



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

REPORT TO THE COMMANDANT



Items of interest reported monthly by District Commodores

DECEMBER 2008

ATLANTIC EAST AREA

D1NR

1. 34 Auxiliarists from 5 divisions participated in the America's Hometown Parade in Plymouth, MA on November 22. The D1NR Color guard marched in the parade followed by a contingent of Auxiliarists. PFD Panda was once again a hit with kids of all ages. Auxiliarists also manned the Public Affairs Booth from 0830 to 1330. Special thanks are extended to Auxiliarist Jim Lambert for beginning the tradition.

D1SR

1. On November 8, 2008, another new flotilla was "planked" in the First District Southern Region. This flotilla, 7-8, is located in the Greenwich, Connecticut area. A local marina has offered meeting space and nearly 30 new and transfer members have joined the flotilla.
2. On November 17, 2008, a meeting was held with W. Russell Webster, Federal Preparedness Coordinator, for FEMA Region One. Representatives from both First Northern and First Southern participated in this meeting to explore the possibility of the Coast Guard Auxiliary signing on as a partner in the Citizens Corp Program. This would be a pilot program in D1. A subsequent meeting is scheduled that will explore particular opportunities in Connecticut.
3. On November 24, 2008, seven members of the First Southern District attended a daylong training session at the New York State Office of Emergency Management. This is the first step in preparing for a Coast Guard Auxiliary presence at the State Emergency Operations Center. An additional day of training will finalize the preparations. This is part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by RADM Sullivan, COMO Venezia and Director John Gibb, of the NYS Office of Emergency Management.

D5NR

1. The new AUXCHEFs of the Fifth District Northern Region will augment the Food Service personnel of the Training Center Cape May, NJ food preparation for Command events in the coming months. The AUXCHEFs of the Fifth District Southern Region have been requested to augment the MLC-A food service personnel preparing the MLC holiday cookie event on December 17.

D5SR

1. Auxiliarist Ronald Ellis (leader of the AUXCHEF Pilot Program in the U.S. Coast Guard's Fifth District Southern Region [D5SR]) was requested by CDR Glenna T. Tredinneck (Fifth District, Northern Region DIRAUX) to hold an AUXCHEF class at Air Station Atlantic City on the weekend of 8 November 2008. Twelve very enthusiastic Auxiliarists completed the class and are ready to provide AUXCHEF services in Fifth District Northern Region. Auxiliarist Ginger Ellis assisted AUXCHEF Ellis with the class. The Air Station Atlantic City personnel were very impressed with the brunch that the group prepared on Sunday. D5NR has twelve students waiting for a class, which will be given in February 2009 at Sector Delaware Bay in Philadelphia, PA. As this program continues to expand through the remaining Auxiliary Districts, the Auxiliary will be augmenting the Coast Guard by providing Food Service personnel the time to participate in classes and take scheduled or emergency leave and be assured that their fellow shipmates will be receiving appetizing and nutritional meals while they are away from their duty stations.
 - i. AUXCHEF Ronald Ellis has been assisting Food Service personnel RADM Rosa's SCA, VADM Papp's SCA and Food Service instructors for the "A" school to revise and expand the AUXCHEF training program. The revised program will be emphasizing sanitation and safety as well as nutrition and basic food preparation. The intent of the course improvements is to enhance the AUXCHEFs capabilities to work at Stations and on Cutters as well as their acceptance by the Coast Guard's Food Service personnel.

2. Working with Sector Hampton Roads, Division 8 of the Fifth District Southern Region is establishing a preliminary AUXSARDET on Claytor Lake near the town of Dublin, VA. On Claytor Lake, as in many remote lakes and rivers in Virginia, the Auxiliary is the primary Coast Guard presence in the area. For the next two or three years, Division 8 will be collecting data such as response times, lives saved, boating incidents, law infraction citations, etc. to determine if a permanent presence of the Coast Guard on this lake is a valid use of Coast Guard assets and resources.

D7

1. Plans for the District's January 2009 D-Train Conference are complete and a Synopsis of scheduled training is available on the D7 website. The D-Train 2009 program includes a day and a half program for newly elected Flotilla and Division Commanders, the Incident Command System 210 course, and an Operational Safety Program for surface operations. The new Operational Safety Program is modeled on a highly successful program used in Auxiliary

Aviation. There will be a class on installing a DSC Tracking System for Patrol operations, and several other specialty programs will be offered.

