



Chip Log

Chip Log: In the most ancient times, speed at sea was measured by dropping a piece of driftwood or a small log off of the stern of the moving ship. As the ship moved away from the wood, an approximate speed could be guessed. Of course, one could only do this so many times before exhausting the supply of wood aboard. This was remedied by attaching a length of light twine or line to the log; the same log could then be retrieved and used repeatedly. Marks were added to the line to allow for a more accurate speed reading.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7 Division 11 Third Quarter 2023
Harvey Prior, Division Commander
Steve Rea, Division Vice Commander
Karen Miller, Editor/Publisher



Division 11's bridge for 2024. Left, Matt Copeland, Division Vice Commander (elect). Right, Stephan Bielawski, Division Commander (elect). Photo by Karen Miller.

Story and more photos on page 38

Division 11 2023 Staff Officers and Bridge

Position	Last Name	First Name
Division Commander, DCDR	Prior	Harvey
Division Vice Commander, VCDR	Rea	Steve
Immediate Past Division Commander, IPDCDR	Walker	Sam
Staff Officer-Communications, SO-CM	Copeland	Matt
Staff Officer-Communication Services, SO-CS	Otto	Jeff
Staff Officer-Diversity, SO-DV	Caridad	Rafael
Staff Officer-Finance, SO-FN	Casey	Kathleen
Staff Officer-Human Resources, SO-HR	Mackey	Kristi
Staff Officer-Information Services, SO-IS	Bielawski	Stephan
Staff Officer-Marine Safety, SO-MS	Erwin	Richard
Staff Officer-Member Training, SO-MT	Miller	Karen
Staff Officer-Navigation Systems, SO-NS	Simpson	Doug
Staff Officer-Operations, SO-OP	Dolan	Tim
Staff Officer-Public Affairs, SO-PA	Evans	Michelle
Staff Officer-Publications, SO-PB	Miller	Karen

Division 11 2023 Staff Officers and Bridge - Continued

Position	Last Name	First Name
Staff Officer-Program Visitations, SO-PV	Bonnem	Rob
Staff Officer-Secretary/Records, SO-SR	Mackey	Kristi
Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations, SO-VE	Kostreba	Scott
Auxiliary Unit Coordinator-Station Sand Key	Maloof	Tom

Chip Log is always looking for articles about Auxiliarists, stories of interest, and photographs. Your articles don't have to be long; just make sure you include all the basics: Who are you writing about? What is the topic or event? Where does the story take place (location)? When did, or when will this event take place, and finally, Why is this of interest, or How was this accomplished? Provide as much information as possible.

Photographs should always be high-resolution images. Please do not edit the image except to crop or remove redeye. If you have any doubt, just send the image straight from your camera and add a description that includes who and what is depicted in the photograph and the photographer's name. Take a camera with you everywhere. Vessel examinations, member training, patrols, public education programs, and fellowship events are all great photo opportunities. Be proud of everything that you do for the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Karen Miller, *Chip Log* editor Capt.Karen.Miller@gmail.com

Important Websites

Coast Guard Auxiliary Website: www.cgaux.org

Division 11 Auxiliary Website: www.cgauxdivision11.com

National Testing Center: <http://ntc.cgaux.org/>

District 7 Auxiliary Website: <http://www.uscga-district-7.org/>

Station Sand Key on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USCoastGuardStationSandKey>

Law of Gravity: - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.



About 45 years ago, the advertising world made popular the phrases “Do It” and “Just Do It.” Organizations such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary help good things happen because we Do It.

The old 80/20 rule (80% of the work is done by 20% of the members) needs to go. We need every member to contribute. Whether it is participating in public affairs events, watchstanding, pollution investigating, teaching classes, going out on patrols, or one of the many other activities Auxiliarists perform, you are an important part of what the Coast Guard Auxiliary is. If you are an active member, then Thank You! If you are not active, then it is time to get active. You volunteered to be an active member of our great organization. You will get more out of the Auxiliary if you put more into it. Do It.

Thank you to every member who responded to the Everbridge notifications. Division 11 was best at responding every time. We care about our members, so please respond. Only a 100% response is acceptable, so save our leader from having to hunt you down by responding. Just Do It.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to several members in the northern portion of our division. These members did get flood waters and other damage from Hurricane Idalia.

We just held the Division 11 elections on 21 October, and upcoming is the Change of Watch ceremony on 02 December. This event will be held in the Red Tail Lounge at Air Station Clearwater. Email reminders will be sent closer to the events. Your attendance is encouraged, so Do It.

We need to reach out to our friends and neighbors. Invite them to come with you to a meeting or other event. Tell them about the good that we do and the friends we make. Ask them to take a safe boating class. Get them started on the path to Auxiliary membership. Your flotilla and your division will be better for it. So....”JUST DO IT.”

Law of Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.



Qualification Examiner pre-mission training in plotting. Conducted by Karen Miller (Division 11 Member Training Officer) with assistance from Rob Mancuso (11-1, Clearwater) and Tim Dolan (11-1, Clearwater).

Clockwise from bottom right:
Mike Riebe (11-1, Clearwater)
David McGee (11-10, Dunedin)
Rob Mancuso (11-1, Clearwater)
Tom Luncher (11-9, Tarpon Springs)
Tim Dolan (11-1, Clearwater)
Katie Bajis (11-1, Clearwater)

Photo by Lisa Repetto, 11-1, Clearwater, at Flotilla 11-1's headquarters.



We are approaching the fourth quarter of 2023, and as a reminder, it is time to plan for 2024. Each flotilla and the division will be conducting elections at their future meetings. Staff Officers will need to be identified and confirmed for 2024.

I would like to take this time to reflect on our membership and the importance and value each of you has in contributing to our future and success!

We often talk about assets in the Auxiliary. Examples would be boats, planes, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). As a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, you are an asset in a different context. We value your membership and contribution! One of the cornerstones of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is to promote boating safety. Your contribution to Vessel Safety Checks, Public Affairs, and safe boating classes has been essential to boating safety and creates value for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. You volunteer countless hours and add great value!

As each year passes, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is asked to step up when needed to support the active-duty Coast Guard. We have members supporting Sector St. Petersburg, Air Station Clearwater, and Station Sand Key. We provide support as radio watchstanders, culinary assistants, two-boat training facilities, C-130 drop training, and more.

To those members who are Division Staff Officers, Flotilla Commanders, Flotilla Vice Commanders, and Flotilla Staff Officers, thank you for your contribution in 2023.

Goals for 2024:

- 1) Reach out to your Flotilla Commanders, Flotilla Vice Commanders, Member Training, and Human Resources Officers and have a conversation about your goals for 2024 and develop a plan.
- 2) If you desire to continue in your Staff Officer position, discuss that with your leadership. If your goal is to become a Flotilla Staff Officer, discuss the training needed. If you want to become crew or a coxswain, your Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Staff Officer-Member Training (FSO-MT) will review what training is needed. If your goal is to be in an elected position, review with your flotilla leadership. Additionally, the Auxiliary Manual outlines the requirements needed, and AUXDATA II lists classes that are available.
- 3) We are very fortunate to have experienced leadership and staff officers to assist. Start with your Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Vice Commander, and Staff Officers in your flotilla. When needed, flotillas can reach out to the Staff Officers in the Division. Karen Miller, Staff Officer-Member Training (SO-MT), has a wealth of knowledge and is a national trainer. Karen Miller also sends out e-mail information on classes that are scheduled. Take the time to review and attend. It is never too early to start attending classes to prepare for the future.

In summary, each member is a valued asset to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Reach out to your flotilla leadership, have a discussion, and establish your goals. Division 11 is looking forward to a successful 2024!

Variation Law: If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are now in.

Guy Warner, a longtime member of Flotilla 11-10, Dunedin, passed away in March 2023. The flotilla recently held a celebration of life in his honor. All photos on these pages are provided by Gordon Thomas, Commander, Flotilla 11-10, Dunedin.



Left and Right Above: Heidi Warner,
Guy's widow, emcees the program.



Collage of Guy's life.

GORDON THOMAS, FLOTILLA 11-10,
DUNEDIN, FLOTILLA COMMANDER

GUY WARNER, A CELEBRATION OF LIFE, CONTINUED



Gordon Thomas presenting the eulogy.



Gordon Thomas presenting the shadowbox to Heidi Warner



Scott Birdwell provided the music



Attendees at the Celebration of Life

THE LATEST FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

On June 22nd, we received the following message congratulating District 7:

At this very moment, D7 Membership per AUXDATA is 4010 members!!! The work to achieve this return to pre-COVID levels is one remarkable accomplishment and one that many believed would not happen. My sincere and humble thanks to all of the D7 team!! Please share with your team this very proud and positive success.

