



REPORT TO THE COMMANDANT

Items of interest reported by District Commodores

June 2007

Atlantic East Area

District 1 Southern Region

1. During last winter, Station Sandy Hook lost power and suffered significant water damage from pipes that burst in numerous housing units that are needed during the summer months. Six Auxiliary members spent the first weekend of May assisting with a variety of construction projects that included repair of plumbing and installation of new drywall. The support will continue in the coming weeks.
2. The Auxiliary played a major support role during Fleet Week in Sector New York. As the parade of ships entered the Port of New York, 12 Auxiliary surface facilities provided regatta patrol support. In addition, Auxiliary members staffed shore side support with a public affairs booth and by assisting with public tours of the cutter Katherine Walker. Finally, Auxiliary safety patrols provided a surge effort during this week with maritime observation patrols that covered marinas, launch ramps and marine dealers.
3. Sector Long Island Sound held an open house for the public May 29. Auxiliary members assisted with set-up and tours. As an added feature, the First Southern Auxiliary Mobile Command Center, a radio equipped trailer, made its first public appearance.
4. A three-member aircrew spotted and reported five-mile long oil sheen May 26. Created by a garbage spill seven miles south of Sandy Hook, New Jersey, the information was reported to Sector New York for investigation and follow up.

District 5 Northern Region

1. Auxiliary member Robert Fritz is deeply involved teaching POMS (patrol order management system) and Aux-04 (distant education learning) classes to regular Coast Guard members and teaching computer classes to Auxiliary members. He spent a total of 2,135 volunteer hours over the past three years teaching classes at such places as ISC Alameda, ISC

Kodiak, Hawaii, the Coast Guard Academy, Tracen Yorktown and Tracen Cape May. He also has a hand in working on the Auxiliary Conferencing System, "Smile Tiger."

2. Division 16 of Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey has nine Auxiliary members providing support hours to Station Manasquan Inlet and Station Small Shark River. For the month of April, seven members spent 181 hours as communications watch standers and two members spent 200 hours doing administrative office duties and general repair.

District 5 Southern Region

1. The first AUXCHEF class was completed the weekend of May 5 and 6 at Station Milford Haven in Hudgins, VA. Ron Ellis, the first Auxiliary graduate of the Coast Guard Food Services School, instructed 10 members from four divisions and qualified them to assist in food services duties for stations, cutters and other units within Sector Hampton Roads.

2. Division 9, Piedmont, North Carolina, conducted a weekend drill with the local Civil Air Patrol on May 26. The training was conducted on Jordan Lake and Falls Lakes, surrounding the City of Raleigh. The training scenarios included looking for boaters in distress or drowning victims and over flights during simulated natural disasters. As a result, the division and local CAP will cooperate during sundown safety patrols throughout the summer months.

3. Auxiliarist Tom White, Division 20, New Bern, North Carolina, was the piper for the Memorial Day Veteran's ceremony. White is a member of the CG-AUX Bagpipe Team.

4. Coast Guard Academy senior class cadets are gaining first hand experience associated with helo rescue operations. Flotillas 16-01 and 16-07 support the familiarization by transporting cadets from shore to the Pasquotank River near Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The cadets are placed in the water to be recovered by a helo and rescue swimmer. After the cadet and rescue swimmer are hoisted to the helo, the cadet is returned to the water for pickup by an Auxiliary facility. During the evolutions involving about 25 cadets, the Auxiliary facilities provide safety standby for both the helo and persons in the water and a platform for those cadets not actively engaged in the evolutions.

5. On May 18, Auxiliary members Vince Popowitch and Mickey Frece of Division 8, Roanoke Valley, VA, were completing a HF radio training session in the mountains of western Virginia when they heard a mayday call, off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida. The call went out on the ship-to-ship channel and not the emergency channel. After not hearing a response from Sector Jacksonville, they called the Operations Command Center at Hampton Roads, VA and reported the radio broadcast. Hampton Roads called the Operations Command Center of Sector Jacksonville and Sector Jacksonville made contact with ship. The following morning, the Coast Guard recovered four persons in a life raft and found no trace of the vessel. Fortunately, a HF training session 800 miles from the scene contributed to this rescue!

6. On May 20, at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp in Virginia Beach, Flotilla 57 was

conducting Vessel Safety Checks and a drowning occurred nearby. One person went in to retrieve a fishing pole and the other person, thinking that the first person fell in, jumped in to save him. The person retrieving his fishing pole got out of the water but the other was found in about a half hour, and was pronounced dead. Neither man was wearing a life jacket. As the incident occurred, a Marine Patrol Officer responded to the scene within four minutes after receiving the call a channel 16. Another Police boat working with the Auxiliary at the boat ramp responded and a police helo followed within minutes. In addition, a 25 UTB from Station Little Creek responded to the call. Auxiliary member Mike Eberhard acted as the on scene coordinator and passed information on a portable Auxiliary Radio facility and cell phone to Sector Hampton Roads.

