



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

REPORT TO THE COMMANDANT



Items of interest reported monthly by District Commodores

FEBRUARY 2009

ATLANTIC EAST AREA

D1NR

Auxiliarists from multiple divisions within D1NR participated in The New England Boat Show, in Boston, MA. One or more Auxiliarists were on duty, contributing over 190 hours manning the Public Affairs booth. The active duty personnel assisted as well, volunteering nearly 90 hours. Also for the first time, the Auxiliary presented eleven seminars on safe boating topics and participated with the Sea Tow Safe Boating Foundation in their Passport to Safety Program.

Ten members of D1NR have assembled and mailed over 350 boxes containing the Paddle Smart materials for the First District Campaign beginning April 1. Eight pamphlets and one decal for ownership information (50 pieces of each) will be assembled in each flotilla for dissemination at boat ramps, in public education classes for kayakers, and at Public Affairs activities. All flotillas in D1NR and D1SR will receive and can request additional kits if needed. Harbormasters have also requested the materials.

Vessel Examiners, Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners, and Instructors who contributed a great deal to their programs by far surpassing minimal qualifications standards received rewards for their outstanding support of Recreational Boating Safety. Rewards were structured in three tiers and were dependent on participation.

D1SR

Auxiliarist Richard Turrin (Division 5) and Auxiliarist Daniel Ulysse departed the United States on 1 February 2009 and landed in Dakar, Senegal to participate with the Africa Partnership Station (APS). They are both members of the USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps. In order to meet the medical requirements for deployment aboard the USS Nashville (LPD 13), anti malaria inoculations were received by both men. They also received training in Anti-Terrorism (Level 1) and Code of Conduct Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) 100. Africa partnership station is an international security cooperation initiative aimed at building and strengthening long-term relationships and global maritime

partnerships through training and other collaborative activities which will improve maritime safety and security. This program is being carried out under the direction of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet. Auxiliarist Ulysse' primary assignment was to act as an interpreter to members of the Senegalese Navy assigned to boat maintenance and repair. Auxiliarist Turrin's primary duty was as interpreter to the Meteorology and Fishery Teams. Both members are fluent in French. Both members returned to the United States on 17 February 2009 and spoke about their ability to represent the USCG Interpreter Corps with dignity, professionalism and honor.

D1NR and D1SR have formed a partnership to develop a Paddle Smart Program for 2009. The primary aim is to educate the paddler concerning safety on the water. The wearing of life jackets while on the water is paramount to surviving a roll-over. Packets containing safety materials are being mailed to all Flotilla Commanders in D1 for distribution to paddlers. A Vessel Safety Check Form is being developed for Paddle Craft.

D5NR

Division 16 amassed a total of 621 hours of support to the Manasquan Inlet CG Station in electrical, carpentry, painting, cooking and sewing. Auxchefs Barbara and George Werner continue to help the duty cooks to produce the meals served at the station.

At Sector Delaware Bay Auxiliarist John Halligan, serving as Education Services Director, organized a very successful College Fair at the Sector, with participating college and university recruiters assisting and advising active duty Coast Guard members about opportunities for advanced education.

Steve Roth, Flotilla 38, attended the Regional Meeting of the Exam Center Directors when he was providing support to the Exam Center in West Virginia. He was able to introduce the Auxiliary PQS for working in the Regional Exam Center. The Directors were advised about how the auxiliary already had an existing program that could be utilized to support the Exam Center.

D5SR

D5SR AUXCHEF Program Continues to expand its support of the Active Duty Coast Guard. The AUXCHEF Program is not yet active in the First District Northern Region (D1NR). When the only FSC assigned to CG Station Menemsha planned to take leave and Sector Southeastern New England was unable to find a TAD replacement, the Sector Commander contacted Auxiliarist Ron Ellis about obtaining AUXCHEF support. Auxiliarist Ron and Ginger Ellis of the Fifth District Southern Region Division 8 have volunteered to travel to CG Station Menemsha (Martha's Vineyard) as AUXCHEFs so the Station FSC can take leave. While at Martha's Vineyard, they will be offering an Introduction to AUXCHEF Class to the members of D1NR in an attempt to introduce the AUXCHEF program in D1NR.

D5SR member performs with the US Coast Guard Pipe Band. The United States Coast Guard Pipe Band lead by Auxiliarist Bruce Blanchard, Pipe Major from Flotilla 31 in the Fifth District Southern Region will be performing alongside the world renowned Chieftains, in concert on March 9,2009 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

D5SR open dialog with Coast Guard Recruiting Station to provide staffing. Auxiliarists from Flotilla 31 in the Fifth District Southern Region have initiated contact with the Coast Guard Recruiting Station in Richmond, VA, with a view toward helping staff the Station while recruiters are in the field. Currently, the recruiting office is open "by appointment only" due to its vast territory and small staff. Initial reaction from the Station Chief has been very positive and appreciative. The two parties are looking into training that may be required to staff the recruiting station.

