



WET GAZETTE



USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 11-10

Dunedin, Florida
Seventh Coast Guard District

COMMANDER
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Commanders Corner

By Sam Walker
Photo by Sam Walker



This year, Flotilla 11-10 is focusing on the importance of filing reports. The 7029 Member Activity Log shows our activity and gives the auxiliary the recognition it deserves. The 7030 Mission Activity Report reflects the amount of work done by our flotilla and gives the coast guard the ability to purchase equipment based on those hours. The 7046 RBS Visitation Report hours help to purchase pamphlets and boating safety literature. Let us not forget the 7038 Recreational Vessel Examination Activity Report of safety checks. All these together help us to support the coast guard mission.

So, please keep up the good work and continue to report your mission hours.

SAVE THE DATE

June 10th of this year marks the 60th anniversary of Flotilla 11-10. Your Flotilla staff is planning a celebration dinner on Saturday, June 9th. Hold the date

ISAR (International Search & Rescue) 10th Anniversary 2007-2017



Kevin McConn Don Hoge Jimmy Ryder Max Garrison
Photo by Walt Murray

November marked the 10th Anniversary of the SAR (Search & Rescue) team from Division 11 Flotilla 10 capturing the International Search and Rescue Award. This also marks the first time this was accomplished by a United States team.

Don Hoge, Kevin McConn , Max Garrison & Jimmy Ryder competed and won the District 7 SAR Award at Punta Gorda Florida against teams from Georgia, Florida & Puerto Rico. They went on to compete in Cape May N.J. against other SAR teams on the east coast and again won. Then onto Toronto Canada where they competed against other American and Canadian SAR teams & came home with the

GOLD. This was the first time a United States team won this coveted award. Needless to say the SAR team worked hard and spent weeks and months of grueling training along side their shipmates in Division 11. They were also, I might add, supported by their wives, Don's wife Jerrie, Kevin's wife Terry, Max's wife Marie & Jimmy's wife Jan. The training required kept them away from home often so the support of their wives was paramount along with them traveling & supporting the team through the competitions. Karen Miller, Flotilla 11-1 followed & supported the team throughout the competitions.

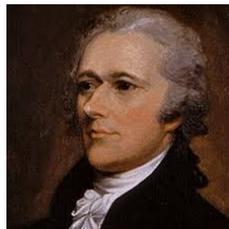
Bravo Zulu

The Flotilla meeting was well attended for this celebration and a very informative slide show was presented by our own Flotilla Vice Commander Kristi Mackey who tasked the team to share their experiences as the slide show progressed. We had an honored guest, Rick Washburn Commodore of the Coast Guard

Story and photo from Walt Murray

DID YOU KNOW....

The Coast Guard was founded August 4, 1790 after congress commissioned the construction of 10 ships to help enforce federal tariffs and prevent smuggling. In 1790, the United States was flat broke, and Alexander Hamilton, now Secretary of the Treasury, pushed hard for the creation of his fleet to help get the coffers filled.



The result was the Revenue-Marine, later renamed the Revenue Cutter Service, and they eventually merged with the United States Life-Saving Service (which helped shipwrecked sailors) to form the Coast Guard.

David W. Brown, and uscg.mil

Train to be Great

by Harvey Prior, FSO-MT
11-10

Photo by Joan Gutek



As members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, we are a diverse group of individuals. Some of us have a military background while some of us have never served. Some members have retired from their careers while some continue to be employed. Some of us own boats and some do not. Their differences are good for our organization.

While there are many more differences, there are many things that make us very similar. Each of us joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary because it was what we wanted. To be more than just a member in name only, we each had to have training. To stay good at what we do for the Auxiliary, there is practice and more training.

To be a good Vessel Examiner, we have to read and study and pass a written test. Then, we have to practice doing Vessel Safety Checks with an experienced VE. Each year, we must do a minimum of five VSCs to maintain currency. But a good Vessel Examiner must read updates on topics like fire extinguisher recalls and bells are only needed on vessels over 20 meters. Basically,continued training.