District 7

1. Division 1, in Puerto Rico held a press conference Friday May 18, to promote National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) events around island. The Auxiliary received a Proclamation signed by the Governor of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that was presented by Glizette Estrella, Executive Officer, from the Office of the Commissioner of Navigation. CAPT Raymond J Perry and BM2 Martinez from Sector San Juan demonstrated the proper wearing of Personal Flotation Devices, displayed other safety equipment and demonstrated the use of EPIRBs. Local media interviewed them during the ceremony and demonstration. During NSBW informational booths with safety equipment and PFD demonstrations were set up at West Marine and Wal-Mart stores throughout the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In various locations, local agencies such as FURA (police rapid deployment group), Municipal Police, Fire Departments and the US Coast Guard (Sector San Juan and Air Station Borinquen) cooperated and participated.

2. Division 3 of Ft. Lauderdale and Division 6 of Miami, supported Fleet Week and the McDonalds Air and Sea Show in conjunction with Sector Miami and Station Ft. Lauderdale. Seven Auxiliary facilities from Ft. Lauderdale plus three from Division 6 of Miami, for a total of 10 operational facilities and 30 boat crewmembers, assisted each day for three days. The boats established a safety picket line around the perimeter of the event and contribute a total of 240 hours. Auxiliary radios watch standers at Station Ft. Lauderdale freed up active duty Coast Guard to focus on law enforcement activities.

4. Activities for NSBW included the receipt of proclamations from surrounding cities in Broward County, FL by each of the flotillas. Safety information booths and Vessel Safety Checks were conducted at the local Wal-Mart and West Marine stores. A special event with the Bass Pro Shops was so successful that the Auxiliary has been asked to provide a monthly boating safety classes. The annual Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo provided an excellent showcase for another boating safety information booth with VSC station.

5. The Communications unit of Division 5, an Auxiliary Rapid Response Team, made its debut at the Coast Guard Seventh District Hurricane Preparedness National Media Event 30 May at Air Station Miami. The response team trailer and tow vehicle were used for the backdrop as RADM Kunkel provided the press briefing covered by local television news.

TACLET South, an ANT Team, a PSU, a HH60, a HH65, a Falcon and a C-130 flanked the Auxiliary facilities. The communications vehicles were crewed by members Tom Phelps, Joanne Mills and Dan Jacquish who have all spent many hours over a six-week period outfitting the facilities for Hurricane Season 2007.

6. Division 6 of Miami, FL is assisting Station Miami and Air Station Miami with auxiliary facilities in support of helo rescue swimmers training at sunset on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. This support relieves surface assets from Station Miami for other missions.

7. In cooperation with the Coral Gables Fire department, Linda Rickerson and 10 members of Division 6 in Miami kicked off NSBW with a fire safety event at a local marina in Coral Gables. The fire department provided a fire engine, ambulance and EMT personnel to present information on boat fire safety. At Crandon Park marina, Key Biscayne, Chris Todd, of Flotilla 11, coordinated with the TV media from Miami to broadcast a segment on the importance of a vessel safety check.

8. Auxiliary air units flying for Air Station Miami made several significant SAR and Observation Patrol flights during the month. Near South Cay Sal Bank, in the Florida Keys, Tiger 1 located a go-fast boat that immediately began jettisoning large white barrels. Later that day, Tiger 1 observed a second go-fast boat, which was reported and then stopped by a Coast Guard surface unit.

9. Flotilla 13-08 of Key Largo, FL. is coordinating with the Florida Wildlife Commission in developing public service announcements that promote Auxiliary boater education programs and the proper use of VHF Channel 16. Several spot announcements have been drafted and are being reviewed at Sector Key West. Upon approval, the announcements will be sent to Auxiliary National Staff for production and distribution.

10. The Port of Key West security exercises, held on 15-16 May, were supported by Flotilla 13-01 of Key West, Auxiliarists serving as evaluators, in conjunction with the Coast Guard and eight Agencies, including the US Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, City of Key West Police, and others who trained as a team to assure effective communication and performance. The Auxiliary evaluators observed, recorded and reported details on the performance and progress of the participating agencies during the exercise, which will be utilized for study and to determine the overall value of the exercise.

11. Flotillas 13-01 of Key West and 13-03 of Big Pine Key assisted the US Army Special Forces in a parachute drop exercise on 11 May. Acting as safety patrols, they also retrieved trainees and parachutes from the water.