2. In the Seventh District Western Area, Division Seven Auxiliarist James Mulligan (74) traveled to New York City to perform as a bag piper with the USCG Pipe Band at Veterans Day events. Among dignitaries at those events were The President, members of Congress, and several high-ranking military officers.
3. Division Eight Auxiliarists Sam and Martha Adams (81) and Fred and Dee Kermode (85) maintained a radio watch for CG Station Cortez and Sector Saint Petersburg during periods of maintenance on the Rescue 21 system. The four Auxiliarists provided continuous radio coverage over a 16-hour period, remaining vigilant for distress calls.
4. At Division Nine, three Auxiliarists from Flotilla 91 (Fort Myers Beach) are teaching navigation and other seamanship skills to foreign naval personnel in support of US Southern Command's Enduring Friendship program.
5. Division Eleven provided safety zones over two days to protect participants in the 2008 Tampa area Ironman Challenge. Auxiliarists there also stood radio watch at CG Station Sand Key while Sector St. Petersburg performed maintenance on the Rescue 21 system. Flotilla 11-7 (Hudson) maintained 18 hours of continuous radio watch to supplement Station Sand Key's radio coverage during that period. Auxiliarists from the division also assisted Air Station Clearwater with the recovery of equipment during C-130 and helicopter training exercises.
6. A Division Six surface facility responded to a SAR call-out to locate a small vessel taking on water. A Coast Guard helicopter located the distressed vessel and the Auxiliary facility removed two boaters, who were in good condition, from the sinking vessel. Division 13 Auxiliarist John Cooper (13-8), a Financial Planner, provided financial planning assistance to active duty personnel at Sector Key West.
7. Exemplary action by Auxiliarist Sandra Shofner (69), an Air Observer with Auxiliary Aviation at CG Air Station Miami, probably saved the life of a person marooned on a deserted island. During a routine patrol onboard Auxiliary Aviation facility Tiger Four, Auxiliarist Shofner took several photographs of islands near the Cay Sal Bank. Later, while enlarging her photos, she noticed in a photo what appeared to be someone on the beach of deserted Elbow Cay. She called Tiger Four Aircraft Commander Dave Friend (37), who notified CG Air Station Miami, and a helicopter was launched. Upon arrival at Elbow Cay, the helicopter found a man in poor condition and transported him to a hospital at Nassau. He had been marooned on the island for five days. The performance by Auxiliarist Shofner that day showed exceptional diligence to duty and is a great credit to the exemplary work of Seventh District Auxiliarists.

ATLANTIC WEST AREA

D8ER

1. Flotilla 12-7 members were busy starting the weekend of 8 November through 11 November 2008 participating in a number of events to commemorate this year's Veteran's Day. Jill and Jerry Stephens participated in this year's Veteran's Day Parade held in Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia on Saturday, 8 November 2008. Russ Zemp and Abe Lincoln attended the dedication of the War Memorial which has been constructed in Kingsport, Tennessee on 11 November 2008. Joey Vance attended a convocation held at King College on 10 November 2008 in observance of Veteran's Day. The featured speaker was Ken Wiley. Mr. Wiley is a World War II veteran who enlisted with the U.S. Coast Guard and served in the Pacific theater as the coxswain of *Lucky 13* which was his Landing Craft Vehicle for Personnel (LCVP). Mr. Wiley is the author of *Lucky Thirteen: D-Days in the Pacific with the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II*. Joey also attended a breakfast held at High Point Elementary School on the morning of 11 November 2008 recognizing the contributions of Veteran's and the five branches of military service. Joey also spoke to the second grade class about the activities of the U.S. Coast Guard, and presented the class with *The True Story of Inky the Whale* coloring books. Thanks to everyone who participated in these events representing the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and commemorating this year's Veteran's Day.

