel & Conference Center in Clackamas, OR. You should have made reservations by now – details are posted to the Northwest District web site.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS BOOTH AT WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

by Ivan Dubro, SO-PA 3

This year, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary booth at the Washington State Fair received significant upgrades. The booth now features five TV screens displaying a variety of videos that cover Coast Guard recruitment, Coast Guard job missions, USCG history, boating safety, and lighthouses. This innovative engaging setup allows us to share a wealth of information with the public about the Coast Guard and Boating Safety. A special thank you goes to Ron Holtcamp from Flotilla 38 and Bill Rasmussen from Flotilla 33 for manning the booth. If anyone is interested in helping out in manning the booth, please reach out to Ron Holtcamp via email: (rholtcamp@comcast.net).



*Ron Holtcamp standing watch at USCG Auxiliary Booth at the Washington State Fair
Photo by: Ivan Dubro*

WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL

Division 4 is seeking Watch Standers for the event from 4-7 September in Port Townsend. If you'd like to add to your PA hours, this is a great opportunity! There may still be some inexpensive dorm berthing available – check the “related files attachments” in the Signup Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AA5A72FAAFEC25-57550676-wooden>



DOUGLAS MUNRO MEMORIAL



Cle Elum will again host the Douglas Munro memorial on 26 September at 1100 HRS. There was very low Auxiliary attendance last year – we would like to fix that for 2025. If you would like to carpool, particularly if you can drive your vehicle, please contact the DCDR. We are exploring a no-host luncheon following the event. As Douglas Munro is the only USCG holder of the Medal of Honor, it is fitting that we recognize his sacrifice – please do your best to attend.

HONOR FLIGHTS



We still need Auxiliarists from Western Washington to help provide assistance and honor the veterans participating in four [Puget Sound Honor Flights](#) out of SEATAC Airport in 2025. The number of veterans traveling on each flight is increasing significantly this year, so we need more Auxiliary and active duty and reservist volunteers to help.

The USO provides a lounge for us to wait if there is down time, particularly on the Monday evenings as we are waiting for the veterans to return.

They also provide us with parking vouchers for the SEATAC parking garage. They request that we park on garage floors 1-3 or 5-8 and that we consider carpooling as much as possible.

Update for fall 2025:

Saturday morning "send off" volunteers:

Departure Saturday, September 13, 2025: Alaska Airlines Flight #378 at 1010 hours. Veteran check-in begins at 0715. **Auxiliary volunteers will need to arrive no later than 0645** at Alaska Airlines ticketing in the main terminal, near door #29. You will be given a gate pass by Alaska Airlines, so make sure you bring your government issued ID!

Departure Saturday, October 11, 2025: Alaska Airlines Flight #378 at 0908 hours. Veteran check-in begins at 0615. **Auxiliary volunteers will need to arrive no later than 0545** at Alaska

Airlines ticketing in the main terminal, near door #29. You will be given a gate pass by Alaska Airlines, so make sure you bring your government issued ID!

What to expect Saturday morning:

Auxiliary volunteers greet veterans as they arrive, assist them unloading their luggage as they get dropped off, help them get into a wheelchair if they would like one, provide them with a bag of swag and then escort the vets out to the gate. While they wait for their flight, there's plenty of time to chat with the vets, hear their stories and thank them for their service.

Once the vets have boarded the plane, those Auxiliarists who have a combination cover are escorted by TSA out to the tarmac to "man the rails," and render a salute to the vets on the plane as it backs out of the gate. Once the flight leaves, volunteers go to the USO to get parking validation before going back to the parking garage.

UPDATE for fall 2025: Uniform for the send off volunteers on Saturday mornings for the fall honor flights will be **trops** with a combination cover.

"Welcome back" volunteers on Monday evenings (note two different check-in times for these flights):

Update for fall 2025:

Monday, September 15, 2025: Alaska Airlines Flight #379 arrives at 2205 hours.

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Military and Auxiliary volunteers check-in with Alaska Airlines for gate passes at 2030 hours.

Monday, October 13, 2025: Alaska Airlines Flight #379 arrives at 2100 hours. **Military and Auxiliary volunteers check-in with Alaska Airlines for gate passes at 1930 hours.**

Make sure you bring your government issued ID! Alaska Airlines will give you a gate pass. At that point they usually ask the volunteers to wait up in the USO lounge on the mezzanine level until the TSA agents arrive to escort the group through security and out to the gate.