12. At the Great Conch Republic Sea Battle regatta, Flotilla 13-01 of Key West provided two operational facilities and crews, which supplemented the active duty Coast Guard to patrol the harbor. This support relieved surface assets from Sector Key West for other missions.

13. At the Marathon offshore power boat races, Flotilla 13-03 of Big Pine Key, provided regatta patrol support to keep spectator boats from intruding into the racecourse. This support relieved surface assets from Station Marathon for other law enforcement missions.

14. In support of NSBW, Flotilla 16-2, St. Thomas, USVI, worked with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to set up information booths in several locations. The booths provided interactions with over a thousand people.

15. During the annual St. Thomas Carnival, a larger cultural event, USVI Auxiliary members arranged for a Coast Guard helicopter from Puerto Rico, Station Boriquen to perform a “fly-over” and simulated rescue. The demonstration was well received by several thousand people in attendance for the festivities and parade

16. The Sterns and Pro Bass “Fit to Float” national campaign was supported by Auxiliary safety booths in major media markets and brought significant attention to National Safe Boating Week. Dan Eaton, Public Affairs Officer for Division Nine (Southwest Florida), received high praise from Sterns’ Media Liaison Robb Leer, who wrote, “For the record Dan, you fielded and executed more media interviews than any other Auxiliary member in any market---you’re number one!”

17. Auxiliarist Catherine Lori, Public Affairs Officer of Division Seven, Tampa, Florida developed an outstanding short television spot on the need to wear a personal flotation device when boating. The spot appeared on FOX Television’s Channel 13 in Tampa during National Safe Boating Week.

18. Eight Auxiliary instructors teaching ICS 300 and 400 courses to Coast Guard personnel. Members of this group have taught ICS 300 and 400 courses at Sector Key West, Sector Charleston, Sector Jacksonville, Sector Mobile, Sector San Juan, Patrick Air Force Base and Boca Chica Air Station to more than 2000 students. The instructors are Walt Jaskiewicz, Philip Merrill, Mary Kennedy, Helen and Fred Hill, Richard Fletcher, Conrad Palermo and Michael Shea.

19. Coxswain Gary Gray and his crew from Dunedin, FL, onboard the Operational Facility RESOLUTE II, spotted two kayakers in trouble. Waves at the time were approximately three feet, winds were over 20 knots, and the weather was deteriorating rapidly. The crew took two chilled and exhausted people onboard and transported them, and their kayaks, to safety at a launch area in Dunedin Harbor.

20. The Georgia State Senate recognized Divisions 2 (Inland Georgia) and 10 (Eastern Georgia) for outstanding work in boating safety and public education. Georgia Legislative Liaison George “Ed” McGill of Flotilla 26 initiated the Senate Proclamation. Receiving the proclamation were Auxiliarists Mary Larson, Past ARCO-A (E), Cecil Christopher Division Captain 2 and Bruce Lindsey Vice Division Captain 2.

21. In early May, Flotilla 10-2 supplemented CG STA Tybee's small boat crews in escorting a cruise ship up the Savannah River from the ship channel. The Auxiliary vessels alerted recreational boaters in the area not to approach the ship. After the ship docked in downtown Savannah, the Auxiliary, along with Coast Guard Station Tybee's boats maintained a safety perimeter in order to keep recreational vessels away from the ship. An escort facility was provided when the ship departed Savannah.

22. Also in Savannah, over a several day period, several auxiliary facilities were called upon, at the request of MSU Savannah, to assist in evaluating port security in conjunction with Department of Homeland Security and local enforcement personnel. In addition,

at the request of Sector Charleston, because of a barge accident, several auxiliary facilities were called upon from Flotillas 10-1, of Beaufort and 10-11 of Hilton Head, SC to provide patrols to control recreational boating traffic at the Beaufort RV Woods Swing bridge (also known as the Lady's Island Bridge). The bridge was required to reduce openings due to re-routing of vehicular traffic when a barge damaged the McTeer Bridge.

23. At the request of Sector Charleston, Division 12 provided several operational facilities to maintain safety zones in Charleston Harbor for the Tall Ships Festival. Through the combined efforts of four Flotillas, the zone was secured for five 11-hour days. Morning and afternoon shifts were scheduled in order to maintain safety and security during peak boating hours. In addition to the local flotillas from Charleston (12-9) and Mt. Pleasant (12-6), other facilities were trailered from Lake Murray and Georgetown to fill support gaps. The combined efforts of these four flotillas provided well-coordinated support for this event.

