



ALERT 11

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PERFORMING MISSIONS

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Cover Photograph: Bellingham, Wash – Flotilla members successfully complete a check ride. US Coast Guard photo.

Commander's Comments



Ahoy Shipmates,

This is your Flotilla update for the Fall (the last edition was in July).

Our Flotilla has accomplished a lot this year, especially given the percentage of participating members. Look at the details and photos of activities

later in this newsletter.

As an example, three members of our boat crew were either newly qualified (Leslie: crew, Manny: coxswain) or re-qualified (Lyle: crew) Congrats to you three! And thanks to Station Bellingham (Operations Officer, coxswains, and 29' boat crew) for conducting the session.

Our Boat crew conducted a number of training and PATON Patrols totaling 36.5 hours this year.

Our VEs have conducted approximately 141 Vessel Safety Checks. Our Aid Verifiers have conducted 23 of our 42 PATON verifications (year to date), and all five bridge inspections (thanks Lyle, Jeff H, Peter, and Manny).

Our Dues Campaign concluded with 37 members renewing, four resigning, one transfer out and one in.

We also resumed our Flotilla Meetings in September, which five prospective members attended.

Upcoming

- ✳ The boat crew is scheduling another 10 hours of Patrols (mostly Mondays). If you are a crew and not yet dialed-in, contact Manny Eusebio or Jeff Shaw for details.

Also, for Boat Crew, be sure to attend the Semi-Annual PPE check the hour before the October 17 Flotilla Meeting. (Meeting at 7PM, Semi-Annual PPE Check at 6PM.)

- ✳ Regarding Uniform Inspections, if you are one of the seven members who have not yet acted, don't forget to arrange to complete a Uniform Inspection with me. I can do this at a Meeting or via Zoom. On the other hand, if you do not hold a qualification or an office, you can request an inspection exemption. It is important to satisfy this requirement (one way or the other). If it is not addressed, you will go in arrears (on everything) and after three years being dis-enrolled.

Getting the exemption or conducting the inspection is easy to do. Please contact me to get this done!

- ✳ Our next Hybrid Flotilla Meeting is Oct. 17th. Please attend (in-person or remotely).

Be sure and look at the online calendar to keep apprised of upcoming activities and needs.

Review those activities for what best suits your reason for joining the Auxiliary. Talk to me if you are interested in increasing your participation.

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

October

- 17 Flotilla Meeting (PPE Check the hour before)
- 24 Division 1 Zoomed Meeting (election)

November

- 7 Staff Meeting
- 21 Flotilla Meeting (election)
- 28 Thanksgiving

December

- 1 Division 1 Change of Watch (Zoom?)
- 5 Flotilla 2025 Planning Meeting

September Flotilla Meeting

The flotilla's September meeting was well attended, and awards were presented to several members.



Bellingham, Wash – Auxiliary Flotilla meeting in September. US Coast Guard photos by Peter Border.

USCGC Eagle

By Lyle Schrag

In May and June of 2024, Lyle Schrag served as the Auxiliary Chaplain aboard the USCG Cutter Eagle during the first phase of the Cadet Training cruise into the Caribbean. Built in Germany in 1936, the Eagle was taken as a prize following World War II to become the training

vessel for the US Coast Guard Academy. Each summer, up to 150 cadets and officer candidates at a time join the 6 officers and 55 enlisted personnel to learn basic seamanship on “America’s Tall Ship.”