Respectfully,

John W. Holmes

USCG-AUX-District 7 Commodore

CARPE DIEM

SEMPER PARATUS

We currently have approximately 10 to 12 active prospects with the five area flotillas. The majority of these came from the eResponder, but we've also brought on new members from our community outreach efforts, such as safe boating classes and vessel safety checks.

We have processed the following new members this year with Division 11

Jan – Amanda Norton	11-1	May – Gloria Bailey	11-6
Mar – Dan DeMarco	11-10	June – Steven Denhof	11-9
Mar – Marilyn Halsted	11-10	Aug – Grady Altman	11-10
Mar – Greta Gentile	11-1	Aug – Judy DeStefano	11-10
Apr - Geary Daves	11-10	Aug – Dennis DeStefano	11-10
		Aug - Chris Brown	11-9

I'm happy to report that I received responses from all Flotilla Staff Officers-Human Resources (FSO-HR), and their reports were on time. THANK YOU!

Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.



Shadow Box presented to Heidi Warner at the Celebration of Life for her late husband, Guy Warner a member of Flotilla 11-10, Dunedin.

Photo provided by Gordon Thomas, Commander, Flotilla 11-10, Dunedin.

CLEANED FROM CAPITAL ONE EMAIL

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THE LATEST SCAMS

Bank Impersonation

You're contacted by someone claiming to be from your bank or any other financial institution regarding fraudulent activity on your account and asking you to transfer money from your account or send a payment elsewhere. When in doubt, end all communication with the scammer and call the number on the back of your debit or credit card.

Utility scam

Scammers pretend to be your utility company and threaten to shut off your services unless you pay immediately. Utility companies won't contact you requesting payment via Zelle® or other peer-to-peer channels. Zelle® is intended to send money to friends, family, and others you trust.

Business email compromise scam

You receive an email from a vendor requesting you to send money to a different account. The email looks genuine, but it could be from a fraudster who got access to your vendor's network.

Fake website scam

You're searching for a certain website on a search engine to sign in to your account but end up on a fake website. Scammers will steal your username and password when you sign in to a fake website. Always use the correct website or the app to sign in to your accounts.

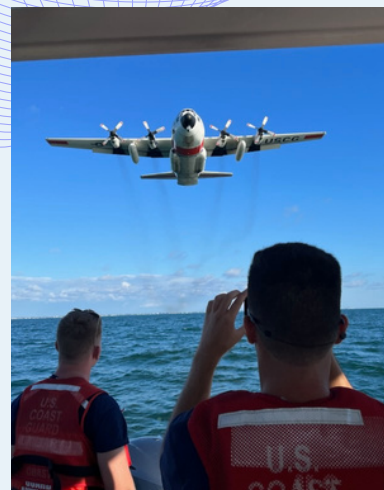
Tips:

- Zelle® doesn't offer upgrades of any type. Neither they nor your bank or credit card will ask you to send money to yourself or someone else.
- No financial institution will ever ask you to make peer-to-peer payments to correct any fraud activity.
- Never send money to anyone claiming your account is compromised or threatening to cut off your utilities.
- When in doubt, end the call and connect with the bank via legitimate sources using the numbers on the back of your debit or credit cards.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately.

Law of Random Numbers: If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

Photo of Coast Guard C-130 flying over BigTime, Tim Dolan's Auxiliary Operational Facility (OPFAC). BigTime, along with Harvey Prior's OPFAC B4 IV, work with Air Station Clearwater on a regular basis to give the Air Station pilots and crew the opportunity to fine tune their search and rescue skills.

Photo provided by Tim Dolan, Division 11 Operations Staff Officer (SO-OP).



SCOTT KOSTREBA, DIVISION 11
STAFF OFFICER-VESSEL
EXAMINATIONS

HISTORY OF THE VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

According to the USCG Auxiliary Vessel Examination and Program Visitor website, the Vessel Safety Check program has been evolving since its inception in 1947. Originally the Motor Boat Examination program, then evolving into the Courtesy Examination program, the program had eventually become insufficient for the needs of boaters.

The program was benchmarked against the modern recreational boater's needs in a study group comprised of industry and other boating safety organizations to determine the next step in the evolution of the program. The result is the Vessel Safety Check program. In 1950, National Commodore Bert Pouncey was elected, and the National Board for the Coast Guard Auxiliary was established. According to Wikipedia, in 1955, Auxiliarists started to participate in programs to support recruiting potential candidates for the United States Coast Guard Academy.

The North American Boating Campaign was originally known as "Safe Boating Week," observed by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as a Courtesy Examination weekend in Amesbury, Massachusetts, in June 1952. This tradition continued until 1957, when an official National Safe Boating Week observation took place sponsored by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in various parts of the country. As a result, the U.S. Coast Guard prepared a Resolution, and on June 4, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed PL 85-445 to establish National Safe Boating Week as the first week starting on the first Sunday in June. Today, we provide our local boating community with vessel safety checks for recreational boats up to 65 feet in length. The main items that are checked are:

- Life Jackets
- Registration and numbering
- Navigation lights
- Ventilation
- Fire extinguishers
- Distress signals (flares, horn, etc.)
- Battery cover and connections
- Engine cutoff switch if under 26ft and built after 2020

As the summer comes to an end, our division Vessel Examiners look forward to providing many more exams before the end of the year. It's been a very productive year so far; we will finish out the year strong in 2023. Better things ahead.



Nick Sippl, Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater,
conducting a Vessel Safety Check
Photo provided by Scott Kostreba, Division 11
Vessel Examiner Staff Officer (SO-VE).

Stephan Bielawski, Flotilla 11-1,
Clearwater, Flotilla Commander

THE NEW AUXILIARY

Longtime members of the division remember the “glory days” of the early post-9/11 Auxiliary. Back in 2004, the Auxiliary had 35,000 members. Fast forward to today. We are tasked with many important missions, still have plenty of requests for support from the active-duty component, and are accomplishing these missions with only 21,000 members. That is a loss of FORTY percent.

We are absolutely a changing Auxiliary. Rather than pining to add 40% to our member rolls, I believe that the best method to meet our challenges is to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of a “leaner and meaner” flotilla model.

While abhorred by many, ultimately, metrics have their place in examining “how we are doing.” Gone are the days when flotillas could afford to have our member rolls contain 80% inactive members, with maybe 10-20% of the total members performing all our missions.

It is vital for leadership to work to build/rebuild flotillas (and ultimately, divisions) as a model of shared obligations, activities, and simple hard work. The key metric to examine this is to look at the total service hours contributed by the membership and divide it by members reporting time. Zero credit for members who don't have current Auxiliary certifications and contribute no activity.

There are many reasons for members to become inactive. Other volunteer activities get their attention, or maybe health issues have them in a position where it is difficult to participate. Possibly, age has caught up with them, as it eventually will with all of us, and they no longer have the strength or capability to contribute as they once did. Sometimes, job or family situations change to the point where the member no longer has time to participate.

Others, however, for whatever reason, joined the Auxiliary and were NEVER contributors. They paid their dues year after year and did nothing. I actually spoke with a former member of my own flotilla who freely admitted that they renewed their Auxiliary membership every year because they saved a lot of money each year using their ID at Home Depot. Yes, this really happens.

It doesn't take much for a seasoned member to contribute, even with some limitations. Attend most meetings - simply showing up and speaking with newer members, sharing the benefit of their experience, they are part of the fabric of the “flotilla family.”

The key to revitalization is recruiting, training, and motivating ACTIVE new members...and putting them to work!

That, and as new members are added, consider gently prodding inactive members to either resume activity as I outlined above (show up and mentor), voluntarily separate, or move forward with their retirement from the Auxiliary.

Law of the Theater and Hockey Arenas: At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

Tom Mann, Flotilla 11-6, New Port
Richey, Flotilla Commander

FLOTILLA 11-6'S STATUS

My role as flotilla commander is winding down. Reflecting on the last two years, it has been extremely rewarding. That is not to say it did not have its challenges or, as I like to say, "opportunities."

The flotilla has carried out its core missions. We have conducted monthly Safe Boating Classes and Program Visits under the leadership of Gary Dickinson, with Frank Florio assisting.

Our members have provided support to USCG Station Sand Key with communications watch standing, as well as support to CG Tampa assisting in Foreign Ship Arrivals and Marine Inspections.

Dexter Turner has been instrumental in the flotilla receiving the NACO Three-Star Award for Diversity for the second year in a row.

We have enrolled two new members who have hit the ground running, one becoming Basically Qualified (BQ) in two weeks with the help of Mike Kadis, the Division 11 Assistant Member Training Officer. There are three new prospective members who are in the process of filling out their membership applications. Our monthly attendance continues to improve.

I am extremely grateful for the support from Division 11 leadership and staff officers, and I can't thank them enough.