24. Division 14 (Northern Florida) has developed, in conjunction with Sector Jacksonville, a pre-storm marina contact plan that has been added to the Sector's Port Heavy Weather Plan. Auxiliary involvement relieves the active duty from this task and the revised plan clarifies the division's role in Harbor Security Patrols

25. Flotilla 48 (South Brevard County, Florida) was asked by the local historical society to set up a display of Auxiliary material that included membership, public education, vessel safety check and America's Waterway Watch, for three months at the Historical Society. The Auxiliary display, and others, was so popular the flotilla was asked to continue it for three more months.

Atlantic West

District 8 Eastern Region

1. The boating season got underway on the Ohio River with Thunder Over Louisville (Division 4), a huge fireworks display associated with the Kentucky Derby, and the Pickwick Boat Races on Pickwick Lake (AL, MS and TN)(Division 24) which are centerpiece events involving safety and regatta patrols. The national Bass Master tournament at Lake Guntersville, AL was a major public affairs event that provided an opportunity to conduct vessel safety checks and distribute America's Waterway Watch materials. Members of Division 24 acted as the honor guard to present the colors at the weigh in ceremonies held in the Guntersville High School Football Stadium. This event was broadcast on national TV (ESPN) on May 5
2. The District participated in the SONS (Spill of National Significance) exercise conducted 19-21 June in cooperation with Sector Ohio Valley and relevant local emergency agencies. David Stroup, the District Communications Officer designed the radio support networks on VHF, UHF and HF frequencies as well as incorporating amateur simplex and local repeaters into the scheme. George Groene, the District Operations Officer, identified the crew participants to support the shore and water activities in which the District participated. John Ellis, the Section Chief – Prevention served as the Unified Command Assistant for the exercise. Auxiliarists served as Coast Guard Documentation Unit Leader, provided security at the Incident Command Post, and acted as AUXCOM/Auxiliary Maritime Branch Director.
3. Governor Bredensen, of Tennessee, issued a proclamation honoring May 19-25 as National Safe Boating Week. The Governor pointed out that nearly 70 percent of those who perish in boating-related accidents drowned. Bredensen further noted that a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning would be alive today had they worn their life jackets. He enjoins all the citizens of Tennessee to join him in the worthy observance of National Safe Boating Week. John Whelan of Division 11 in Nashville arranged for the proclamation.
4. Division 18 has developed a Search and Rescue exercise on Alum Creek Lake in central Ohio, executed on 22 June. A helicopter from Air Station Detroit participated in lift training for Auxiliary boat crews. Participants from Divisions 2 (Huntington, WV), 3 (Eastern OH), 6 (Dayton, OH) and 18 (Columbus, OH) will attend. A large contingent of active duty Coast Guard, including Western Rivers Division Chief, CAPT Tim Close, from the Eighth Coast Guard District staff, observed.
5. The DCO, VCO and DIRAUX traveled to Corpus Christi, TX to meet with RADM Whitehead and to participate in the DSAR exercise among teams from Eighth District who are working to be the district representative at ISAR this fall. Although 8ER will not be sending a team to ISAR this year, planning is underway to participate in the National SAR competition that is expected to take place in 2008.

6. A training session for all Qualification Examiners in the district was held by the QE Coordinator, Jennie McNeil, and the OTO, CWO4 Lloyd Keleher, at Sector Ohio Valley in Louisville. The session ensured all QEs are using the same standards and are following the latest guidance in the check off of boat crews.

District 8 Coastal Region

1. Division 1 (Florida Panhandle) continues participation in the Florida State University Red Tide study, which is providing valuable data for researchers and the state/federal partners. Division 1 invited Division 15 from District 7 to participate as well and coverage is now provided from Pensacola to Tarpon Springs. Florida State University, in Tallahassee, is planning a Coast Guard Day for its last home football game this year. Flotilla 12 is working with FSU and Sector Mobile to create a significant presence that will include aircraft and static displays outside the stadium.

2. Division 3 (South Alabama) conducted several boating classes for some 715 students ranging from preschool thru third grades. Flotilla 36 presented another class to 138 youngsters. National Safe Boating Week dominated the theme for the units during the entire month of May. An air show held at the Fairhope, Alabama, Airport drew an estimated 10,000 people. A safety booth coupled with Coastie the robotic boat provided boating safety information to attendees. The division held a SAREX on May 25 and 26 with members from Divisions 1 and 8 participating. Forty Auxiliarists and a number of Coast Guard members participated in the exercise.

3. Because of a number of fatalities in their AOR this year, Division 4 (Southern Louisiana) is working closely with the District Public Affairs Office to take advantage of the new interest in boating safety by the local TV stations. NSBW was well attended and over 250 vessel safety checks were given. The Division Captain spoke to five city councils and the Jefferson Parish council regarding Safe Boating Week. There are many new boats this year and the demand for safety checks is high. To address radio dead spots, Division members have installed a repeater for the New Orleans area and working on another for the Baton Rouge area. After completion, they will work with the local CG to bring the repeaters on line.