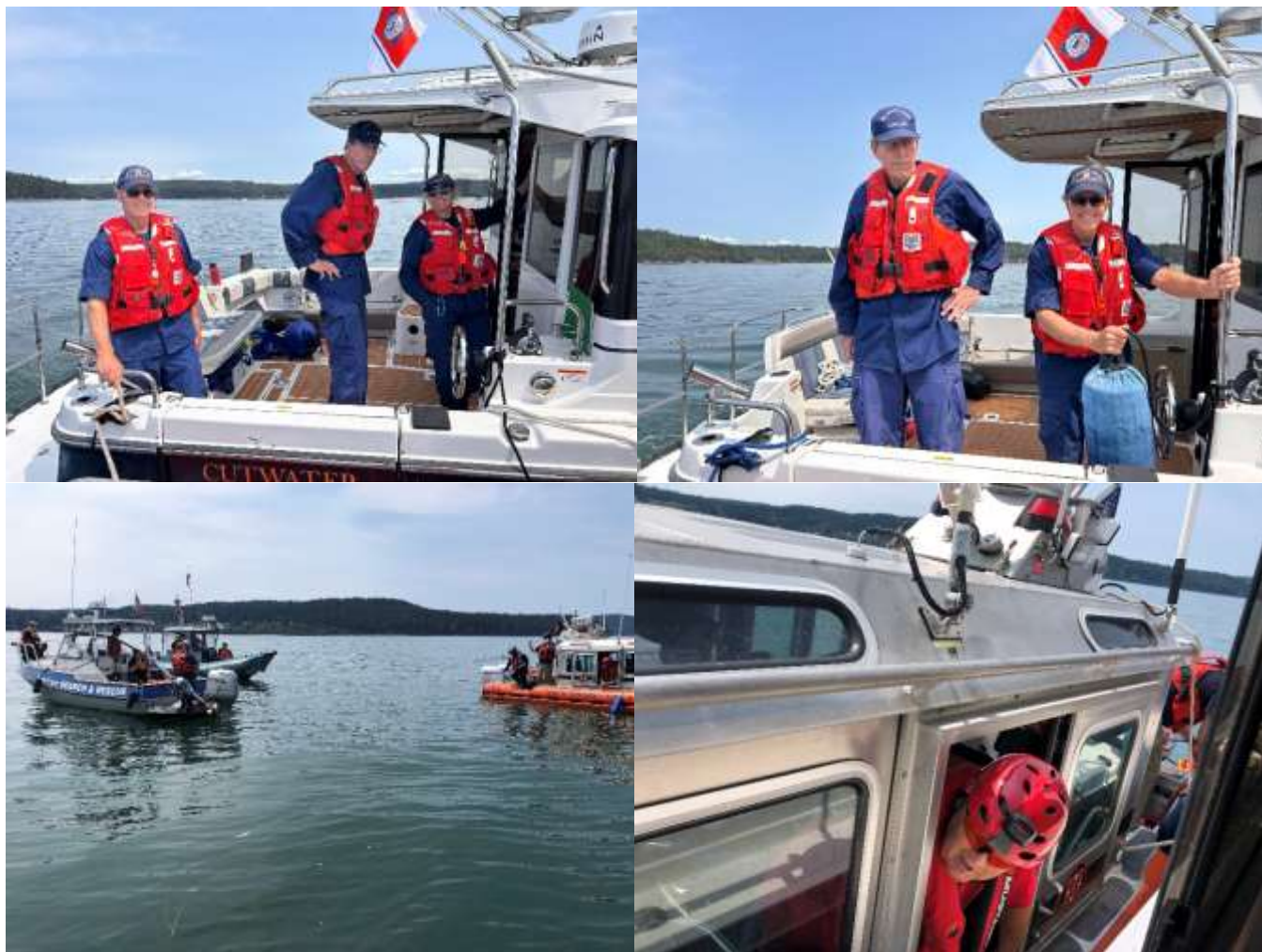


Bellingham, Wash – Flotilla member Lyle Schrag aboard the USCGC Eagle. US Coast Guard photos by Lyle Schrag.

Operations

On July 27th, members of the Bellingham Flotilla of the USCG Auxiliary teamed up with Skagit County Sherrif, Skagit Bay Search & Rescue, and North Whidbey Fire & Rescue for some interagency training. We congregated in Skagit Bay and received our assignments. We practiced search and rescue patterns, performing Man

over Board drills as well as along side tows and stern tows. Each agency quickly and professional completed each assigned task. Once finished, the boat crews returned to their prospective ports with appreciation for the other agencies.