D5SR fields a team to provide AUXSC&E-TTT to Anchorage, AK. Auxiliarists Jim Campbell, Wallace Dawson, Judy Julian, and Joe Riley from Division 3 of the Fifth District Southern Region conducted a Auxiliary Search, Coordination, and Execution Train the Trainer (AUXSC&E-TTT) course for District 17 in Anchorage, AK from February 12 through 17. The graduates from the AUXSC&E-TTT class were from District 17 and District 13.

D7

Plans are being completed to stand up a new flotilla, 12-1, on Lake Marion, SC, a very active recreational boating area. Lake Marion has one of the highest boating incident rates of any lake in SC. The new Flotilla will be operational by the beginning of the 2009 boating season and is expected to drastically reduce the local accident rate.

Coast Guard Day at The Citadel had 41 cadets express interest in knowing more about the Auxiliary Detachment that presently consists of 21 Cadets. The four-member team of Cadets selected to attend this year's Inter-Academy Leadership Seminar at the CG Academy in June are all members of the Auxiliary Detachment.

At Sector Charleston, a Common Operating Procedure (COP) is being implemented to give the Sector a 72-hour advanced picture of all AUX Assets in operation during that period. Once an asset is underway, both surface and air, it will be tracked for position to enable optimum resource allocation and response for any incident.

Sector St. Petersburg implemented a plan utilizing AUX Air facilities in direct support of Cutters to locate and identify Targets of Interest (TOI). Once located, Cutters are then vectored to the TOI for further investigation and action. These efforts have significantly increased the effectiveness of the Cutter operations and reduced the time required to complete them.

An AUX Air patrol out of Air Station Clearwater on Sunday, 1 March was diverted to participate in an ongoing, high visibility search for four missing fisherman off the West Coast of Florida. A series of Track Line, Parallel Track and Sector Search patterns were assigned within 25 nm of shore. Extensive flight safety coordination was required due to the number of aircraft assigned to the mission. No sightings of the missing boat were made and no MISLE report filed. Total Flight time for the mission was 6.5 hours.

The annual re-enactment of Jose Gasparilla invasion of Tampa took place on 7 February where 58 Auxiliarists with 17 boats supported the Active Duty in both safety and boat traffic control for the very large number of recreational boats gathered to view the activities.

Six Auxiliarists from Puerto Rico were the first on scene of a chartered aircraft crash location finding debris, oil and burned pieces of the aircraft. There were no survivors.

At Sector Miami, Auxiliarists provided training in CPR for 38 Active Duty personnel. The Sector has also requested assistance with arrivals processing under the Conditions of Entry (COE) program. Plans are under development to provide that support.

Auxiliarists provided training for two new City of Miami Fire Boat Crews in Search Patterns and recovery of persons from the water. The day after the training, Fire Boat-2 rescued three people from a sinking vessel East of Fisher Island. Coincidentally, the Hawkeye Sensor Manager on duty was Auxiliarist Eduardo Burbank who identified the location of the vessel with one of the TV cameras and provided LAT-LON information to direct the Fire Boat Crew.

Auxiliarists provided extensive Watch Stander support to the Sector Key West Hawkeye system installation. A Station Augmentation Team is also in place at Station Key West. The team has provided water and power to the finger piers, painted the pilings, built shipping boxes for the propellers, built steps to the docks, installed air conditioning in the Coxswain ready room, laid tile in the office building, and organized the mechanic's tool room.

ATLANTIC WEST AREA

D8ER

The effort to qualify its operational members on ICS 210 is nearing completion. During February two additional classes were held, one in Nashville, TN and one in Louisville, KY. AUXDATA indicates that 262 members have taken and passed the exam. The last two scheduled classes are to be held at the District's Spring Conference which will be held in Knoxville, TN. Scheduled for this training are 41 additional members. A report on this training and the conference will be detailed in the District's March report.

On February 24, 2009 a new Flotilla was chartered at Norris Lake in Tennessee. The Chartering ceremony was held in the pavilion of the Cove Lake State Park and was attended by the 32 new members, County Mayor William Baird, Betsy Wood, Director of Boater Education for the state of Tennessee and several boating law enforcement officers. Representing the District was the DCO, DCOS Rick Washburn, DCAPT (S) Walt Whitacre, DCDR Bob Bruce and VDCDR Don Edmunds. With guests the pavilion was pleasantly full with approximately 70 people in attendance. The formation of this flotilla was in response to local citizens and law enforcement officers' concerns with the increasing traffic and congestion on the lake. The flotilla was formed by the Flotilla Commander, Tom Walsh, in cooperation and encouragement from TWRA, Friends of Norris Lake, The Marina Association and other community agencies. The Knoxville and Tellico lake Flotillas are all actively working to provide training and resources to the new Flotilla as they get under way.