4. Division 5 (North Central and North West Texas) started the month doing classes at several middle schools where they reached 2,292 students. Flotilla 54 also worked with a safety day exercise sponsored by a local hospital, which distributed free life jackets to youngsters 12 and under. Another major event was the opening of a Bass Pro Shop and Flotilla 5-10 has partnered with the store to provide public education classes and Vessel Safety Checks at the location. Flotilla 55 was involved in a two-day "Waterama" held at the Fort Worth Convention Center which was aimed at all the fourth graders in the area. Coastie was used to whip up enthusiasm and interest in wearing PFDs. The Division is holding a number of public education courses as well as member training throughout the area. Division 5 also supported Operation Safe Boat on Lake Texoma over the Memorial Day weekend. Members performed Safety Patrols, staffed communications stations, conducted Vessel Safety Checks and presented boating safety booths.

5. Division 6 (Southeast Texas and West Louisiana) that nine children have been lost in swimming pool accidents (mostly due to parental neglect) so they will be added that area to their safety discussions. The division has fewer boats that are OPFAC qualified as members sell their vessels, move or no longer are interested in patrolling. Fifteen new members have been recruited but most do not have a boat.

6. Division 7 (South Central Texas) hosted the Eighth District SAR competition at the end of May and early June. Three teams competed, two from 8WR and one from 8CR. The team from the Eighth Coastal Region won the competition and at the conclusion, an All-Star team was selected to represent the Eighth district at the ISAR in September. The All-Star team is composed of two members from the Minneapolis area, one from Illinois and two from Birmingham with the fifth being a spare. This will be the last year of the ISAR, but there will be a National competition in the future. Corpus Christi NAS would be an excellent location to hold one of those future competitions

7. Division 8 (Central Alabama and Southwest Georgia) flotillas have been active in public education classes and vessel safety checks at various locations within their AOR. Drought conditions have resulted in low water levels and that, coupled with high fuel costs, has reduced the level of boating activities. The division is diligently recruiting new members and has expanded westward to the Jackson, Mississippi area. The Division 8 team came in first in the DSAR competition.

8. Division 10 (Northeast Texas) hosted a planning meeting in early May to lay out plans for a joint operation on Lake Texoma. Representatives from Divisions 5 and 10, Division 16 of 8WR, the Corps of Engineers, marina managers, Sector Houston-Galveston were present for the planning and participated in the actual event. After the loss of five lives in a single accident last year, the area wanted to emphasize boater safety at the start of this boating season. Law enforcement officials boarded many vessels and issued citations during the weekend. Vessel Examiners were present at the ramps throughout the area to educate boaters on required safety equipment.

District 8 Western Rivers

1. The State Liaison Officer from Division 1 met with the Wyoming BLA, Carol Havlik in Casper, Wyoming, to discuss boating safety initiatives for the summer. Game and Fish is working on legislation to require PFD wear for anyone under the age of 12 and, at this time, the initiative is moving on to the next level of approval in the process.

2. To address boating safety issues on Lake Powell, Division 1 staff members met with the National Park Service, the Coast Guard and several other agencies that routinely work on the lake, at the National Park Service Headquarters in Page, Arizona. Acting Director of Auxiliary CWO Douglas Leavell was in attendance. Plans to better coordinate safety patrols and improve communications among the several agencies were agreed to.

3. Division 1 participated in Buckley Air Force Base's Safety Day, near Aurora, CO, provided a booth with boating safety information relevant to the area. A CG petty officer from the Coast Guard unit at Buckley joined members in working the booth.

4. Memorial Day patrols on Lake Powell were both eventful and successful. A rental boat caught fire and Auxiliary personnel removed the passengers. In a second incident, a rental boat was taking on water and the Auxiliary assisted in getting the boat beached, to avoid loss of the vessel. In a third incident where Auxiliary personnel happened to be on scene, a 10-year-old boy fell off the dock not wearing a PFD was rescued.

5. Division 1 patrolled on Glendo Reservoir, WY at the request of Wyoming Fish and Game. The only notable event occurred after the Auxiliary crew had secured their facility on the trailer and taken it up the ramp to the parking lot. There they observed black smoke coming from near the middle of the lake and the crew quickly re-launched the facility. Upon their arrival at the burning vessel, a passing pontoon boat was taking the last of nine passengers onto their boat from the water. The Auxiliary vessel contacted Wyoming Fish and Game and moved on-lookers from the danger area.