Bellingham, Wash – Auxiliary members training with multiple agencies. US Coast Guard photo

Several members completed their qualification check ride. Leslie Parks and Lyle Schrag qualified as crew members, while Manny Eusebio qualified as Coxswain.

Station Bellingham conducted the qualification using their 29' response boat.



Bellingham, Wash – Auxiliary members after completing a successful qualification session. US Coast Guard photo.

The flotilla has an active patrol schedule. Please contact Jeff Shaw if you are interested.



Bellingham, Wash – Auxiliary facility performing a patrol. US Coast Guard photos.

Member Training

We have concluded our Flotilla-scheduled trainings for the year. Our mid-year training summary includes the boat crew QEs, three members completing the new

Suicide Prevention (Core Training), and one other member completing another Core Training class.

Full Name	Training	Activity Date
LESLIE S PARKS	QE APPROVAL CREW	8/19/2024
LESLIE S PARKS	(BCM) ANNUAL DAY TASKS	8/19/2024
LYLE A SCHRAG	(BCM) ANNUAL DAY TASKS	8/19/2024
LYLE A SCHRAG	QE APPROVAL CREW	8/19/2024
EMMANUEL J EUSEBIO	QE APPROVAL COXSWAIN	8/19/2024
EMMANUEL J EUSEBIO	(COX) ANNUAL DAY TASKS	8/19/2024
EMMANUEL J EUSEBIO	SUICIDE PREVENTION (100643)	9/27/2024
PETER M BORDER	SUICIDE PREVENTION (100643)	9/16/2024
MICHAEL R HAYNER	SUICIDE PREVENTION (100643)	8/26/2024
LUCIUS ANDREW	CIVIL RIGHTS AWARENESS (502319)	6/23/2024

Navigation Systems

Five of our AVs have conducted 14 more PATON verifications (of 42) and all five bridges (with one discrepancy each, for a PATON and a bridge).

For all boaters:

The Swinomish Channel is shoaling in several places: NW of Goat Island, in several channel bends, and at the north end just south of the bridges. Dredging is planned for now through February 2025.

All of our local Raster NOAA charts are retired. Boat crew should be prepared to fulfill their navigation needs with electronic products (that users should keep up to date).

The USCG Navigation Center is changing the method of accessing Local Notice to Mariners.

Sometime in the next month or two, mariners will need to visit their website (<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov>) to conduct a query to access this information. A User Manual should be available shortly before the transition.

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.

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Recent ALAUX

The Coast Guard publishes announcements that are applicable to the Auxiliary in the form of ALAUX (e.g. All Auxiliary). A list of recent ALUAX are below, and the

complete list can be found at the Auxiliary Site:
<https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=2024-alaux>

ALAUX	Date	Title
26-24	8/1/2024	Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Policy Changes
27-24	8/26/2024	Auxiliary Core training Requirement - Suicide Prevention
28-24	8/6/2024	Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Program SOP Revision
29-24	9/10/2024	Coast Guard Auxiliary National Leadership Changes
30-24	9/10/2024	New AUXDATA II Service Request Procedures and Patrol Order Closeout
31-24	9/20/2024	FY25 AUXDATA II Patrol Order Guidance

D-TRAIN Highlights

District 13 has a yearly conference with training sessions. This year it was held in Clackamas, OR from Sept. 20th to the 22nd. The District elections are held at that time, and awards are presented. From our Flotilla, Peter Border received the Century Club Award for 2023. This award is

for performing one hundred or more vessel safety checks during the year.

Pam Chelgren-Koterba was mentioned for receiving a 2nd Meritorious Team Award for work at the national level on the Navigation Services (NS) Program.

Parting Shot



Bellingham, