



REPORT TO THE COMMANDANT

Items of interest reported monthly by District Commodores

JANUARY 2009

ATLANTIC AREA EAST

First District Northern Region

- 1- Numerous accomplishments in 2008 including:
 - Paddle fatalities down 33% - Paddle Smart Program doubling in 2009
 - Staffing restructuring changes with Chiefs of Prevention, Response, and Logistics at District and Division Level
 - 1/3 of flotillas have merged thereby lessening the administrative burden and utilizing the limited time of a volunteer in qualification and training programs and mentoring.

- 2- Lighthouse Tours were conducted by Auxiliarists at several lighthouses in the district. 4,868 visitors toured Chatham Lighthouse in 2008, representing 44 states and the District of Columbia, 18 countries, with Canada represented by 6 provinces. Total mission hours were 338.9 for 32 tours. There were 24 Auxiliarists involved, with 5 Auxiliarists contributing more than 30 hours. There were 25 Lighthouse Tours at Nobska Light with a total of 2,278 visitors from 40 U.S. States, The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 11 Foreign Countries. Thirteen (13) Auxiliarists from Flotilla 11-2 provided 306.3 mission hours to host the tours.

First District Southern Region

Members of the Auxiliary's Communications staff have been working closely with personnel at Station Fire Island on Long Island, New York. There has been a continuing problem with hoax radio calls. The Communications staff is providing radio direction finding equipment and expertise in hopes of identifying the hoax caller.

Fifth District Northern Region

Twelve members of 5NR completed a two-day Aux Chef training course held at Coast Guard Station Atlantic City, NJ. Thanks go to Ron and Ginger Ellis from 5SR who were the instructors. Additional Aux Chef Courses are being planned, since there are already another 12 members "waiting in the wings" to take this course. Barbara and George Werner, Flotilla 16-07, were appointed Co-Chairpersons of 5NR's Aux Chef Program immediately after completing the training. They had previously helped prepare meals and catered a Change of Command Ceremony at the Manasquan Inlet, NJ, Station. In December they catered the Station's Holiday party.

Fifth District Southern Region

- 1- Auxiliarist aboard USCGC NORHTLAND (WMEC-904)
When USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) departed for a Caribbean deployment, Auxiliarist Paula S. Smith from Flotilla 11-06 of the Fifth District Southern Region was listed among her crew. During 60 plus days of deployment, USCGC NORTHLAND conducted Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations (AMIO) and Counter Drug Operations (CDO). Although Auxiliarist Smith was not directly involved law enforcement portions of these operations, she did gain valuable knowledge concerning these and other operations such as helicopter operations, and search and rescue at sea. Through the crew's interaction with her, they became more knowledgeable of the Auxiliary. Auxiliarist Smith will be authoring an article for the District's publication "The Blinker" on her experiences aboard USCGC NORTHLAND.
- 2- D5SR Reorganization Progress
The period from 1 October through 31 December 2008 was extremely active in the Fifth District Southern Region (D5SR) because of the merging of nine (9) divisions into five (5) divisions in the Sector Baltimore's area and merging of two (2) divisions into one division in Sector North Carolina's area. The merging divisions began holding joint meetings, worked to develop new standing rules, held joint fellowship events, and conducted district elections. We have already conducted a Change of Watch for one of the new Divisions. On 1 January all six new divisions were officially stood up and functioning. As bumps in the road have been encountered, the new divisions used a team approach to resolving the issue. The new Division Officers and their Flotilla Commanders are tackling the next two phases: Unit Organization Structure and Viability of Weaker Flotillas.

Seventh District

- 1- On Christmas Day members of Flotillas 34 and 36 helped prepare and serve Christmas dinner to the Crew at Station Fort Lauderdale.
- 2- Flotilla 12-10 in Georgetown hosted a Christmas Party at Coast Guard Station Georgetown for the children of the Coast Guard at the station. Around 15 children were in attendance for the party and refreshments of cookies, chips, and pop. Christmas gifts were also given to each child in attendance.
- 3- Sector St. Petersburg developed a plan for AUXAIR support for USCGC Marlin to improve the efficiency of their routine Fisheries Patrol. AUXAIR was assigned a search box to locate commercial fishing boats, shrimpers, and long-liners. Targets of interest were reported to Marlin for intercept and boarding. The Commanding Officer of Marlin's report stated "I estimate that we accomplished in a matter of 7 hours with these sorties what would normally the cutter 2 whole days to patrol solo."