6. In Division 2, The Stearns Fit to Float Campaign made stops at the Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri and Olathe, Kansas. Customers who brought in life jackets that were not serviceable were given discounts on a new properly fitted PFD. Leer Communications at the Springfield location arranged Media coverage. Most of the TV stories were on local early morning shows, and broadcast from the Bass Pro parking lot. People that were interviewed wore a Stearns inflatable and at the end of the interview, they activated the jacket. The Olathe store did not have media, but the Auxiliary had a table next to the Stearns representative and assisted customers in fitting PFDs for their families. Both stores had good coverage and conducted good events.

7. In the Division 5 area, the Branson Chamber of Commerce publishes a weekly newsletter to its members. The week before Memorial Weekend, the newsletter contained a story that featured NSBW, joining the Auxiliary, taking a Safe Boating Class, getting a Free Vessel Safety Check and to always boat safely and responsibly.

8. For Division 5, David Russell continues his work on the Kellogg project where a boating safety message is printed on cereal and snack boxes sold through Wal-Mart. Both a boating safety message and information about the Auxiliary are printed on the side panel of designated Kellogg product boxes. The brands represented are Cheez-It, Famous Amos Chocolate Chip Cookies, Townhouse Original and Townhouse Toppers. So far, the package graphics have resulted in 2,632 hits on the Auxiliary national. The National PA office has been a major help – check out their web site at <http://lifejacket.auxpa.org> .

9. Progress is being made on the Arkansas Revenue Office project to place Auxiliary boating literature in the hands of every boating registrant throughout the state. Through the help of Commodore McAdams, Chief of Staff, and Randy Ernst, Manager of the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC), there are between 10,000 and 25,000 pieces of literature ready for

packaging and distribution to all of the state Revenue Offices, to hand the literature to each boater who comes in to register or re-register their boat.

10. Merwon Smith, Captain of Division 8, met for two days with employees of State Farm Corporate Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois, on their annual Safety Day. He indicated that he had good discussions with State Farm people. One State Farm member, who said she has a great admiration for the CG and the CG Auxiliary, stated there would be no problem in renewing the contract for support of the VSC program.

11. Division 8 fielded a team for the DSAR-District Search and Rescue competition, which finished in third place. One of the team members Chad Wiehe was chosen for the ISAR team to compete in September against the Canadians.

12. Division 11 fielded a team for the DSAR competition and the team finished in second place. Two members of this team were chosen for the ISAR Team to compete in September against the Canadians. The ISAR Team Captain will be Cliff Brochman and Neil McMillan will be a team member. The ISAR Competition will be September 28-29 in Toronto.

13. Sector Lower Mississippi River, Memphis, Tennessee, will stand up an Incident Command System (ICS) Unified Command (UC) on Presidents Island at Memphis, for the Spill of National Significance exercise in June. At the same time, a full-scale Maritime Security exercise was conducted on the Mississippi River in the Port of Memphis and along the Arkansas River. Auxiliary facilities in the Memphis area and facilities in Tulsa, Oklahoma area at the Port of Catoosa, near Tulsa, America's most inland port, participated in the exercise.

14. The newest flotilla in Division 33 from Sioux City, Iowa, has one of the Coast Guard's DRU (Disaster Response Units). They have used the unit in parades and displays throughout the region. In addition, the flotilla assisted the Coast Guard with spill training in Kansas City in May.

15. Flotilla 33-2 worked with Safe Kids coalition, YMCA, and State Boating Law Administrator Herb Angell on Memorial Day weekend. They handed out 500 T-shirts that said I GOT CAUGHT WEARING MY LIFEJACKET. They handed out coloring books and stickers to children and, if they had a life jacket on, adults received a floating key chain.

16. As part of the REC (Regional Examination Center) Satellite Office Project, the REC office in Kansas City is now open and part of the USCG Recruiting Office in Kansas City, MO. The remote REC office in Denver is ready and qualified members met with the Chief of the Recruiting Office along with Auxiliarist Marv Butcher to finalize details. The Denver office will be open the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month and the REC in St Louis will be setting up the appointments. The REC office in Branson is still being worked on. In addition, CDR Maquire, who handles REC in Sector LMR, wants to establish an office in Oklahoma City. Once these offices are set up, the REC Remote Customer Support Office Project will be

completed for this fiscal year. The project employs 23 Auxiliarists and will provide over 300 staff days per year to REC support.