In closing, one of our biggest challenges was repairing the seawall and renovating our Auxiliary building. It seemed like an unsurmountable task, but we accomplished the task with the help of the local Rotary Club, Auxiliary members, prayer, and perseverance. If you put your mind to it, "the impossible only takes a bit longer."

Law of Public Speaking: A closed mouth gathers no feet!



Left: Gary Dickinson
(L) receives the award
for Vessel
Examinations from
Tom Mann (R) in 2023.

Right: Gloria Bailey
(L) receives her
Basically Qualified
certificate from Tom
Mann (R)

Photos taken at
Flotilla 11-6, New Port
Richey's Auxiliary
building and provided
by Tom Mann



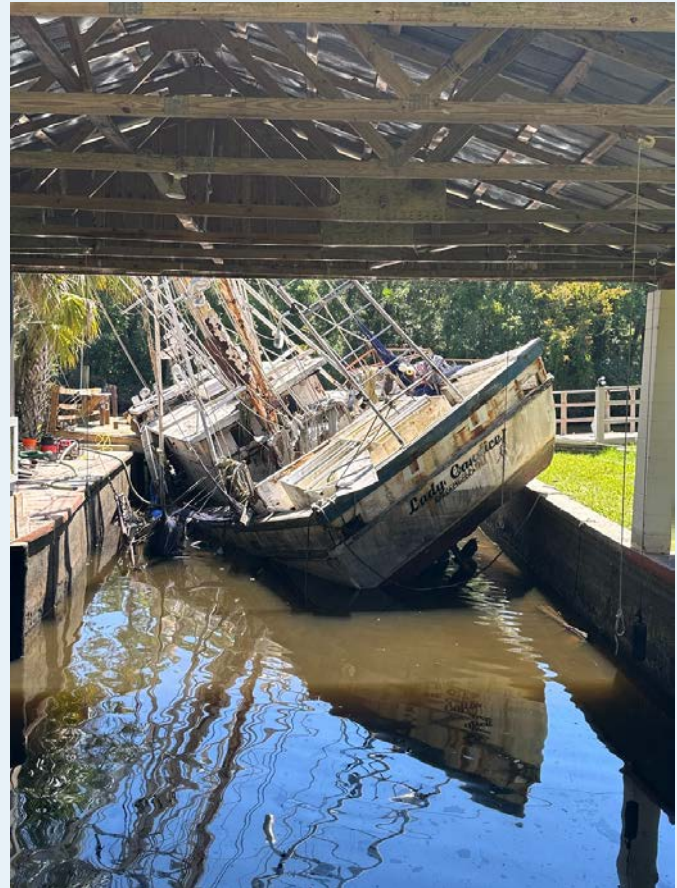
We have been busy as we wind down the summer and move into the fall months. We continue to support Station Sand Key, and we have also had some pollution calls. Two members achieved the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) device this year. This achievement is a true commitment to boating safety in vessel safety checks, education, and program visits.

We continue to provide RBS classes, a one-day, eight-hour class. Additionally, we have one member who is working on an Uninspected Passenger Vessel and Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner certifications.

The flotilla is maintaining its membership with no growth, even when we try. Training has been light as we did put out the information on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training with FEMA in an effort to keep with the diversity outline from District Seven.

And, now, for the bad side of things: three members were affected by Hurricane Idalia. Two were displaced from flooding, and one had minor damage but was not displaced. Gratefully, the flotilla building did not have any issues.

Law of Physical Surfaces: The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.



Left, flooding from Hurricane Idalia right up to the front door.

Right, aftermath from Hurricane Idalia.

Photos provided by Matt Copeland, Commander, 11-9, Hudson

VOLUNTEERISM: WHY DO WE DO IT?

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place. And volunteering is a two-way street: it can benefit you and your family as much as the cause you choose to help. Dedication your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your network, boost your social skills, and learn something new.

The overarching mission of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is to contribute to the safety and security of our citizens, ports, waterways, and coastal regions. We will balance our missions of Recreational Boating Safety and Coast Guard Support with Maritime Homeland Security and other challenges that emerge as a result of our growing understanding of changes required in the post-9/11 era.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian component of the Coast Guard Forces. Founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress as the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and re-designated the Auxiliary in 1941. The 21,000 volunteer members (men and women) donate thousands of hours in support of Coast Guard missions.

The Coast Guard does more than just search and rescue. With the exception of direct law enforcement and military action, the Auxiliary is there, side-by-side, working with regular and reserve Coast Guard units every step of the way. We're found in every part of the United States, not just where recreational boating is found.

The National organization is broken down along the lines of the Coast Guard Districts (some districts are further subdivided for ease of administration). Districts are then subdivided into divisions, with these units further subdivided into flotillas. The flotilla is the mainstay of the Auxiliary, and every member must belong to a flotilla. Every flotilla is part of a division.

I am very proud, as Division 11 Program Visitation Officer and as the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander of 11-10, Dunedin, that each and every one of my shipmates division-wide chooses to volunteer their time and efforts in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Our world is a better place for the work you do.

The Law of Television Entertainment: As soon as you find a television program that you really like, it will be cancelled



Tom Maloof, Flotilla 11-9, Tarpon Springs, Flotilla Commander

CPR, FIRST AID, AND A LOT MORE

In July, Flotilla 11-9, Tarpon Springs, conducted a First Aid/CPR class. The class was well-attended, with a total of 15 students, nearly all from Division 11. Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue Assistant Chief Richard Walsh instructed the eager crowd. The first topics Chief Walsh covered were cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on adults, children, and infants and the use of an automatic electronic defibrillator (AED).

Following Chief Walsh's lecture, all trainees received hands-on experiences where they were required to practice lung inflation and chest compressions using life-size mannequins. The mannequins were fitted with electronic sensors that measured the depth and frequency of the compressions. This gave trainees instant feedback as to the effectiveness of their efforts.

After each student demonstrated proficiency in CPR, Chief Walsh conducted first aid training. He tailored his instruction to situations Auxiliarists are most likely to encounter during boat and airborne patrols, as well as during shore duty. Students learned how to treat burns, stabilize broken bones, stop bleeding, and the use of a tourniquet. They also learned how to recognize and treat heat-related conditions such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Following successful completion of the course, each student received the American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED certification.



Left: Sign welcoming Auxiliarists to the CPR/ First Aid Training
Right: Tom Luncher performing chest compressions.
Both photos from Tom Maloof



Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy: As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it or the store will stop selling it!

Tom Maloof, Flotilla 11-9, Tarpon
Springs, Flotilla Commander

CPR, FIRST AID, AND A LOT MORE - CONT'D.

In other news, after three years in the making, 11-9 finally took ownership of our flotilla's communication trailer. The trailer, while under the ownership of member Joe Visovsky, had previously been certified as a CG Auxiliary facility. Transferring ownership is the first step in having the trailer re-certified as a facility. Once that process is complete, we will begin both training and operational missions supporting the Auxiliary.

Vessel examination (VE) remains our most active program. Our team consisting of Bob Gailey, Mike Vaughn, Dave Corum, Dick Tome, Roman Jarmula, and Tom Luncher, have conducted safety checks on nearly 50 vessels in the last three months and well over 200 this calendar year. The boating public is undoubtedly safer, thanks to the efforts of these dedicated gentlemen.

We recently were challenged with a last-minute notification that we lost our monthly meeting location. The Tarpon Springs American Legion Post 46, which hosted us for nearly two years, is closing its doors and selling their building. The search is now on for a new organization to hold our monthly meetings and boating safety classes. There are several candidates we are now investigating. Stay tuned for more news.



Division 11 members learning first aid.
Photo by Tom Maloof

Law of Mechanical Repair: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

THE CG AUXILIARY'S UNSUNG HEROES

In the vast sea of responsibilities undertaken by the CG Auxiliary, few roles are as crucial and unsung as that of the Public Affairs Officer (PAO). These dedicated individuals are the lighthouses guiding the public through the often intricate waters of the Auxiliary's missions, its impact, and its importance to the nation. In this article, we delve into the world of public affairs within the Auxiliary, exploring the critical role they play and the inspiration they provide for potential future PAOs.

The Backbone of Communication

The CG Auxiliary's primary mission is to promote safety and security on our nation's waterways. Achieving this mission necessitates effective communication with the public, and that's where the Public Affairs Team comes into play.

Public Affairs Officers (PAOs) are the bridge connecting the CG Auxiliary with the communities they serve. They are responsible for disseminating information about recreational boater safety, training, and the Auxiliary's contributions towards the mission of the Coast Guard. Through press releases, social media engagement, and community outreach, PAOs ensure that the public remains informed and engaged.

Educators and Storytellers

PAOs are not just messengers but also educators. They distill complex maritime information into digestible nuggets, making it accessible to all. Their ability to translate intricate nautical knowledge into relatable stories and engaging content is a skill that inspires.