The Lake Barkley Flotilla 08-07 response time to a request by the owner of the Skipper's Boatique, is to be commended. In the middle of the worst ice storm the area has seen in many years three members of Flotilla 08-07 braved the elements and traveled to Hopkinsville where they conducted a boating safety seminar for some 200 employees of the Freudenburg Company located in Hopkinsville. Auxiliary members Dickie Reece and Ken and Jan Culwell along with Michael Bradigan, owner of Skippers Boatique and David Bostick, owner and captain of Lake Barkley tours conducted seminars on requirements for owning and operating a boat, piloting a boat safely, use of the VHF-FM marine radio, and the importance of Life Jackets when boating.

Ed Carter, a real friend to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, has been named the new executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Mr. Carter, who was the Chief of the TWRA Boating Division, will assume his new duties on 1 March 2009. Mr. Carter was a recipient of the USCG/USPS Eagle award for Significant Contribution to Boating Safety. Other awards and citations include the NASBLA Bonner Award, NASBLA Lifetime Achievement Award, U. S. Coast Guard Public Service Commendation and in 2006 the Tennessee Legislature passed House / Senate Resolution 735 recognizing Mr. Carter for meritorious service to the state of Tennessee.

Auxiliary member and DCDR of Division 4, Rick Schal, was featured in the Sector Ohio Valley newsletter as “Protector of the Heartland” in the Spotlight. Division 4 is located in Louisville, KY and Rick spends at least one day a week in support of Sector Ohio Valley. In this capacity he is the Regional Exam Center coordinator and assists the Coast Guard in mariner fingerprinting and document verification. In the summer of 2008 Rick spent five weeks on the Eagle sailing from San Diego, CA to New London, CT by way of the Galapagos Islands and the Panama Canal. During this six thousand mile voyage he completed his PQS for Navigator of the Watch. Given this qualification he has become eligible to assist in training of Coast Guard Cadets and Officer Candidates. He has already signed on for a three week voyage during the summer of 2009 which will take him to the Mediterranean Sea to Bermuda.

On 17 February 2009, RADM Joel Whitehead, Commander of the Eighth U.S. Coast Guard District addressed the Navy League of Chattanooga, TN. In attendance with some 100 Navy League members were five Coast Guard Auxiliary members from Division 16, Chattanooga, TN. The group consisted of the DCO 8ER, DCDR James Myers, IPDCDR Rudy Achata, DSO-MS Terry Siler and SO-IS Allen Wald. It was an excellent Public Affairs event for the Coast Guard and for the local Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Flotilla 12 – 04 from the Knoxville Division has been presented with the 50th Anniversary Certificate and Streamer. An official presentation to the membership will be conducted at the Flotilla’s March meeting.

D8CR

Breakfast with OIC’s- Division 1 Flotilla Commanders had a first time breakfast with their ‘Call-out Authorities’, with positive results.

Flotilla 1-9 using grant monies, has purchased ten handheld VHF radios and donated them to the Bay County Sheriff’s Beach patrol and Panama City Beach fire / rescue units. The radios are to facilitate land and sea communications during emergencies.

Flotilla 4-6 participated in the Bassmaster Classic in Shreveport, Louisiana in February. Overall attendance was estimated in excess of 100,000 people.

ABS Classes for Corps of Engineers- Division 5 is building a close relationship with the Corp of Engineers by providing them our ABS classes in the Dallas area.

D8WR

The Sector Upper Mississippi River Auxiliary Contingency Communications Support began initial testing in February with a goal of having it fully functional in 40 days.

A pilot program with the National Guard for Emergency Preparedness/Services was established inside the Office of the Adjutant General of Iowa in February 2009. We are considering expanding this program into four other states depending on the success of the pilot program.

D9ER

RBHS displayed at boat show in Syracuse: GREAT recruitment tool, 50 prospective members, with 6 committing to joining the Auxiliary and taking crew training on the RBHS.

AUXILIARY SUPPORT TO COAST GUARD HEALTH SERVICES- Drs. MacIntyre and Sopko of Division 7 were at The National Maritime Center in Martinsburg West Virginia on 18-20, February to work on relieving the backlog in medical clearances for merchant marine licenses. They will continue this work online in support of the Center from Cleveland. They also received Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendations for U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit Pre-Mobilization Readiness Team support.