District 9 Eastern Region

1. Division 3 has received six proclamations promoting the use of life jackets and boater education. They received a proclamation from New York Governor Switzer regarding Safe Boating week. The cities and towns covered include Niagara Falls, NY, Youngstown, NY, Town of Tonawanda and City of Tonawanda, Town of Grand Island, and the City of Dunkirk, NY.
2. Ann Roller, SO/PA Division 4, provided input on a story about boater safety for Channel 9 news in Rochester, NY. The station is doing a series of infomercials about the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the Rochester area. The on air segments started on May 6 and will run through the summer. The first interview lasted for 90 minutes and discussed the PFD usage and dry suits that the Coast Guard uses in the spring. The local flotilla provided a media sheet and important website addresses for the story video.
3. Division 8 participated in a water safety day in the city of Huron, OH, with 245 children, advisors and teachers attending. In addition to Auxiliary members, support came from, six helo personnel, seven from the local 47' boat, 10 city firemen, five Ohio Division of Watercraft, four Huron City Police and several Red Cross volunteers. Thirteen local businesses provided donations to sponsor the event with Met Life was one of the main sponsors. On May 28th, Flotilla 4-5 participated in the Town of Greece Memorial Day Service. Many dignitaries were present from Greece. Following the service, seven members of 4-5, with two trailered vessels were in the Greece Memorial Day parade. Members wore PFDs and Lifesaver candies were passed out to the children.

District 9 Central Region

1. A three-day air/surface training exercise is scheduled for the waters of Lake St. Clair on 14-16 July. The first day will include helo ops with the assistance of AIRSTA DETROIT. On the following two days, surface crews will work with AUXAIR in an exercise to locate and recover PIWs. The Canadian CG Auxiliary may participate in the exercise. DSOs AV Bob Shafer, MT Ken Renner and OP Don Pryjmak are handling planning..
2. For NSBW, Division 8 members wrote articles on boating safety trends for the Grand Forks Herald and two other articles were submitted to 15 weekly papers. The Minnesota fishing season opener, which occurs two weeks prior to Memorial Day, featured Minnesota Governor Pawlenty with Flotilla 85 Auxiliary members at Leech Lake that was published in three papers.
3. KBJR NBC 6 in Duluth, MN, featured Auxiliarists from Flotilla 84 and presented a news story on what is covered in a Vessel Safety Check. In addition, to coincide with NSBW, the station aired a nationally produced package on boat safety tips

4. Members from Flotilla 84 aided in hosting the Riverquest Program aboard an excursion vessel from Duluth, MN's Vista Fleet. This annual event teaches 6th graders environmental lessons dealing with Lake Superior. Auxiliary members explained how the USCG family locates and deals with marine pollution issues.
5. In Division 10's area, a NSBW proclamation signed by the Livonia City Mayor and the City Council was shown frequently on Public Access Cable.
6. Division 15 worked with the East Tawas Secretary of State office to promote NSBW with customers registering their watercraft. Each customer was given a Waterway Watch bag of "goodies" on boating safety that included the Federal Requirements, the Michigan Boaters Guide, and other assorted boating safety pamphlets on topics such as PWCs and PFD use. In all, the bags were distributed to 195 customers during National Safe Boating Week.
7. On May 24, Division 17 featured Coastie the water safety boat at Metro Beach in Detroit with over 3000 kids in attendance. The electronic signs over the Mackinaw Bridge and the International Bridge displayed Safe Boating Week in Michigan May 19-25. A newspaper article discussing National Safe Boating Week and the Governor's Proclamation appeared in the Missaukee Sentinel.

District 9 Western Region

1. Division 1 developed a unique mentoring program that has new members work with mentors in several areas of interest prior to being assigned to a specific flotilla. This approach enables the new members to choose a better "fit" for Auxiliary activities that suit their interests. Nine new members have been added this calendar year and all are active in a variety of areas.
2. Three flotillas in Division 4 are receiving new 23' Boats from Sector Lake Michigan this season and this will greatly extend the efforts of the flotillas in their respective boating areas. Members of Flotilla 49 rescued three people from a PWC incident. In the upper bay (Bay du Noc) they noticed an angler pointing toward a spot where three people had fallen from a PWC and were unable to get back on. They took two persons on board; one stayed on the ski.
3. The Gary Police Department will have their own boat patrolling Lake Michigan during summer months. A 23-foot boat was purchased with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and two patrol officers recently completed an eight-week U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary course on boating and water safety.
4. Division 9, Flotilla 9 has developed an "Operation Life Ring" training program for volunteer fire fighters and police officers that patrol the waters of Rock County, WI. Training will occur over a two-day weekend and consist of Basic Navigation Rules, Towing guidelines, plus Marlin Spike and Docking. All boats owned by the agencies will receive Vessel Safety Checks.