Would-be PAOs should embrace their roles as both educators and storytellers. It's about more than just relaying facts; it's about weaving narratives that captivate the imagination and motivate action. Whether it's sharing a rescue mission's success story or promoting boating safety tips, PAOs are the storytellers who connect the public with the USCG Auxiliary's mission and values.

Inspiration for Future PAOs

The CG Auxiliary's Public Affairs Officers are instrumental to the impact individuals can have when they blend passion with communication skills. Their dedication to safety and security, their commitment to service, and their ability to inspire change through words and actions serve as a beacon for those considering a career in public affairs.

Here are a few insights to inspire future PAOs:

- 1. Service Above Self:** Public Affairs Officers selflessly serve their communities and nation by sharing vital information. The desire to help others should be the driving force behind their work.
- 2. Lifelong Learning:** In an organization that is vast and constantly evolving, a good PAO is always eager to learn and adapt, ensuring that they stay up-to-date with the latest developments.

Michelle Evans, Division 11 Staff
Officer-Public Affairs

UNSUNG HEROES CONT'D.

3. **Communication is Key:** Effective communication skills is the heart of public affairs. Future PAOs should hone their abilities to convey messages clearly, concisely, and persuasively.

4. **Passion for the Mission:** Passion is infectious. A PAO who genuinely believes in the USCG Auxiliary's mission will naturally inspire others to get involved.

Call to Action: Becoming a PAO

Public Affairs Officers in the CG Auxiliary are the unsung heroes who navigate the waters of communication, education, and inspiration. They play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and security of our nation's waterways, making them the backbone of the Auxiliary's mission.

For those considering a future in public affairs, remember that this role isn't just about relaying information; it's about shaping narratives, educating, and inspiring positive change. The dedication and passion of current PAOs stand as a testament to the incredible impact this role can have on communities and the nation as a whole. Embrace the challenge, become a beacon of information, and set sail towards a career in public affairs that will make waves of positive change.

Law of the Bath: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring

Matt Copeland, Division 11 Staff
Officer-Communications

STATUS REPORT

We are in good shape. After Hurricane Idalia, we realized that there are updates needed to the system. But for the most part, we are all online, and we are all able to talk. I will be in touch in the next few weeks as I get back on my feet. Unfortunately, we were flooded, so everything for me is temporary while I get my house back in order.

DIVISION 11 AWARDS FROM NACON 2023

3 STAR AWARD for DIVERSITY EXCELLENCE in 2022: Awarded to ALL District 7 units – this includes ALL 17 divisions and ALL flotillas.

National PUBLIC AFFAIRS Awards (2022): 1st Place Flotilla Newsletter - "Channel Marker" Flotilla 11-1, Lisa Repetto, Editor.

Instructor Performance GOLDEN KEY Award: (Awarded for 50+ hours Public Education/Member Training Instructor Lead hours in the first half of 2023.) **Karen Miller**

Officer-Information Services

In past articles, I have emphasized the importance of documenting our service hours in AuxData II. The primary reasons for this are to ensure our members, flotillas, and the Coast Guard get credit for all the work our members do.

One of the most important things to emphasize is that all activity must be documented. If we have members who are doing things, and those activities don't make it into AuxData II, what happens? The member's work goes "unpaid." Further, a lack of reporting (or underreporting) affects the overall picture of how active each flotilla is. The data is skewed. Let's help every member get their hours documented. Remember, "If it isn't in AuxData, it didn't happen."

We are at a point in 2023 when we can look back at the year in AuxData II as we have documented it. A secondary purpose of AuxData II is to provide the raw data for us to harvest the numbers, analyze them, and use them as a yardstick for a report card about how we are doing, especially at the flotilla level.

This is most important because, as we know, the flotilla is the key building block of the Auxiliary. Here are some basic metrics for the 2023 year to date for our flotillas:

PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS REPORTING (what percentage of our members were actively engaged):

11-1 Clearwater: 79%

11-6 New Port Richey: 50%

11-7 Hudson: 48%

11-9 Tarpon: 41%

11-10 Dunedin: 77%

TOTAL HOURS REPORTED BY ALL MEMBERS

11-1 Clearwater: 8,708

11-6 New Port Richey: 913

11-7 Hudson: 1311

11-9 Tarpon: 1586

11-10 Dunedin: 3,847

AVERAGE NUMBER OF ANNUAL HOURS PER MEMBER REPORTING

11-1 Clearwater: 189

11-6 New Port Richey: 130

11-7 Hudson: 119

11-9 Tarpon: 132

11-10 Dunedin: 107

A conclusion that I draw from examining the data is that when more of our members are NOT sitting on the sidelines, the better the numbers that document the flotilla's overall performance.

continued on the next page

INFORMATION SERVICES CONT'D

Engagement/re-engagement of our members, along with recruiting, training, and development of new members, are essential to our well-being.

Commanders, please do everything you can to ensure that every member gets their hours into AuxData II. It doesn't matter if they enter them, a fellow member enters them, an Information Services Officer (IS) (including me) enters them, or you, as the flotilla commander, enters them for the benefit of the flotilla.

Great work is being done by all flotillas. We have risen to the many challenges we have faced and are poised to get even BETTER!

SEMPER PARATUS!

Doctors' Law: If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

Ralph Caridad, Division 11
Staff Officer-Diversity

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

On September 12, 2023, Auxiliarists were sent an email from National Commodore Gus Formato regarding a new Diversity award. The award is a commendable move aimed at recognizing and celebrating the outstanding contributions of individuals and units within the organization that actively promote diversity, equality, and inclusivity in their operations and activities.

The Auxiliary has long been committed to safeguarding America's waters and teaching boating safety, among other incredible acts of volunteerism. Now, with the introduction of the Diversity Award, it reaffirms its commitment to diversity and equal opportunity, and acknowledges not just the selfless service of the Auxiliarist but the incredible character that members demonstrate while carrying out the Auxiliary's missions. The Diversity Award is set to become an annual tradition, highlighting the efforts of those who have gone above and beyond to make the Auxiliary a more inclusive and welcoming organization for everyone.

Commodore Formato mentioned the work we do every year with the NACO 3 Star Award. Notably, 46% of our units received the NACO 3 Star Award for Excellence in Diversity this past year. The new award targets individual accomplishments by Auxiliarists with a goal of "not only recognizing those units that receive the NACO 3 Star Award for Excellence in Diversity Management but deserving individuals as well." The award was voted on during the National Training Conference (N-Train) and labeled as an annual award set to recognize "the most exemplary performance in the field of diversity."

This initiative is not just about recognizing achievements; it is about sending the continued message that diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords but essential values that drive the Coast Guard Auxiliary. With the Diversity Award, the new National Commodores Inclusive Advisory Group, and the new and updated Diversity and Inclusion curriculum, the Auxiliary's commitment to diversity and inclusion is evident. I am excited to continue seeing these and other initiatives rolled out in the coming months.

SURFACE OPERATIONS 101, PART THREE OF A THREE-PART SERIES

Surface Operations 101- Maintaining Your Qualification

In the last *Chip Log*, we talked about how Surface Operations are at the heart of most flotilla activities. Through the Surface Operations program, we are critical to the ongoing readiness of the active duty Coast Guard pilots who are stationed at Clearwater Air Station (ASCW). ASCW is the largest air station in the Coast Guard, flying missions over an area spread throughout the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and even Central America. But, we cannot deliver this support without well-trained, qualified crew members who can execute an effective and, above all, safe mission under Coast Guard order. You do not need to possess all these skills on your first training mission. Leave it in our hands to lead you at a pace that fits the time you can dedicate to training, and we will help you build skills, expand your knowledge, and actually have a lot of fun on the water!!

Once you pass your qualification examination, you will be certified to serve as a crew member for a period of essentially three years. It is our hope that during those years, you will get out on Air Intercept missions (C-130 drops), safety training patrols, special events like sailing regattas and boat parades, and, if you are lucky, a few successful search and rescue operations. Some Auxiliarists are retired and have the time to crew every week. Others have less time and try to get out at least once a month. There are others that can only serve a handful of times per year. With all of the variation in “practice” time on the water, the skill levels can vary greatly. I know that I get rusty if I haven’t been out in a few weeks. To be sure that we practice our skills and maintain a high level of readiness, the Coast Guard has launched a program that requires us to exercise our primary crew skills on the water. This program is called the Annual Currency Maintenance. It is a valuable tool to stay sharp while on the water, and it is simple and straightforward to complete.



Left: Air Station
Clearwater crew
bringing in items
dropped from
the C-130.

Right: Dan Lipman and
Air Station Clearwater
crew with items
dropped from
the C-130.

Photos provided by
Tim Dolan



SURFACE OPERATIONS 101, CONT'D.