ATLANTIC AREA WEST

Eighth District Eastern Region

- 1- The District's major effort to qualify its operational people prior to 31 March 2009 is in full swing. With the complete cooperation of D8, twenty members were qualified in Pittsburgh, sixteen Division 24 members were qualified in Birmingham, AL and over a two day period ninety nine members were qualified in Dayton, OH.. These programs were coordinated by Duncan Wilkinson, the District DSO – MT and executed by DCAPTs Walt Whitacre, Bill McGonigal and David Stroup. The Instructor and support personnel from D8 were CDR Tim Scheel, LTJG Amanda Deis and LT Todd Peterson. There are four more classes scheduled in February and March, one in Nashville, TN, another in Louisville, KY and two in Knoxville, TN. The Nashville program, which will be held on 21 February, has thirty eight students registered. We are well on our way to meeting the 31 March deadline.

Eight District Coastal Region

- 1- Situational Analysis completed. Division 1 Flotilla Commanders have completed a Situational Analysis for their units. The Division lost a flotilla in December. Some members will form the nucleus of a detachment on St. George Island, Florida.
- 2- Partnership with New Mexico Parks and Wildlife. Division 2 has formed a partnership with the New Mexico Parks and Wildlife. The state of New Mexico has issued state owned radios to Auxiliary patrol vessels. The Division has an ambitious recruiting program underway.
- 3- Contingency Planning. Division 3 is working a Division wide contingency plan in the event of a natural disaster such as Hurricanes. The rewriting of the Division 'Standing Rules' to incorporate new title changes is complete.
- 4- Communication Drills. Division 4 is ready to conduct drills at the site of communications stations. Communication teams will field test on-site where they will be stationed. Hurricane planning meetings continue to prepare in the event of a natural disaster. The Division is working on integration into the normal Sector New Orleans Operations Plan. At this time, they have 50 boat crew candidates in training at sector New Orleans.
- 5- Arlington, Texas Fire Department. Division 5 continues to plan Boat Safety joint exercises with the Arlington, Texas Fire Department, on Lake Arlington. The Division had a strong presence at the Dallas Boat Show. Their Public Affairs trailer has been re-outfitted for 2009 and will be used in three operational blitzes.

Eighth District Western Region

- 1- All divisions have either scheduled or begun their safe boating classes and boat show booth presentations. We continue to update coxswain and crew qualifications with approximately 63% of our coxswain having completed ICS210. Several other classes are scheduled between 1 February and 31 March with the expectation of getting 95% of the coxswain through the course.
- 2- Our operations group has been engaged in training since only AUXAIR has performed any direct operational activity in January.

Ninth District Eastern Region

Training for the RBHS 25' Coast Guard Boat continues with several training sessions held in the month of January. Additionally training was conducted utilizing the SINS unit and a presentation on boat casualties. The next class is scheduled for some hands-on exercises with the SINS unit at the Baldwinsville Library on Feb 3rd.

Ninth District Central Region

The District's Modernization plan was approved at our January Board and Staff Meeting. Our District Captains are working with the Division Commanders to assist in the implementation of our plan, as submitted at N-Train. The Northern area of the District is presently short a District Captain, and a Division Commander. The Current DCAPT's are picking up the gap. A new election will be conducted at our 16 May Board Meeting.