Uniformed personnel from all branches of the military (including the Auxiliary volunteers) walk in formation from Security out to the gate. Then there's a little more waiting until we line up to salute and escort the veterans as they disembark the plane one by one. Volunteers either push the vets' wheelchairs or walk alongside them as they walk through the airport to a reception in the main terminal where they meet their relatives and pick up their luggage. This is a great opportunity to chat with the veterans and ask them about their experience over the weekend, etc.

Once you have helped escort the veterans to the reception, you will go back to the USO to get your parking validation before leaving the airport. Note that the

Puget Sound Honor Flight staff are there to make sure everything runs smoothly! Also note, the time we depart the airport is approximate. Sometimes the flights are delayed. Please plan to stay until we have finished escorting the vets to the main terminal.

Uniform for Monday night "welcome back" volunteers is a complete and correct service dress blue bravo uniform with combination cover.

If you have a question about uniforms, check out this resource:

https://www.cgaux.org/members/USCGAUX_Uniform_Presentation-01082019.pdf

Want to learn more about the Puget Sound Honor Flight organization? Visit their website: <https://pugetsoundhonorflight.org/>

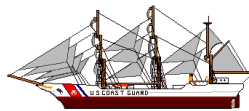
Please sign up for opportunities to support the Honor Flight program below.

If you have questions about volunteering, please contact Debra Alderman, 206-898-4377 daldermanseattle@gmail.com

DCDR will drive to the 13 September morning event (leaving home at 0600 HRS), as well as the 15 September event (leaving home at 1945 hours). "Home", in this case, is 4907 Main Street, Tacoma. Anyone wishing to carpool should email Bob at Robert.hamilton4907@gmail.com.

USCGC EAGLE: HISTORY & SEATTLE VISIT

by Ivan Dubro



It was a cool, overcast morning as our facility made its way to Elliot Bay. I was stationed as the forward lookout, and for the first hour, there was very little boating traffic to report—mostly ferries crossing channels and a few fishing boats. However, once we entered Elliot Bay, we all spotted a white-hulled sailing vessel anchored in the distance. The vessel seemed completely out of place—a three-masted sailing ship against the backdrop of a modern city. This vessel was the *USCGC Eagle*.

The *USCGC Eagle* is a three-masted barque used as a training vessel by the United States Coast Guard Academy. Here are some brief statistics about the *Eagle*:

Length: 295 ft

Crew: 55 (working crew); 239 (maximum)

Speed: 17 knots under sail; 10 knots under diesel engine

Sources: (US Coast Guard Academy)

The *USCGC Eagle* began its life as the training ship *Horst Wessel* in the Kriegsmarine (the German navy between pre-WWII and during WWII). Commissioned in 1936, it conducted various training voyages around the Baltic and Atlantic from 1936 to 1939. During WWII, the *Horst Wessel* continued training cadets and managed to survive the conflict undamaged. After the war, it was turned over to the United States as war reparations and, in 1946, was commissioned into the U.S. Coast Guard Fleet as the *USCGC Eagle*. That same year, the *USCGC Eagle* departed Germany and arrived in New London, CT, its new

home. Since then, the *Eagle* has trained Coast Guard cadets for the past 79 years. Notable missions over its service include many goodwill cruises, tall ship races, and fleet reviews.

This year, the *USCGC Eagle* conducted training and goodwill cruises along the Pacific West Coast. One of its planned ports of call was Seattle. As part of the escort into Seattle, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary organized an escort flotilla that met the *Eagle* in Elliot Bay. This flotilla consisted of seven facilities from various flotillas throughout Puget Sound. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in this mission, and alongside Bob Hamilton, I was aboard the John Edward's facility. We arrived early at the rendezvous point, which gave us a great opportunity to take close photos of the *Eagle* and observe how other auxiliary facilities arrived. The escort itself was quite straightforward, with the *Eagle* conducting two loop passes in Elliot Bay, flanked by auxiliary facilities on either side, before heading to dock at pier 66. It was a special sight to see such a beautiful vessel gracefully navigate Elliot Bay, a scene that must have been common 150 years ago in the same bay. The following day, I drove to Seattle to board the *USCGC Eagle*, which was open to the public for two days during its stay. Remembering the previous day and the few people I had seen on the docks watching the *Eagle*, I didn't anticipate a large crowd. To my surprise, when I arrived, there was a huge line that stretched across almost two blocks. After waiting for a while, I finally managed to get onboard. The first thing I noticed was

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how tall the masts were and how much rigging surrounded us, it was quite a sight. I had the chance to talk to several cadets, all of whom shared stories about climbing those masts. As they said, “There is no better view than from the top of the mainmast!” Walking around the deck of the *Eagle* helped me appreciate our modern vessels while highlighting the skill required to crew and operate such a ship. I have no doubt that the cadets who sail the *Eagle* will leave with many great sea stories and experiences that will make them even better officers. It was a privilege to come aboard and assist in the escort mission, and it’s an experience I will cherish for a long time!