Each year, every boat crewmember and every coxswain must complete a set of tasks outlined on a tracking form. Those tasks include the very basics of the job. In the case of crewmembers, we are required to participate in a man overboard drill, perform a navigation and piloting exercise, tow another vessel, and do a few other fun and easy drills. If a crewmember or coxswain would like to be qualified to continue to serve at night, they also have to perform some of these tasks at night. What fun!! Some of my favorite times in the Auxiliary have been navigating down the Intracoastal Waterway with crew on spotlights looking for red or green markers, identifying other boats' positioning and direction by the running lights we can see, and, of course, looking for those pesky crab traps that can get fouled in our props.

Maintaining your currency is not only smart and easy, as you can see, but it is also a lot of fun. This year, we scheduled a late afternoon mission, which bled over into the night, allowing us to accomplish most all of the maintenance tasks in one to two missions. Since we have the whole year to accomplish these, there is little stress in fulfilling this new requirement. I think it is a great addition to our readiness without adding stress or burdensome demands.

Along with working on our currency this year, we also have four trainees almost ready and scheduled to qualify as crewmembers this fall and at least three more in the spring. So how can you participate in this vital function and enjoy life on the waterways of Pinellas County and the Gulf of Mexico with the Auxiliary? Simply step up and tell your Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations or Member Training that you would like to begin training for Boat Crew. They will ask the Division Staff Officer-Operations that you be added to our patrol schedule distribution list. From there, you can pick missions that fit into your schedule. If you have any questions about currency maintenance or about joining the surface operations program as a trainee, please feel free to contact me.



Left: Crew aboard BigTime at the dock
by Station Sand Key.

L to R: Dan Lipman, Dean Bell, Harvey
Prior, Mike Riebe, Tim Dolan
Photo provided by Tim Dolan

Right: Page One of the Annual
Currency Maintenance Task Tracker for
Crewmembers.

Auxiliary Training Handbook - Boat Crew
Enclosure (4)

ENCLOSURE (4)
Annual Currency Maintenance Task Tracker, Crewmember

Task	Member Vessel Number	Member Name	Member ID

For each Task completed, record the following information in the corresponding Task section below:

- The AUTODATA II Patrol # during which the Task was completed (example: PO-123456).
- The date of the Patrol during which the Task was completed.
- The initials of the person authorized to sign off on the Task.

NOTE: Crewmembers who choose to maintain nighttime credentials shall complete all day and night currency Tasks listed in the Task Sections below.

Task Section: (BCM) ANNUAL DAY TASKS

Task	Patrol #	Date	Sign Off (Initials)
Perform a navigation and piloting exercise / TASK BCM-08-02-AUX			
Man overboard			
Assist the Coxswain with a pre-check off of an Auxiliary facility			
Towing across			
Towing alongside			
Boat handling			
Assist in unloading and weighing the boat's anchor			
Demonstrate proficiency in boat tying and line handling			
Demonstrate procedures to be followed in the event of a fire			
Demonstrate procedures to be followed in the event of a grounding or striking of a submerged object			

Task Section: (BCM) ANNUAL NIGHT TASKS

Task	Patrol #	Date	Sign Off (Initials)
Perform a navigation and piloting exercise / TASK BCM-08-02-AUX			
Man overboard			

Task Section: (BCM) ANNUAL NIGHT U/W BOATS

Note: This cumulative time may be split across multiple patrols. Record each patrol until you reach 2 hours.

Session Start Time	Session Stop Time	Time U/W (HH:MM)	Patrol #	Date	Sign Off (Initials)

When all Task Sections are completed as necessary, members shall submit this form to the FSO-12 to be recorded.

The Coffee Law: As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

THE ROLE OF A MEMBER TRAINING OFFICER

The role of a Coast Guard Auxiliary Member Training Officer (MT) is to oversee and manage the training and development of members. Training officers are crucial in ensuring that Auxiliary members are properly trained and prepared to carry out their duties effectively. Here are some of the key responsibilities of a Member Training Officer:

1. **Training Program Development:** Develop and maintain a comprehensive training program that covers various aspects of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's missions and responsibilities. This may include boating safety instruction, navigation, vessel safety checks, and a myriad of other missions.
2. **Training Coordination:** Coordinate and schedule training activities, classes, workshops, and exercises for Auxiliary members. Ensure that training is conducted in compliance with Coast Guard and Auxiliary policies and standards.
3. **Training Records:** Be proficient in AUXDATA II to maintain accurate training records for all Auxiliary members, documenting their progress, completed courses, certifications, and qualifications.
4. **Instructor Training:** Identify and develop qualified instructors within the Auxiliary to deliver training to members. Ensure that instructors are knowledgeable, competent, and follow established training standards.
5. **Mentoring and Guidance:** Provide guidance and support to members seeking to advance their skills and qualifications. Assist in developing individual training plans to help members achieve their goals.
6. **Compliance and Standards:** Ensure that all training activities and materials comply with the Coast Guard Auxiliary's guidelines and standards. Monitor and assess training quality and effectiveness.
7. **New Member Orientation:** Organize and facilitate orientation sessions for new Auxiliary members to introduce them to the organization's structure, missions, and training requirements.
8. **Training Resources:** Manage training resources, including training materials, manuals, and equipment, and ensure they are readily available for members.
9. **Collaboration:** Work closely with other Coast Guard Auxiliary officers, members, and local Coast Guard units to coordinate and support joint training activities and operations.
10. **Reporting:** Prepare and submit reports on training activities and member progress to higher-level Auxiliary leadership as required.

As you can see, a Coast Guard Auxiliary Member Training Officer is responsible for planning, coordinating, and executing training programs to ensure that Auxiliary members are well-prepared to assist the US Coast Guard in its various missions and functions. We play a critical role in maintaining the Coast Guard Auxiliary's readiness and competence.

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Strengthening Security with "Authy" for Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

In an era of increasing online threats and cyberattacks, safeguarding your digital identity has never been more critical. Two-factor authentication (2FA) offers an additional layer of protection for your online accounts. Each app that you use may offer 2FA in its security section. It may offer to use 2FA by sending tokens to your email address or text message to your phone. It may also offer to use an Authenticator App.

Using your email for 2FA is the least secure method. Your email is easiest to be hacked. Once it is hacked, all of your accounts are vulnerable. Text messages for 2FA is much better than email, but it too can be hacked, but less likely than your email being hacked. The most secure option is using an Authenticator App. Setup properly, it is more secure than either using email or text messages.

On what accounts should I use 2FA?

In your personal life, your email should be the first one you add 2FA. Your social media accounts, Facebook, Twitter, and all should be next. Your financial accounts are next. Just think how bad would it be if this account was hacked. If the answer is BAD, then it needs to have 2FA activated. It is inconvenient to have an extra step to access all of these accounts, but the consequences if someone gets access to your email, your Facebook account, or your bank account can be devastating.

In the Auxiliary, your AuxData II account has 2FA required, either using your email or an Authenticator App. 2FA provides a more secure protection.

You have many accounts that need to be protected by two-factor authentication. You need a way to keep it easy to use for all of your many important accounts.

Authy Authenticator App

Authy is a user-friendly mobile and desktop Authenticator App designed to streamline the 2FA process. It simplifies the management of multiple 2FA-enabled accounts and offers features that make securing your digital life more convenient. Authy is available for both iOS and Android devices, as well as for desktop platforms.

Setting Up Authy for 2FA

Step 1: Install Authy

1. Visit Your App Store: Go to your device's app store (Google Play Store for Android or Apple App Store for iOS).
2. Search for Authy: Type "Authy" into the search bar and download the Authy app.

Continued on next page

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION- CONT'D

Step 2: Register Your Phone Number

1. Open Authy: Launch the Authy app.
2. Register with Phone Number: You'll be prompted to register with your phone number. Enter your number and verify it through a one-time SMS code.

Step 3: Add Accounts

For each account, you need to go to the security section, setup 2FA, and choose the Authenticator App method of securing your account. Check that account's help section to find details on setting up 2FA. When you have it set up, it will give you a QR code or a long text key. Use this in step three below to add that account to Authy. To make it easy, set up the 2FA on your computer. Then, use the Authy app on your phone to scan the QR code on your computer.

1. Open Authy: After registering, open Authy.
2. Add an Account: Tap the "+" button to add a new account.
3. Scan QR Code or Enter Key: Depending on the service, you can scan a QR code displayed on the service's website or manually enter the provided key. This connects your Authy app to the account.
4. Verify with 2FA Code: To complete the setup, you'll need to verify your identity using a 2FA code generated by Authy. Enter this code into the service's website.

Step 4: Backup and Recovery

1. Create a Backup Password: Authy allows you to set a backup password. Make it strong and memorable.
2. Recovery Codes: Authy generates recovery codes that you should store securely. These codes can be used to regain access to your Authy app if you lose your device.

