

November 2020



Department of Homeland Security USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin, Florida

Kristi Mackey, Commander Rob Bonnem, Vice Commander Sam Walker, Immediate Past Commander Ron Shebanek, Publications Officer

## **Commander's Corner**



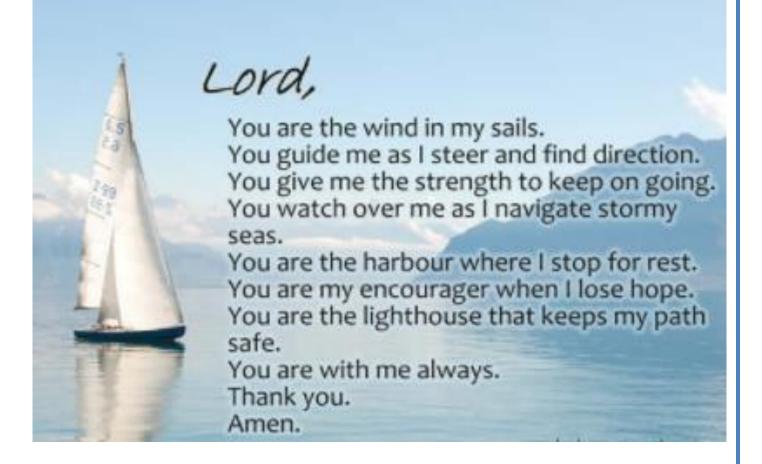


Sometimes we need to be reminded of how fortunate we are to live in the United States of America and to be able to put food on our tables. Most of us had to adjust our normal traditions of large gatherings to be safe during the holidays. I truly hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving with your family and friends while being safe.

As we wrap up an incredibly challenging year, I want to thank all our members for hanging in there and for being so supportive of the auxiliary. Congratulations goes out to our new Flotilla Commander Robert Bonnem and our new Flotilla Vice Commander Gordon Thomas. They are extremely excited about taking on their new roles as Bridge of 11-10 Dunedin. Please mark your calendars to attend our Division Change of Watch on Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm where Rob and Gordon will be sworn in along with our new Division Bridge Sam Walker and Stephen Bielawski.

Congratulations to Buddy Casale and Judy Deeley for putting on our first virtual navigation class for Dunedin High School. Buddy presented to two classes and Judy worked with two classes for a total of 116 high students ranging from 10th grade to 12th grade. It was a huge success and the students loved it.

Since we will not be holding a December flotilla meeting, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy Holidays. We have big plans for 2021 and cannot wait to share them with you. Stay safe and God Bless You and Your Families.



#### **BE STRONG, STAY SAFE AND KEEP POSITIVE** Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander

WET GAZETTE

# 2020 Hurricane Season Monthly Update

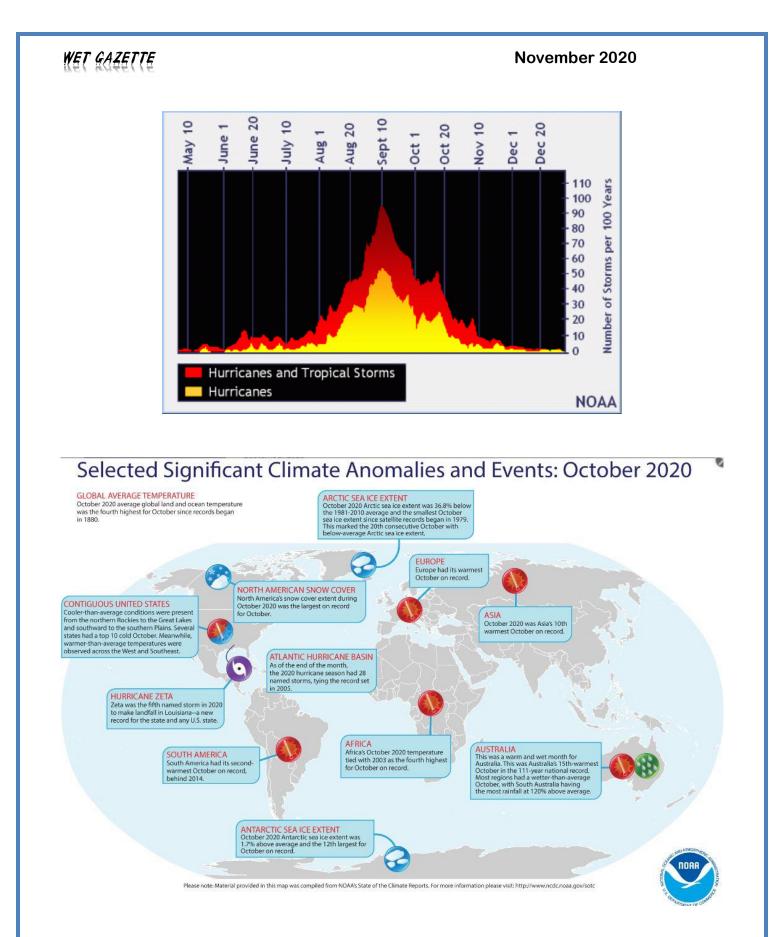
Finally, the season is ending! we have surpassed the 2020 hurricane season revised outlook and have set the all-time record surpassing the previous peak in 2005. The updated outlook predicted a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season and only a 10% chance of a below-normal season. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30.