D8CR

1. Division 1 (Florida Panhandle). Flotilla 12 organized Coast Guard and Auxiliary support for the FSU homecoming game against Boston College. Two HH-60 helicopters from the Aviation Training Center, members of the Gulf Strike Team, CG personnel from Station Panama City with their 25-foot rescue boat and local recruiters supported the gala event. Coast Guard dignitaries from District 7, Sector Mobile and the Aviation Training Center were in attendance. This is the second year that the CG and Auxiliary has supported the event. Plans are in the mill for next year's game.
2. Division 5 (Central and NW Texas) members were requested to teach two ABS classes for the Red River Army Depot. Thirty federal officers were students and will be patrolling Lake Elliott, a private lake on the Army Depot. Looks like the start of a continuing requirement as they were asked to return in the spring.
3. The Division lost the long time voice of Coast Guard Radio west Texoma as Krissie Gertler passed over the bar November 14th after a short illness. She had operated the radio for more than 20 years and will be missed by all boaters on Lake Texoma.

D8WR

Several members from Division 1 participated in the Denver Veterans Day Parade. Coastie rode on a trailer, entertaining and educating the viewers.

1. Division 1 made history with the Chartering of Flotilla 1-1 in Ogallala, Nebraska. The Chartering Ceremony was held on 15 November. In attendance were 12 of the 15 members of the new

flotilla, 6 members from the sponsoring Longmont Flotilla (1-6) which included the Division Captain Karel Kester, 2 members from Flotilla 1-10 in Grand Junction, CO, 1 member from Flotilla 1-1 in Colorado Springs, CO, from DIRAUX Commander Todd Campbell, Commodore Jack Gumb and wife Nancy, Ron Longnecker, RCO-W, Herb Angell, Nebraska Boating Law Administrator, Scott Eveland, Boating Safety Officer for Nebraska Game & Parks, and Buck Bassett, Mayor of Ogallala.

2. Division 33 had a Chartering of a new Flotilla 33-6 in Johnston, Iowa. The Ceremony was held on November 22 in Des Moines. In attendance were 12 members from the new flotilla, from DIRAUX Commander Todd Campbell, Commodore Jack Gumb and his wife Nancy and his mother in law Norma Beek, Bob Smetka, Vice Commodore/Chief of Staff-elect, Commodore elect Dan Maresh, RCO West Ron Longnecker and his wife Pauline, Division Captain Connie Walters and her mother Lou Rice, Jean Goble Division Commander elect and her husband Richard, Steve Bernstein, District Captain N-elect, Katey Bernstein, Division Commander 9-elect, Cathryn Allison, Division Commander 11-elect, and Emily Coffin from the Army Corp of Engineers.
3. On November 8, Pauline Longnecker from Flotilla 33-3 was among the statewide volunteers honored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. She received the Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award for Special Achievements. Pauline was nominated by Susan Stocker, Education Coordinator for Water Safety and Randy Edwards, Iowa Boating Law Administrator. She received the award for her service to boater education in conjunction with the Auxiliary. Because of her efforts, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has been able to expand their water safety education efforts to countless Iowan's.
4. Representatives of Divisions 30 and 31 supported the Coast Guard's involvement in the annual Veteran's Day Parade in Ottawa, Kansas on Saturday, November 8, 2008. The parade was lead by the Color Guard detail from the PSC which is out of Topeka, Kansas. The parade included about 350 entries, representing all of the branches of the military from many of the major wars and conflicts. The Auxiliary's float consisted of one of our operational facilities with messages emphasizing boating safety. Representatives of the auxiliary and Coast Guard Reserves rode in the "float". The parade ended at Forest Park, where spectators were able to see Civil War and World War II battle demonstrations.
5. A Division 15 member, Patricia Lewis, turned in three names of potential Coast Guard Recruits to the Coast Guard Recruiting Office in Little Rock. Contacts were made with the Arkansas State University, U.S. Military Career Office, two high schools, and two stores posted the Shield of Freedom Brochures and Wanted Posters.

D9ER

Supporting our stations at this time of year is especially important for the men and women of the CG not able to be at home. Below is our story in support of our troops: During Thanksgiving, Division 2 prepared Thanksgiving Dinner for Station Oswego. Division 3 prepared Thanksgiving Dinner for Station Buffalo and Niagara, Division 4 prepared Thanksgiving Dinner for Station Rochester, Division 5 Thanksgiving Dinner for Station Ashtabula and Dessert for Erie, and Division 7 Thanksgiving Dinner for Station Cleveland.