Using Authy for 2FA

Once Authy is set up:

1. Logging In: When you log in to an account that uses 2FA, enter your username and password as usual.
2. Authy Code: Open the Authy app to retrieve the 2FA code for that specific account. The code refreshes every 30 seconds.
3. Enter Code: Enter the code from Authy when prompted during the login process.
4. Access Granted: If the code is correct, you'll gain access to your account.

Additional Authy Features

Authy offers some additional features that enhance the 2FA experience:

Continued on next page

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION- CONT'D

Multi-Device Support: Authy allows you to sync your 2FA tokens across multiple devices, making it more convenient to access your accounts securely from your phone, your tablet, and your desktop computer.

Conclusion

Authy simplifies the implementation of Two-Factor Authentication, making it more accessible and user-friendly for everyone. By following the steps outlined in this guide, you can enhance the security of your online accounts and protect your digital identity from potential threats. Remember that security is a shared responsibility, and taking proactive steps like using Authy for 2FA can go a long way in safeguarding your personal information and preventing others from hacking through your life.

NOTE: This article isn't an endorsement of any specific product. Authy is just one of several authenticator apps available. You need to choose which app best fits your needs. But you should certainly pick one to keep your accounts secure.

Law of Biomechanics: The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

DIVISION 11 AWARDS FROM D-TRAIN 2023

BEST FLOTILLA NEWSLETTER: 2nd Place: "Channel Marker" Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater, Florida
Lisa Repetto, Editor

BEST DIVISION NEWSLETTER: 2nd Place: "Chip Log" Division 11 Karen Miller, Editor

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation - Awarded to "Publications Contest Team" (for March 2023 – May 2023): Karen Miller

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK (NSBW) AWARDS: Division 11

COMMODORE CUP AWARDS: This award is presented to the most improved division in each of our six core activities, measured as an improvement in 2022 as compared to 2021.

COMMODORE'S CUP AWARDS (2022) – DIVISION: Member Training: Division 11

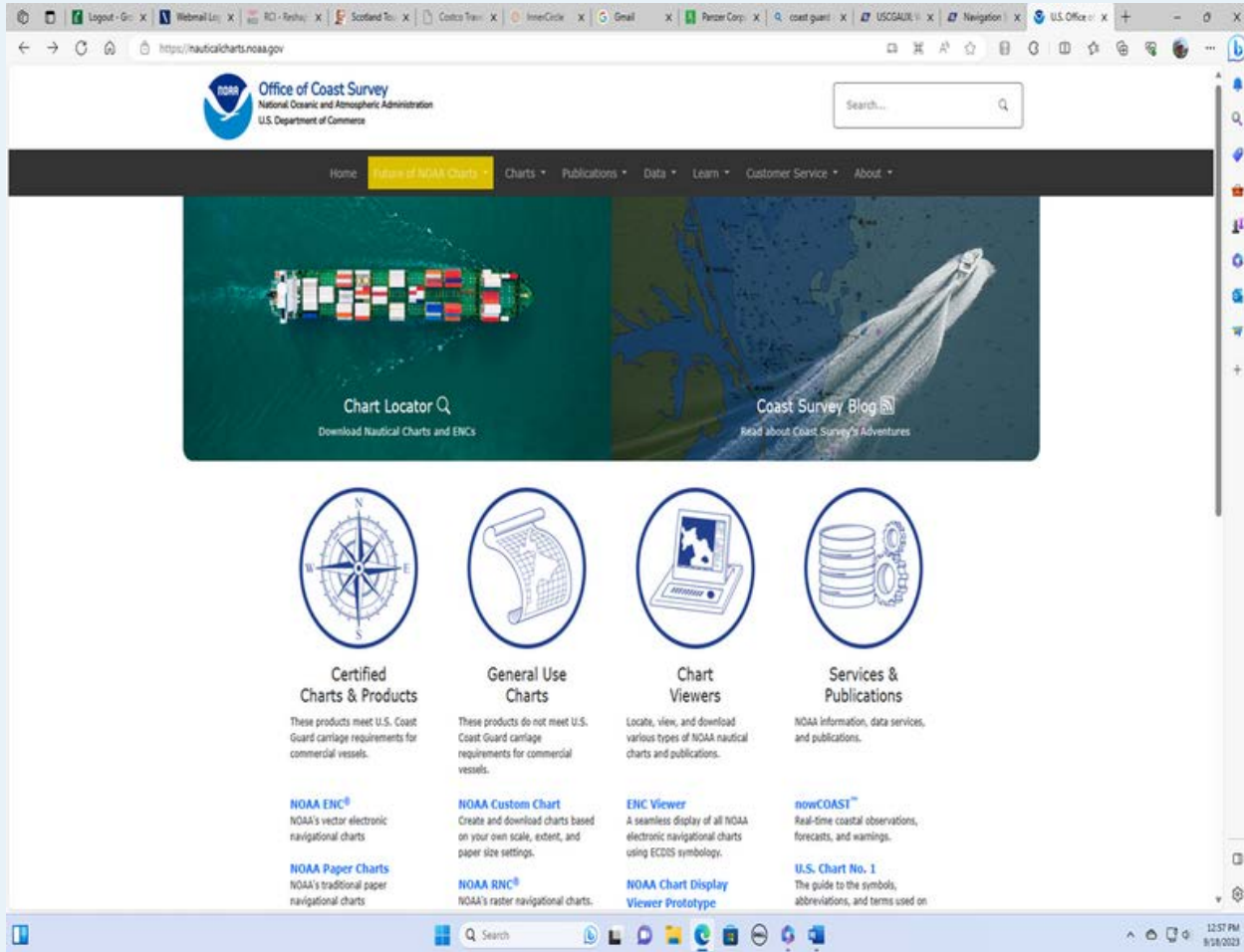
Steve Rea, holding award, after receiving the National Safe Boating Award for Division 11 at D-Train.

L to R: Martin Goodman, Auxiliary District Chief of Staff,
COMO John Holmes, Auxiliary District Commodore,
COMO Allen Fredd, Deputy National Commodore
Atlantic East and Mission Support, Steve Rea, Division 11
Vice Commander, Captain Nicolette Vaughan, District 7
Chief of Prevention, and LCDR Benjamin Tuxhorn,
District 7 Director of Auxiliary
Photo by Karen Miller

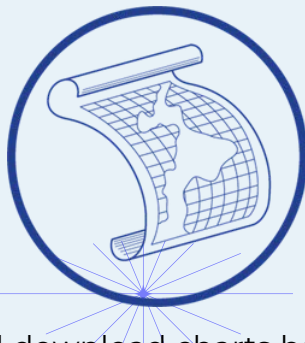


If you are in the boat crew program, a vessel examiner, or an instructor, you need to know about charts. NOAA has a completely updated and easy-to-use website.

Visit: <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>.



On the home page, you have your choice of these options:



NOAA Custom Chart: Create and download charts based on your own scale, extent, and paper size settings.

NOAA RNC: NOAA's raster navigation charts.

Full-size Nautical Charts: full-size images of nautical charts.

Booklet Charts: page-size images of NOAA nautical charts.

Historical Charts: images of maps and charts dating back to 1807.

GOT ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER?

Got an Environmental Disaster? Who are you gonna call? An Auxiliary Pollution Responder.

August 27, 2023, Hurricane Idalia strengthens in the Gulf of Mexico. The CG Auxiliary puts out HURCON 3. Coast Guard Station Sand Key secures all radio watches with pending mandatory evacuation of Sand Key Island. All Auxiliary and Coast Guard boats and equipment are secured for hurricane-force winds.

August 28, 2023, all Pollution Responders (PRs) in Division 11 check their Pollution Protection Equipment and their Pollution Response Kits.

August 28, 2023, Sector St. Petersburg Marine Safety and Environmental Protection group of the Incident Command System issue an ICS-204A-CG Personnel Assignment document, putting all of the Sector St Petersburg PRs on alert for assignment. All seven of Division 11's PRs check in for duty.

August 29, 2023, with the rapidly increasing intensity of Hurricane Idalia, the CG Auxiliary goes to its highest state of readiness, HURCON 1. All PRs have been notified and validated for duty. Liaison is set up with the Sector Prevention Group leader and the Incident Management Division (IMD).

Since the IMD never has more than six Marine Safety Technology Petty Officers in St Petersburg and three in Ft Myers to cover the entire West Coast of Florida, they are stretched very thin when hurricanes arrive. Hence, the continuing need for Auxiliary PR who are trained and knowledgeable of the vulnerabilities of their local communities.