Sources:

<https://uscga.edu/mission/eagle/about-eagle/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USCGC_Eagle_\(WIX-327\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USCGC_Eagle_(WIX-327))



Top right: USCGC Eagle at pier 66 in Seattle

Bottom: USCGC Eagle's midships wheel

Photos by: Ivan Dubro



COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL EXAMINER

The Coast Guard is actively seeking Auxiliarists willing to serve as Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners. The District had four full-time inspectors – they are now down to zero. Details posted below:

USCG Auxiliary Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS) Examiner – Program Overview

Sector Puget Sound (SPS) is billeted for 5 full-time CFVS Examiner civilian employees (4 GS12s and 1 GS11). Through existing vacancies, resignations, retirements and transfers, **all** positions have been vacant since July, hence this urgent need.

SPS should be doing about 300 CFVS Dockside exams per year. While they do exams on very large fishing vessels, a significant number are done on vessels less than 65 ft (mostly tribal fishing vessels).

The areas of greatest need are in the outlying areas:

- Bellingham-Blaine boat harbors are very busy in May/June.
- The Lummi Nation vessels call for exams ahead of fish openers-typically in February
- Anacortes/La Conner: Significant number of 58 ft purse seiners needing exams Apr-June; Swinomish tribe calls for exam ahead of fish openers

- Port Angeles (PA): Occasional requests for exams in PA. FTE examiners have to travel from Seattle (takes entire day to do 1 vessel, because of the travel).

- Kitsap Peninsula: Primarily the Suquamish fleet near Brownsville.

Primary assistance needed is with:

- Exams of smaller fishing vessels in the outlying areas.
- Dock-walking and outreach with local fishermen-advertising our services, and distributing Information.
- Help with damage control trainer, stability model, etc. during safety fairs or training.

What are we looking for:

- Aux members of good standing
- Experienced Vessel Examiner
- Good communication skills
- Positive representative of CG and CFVS Program.
- Good mobility for getting on/off vessels. Physical ability to move through a vessel, climbing ladders, etc.
- Ability to understand and decipher CG regulations, standards and policies. Being a CFVS Examiner is not for everyone.

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Qualification Process - The CFVS PQS is a Gold Side (not AUX) PQS

The qualification process requires dedicated work on the part of the candidate.

The candidate will need to:

- Receive an Assignment to Training Duties memo for Sector Puget Sound
- Complete the CFVS Examiner Course on Moodle
- Complete a Gold Side PQS package that has been adapted for AUX members (44 tasks)
- Work with a Verifying Officer (VO) from SPS or NW District for sign-offs
- Complete a Confined Space Entry Course
- Complete a Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor Course
- Perform a Check-Ride with a Verifying Officer
- Stand an oral qualification board
- Receive a CFVS Examiner Qualification Letter

Resident training opportunity in October at Sector Puget Sound

- **0800-1600, October 21 through 24**
- **2 days of classroom examiner training**
- **1 day drill conductor training**
- **1 day of in the field mock exams**
- **Limited seating availability.**

**If interested after reading and understanding the nature of the commitment,
Please contact:**

**Mike Rudolph
Rudolph, Michael G CIV USCG D13 (USA)**

<Michael.G.Rudolph@uscg.mil>

**USCG Northwest District CFVS
Coordinator
Seattle, WA
206-259-0087**

and copy:

**Jessup, Aaron D CIV USCG MSU
AMERICAN SAMOA (USA)**

<Aaron.D.Jessup1@uscg.mil>

Peter J Garland AX, Division 4 SO-MS grocklerp@wavecable.com

Robert W Hamilton, Division 3 SO-MS robert.hamilton4907@gmail.com

After qualification:

- CFVS Examiner will perform duties for Sector Puget Sound Chief of Inspections, CFVS Branch Leader
- Check-in, Check-out with CFVS Leader
- CFVS Exams are generated through member's dock-walking, outreach, and notifications from CFVS Leader
- Exam reports and vessel photos are emailed to CFVS Leader
- Keep copies of paperwork/reports.