Ninth District Western Region

- 1- The previously reported shortfall of training materials to complete the mandate of ICS-210 in our district continues. While our OTO has located a source to avoid a class stoppage, we are concerned about the long-term impacts of this shortage, and our ability to meet the CG deadline for course completion for operational members.
- 2- We have requested that the boundaries for 9th Western Region be reviewed for accuracy following the changes about 2 years ago to align with Sector Lake Michigan. Our Ass't Director is working with CG-5421 to address the legal requirements. Pending those changes, we have asked that the issue be broken into two manageable parts; legal descriptions and marketing. The marketing changes are easier to make to get the national website depicting area boundaries for recruitment and the ShopAuxiliary home pages up to speed. We will work with ARCO to provide a graphic for these needs.
- 3- We have several members whose service to the Auxiliary is at 40 years or more. They will be recognized at our conference, their flotilla meeting and/or the D9 Symposium.
- 4- Division 5 completed its first Boat Show of the 2009 season in Milwaukee. For the first time Station Milwaukee had its 25 footer on display as part of our Boating Safety booth and provided watch standers for part of the show. This assistance from the station Milwaukee personnel made our booth a big hit at the show. It drew attention to our location, drawing in many people who then asked boating safety questions. BM2 Ben Bradley attended our boat show planning meetings and coordinated the delivery and retrieval of the 25 on January 15th and 25th respectively. Those members of Station Milwaukee who helped stand watch in the booth took pressure off our working Auxiliary members who weren't always able to be at the booth by 1500. As always this was a great team effort between Station Milwaukee and the Auxiliary in SE Wisconsin! We also had an appearance by Coastie at the show and as expected it drew lots of attention to our booth. The next big public event is the Milwaukee Sports Show scheduled for 4-8 March. Division 5 will be manning a boating safety booth and we expect to have Coastie making another appearance in Milwaukee.
- 5- A meeting was held at ASTC to discuss Aux cooperation with the USAF in range clearing operations. It was determined that we would proceed with this objective utilizing twin engine aircraft for the foreseeable future. Aviation training and swim qualifications are scheduled for the conference in Schaumburg later this month.

PACIFIC AREA

Eleventh District Northern Region

The District Mobile Communications Team continues to assist Sector San Francisco in providing VHF mobile activities within the Sectors AOR. The mission is to assist in gathering information, time, date, location where heard, and strength of VHF 16 transmission's from Mayday hoaxers.

Eleventh District Southern Region

Approximately 2050 local time on 18 December, Auxiliary Facility A241198 was on a routine regatta patrol in support of the Newport Holiday Boat Parade when crew member G. Loff heard what he thought might be a boat collision, alerted the crew and spotted two nearby vessels that might have collided. Coxswain T. Kelly directed the helmsman to proceed to the location. Once on scene, the crew observed and confirmed that two power boats had collided, a 21 foot Duffy electric boat with 7 persons on board and a 26 foot Donzi also with 7 persons on board. The crew quickly determined that the Donzi was taking on water from a large gash on the starboard quarter. No one was reported to be injured.

Also supporting the regatta were CGC NARWAHL and Orange County Sheriff Harbor Patrol boats. The Coxswain notified the Auxiliary Patrol Commander who contacted other Harbor Patrol vessels and the

CGC NARWHAL. The passengers aboard the Donzi disembarked onto a nearby dock, and a Harbor Patrol boat moved it near the shore where it settled to the bottom. The crew of A241198 took the disabled Duffy into side tow and brought it to the nearby dock and then assisted the Harbor Patrol in removing floating debris from the sunken Donzi and reported a significant oil sheen floating from the boat. A241198 and its crew departed the scene at 2131 after providing information to the Orange County Sheriff investigators.

Fourteenth District

- 4-5 DEC: OPFAC **Nordic Tug** provided LE Boarding Platform for training LE personnel from USCGCs **KUKUI** and **WALNUT**.
- 19 DEC: Members from Flotilla 25 (Molokai) completed several tasks requested by the Kaunakakai Harbormaster in response to the Flotilla's Adopt-A-Harbor with the State of Hawaii's DLNR. The flotilla corrected the numbering on PATON Navigation Buoy # 5 which had been mis-numbered and while doing that identified other buoys which needed their numbers replaced.
- 25 DEC & 01 JAN: Flotilla 15 (Kauai) provided holiday meals for active duty members at Station Kauai.
- Flotilla 13 (Kona) completed 3 whale patrols and continued to assist REC with Merchant Mariner Finger Printing and Document Verification during December.

Very respectfully submitted,

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

Nicholas Kerigan
National Commodore