



ALERT 11

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YEAR'S END

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Cover Photograph: Auxiliary members complete their check ride. US Coast Guard photo by Jeff Shaw

Commander's Comments



Ahoy Shipmates,

This is your Flotilla update for the Fall.

Our Flotilla continues to do a lot, especially given the percentage of participating members.

Our accomplishments this summer include a variety of Activities:

A Training Patrol was conducted in conjunction with a CG Station Bellingham boat.

Nico Lacchini provided on-going support to the Station by watchstanding, and three others for their CG Day picnic. The Station has also invited us to help with "Pumpkins in the Pool" – an annual kid's water safety event. At present, we have no takers. Contact Pam if you are interested.

Lyle Schrag was deployed as Chaplain support to Puerto Rico for several months and acknowledged for that by the District Commander RADM Fosse at September's D-Train. Also, at that D-Train, Pam presented a briefing on electronic charts and chart products.

During our September Flotilla meeting LT Sisk, Commanding Officer, CG Station Bellingham spoke. At our October Flotilla meeting LTJG Ambrecht, Commanding Officer, CGC Terrapin spoke. They talked about their activities, and also of potential ways that our members could augment.

We remotely conducted another Boat America to seven students, which also assisted a member towards his Instructor qualification. Two-thirds of our PATON and all five Bridge assignments were conducted. Vessel Safety

Checks and Program Visitor activities compared well with last year's.

A couple of members supported boating safety activities in their local ports.

Note: The boat crew is scheduling Patrols (on the occasional Monday). If you are a crew and not yet dialed-in, contact Manny Eusebio or Jeff Shaw for details. Congrats to Nico Lacchini for passing his Third Year Checkride!

Our Dues Campaign resulted in 40 of our 46 members continuing. Four are retiring and two are resigning. In addition, we have one applicant going through the acceptance process.

Before the end of the year, we will have another Hybrid Flotilla Meeting (Nov. 16th), and a Flotilla 2024 Calendar Planning Meeting (Dec. 7th). We have also received an invitation to join Station Bellingham in a Thanksgiving potluck. Be sure and let me know if you will be coming and what dish you will bring. Please give this some consideration. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our relationships with the Station Crew!

A Big Thanks to the several members who have stepped up into Staff positions: Finance (Manny) and Operations (Jeff Shaw). And thanks to the others who are continuing (including me for Flotilla Commander). Your support and commitment make our Flotilla workable for all.

Be sure and keep apprised of upcoming activities and needs. Review activities for what best suits your reason for joining the Auxiliary.

I hope that you will continue to invest in our Flotilla. Your participation is valued; your involvement ensures that our Flotilla programs are viable; and you never know when your efforts might save a life!

Semper Paratus ~ Semper Tutus
Always ready – Always Safe
Pamela Chelgren-Koterba, Flotilla Commander

Flotilla Calendar

November

16: FL 11 Meeting, 7PM, (Hybrid)

23 Thanksgiving

December

3: CoW Division1

7: FL 11 Staff Meeting, 7PM, (Planning meeting, Hybrid)

PH: Holiday Activities

Awards



Auxiliary Sustained Superior Performance

This award is presented to an Auxiliarist contributing a documented total of 750 volunteer hours of Auxiliary service

Lyle Schrag (10th Award w/Hourglass)



USCG Unit Commendation

Contributing to Sector Puget Sound accomplishments over the Covid time period, issued March 2023 (not yet presented):

Steve Bell (5th), Art Cummings (5th), Fred Eldred (5th), Hoyt Hatfield (5th)



DHS Outstanding Unit Award

Awarded to all USCG/Auxiliary for declared emergencies from 2017 to November 2020:

About two dozen members have not been presented this award. They will be mailed.



Auxiliary Membership Award

This award is presented to any member who completes five cumulative years of Auxiliary membership:

10 years: Sean Jones

15 years: Mike Hayner and Gary Farrow

30 years: Susan Eberhard and Fred Eldred



Bellingham, Wash. – Peter Border Receiving Award. US Coast Guard photo

District 13 Century Award

Awarded for one hundred or more vessel inspections:

Peter Border

Navigation Systems

We have completed 23 of our 38 PATONs and all five Bridges. Flotilla Aid Verifiers (AVs) should plan for when they will be conducting the remaining assignments (or let Pam know otherwise).

Pam taught an electronic navigation tools session at September's DTRAIN to coxswains and other interested members (about 25). She is scheduled to conduct this twice more, once in November, and again in February at the Seattle Boat Show

Again, thanks to all the AVs who are continuing to participate in this direct support mission! It has a direct impact on navigational safety.

Alert: If you are a boater, be aware that NOAA is 'retiring' its paper (Raster) Charts. In fact, the San Juan Island charts are already retired. Be sure to become knowledgeable about using your electronic navigation products and keep them up to date.

Operations

Three members completed their check ride with USCG Station Bellingham



Bellingham, Wash. – Auxiliary members complete their check ride. US Coast Guard photo by Jeff Shaw

Coast Guard Picnic

The local Coast Guard units had a picnic at Larrabee State Park on Aug. 16th. Several Flotilla members joined them.



Bellingham, Wash – Active duty Coast Guard members and auxiliary at the annual Coast Guard Picnic. US Coast Guard photos by Peter Border.

Drayton Harbor

Gary Farrow set up an info booth at the annual Blaine event on Aug 5th, where he handed out boating safety brochures.



Blaine, Wash – Recreational Boating Safety materials at Drayton Harbor Days event . US Coast Guard photo.

Bellingham SeaFeast

According to the SeaFeast website:

Bellingham SeaFeast is a free celebration on the shores of Squalicum Harbor dedicated to honoring our rich maritime culture, showcasing our thriving working waterfront, promoting the enjoyment and conservation of our precious water resources, celebrating the vitality of our commercial fishing and seafood industries, and indulging in the diverse culinary bounty that characterizes our corner of the Pacific Northwest.

Three Auxiliary members attended the event.



Bellingham, Wash. – Auxiliary Members attending SeaFeast event. US Coast Guard photos by Peter Border

Flotilla Meeting Speaker

LTJG Katya Armbrecht spoke at the October Flotilla Meeting.



Bellingham, Wash. – LTJG Katya Armbrecht speaking at the October Flotilla meeting. US Coast Guard photos by Peter Border

Station Bellingham Thanksgiving

The Coast Guard Station Bellingham is planning a potluck Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 23rd at the station. They have extended an invite to Flotilla members and their families to join them. If you have an interest in attending, please contact Pam (pamck.cgaux@gmail.com or 360 647-9715), and she will let the station know.

Division 1 Election Results

The 2024 Division 1 DCDR and VCDR elections have been completed.

Elected are:

Kevin Coulombe, DCDR
Rich Martinson, VCDR

The Division change of watch will be held virtually Dec 3.

Flotilla Staff Officers

The following members are your Flotilla Staff Officers. Please contact them if you have any questions or ideas, or wish to get involved in a particular type of activity.

FSO-CS	Mike Hayner
FSO-FN	Jim Appleby
FSO-HR	Steve Bell
FSO-IS	Nico Lacchini
FSO-MT	Pam Chelgren-Koterba
FSO-NS	Pam Chelgren-Koterba
FSO-OP	Jeff Halbrook

FSO-PB	Mike Hayner
FSO-PE	Ray White
FSO-PV	Peter Border
FSO-SR	Jeffery Halbrook
FSO-VE	Steve Bell

Parting Shot



BELLINGHAM, Wash. - U.S. Coast Guard Station Bellingham hosts a fun water safety event for children. US Coast Guard photo from STA Bellingham's Facebook page.