What would they have been prepared to do if the hurricane had taken a more easterly route over St Petersburg and Sand Key? Well, PRs are trained in the following areas:

1. Geographic-specific policies (e.g., Gulf of Mexico, Intracoastal Waterway, Tampa Bay)
2. Pollution threats (72 Facilities in Tampa Bay and seven loading ports)
3. Threatened and endangered species (in the Area Contingency Plan [ACP])
4. Sensitive Areas (Mangroves, Sea Grass, Estuaries, and Rookeries)
5. Resource trustees and managers (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission [FWC], Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], United States Fish and Wildlife [USFWL], Federal Department of Environmental Protection [FDEP], Audubon Society, etc.)
6. Geographic Response Plans (ACP, Regional Response Plan, National Response Plan)
7. Equipment capabilities and limitations within the Area of Responsibility [AOR] (Oil Spill Response Organizations)

Once on scene, Auxiliary PRs are most often tasked to conduct a "preliminary assessment" for report of actual or potential oil discharges and/or hazardous substance releases. Sector IMD will respond as appropriate to the situation.

GOT ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER? - CONT'D.

Auxiliary preliminary assessments shall, at a minimum, investigate the following:

1. Injuries or risk to the public
2. Source of the pollution
3. Source status (i.e., secured or unsecured)
4. Identification of the responsible party
5. Verification that the responsible party has taken appropriate action to mitigate the spill and its actual or potential impacts.

If the Sector decides that all of the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act have been met, they will deploy active-duty personnel based on the size and complexity of the incident. Auxiliary PR will stay on scene and assist the IMD in the oversight and recovery.

Fortunately, Hurricane Idalia continued to the west of the Division 11 AOR, and we only experienced a glancing blow. On Sept 1, 2023, the HURCON condition was called off, and the Division 11 PRs stood down for another day.

In March 2023, the PRs were called out for duty to update the Area Contingency Plan. The Geographic Response Strategies section had not been updated, and the PRs were sent out with a list to validate the availability of boat ramps, staging areas, and marinas. The PRs mobilized and were able to update the Sector Mobile Staging Area Evaluation database in three weeks. This allows the Sector to quickly move heavy containment and cleanup equipment with up-to-date staging data.

The last call-up for a hurricane was Irma, where Auxiliarists were used to assist in removing over 130 sunken boats from the ICW and were later called to Sector to run the IMD while the active-duty Coast Guard was still out doing recovery. No Auxiliary members were called for Michael or Ian, although the Division 11 team was standing by.



Left: Dick Erwin post-
Hurricane Irma.
Right: Marine Max
Damage
Photos provided by
Dick Erwin



Richard Erwin, Division 11 Staff
Officer-Marine Safety

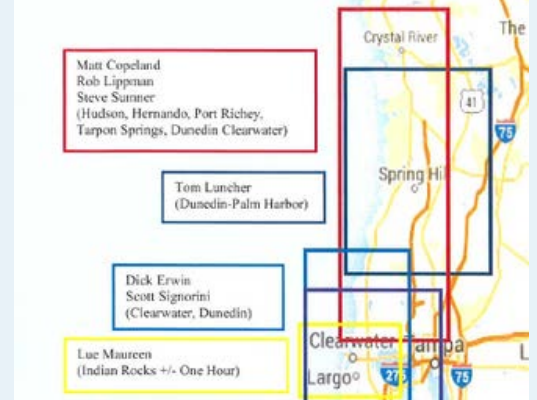
GOT ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER? - CONT'D.

Auxiliary PR are still called on a regular basis to conduct “preliminary assessments” in their local areas. Every PR in Division 11 has their own AOR. So, PR is still an important and active qualification to have. The Sector is now scheduling a Disaster Refresher course in the Sand Key AOR, which we look forward to.

A PR College is being held at Sector in January 2024. If you think this kind of Environmental Protection appeals to you, this class is for you. The College is complete, and once you finish and take a short oral board, you will be qualified to serve. The Coast Guard and the Auxiliary NEED YOU to RESPOND!

The POLLUTION RESPONDERS in Division 11 are:

Richard Erwin, Clearwater
Maureen Lue, Clearwater
Matt Copeland, Hudson
Robert Lippman, Hudson
Thomas Mann, New Port Richey
Steve Sumner, Hudson
Tom Luncher, Tarpon Springs



Law of Logical Argument: Anything is possible If you don't know what you are talking about.

MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN ACTION



Left: Dan Lipman and Maureen Lue post-cleanup
Right: Dick Erwin with his award from Sector St.
Petersburg

COAST GUARD STATION SAND KEY



A U.S. Coast Guard Station Sand Key boat crew and U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater aircrew rescued a diver Tuesday, after he was reported missing while spearfishing from a 32-foot recreational vessel off Anclote Key. The boat crew recovered and transported the diver back to the recreational vessel. No injuries were reported.

"Within 20 minutes of searching, this gentleman was located 16 miles offshore and recovered by a U.S. Coast Guard small boat crew," said Lt. Sayre D. Joseph, Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater MH-60T aircraft commander. "Mariners can help themselves by carrying a radio, EPIRB or PLB to communicate distress to Coast Guard watchstanders when an urgent situation arises while at sea, helping us find them quickly and safely."

<https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3553180/coast-guard-rescues-diver-at-sea-off-anclote-key/>

Station crew has been very busy this week! Today 10/19/23) we responded to a vessel taking on water and assisted the mariner in the Clearwater vicinity.



COAST GUARD STATION SAND KEY



Congratulations MK2 Howard on
your recent advancement!

Our rescue crew saved two people after their center console capsized about eight miles off Clearwater. The rescued were brought back to the station and met by EMS for evaluation. A hazard to navigation broadcast is being issued while salvage plans are made.



Station Sand Key and our Sector St.
Petersburg Armory conducted
pyrotechnic training. Just a friendly
reminder to the boating community
to check your flares expiration dates
before boating!



THE COAST GUARD RECOGNIZES TOM MANN'S VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

The Coast Guard has been using the Auxiliary as a force multiplier. District 7 has a number of volunteers, and Admiral Douglas Schofield and Command Master Chief Eric Gibson wanted to thank one in September 2023 - Thomas B Mann. This award was presented at the unit's award ceremony. It was voted on by the active-duty personnel and Lt. Eric Proveaux, Port State Dept. head at Davis Island. Tom enjoys volunteering at Coast Guard Tampa, performing various duties, including foreign ship inspections. His dedication to the Coast Guard and his nation is admirable and formally recognized by the Coast Guard.

Commander Hodgdon, Head of Prevention, read Tom's biography (see below) to the unit, Admiral Schofield presented Tom with a challenge coin and expressed how big a role the CG Auxiliary plays in supporting District 7. It was noted that there are more CG Auxiliarists in District 7 than active-duty members. Tom stated how delighted he was to be included in the round table discussion with Admiral Schofield, Captain Kahle, Command Master Chief Gibson, and the unit members.

Tom Mann surrounded by
Admiral Schofield and
Master Chief Gibson
Photos provided by Tom
Mann



Thomas B. Mann is a graduate of York College with a BS in Business Management. He served in the US Navy four years, Stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Assigned to the USS Ouellet Destroyer Escort 1077 and served a tour in Vietnam as Quarter Master. Tom earned the Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Ribbon, National Defense Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Upon return from Vietnam, he served on the Admiral Staff CincPac Fleet, where he held a final top-secret clearance.

Tom took over the family business as President of the York Composition Company, Inc. The company specialized in the manufacturing of books in the publishing industry. After retirement, Tom joined the USCG Auxiliary in March 2012. Serving with United States Coast Guard at the Marine Safety Detachment in Lewes, Delaware, for eight years. Currently, he is the Flotilla Commander for New Port Richey, as well as serving on the National Staff as Branch Chief of Safety and Port Security.

He is currently volunteering with Coast Guard Tampa, assisting with the screening and vessel inspections of foreign ships. Tom holds these Qualifications: Assistant Auxiliary Port State Control Officer, Pollution Responder, Port State Dispatcher, and T-Boat Inspector. He achieved the Trident designation with these Active-Duty Qualifications.

Tom is happily married to Nancy Mann; they have five children and one granddaughter. In his spare time, he loves to run, where he is being challenged to run a minimum of 365 miles, which represents one mile per day of the year. Spending time with family and friends, fishing, boating, going to the gym, and the beach are among his favorite things.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AUXAIR PLANE FINDS MAN STRANDED FOR THREE DAYS ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND

The following is from *The Bugle*, the newsletter of Flotilla 93, Naples, Florida

August 2023

The Bugle—Flotilla 93, Naples FL

Page 1



Southwest Florida AUXAIR Plane Find Man Stranded for Three Days in an Uninhabited Island

By Moises Escolastico

We all know the story of the man stranded on an uninhabited island. He uses his footprints to write SOS on a sandy beach. He builds a shelter from the sun with the now-useless sails of his boat. He uses perhaps his last flare to respond to the sound of a passing aircraft.

And at last, he gets spotted... and he gets rescued!

It really happened on August 17th. And that stranded sailor had the Coast Guard Auxiliary to thank for his rescue.