D9WR

1. A Sad Time: On or about November 11th, COMO Richard J. Runde, Sr. was admitted to the hospital with heart issues. Complications including an infection and high temperatures precluded the doctors' ability to perform needed heart surgery. After attempting to stabilize him for 2 weeks, COMO Runde passed away on November 27, 2008. His funeral was December 4th and there was an impressive showing of support from Auxiliary and Coast Guard personnel. COMO Runde leaves behind a 1-year unfulfilled term and a special election will be held to fill the position promptly after notice is sent to the Board and all eligible candidates. Until that time Randy Podolsky, VCO, will serve as Acting Commodore tending to the business of the district.
2. ASC Activities: Gerry Hussin (5-17) currently represents the Auxiliary and Division 5 on the City of Milwaukee Harbor Commission. Gerry, who has extensive experience in the Auxiliary and Coast Guard MS field, reports back on any issues affecting the operation of the harbor, special events in the harbor and provides a voice for Recreational Boating Safety (RBS). Sitting on the commission with Gerry is BMCS Christopher Purdy OIC Station Milwaukee.
3. For the third year in a row Flotilla 5-13 is sending boxes of personal toiletries, candy, and snack food to our Team Coast Guard members serving in Southwest Asia. This year FL 5-13 has sent 5 USPS priority mailboxes to the USCGC Adak WPB 1333, commanded by Lt. Anne O'Connell.
4. Examples of things that the Auxiliary is doing in 9WR to support CG units in non-traditional areas:
 - a. Sector Lake Michigan/Station Milwaukee - In response to a request for assistance in the galley, Patricia Gensemer (5-56) works one or two days per week with FS1 Mike Daigle. Patricia's assistance has allowed the short-staffed galley to meet the needs of the Sector Staff and allowed the regular FS staff at least one day off per week.
 - b. Station St Joseph - The Auxiliarist in support of FS, JD Ryan, cooked for the crew on Thanksgiving Day (and every weekend for the last several years). JD provides other moral support to the unit on a regular basis
 - c. Station Wilmette Harbor - Auxiliarist Barry Jacobson donates a turkey to the station crew for their Thanksgiving meal every year. He has done this for over 7 years.
 - d. Station Kenosha - Auxiliary Flotilla 3-5 and 5-1 fully support a unit's children's Christmas party. They have the evening meal catered in and provide gifts for all children and active duty personnel. No one leaves without something. They have been a tremendous support to this unit.
5. RBS Presentation: One highlight was the "COASTIE" appearance at an elementary school of over 400 students with the school principal dressing up as Capt. Hook. A bag of information on boating safety and water safety, including frozen ice reminders, coloring books, life jacket wear, and more, was sent home with each student. The unique aspect of this RBS presentation to the youths was that the team consisted of DCDR-N O'Laughlin (Div 5), VFC Klafka (Div 5), Vice Commander Linder (Div 9) and IT Smith (Div 3). In other words, the makeup of the presenters crossed Division lines and provided for a great team effort from 9WR.

PACIFIC AREA

D11NR

1. The Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) at Sector San Francisco has taken on primary responsibility for tours and maintenance of the Yerba Buena Island/Admiral's Lighthouse in San Francisco Bay, and a joint CG/AUX effort has been implemented to make the lighthouse museum more interesting.

The mission will be coordinated by two teams: one for updating and maintaining the museum and one to serve as Docents when guests visit.

2. AUX Trains Lake Tahoe Sheriff's Department:

Lake Tahoe, NV: Douglas County Sheriff requested CGSTA Lake Tahoe train seamanship to their boat deputies. CGSTA Tahoe in turn asked the Auxiliary to conduct the training. In addition to local Auxiliarists, representatives attending a preliminary planning session included:

- Nevada Department of Wildlife, Boating Law Enforcement –Fred Messman. Fred is also a past president of NASBLA;
- Nevada Department of Wildlife, Law Enforcement Division Chief – Rob Buonanici;
- Executive Director of the Nevada Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (POST) – Richard Clark (also a member of the CG Auxiliary Flotilla 11-04);
- Douglas County Sheriff's Department – Head of Boating Program.