Pacific Area

District 11 Northern Region

1. Dozens of Auxiliary OPFACS with Auxiliary boat crews volunteered hundreds of hours supporting Coast Guard and other federal, state and local agencies with the task of providing safety for two Humpback Whales that strayed into the Sacramento River. The two whales, nicknamed “Delta” and “Dawn”, traveled the 90 miles from the Golden Gate Bridge through San Francisco Bay and north into the Sacramento River and Delta Waterways before herded back to the Pacific Ocean.
2. On June 4, 2007, CG Auxiliary Air Facility, N2473B (a Bell 47-G2 helicopter) Pilot Carol Simpson and Observer Randy Parent while conducting a Delta Safety Patrol, discovered four persons stranded with their disabled boat on Kimball Island, surrounded by dense weeds and very shallow water. Parent immediately notified CGSTA Rio Vista and Sector San Francisco of the location and advised Station Rio Vista that it would not be possible to get a boat in close to shore due to the wide expanse of muddy marsh water a few inches deep. The castaways had not been reported missing and had no means of communication other than hand signals. The castaways were rescued by CG helicopter and were reported in good health.

District 11 Southern Region

1. The Division 7 SO-PA coordinated the second annual “Safe Boating Expo” at Station Channel Islands on May 12. Team Coast Guard, including members from the Coast Guard and members from each Auxiliary flotilla in Division 7 joined other participants that included the Ventura County Harbor Patrol, the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, the Ventura County Fire Department and several vendors. A steady crowd of citizens rotated in and out of the station all day, viewing static displays, air-sea rescue demonstrations, fire fighting demonstrations and damage control demonstrations
2. A Memorial Day ceremony was held at Los Angeles National Cemetery on 28 May 2007. CAPT Sommer, Commanding officer ISC San Pedro, sent his gratitude for the great support to ISC San Pedro from Division 12. Walter Kaufman assisted with the event and Al Verdi led the Auxiliary color guard.

District 13

1. In D13 members from 6 Divisions and 12 flotillas converged on Wanapum Lake, WA (Approx 150 miles east of Seattle) on Memorial Day weekend to support a request from the Grant and Kittitas County Marine deputies. Memorial Day weekend at that location is a convergence point for large numbers of young boaters with fast boats and large amounts of alcohol. District 13 Auxiliary provided three radio stations, safety booths and OPFACS that included PWCs, to assist with crowd control. Thirteen vessels were towed, two of which were sinking. Safety zones were established around the location of a bow-riding teen that had a leg

amputated and another male who drowned. During the three-day coverage, the Auxiliary dealt with 30-knot winds on the reservoir, and, in one location were 350 boats were rafted 1 deep, an estimated 3000 boaters.

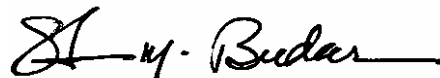
District 14

1. A joint force operational exercise, that involved Coast Guard, the Hawaii Fire Department, and the C & C Ocean Safety Life Guards, was held 23 May off Honolulu, HI. The joint team as a disabled vessel to practice their joint search and rescue procedures used an Auxiliary UTL vessel and crew. They found the Auxiliary vessel and rendered proper assistance for the simulated medical emergencies played out by the crew. The Auxiliary crew consisted of B.Takayma, A. Chang and R. Sweet.
2. On May 19, Flotilla 3-19 participated in the annual armed forces day display of aircraft, military equipment and other capabilities at the Hilo International Airport. All services had information booths and displays of their equipment. Auxiliary Air Facility 6687P and Auxiliary Pilot Mike Singer represented the USCG. Flotilla 3-19 members distributed both recruiting materials and safe boating literature to the approximately 3000 people that attended. Highlights of the day were the F-15 and C-17 from Hickam Air Force Base and the high speed, climb maneuvers of the F-15 after takeoff. Additionally, on the first Saturday in May the USCG Cutter Kiska, along with Flotilla 3-19, held the first annual flare day for the Hilo recreational boating public. Boaters brought their expired flares and were instructed by the Kiska personnel on how to fire them safely, and then all participants got to shoot off their expired flares.
4. Auxiliary Member Nancy Airhart, working with LCDR Kutch and LT Ken Cluter as Recruiting Partners, was able to develop a list of 10 students from Hawaii that were considered for appointments to the Coast Guard Academy. Six were given appointments and four were alternates. Four of the original six accepted appointments and two declined. Then two of the alternates were offered appointments with one accepting. Thus, Hawaii will have five appointees to the new USCGA class this fall.

District 17

1. On 04 June 2007, District 17 Commander RADM Brooks and D17 Auxiliary Commodore Michael Robinson met in Petersburg, AK, to sign a charter standing up a new flotilla, 170-01-04. They were joined by CAPT Guillory (Sector Juneau), CAPT Hudson (Chief of Prevention D17), the mayor and some city council members of Petersburg. This new flotilla starts with 21 members.

Very respectfully,



Steven M. Budar

National Commodore