Boat crew members, every three years must pass a Qualification Examiner review session. But good crew members have been training every year by helping teach crew trainees, attending operations workshops and TCT courses or TCT refresher sessions.

To get certified in an area of interest, there is training. There are training courses available that don't lead to certification but we can take them if they are of interest to us. Once, I took a

Coast Guard Correspondence course titled "Ship Handling." I learned some things and it was interesting to me.

Make 2018 a year to be GREAT. Pick a new area of interest and start training. Are you the best at what you already do or could some training make you better? Need help then contact your FC or FSO-MT. They love to help members who want to be GREAT.

Upcoming Courses

February

AUXCOM starts 6 Feb. 11-10 classroom

Operations annual workshop 17 Feb. 1300
at CG Air Station Clearwater

Four hour TCT 18 Feb. 1200-1600

Chart updating workshop 24 Feb.

March

Plotting 2.0 starts 1 March

AUXINFO workshop 25 March

Most courses and workshops require the member to register thru their FSO-MT at least one to two weeks in advance.

Scott Birdwell aka Scott on Sax



Photo from Scot Birdwell

If you have attended a division banquet or flotilla party, you have enjoyed the music provided by our own Scott Birdwell. Scott warms up the event with instrumental renditions of popular favorite songs from the 50's to the 80's.

Scott got a start in music in school band programs playing the clarinet. While in college at VA Tech studying engineering, he picked up tenor saxophone. He also plays piano and guitar but the saxophone is his primary performance instrument.

Scott uses MIDI technology to create a back-up band using a laptop work station and sound amplifier.

His musical performances have ranged from jams with friends at home to open mic nights and various pick-up band performances. He also plays with an emerging blues rock band, church praise band ensembles and

occasionally appears at local restaurants, private receptions or corporate soirees. He enjoys providing background musical entertainment for the Dunedin Flotilla and Division 11 social and awards banquets.

Scott has been a member of the auxiliary since 2008 beginning in Flotilla 15-10 in Lake Hoptcong New Jersey and now with us in Dunedin Flotilla 11-10.

**A Special Valentine's Day and Spring Message
to All Coast Guard Auxiliary Members
from your [Coast Guard Auxiliary Association](#)**

As part of a program to bring the benefits of membership directly to you, we want to remind you that Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and so is Spring! Now is the time to take advantage of discounts on products and services generated by your Association for your benefit on the [Association website](#).

To make it easier to see and access the benefits of membership, we've organized things along the lines of how you might use them - vacations, office support, maritime, financial products, general merchandise - so click to your heart's content!

Vacation Time with your loved one?

Need a place to stay? Deals for members found [here!](#)

[Motel 6](#)

[Red Roof Inn](#)
[Wyndham Hotel Group](#)

Thinking of a cruise?

[Cruises Only](#)

Flight/hotel packages?

[TNT Vacations](#)

Need to rent a car?

[Avis](#)

[Budget](#)

Supplying your office?

[Office Max Office Depot](#)

[Looking for a new deal with HP for
printers and computers?](#)

Maritime Products for the season ahead?

[PowerFlare](#)

[Weems & Plath](#)

[Autotether](#)

[Provenço](#)

[Emergency Medical Resources](#)

Financial Services

Thinking about a new mortgage or possible Home Equity Loan to redo a part of your home? Click away...

General Merchandise?

As we emailed you before Christmas shopping spree, click here to go to our [Amazon Prime portal!](#)

These are just a few of the benefits your Association provides to you as members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. By supporting these companies you support the Auxiliary as they all provide royalties to the Auxiliary for Auxiliary programs.

Treat yourself and your loved one to a Valentine's Day treat - or two!

As always,

Vin

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Vincent T. Pica, II

President & CEO

[Coast Guard Auxiliary Association](#)



Happy
Valentine's
Day