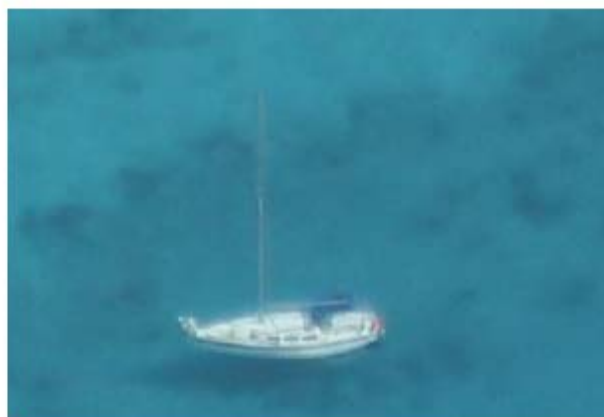
Early on the morning of Thursday, August 17, a four-member AUXAIR crew met at the Page Field plane hangar in Fort Myers. Aircraft Commander Marc Miller of Flotilla 96 led the mission briefing, assigning John Landon, Flotilla 11-10 as co-pilot/ Airborne Photographer, Kevin Wilcox Auxiliary Air Coordinator from Flotilla 84 as Aircrew, and Moises Escolastico of Flotilla 93 as Observer for the mission. This was an OVS Mission, which stands for Operation Vigilant Sentry, a part of the U.S. task force that deploys joint air and surface assets and personnel to interdict illegal maritime migration in the corridors between the U.S. mainland and various Caribbean islands.



SOS sign carved by the stranded sailor Photo by USCG



Makeshift tent made by stranded sailor Photo by USCG



First view of the sailboat after the USCG Auxiliary aircrew spotted the single red flare. Photo by John C. Landon

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AUXAIR PLANE FINDS MAN STRANDED FOR THREE DAYS ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND - CONT'D

The following is from *The Bugle*, the newsletter of Flotilla 93, Naples, Florida

August 2023

The Bugle—Flotilla 93, Naples FL

Page 2

Following the assigned fly path, we flew over the Cay Sal Bank scanning for unusual vessels or maritime emergencies. We mostly saw a few fishing boats along the way.

After arriving at Cay Sal Island, we observed a 30- to 40-foot boat without a sail anchored about 100 yards from shore on the northwest side of the island. After getting closer, we observed a red flare coming from the sailboat's general direction or possibly from shore. We circled the sailboat to gather information and then tried making contact with the sailboat on channel 16 but to no avail. Instead, we were informed by other boaters on channel 16 of a sailboat taking water with a single man on board.

After further inspection, we noticed a Bahamian flag on the boat but no one aboard. That was no surprise. Cay Sal is part of Bahamian territory.

While circling the vessel, we flew below 1,000 feet and then climbed up to 3,000 feet to get better radio communication with Coast Guard Sector Key West. On the way up we noticed an SOS sign written in the sand; there was also a makeshift structure about 30 yards inland (probably made from the sailboat's sail). After informing USCG Sector Key West, we were ordered to stay on the scene until further notice. We stayed more than 90 minutes until Sector Key West advised us the USCG Cutter Paul Clark would arrive to execute the rescue. We had to depart before the Clark reached the island because of growing weather concerns in Fort Myers.



Pictures above show few islands in the Cay Sal bank Photo by John C. Landon



Fort Jefferson in Dry Tortuga National Park is a waypoint assigned to the mission. photo by John C. Landon



From left Marc Miller Aircraft Commander Calls Sector Saint Pete before departing Fort Myers on right John C. Landon co-pilot photo by John C. Landon

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AUXAIR PLANE FINDS MAN STRANDED FOR THREE DAYS ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND - CONT'D

The following is from *The Bugle*, the newsletter of Flotilla 93, Naples, Florida

August 2023

The Bugle—Flotilla 93, Naples FL

Page 3

Before returning, we stopped at Marathon Airport to refuel again.

While approaching Fort Myers Page Field we encountered a bit of bad weather and landed at 7:12 p.m.

Later, we learned a second plane from Coast Guard Air Station Miami, an HC 144 Ocean Sentry, was dispatched to the island. That aircrew dropped supplies including food, water, and a radio to establish communication with the stranded sailor. He notified the aircrew he had been stranded for three days after his vessel became disabled. Sector Key West watch standers had diverted Coast Guard Cutter Paul Clark's crew to retrieve the man from the island.

The next day, a 64-year-old Dutch man with Bahamian citizenship was rescued by the Paul Clark and transferred to the Royal Bahamas Defense Force in good health. The rescue operation took place Friday, August 18. After being stranded for three days, the sailor didn't know if he would survive. He was fortunate the USCG Auxiliary plane from Fort Myers spotted his single flare in the vast Caribbean area.



From left Observer Moises Escolastico and Aircrew Kevin Wilcox Auxiliary Air Coordinator minutes after departing Fort Myers



Above a USCG HC-144 Ocean Sentry during a dropping exercise not related to this mission Photo by USCG



From left USCG Cutter Paul Clark and USCG Cutter Tampa Photos taken by John C. Landon in route to The Cay Sal bank

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AUXAIR PLANE FINDS MAN STRANDED FOR THREE DAYS ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND - CONT'D

The following is from *The Bugle*, the newsletter of Flotilla 93, Naples, Florida



USCG Auxiliary plane C8213 Piper Aztec PA23-250 Exterior view and avionics Photo by Moises Escalastico

Mission Report:

1. Agency/Air Station : USCG AUX / AIRSTA Clearwater
2. Aircraft type : Piper Aztec PA23-250
3. Tail number : N6416Y/C8213
4. Flight time completed : 7.3 hours
5. Flight Summary:



MOM/OVS Flight SKW. Contacted ODOs CLW and MIA, SSP and Huntress; contacted SKW for tasking. Briefed crew and mission. Departed FMY @ 0931. Arrived Dry Tortugas approx 1030. Turned E to the Marquesas, circled then turned S to 24 deg. Flew parallel N and E legs through Straits 1 toward MTH, landing @ 1209 for fuel and lunch. Departed MTH @ 1359. Proceeded to Straits 2 then to Cay Sal Bank arriving @ 1430. Flew counter-clockwise around the Cay Sal Bank arriving Cay Sal @ 1534.

1. @ 1536 red aerial flare spotted from 40' white sailboat with blue bimini flying a Bahamian flag 100 yards off the beach on the eastern portion of Cay Sal
2. Vessel was anchored, did not appear to be listing, but main sail was missing
3. No person was observed on board or on the beach and it appeared the flare may have been fired from an open port hole on the side of the vessel
4. Door to cabin was closed, no movement of any kind was observed
2. Second pass we discovered SOS written in on the beach directly in front of the vessel and then further inland in the dune area a covered structure of some kind
3. Advised Sector Key West and they requested we stay on scene
4. Requested ASCW approval to 8 hours total flight time; approval confirmed
5. 1655 Sector requested 1 more hour on scene, we responded with 30 minutes due to needing to RTB Ft. Myers within 8 hour flight time
6. Released from scene at 1712 due to our concerns that weather in Ft. Myers was deteriorating
1. SKW advised Cutter Paul Clark was 4 hours out
7. Landed Marathon for fuel and continued on to Ft. Myers, landing @ 1912

No active migrant activity noted in Cay Sal Bank or any other portion of flights. Total flight time 7.3 hrs. Depictions of route flown, 1063 nm, and distressed vessel attached. Utilized Garmin inReach satellite tracking device during flight and provided SKW with link to real time tracking of 8213. This was particularly helpful during times of "no comms" in SE parts of Cay Sal Bank.

DIVISION 11 ELECTIONS

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, Division 11 conducted elections for Division Commander and Division Vice Commander for 2024. There were two candidates for Division Commander:

- Steve Rea, current Division Vice Commander
- Stephan Bielawski, Commander, Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater

Stephan Bielawski was elected as Division Commander for 2024. Matt Copeland, current Commander, Flotilla 11-7, Hudson. He ran unopposed. This new bridge will cover the entire geography of Division 11. From Clearwater in the south, then Dunedin, Tarpon Springs, New Port Richey, and Hudson in the north.

The Division Commander plays a crucial leadership role within the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. As the highest-ranking officer at the division level, the Division Commander is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of flotillas and units within their geographic area. They provide guidance, mentorship, and strategic direction to the dedicated volunteers who make up the Auxiliary. This includes ensuring compliance with regulations, fostering a culture of safety, and promoting teamwork. The Division Commander's role is pivotal in ensuring the effective execution of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's missions, including boating safety, public education, search and rescue, and more, contributing to the safety and security of the nation's waters.



Top Left: Attendees at the Division 11 meeting. Right: Matt Copeland.
Bottom Left: Stephan Bielawski explaining his "platform" if he were elected Division Commander.
Photos by Karen Miller