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- Report hours and exams through Auxdata II
- Must complete 5 exams and 80 program hours annually to retain qualification.

Area of Responsibility (AOR)

- Most aux members do not receive travel reimbursement for their duties. But on occasion, will be asked to do activities outside their normal geographic area and will be placed on travel orders for reimbursement.
- Aux members will have a base geographic area based on a Flotilla or CG Station that will be considered their local commuting distance (no travel reimbursement). Activities outside this area may have reimbursement for travel—ONLY with prior authorization and the availability of funds.
- Special circumstances may involve TDY travel orders for overnight trips (lodging/per-diem/travel reimbursement).

CREW MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

From the DCDR: I'm afraid I had to cancel the 13 September crew mission. There is an Honor Flight that day and Flotilla 33 has a social event planned. Additionally, this is so close to the 20 September sunset of Auxdata II that I am uneasy about being able to close out the order. My apologies for the cancellation – as soon as the October budget opens up I'll post more missions. Thank you all.

PWC OPERATOR OPPORTUNITY

If you want to be a PWC operator, but don't have your own Personal Watercraft, we have an incredible opportunity for you. Rich Liebe of the Arctic District has a PWC in the area and is willing to train our members and let them use it for PWC missions. If you are interested, please contact him directly at richliebe@att.net.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

Flotilla 32:

Ryan Brown, 15 years

Flotilla 33:

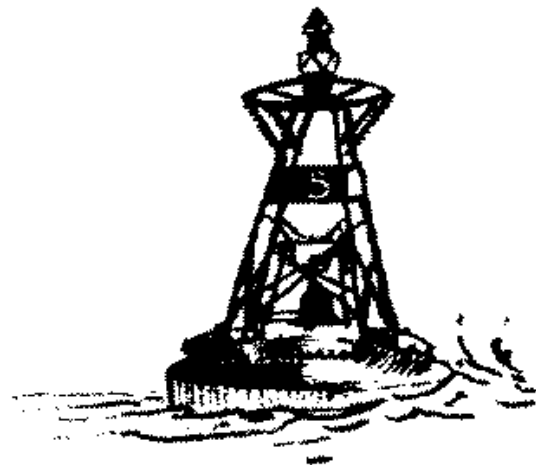
Byron Smith, 16 years

Omar Rubi, 1 year

Flotilla 38:

Robert Lyden, 25 years

Chuck Moore, 1 year



UPCOMING EVENTS

11-14 September: Seattle Boats Afloat Show (Watch Standing opportunity)
12 September: Dupont Police Safety Fair
13 September: Honor Flight
13 September: Flotilla 33 Picnic
15 September: Honor Flight
18 September: Division Training Event (Zoom)
19-21 September: DTRAIN
22 September – 2 October: DCDR out of the net
24 September: Sector Puget Sound/Division Leadership Meeting
26 September: Douglas Munro Memorial Event

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Topic: Division 3 Meeting 5 September 2025

Time: 06:30 PM US/Pacific

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89173671602?pwd=Eh0oaz4apzfiSxsEgXGunDedzeFbqw.1>

Meeting ID: 891 7367 1602

Passcode: 970878

Flotilla 32 (Des Moines): 15 September

Flotilla 33 (Tacoma): 11 September

Flotilla 38 (Olympia): 17 September

Northern Area Leaders Meeting: 8 September (DCDR, VDCDR, FC, VFC attend)

Division 4 Social Zoom: 0800 every Thursday. Optional for all, but a great opportunity to network and find out what's going on across the District). Open to anyone that wishes to dial in – 100% Zoom, no uniform. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88623252042?pwd=NwXE3dckIlZjVHO1AxlzkbDasDCGQ.1>

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Division 3 Meeting	6
7	8 Northern Area Leaders Meeting	9	10	11 Seattle Boats Afloat Show 11-14 FL33 Meeting ←-----	12 Dupont Police Safety Fair-----	13 Honor Flight FL33 Picnic -----
14 ----->	15 Honor Flight FL32 Meeting	16	17 FL38 Meeting	18 Division Training event via zoom	19 DTRAIN 19 - 21 ←-----	20 -----
21 ----->	22	23	24 Sector Puget Sound/Division Leadership Mtg.	25	26 Douglas Munro Memorial Event	27
28 31	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 FL33 Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15 FL38 Meeting	16	17	18
19	20 FL32 Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	