DSO-AV Robert Frantangelo delivered his presentation at the CIO Conference. There were about 70 people there, 50 were new CIO's (Command Intelligence Officer's) from all of D9. We were really honored there and they were given direction to utilize us. He made several presentations and had about 1 hr, with all of their questions and participation it ran almost 1.5 hrs! They are really excited about utilizing Aux AV members especially up in areas of D9CR and WR where they aren't now. He will be taking his presentations and using them at the symposium and hopefully getting some of the Officer CIO's to come to the symposium to meet the CR and WR along with our crews too.

Division 2 participated in the Central NY Boat Show in February at the fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY. With the help from Station Oswego they displayed the 25' RBHS. It was very successful in attracting people to their area of the building. More than 10,000 visitors went through the Toyota building to view the exhibit and the boat. Division 2 collected more than 50 names of persons who would like more information about the Auxiliary. Letters were mailed out to the prospective members inviting them to an informational forum about the Auxiliary being held on March 7th. Division 2 also conducted a Boater Safety Class during the boat show. The class had 10 students, all passed.

The annual Rochester Boat Show was held February 5-8. Division 4 had a PA booth there and was supported by all 5 Flotillas. This year they also had, for the first time, Officers from US Customs and Border Patrol. They had hoped to have a COMMS with STA Rochester 25' SAFE Boat, but were unable to get it into the convention center. They did however, have a Communications Display and we were able to have COMMS with STA Rochester on Saturday.

D9WR

The 9WR Spring Conference held February 20-21 was a huge success. Biggest complaint to contend with was “too many training choices – could not make them all.” As a leader, I can live with this criticism. The hospitality night was without fanfare and included a great meal, which allowed for personal interaction and was very well received.

The District Nine Western region logo contest produced many fine entries. Upon selection, the winner will receive a funded trip to the D9 Symposium, where our new logo will first be displayed during the parade of flags at the opening session.

Division 4 SO-PA and Division Commander made a presentation at Madison Area Technical College Veterans Association Benefits Fair on 2/19/09. The college has over 600 veterans as students. This will give us a chance to present the Coast Guard Auxiliary’s message to a group of veterans.

The 25’ RBHS GC owned Aux Operated facility was underway late in February working on boat drills with the CG and taking depth readings along the St. Joseph River.

A lunch/training session was held at Air Station Traverse City. Briefings were conducted by Mark Gill, Chief of the Sector Command Center on Ice and other support missions, by Lt Vaughn, Intelligence Office Sector, on Law Enforcement Support and by AUXLO LTJG Antrim on new PPE and new internet aviation weather tools. Also a number of Auxiliarists tested their dry suits at the Civic Center pool. Aviation workshop and swim were conducted at the spring meeting at Schaumburg.

PACIFIC AREA

D11NR

All members of EXCOM, State Liaison Officers for California, Nevada and Utah attended the annual District Eleven RBS conference held at Group San Diego 18-20 February. Attending this conference were the Boating Law Administrators from California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. The conference agenda focused on building relationships and discuss solutions to common challenges. Those who attended all agreed that the conference was a great success.

D14

10 February- DCO Lott travelled by C-130 to Pago-Pago, American Samoa along with DIRAUX LCDR McNair and SK-1 Ma'ae to ascertain feasibility of establishing a new flotilla there. They met with the Governor and other high ranking officials and gave presentations to the Rotary Club and the Pago-Pago Yacht Club. We have 11 persons wishing to establish a flotilla there.

Diamond Head Lighthouse tours were carried out on the 13 & 14th of February by members of the PRO-DEMO team. They hosted Iolani School on the 13th for elementary boating safety orientation, whale watching and a presentation on lighthouses.

26 Feb OPFAC 323265 NORDIC TUG , sailed to Base Honolulu to provide a platform for LE boarding team practice for Sector Honolulu boarding team personnel.

Flotilla 3-19 (Kauai) presented two ABS classes for Kauai County Lifeguards and Firemen.

Flotilla 3-19 (Hilo) held an integrated USCG/USCGAUX Crew and coxswain training weekend. Members participated along with crewmembers from the Hilo-based USCGC KISKA, and the D-14 Operations Training Officer.

D17

Auxiliarist Bob Mattson I made a 45 minute presentation on cold water immersion to the annual all-staff training conference of Maritime New Zealand on Thursday in Wellington. The presentation was at the invitation of the Director, and was very well received with a lot of follow-up questions and at least a half dozen one-on-one discussions with staff from various programs within MNZ. He then spent the afternoon touring the Rescue Coordination Centre- Wellington, the Maritime Operations Centre and Coast Guard Rescue Station Wellington.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Kerigan
National Commodore