D11SR

Medical problem on vessel adrift:

29 NOV Santa Monica Bay: AUXFAC 198 detected a vessel that was adrift and discovered a man lying face-down on deck, barely responsive- in/out of consciousness. After notifying Sector, A198 contacted Baywatch Del Rey EMTs to assess the subject and provide MEDEVAC. A198 subsequently towed the vessel to MDR Sheriff's dock for custody.

Auxiliary Activity with Partner Agencies in Arizona:

1. National Park Service, Page, AZ: Division 10 FC and VFC attended the monthly meeting of the NPS at Lake Powell where they continue to monitor and discuss the mussel invasive species issue at Lake Powell, which currently remains free of mussels.
2. Gila County Sheriff's Department: The Sheriff of Gila County had his annual BBQ thanking those who work for him. This year, as in 2007, several members of Division 10 were included, being thanked for assisting with patrol activities throughout the year.
3. Oracle School District #2: The Division received a letter from the Superintendent of the Oracle Schools; thanking members for volunteering in the Oracle School District's H.O.P.E. Week, 2008...preschoolers and kindergarteners were entertained and received valuable lessons in water safety.
4. Veterans Day Parade, Phoenix: AUX participated in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade on 12 November 2007 and won a first place trophy in their category. The entry included 20 members,

several veterans as guests, members of the Sea Cadets carrying our colors and the USCG Auxiliary banner, 5 Operational Vessel and PWC Facilities, 4 vehicles, and PFD Panda.

In the past, the Division has won two second place ribbons and one first place trophy.

5. Association of the U. S. Army Career Day: Division 10 participated in the Association of the U. S. Army Career Day/JRROTC Luncheon held at Luke Air Force Base on 20 November 2007 by sponsoring a table and having several members attend the luncheon.

This event was initiated by RADM Rick Cueroni, USCG, former Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, to attract young men and women to a career in the military. It was his idea that this was one way in which to encourage young men and women to serve. It is held each year on the Tuesday preceding Thanksgiving. Students representing the various junior ROTC units and similar organizations in the Phoenix area are invited.

Our support of this event reinforces our credibility in the community as a vital member of Team Coast Guard and has specifically aided in several people considering attending the Coast Guard Academy.

D14

1. Oahu Canoe Race Regatta: On 02 November 2008, Auxiliarists from Division 1 Oahu provided the UTL as a regatta patrol that supported a canoe race organized to raise funds for the donations made to the Memorial Fund for the crew of the HH-6505 accident.
2. Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Hosted: On 5 November 2008, Harvey Shore, a visiting member of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association of Brisbane Flotilla 2 was provided a briefing and demonstration of District 14's capabilities including an off-shore patrol of Waikiki Area. He also traveled to the Big Island and visited with the Hilo Flotilla, 3-19, at their November meeting and gave them an overview of his unit's capabilities.
3. NASBLA Convention on Oahu: Several Auxiliarists participated in and made presentations at the NASBLA Convention that was hosted by our District 14 representative Mr. Kent Richards.
4. Change of Watch of the District Commodore: On November 23, 2008, Rear Admiral Manson K. Brown officiated at the change of watch where District Fourteen Commodore George W. Burkley was relieved by Commodore Edson S. Lott III. The ceremony was attended by many active duty and auxiliary members, family, friends and guests, including many senior representatives from the local maritime organizations and businesses. Following the formal proceedings a reception was held at the Coast Guard Base Club 14.
5. Thanksgiving Dinner: Following a tradition that Flotilla 3-15 on Kauai has established, the men and women of Station Kauai and the Cutter Kittiwake were treated to a Thanksgiving feast by the Flotilla Members headed up by Jim Jung.

D17

Thanks to the Army National Guard on Ft Richardson in Anchorage AK for providing classroom space for two days, D17 was able to provide a very successful Flotilla Commanders Academy for incoming Flotilla Commanders. The course credits its success to the joint efforts of the D17 Bridge and the DIRAUX and her staff. Following in the evening after the first day we held the annual Holiday Party attended by people from CG Sector Anchorage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Kerigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nicholas Kerigan
National Commodore