So far, we have had 30 named storms including 13 hurricanes with six major hurricanes. August through October are typically the peak months of the hurricane season. The statistical peak was on September 10. The current outlook predicts almost twice as many storms as an average year. This is only the second time we have used up the alphabet and are using the Greek storm names!

October 2020 land and sea temperatures were the fourth highest October temperatures since records began, in 1880. The gulf temperature was 73 degrees at the end of November.



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



# How Face Masks, Gloves and Coronavirus Waste are Polluting Our Ocean, Update

**Based World Economic Forum Article** 

- Coronavirus waste has become a new form of pollution as single-use personal protective equipment (PPE) floods our ocean.
- COVID-19 has had a number of unexpected impacts on the environment, curtailing recycling and increasing the use of plastic around the world.
- Governments need to act now to ensure a green recovery that incentivizes sustainability.

Waterlogged masks, gloves, hand sanitizer bottles and other coronavirus waste are already being found on our sea beds and washed up on our beaches, joining the day-to-day detritus in our ocean ecosystems.



#### Photo by OceanAsia

Just like six pack rings, mask loops can entrap marine life. Best practice is to cut the ear loops on your masks prior to disposal.



Photo by Ron Shebanek

## Virtual Public Event for the Dunedin High School Students



Buddy Casale, Cono Casale, boatinbud7@gmail.com, is the Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Public Education.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 was invited to and participated with the Pinellas County Schools Great American Teach In, a national annual event. Judy Deeley opened her classroom for Buddy Casale to share Navigation with the students. The prior day, students learned what a parallel ruler is and how it works. Charts of the area were handed out to give the students a preview of longitude and latitude and how to read the scales. They were also shown the nautical miles scale and how to use the divider with the scales. This took about fifteen minutes the day before the event.

Buddy navigated students through the process of charting a course using the chart, parallel ruler, divider, compass rose and formulas. Students were engaged and attempted the problem of finding the longitude and latitude, the distance from Hurricane Pass to the Fish Haven and calculating how long it would take to get there.

Buddy virtually presented to two classes and Judy worked with two classes for a total of 116 high students ranging from 10<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The feedback from students ranged from an interest level of 0-5 landing at an overall interest level of 3.5. Discussion with students revealed that disinterest with the activity was associated with disinterest in beach related or water related activities. Many students who already boat or fish thoroughly enjoyed the activity. Everyone enjoyed Buddy's approach and were able to keep up with the pace of the lesson. Buddy was articulate, thorough, and patient.

I would like to acknowledge 11-10's Dr. Judy Deeley and Doug Simpson without their expertise this would have been difficult to perform. They were the engine that drove the event I was merely the driver. As always Bravo Zulu

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US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin, FL

SAFE BOATING and INTRODUCTION to BASIC NAVIGATION Courses

For Novice and Experienced Boaters

Instructor led online virtual Zoom classes including power point presentations.

BOAT AMERICA SAFE BOATING Course: Monday - Thursday 7-9 PM, includes: Intro to Boating, Safe operation, Rules, Aides to Navigation (ATON), State & Fed laws, Safety equipment, Emergencies on the water and much more. FWC SAFE BOATING ID Card awarded on completion. Cost \$42.00.

INTRODUCTION to BASIC COASTAL NAVIGATION Course: three-hour class held on Saturdays 9 AM-12 PM, includes:

Plotting a course & determine a position on a nautical chart, understanding latitude & longitude coordinates, correcting a true course reading, use of a nautical chart, finding speed, time, and distance. Cost \$40.00 includes parallel ruler.

#### SCHEDULE

BOAT AMERICA SAFE BOATING Course, Zoom, Monday-Thursday at 7-9 PM December 14-17, 2020 January 11-14, 2021 February 15-18, 2021 March 15-18, 2021

INTRODUCTION to BASIC COASTAL NAVIGATION Course, Zoom, Saturday at 9 AM-12 PM December 19, 2020 January 16, 2021 February 20, 2021 March 20, 2021

CONTACT by Phone, Text, or Email for full information:

Buddy Casale, Flotilla Staff Officer Public Education (FSO- PE) 631-379-1110, <u>publiceducation1110@qmail.com</u> or boatinbud7@gmail.com

WET GAZETTE

## **Member Training Update**



Harvey Prior, harvb4@aol.com, is the Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Member Training.

A quick look at Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin finds that we are a diverse group. The base enrollment dates show two of our members have been in the Auxiliary for thirty years plus while two members joined just this year. The average length of Auxiliary membership for our members is currently nine and a half years.

While most of our members joined after taking one of the public education courses that our flotilla offers but our membership does a such good job welcoming other Auxiliarists that we also have a number of members who transferred to us from other flotillas.

Demographics as to age groups of our membership shows that about two thirds of our flotilla's members are over the age of 60. This is good and bad. Older members tend to have more experience, but age often tends to reduce physical capabilities to perform some of the tasks that the Coast Guard would like the Auxiliary to handle.

When you ask the question "What are Flotilla 11-10 members qualified to do?" the list is long. Many members are qualified instructors and/or vessel examiners while some members have more unique qualifications like Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner, Aircraft Commander or Fingerprint Technician.

Qualifications are good but using your training is the desired result. Some 11-10 members give the Auxiliary hundreds of hours of service each year. Whether on the water, in the air or staying on the ground, members help the flotilla meet objectives.

We will never know how many lives have been improved or how many were saved thanks to Auxiliary activities. Whether it is a boater who avoids a boating accident because of what was learned in a public education class or the boater who was saved by the Coast Guard regulars thanks to training assisted by the Auxiliary, the boating world is a safer place. Flotilla 11-10 members have been there and done that.

While most Auxiliary activities have been put on hold this year, Auxiliarists need to be ready for when we get approved to resume our activities. Crew members, have you practiced knots or heaving a line? Vessel examiners, have you reviewed the requirements for built-in heads? Are you current with online courses, such as Core Training? As soon as some of us have COVID-19 vaccination immunity, we plan to be active again. Flotilla 11-10 needs you to do your part. Will you be ready too?

# **Vessel Examination Update**



Gordon Thomas is the Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Examination (FSO-VE) and Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) elect.

This information is for vessel examiners:

We had some activity this month. A couple of us have complete some vessel exams (VE). Our new trainee Rafael Caridad is on his way to being qualified and needs three more VEs to finish.

Just a reminder that we all now have until December **2021** to get our five total VEs done. The completion date is NOT due at the end of this year due to COVID-19 halting all the VEs for so many months. You can accumulate what you have done this year onto next year for that total five required. Remember...no blitzes.

You should all be getting requests from the auxiliary website for vessel exams from time to time. Try to pick up some of those if you can. Do not ignore them. Also, ask friends or neighbors who have boats if you can do their vessel exams.

Of course, in January you will need to wait until I get the new decals for 2021.

You must get permission from our Flotilla Commander before you go out. That will be Rob Bonnem starting in January. Until then, Kristi needs to get those requests.

Wear masks and keep social distancing. Let the boat owner know what is required and expected for your and their protection before you go out.

# Canada's first Indigenous-led coast guard auxiliary patrols B.C.'s rugged coast



VICTORIA — The winds were gusting at 110 kilometres per hour and huge waves were ripping boats from their moorings in Bella Bella, B.C., as a report came in of an overturned vessel with at least one person missing.

Robert Johnson says volunteer members from one of Canada's first Indigenous-led coast guard auxiliary teams were out on the water at the height of one of the season's first big storms just days ago, rounding up boats cast adrift and successfully rescuing a fisherman from a remote beach.

"It's quite interesting up here," Johnson said in a recent interview from Bella Bella on the province's central coast.

"We had multiple call outs. Vessels were breaking loose down at the government dock. We had the sea bus shelter down at the government dock losing its full structure. We had one vessel trying to tow another vessel but had to let it loose."

The 39-year-old member of the Heiltsuk Nation said helping people in distress on the water is something he's done most of his life, but the opportunity to lead a trained team of volunteers as an auxiliary zone co-ordinator is a chance to help people and bring pride to his community.

The recently operational Coastal Nations Coast Guard Auxiliary has more than 50 members from five Indigenous territories who are trained in marine search and rescue. They are on call day and night to respond to emergencies along some of B.C.'s most rugged and remote coastal areas.

The auxiliary is part of the federal government's \$1.5 billion plan to improve marine safety and protect the environment.



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Johnson said the area's often treacherous waters will be safer with the presence of Indigenous auxiliary members who know the territory intimately and have received Canadian coast guard search and rescue training.

"It's a real good thing for everybody up and down the coast," he said.

Conrad Cowan, the auxiliary's executive director, said he believes the 2015 sinking of a whale-watching vessel near Tofino and the rescue of 21 people by fishermen and others in boats from the nearby Indigenous village of Ahousaht helped provide the genesis for the program. Six passengers died.

In 2006, Indigenous people from the Gitga'at First Nation near Prince Rupert got into their boats in the middle of the night to rescue passengers when the BC Ferries vessel Queen of the North ran aground and sank with 101 people on board, killing two passengers, Cowan said.

He said the Indigenous units will work with the coast guard and Victoria's Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre, which dispatches rescue teams, but their advantage is location and knowledge of the areas.

"They are right there to respond," he said. "That's the key point. We have people now, crews in community who are well equipped, have the best equipment, the safest of equipment and have the highest level of training appropriate for what they are doing."

Ahousaht and Nisga'a have received federal grants to provide specialized boats for their units while the other teams will use their members personal vessels, which have been certified by the coast guard as suitable for patrols and rescues.

Ahousaht zone co-ordinator Stephen Keitlah said his community has a marine rescue culture and having the auxiliary unit is a matter of pride.

"Everyone in Ahousaht has a radio at home," he said. "It's just one of the ways people communicate here in Ahousaht is by VHF radio. It's more than likely everyone is going to hear someone in distress. That's one of the greater parts of living in Ahousaht is everyone is always willing to drop what they are doing and go out and help."

Keitlah, 24, said the team is still getting used to receiving calls from the coast guard and the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre after years of responding to emergencies heard over local radio.

Some Bella Bella residents are also looking to the Indigenous-led auxiliary program as a initiative to build a successful working relationship with the government, Johnson said.

This report by *The Canadian Press* was first published Nov. 22, 2020.

## **Flotilla Staff Officers**

ELECTED OFFICERS	
FC Flotilla Commander	Kristi Mackey
VFC Flotilla Vice Commander	Robert Bonnem
IPFC Immediate Past Flotilla	
Commander	Samuel G. Walker
FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS	
FSO-CM Communications	Edward Roots
FSO-CS Communications Services	Walter P. Murray
FSO-DV Diversity	Larry Gilbert
FSO-FN Finance	Jimmy R. Ryder
	Kristi Mackey
FSO-HR Human Resources	Wally Weakley assistant
FSO-IS Information Services	Walter P. Murray
FSO-MA Materials	Charles Whitener
FSO-MS Marine Safety and	
Environmental Protection	Douglas W. Simpson
FSO-MT Member Training	Harvey Prior
FSO-NS Navigation Systems	Larry Gilbert
FSO-OP Operations	Keith Betzing
FSO-PV Partner Visitor	Rob Bonnem
FSO-PA Public Affairs	Rob Bonnem
FSO-PB Publications	Ronald Shebanek
FSO-PE Public Education	Cono F. Casale
FSO-SR Secretary/Records	Judith Ann Deeley
FSO-VE Vessel Examination	Gordon Thomas

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# Social Distancing When Boating







Only boat with those in your immediate household.



No beaching your boat right next to someone else.

Maintain your distance at the fuel dock – and remember to wash your hands.

No rafting up – keep your distance on the water.

No guests on your boat! This includes family members not in your immediate household or your closest boating buddies. Go right from your house to the boat and back – no unnecessary contact with anyone.

Enjoy your boat, the water and the fresh air; but enjoy it while boating responsibly.

Social distancing is the best way to stay safe.

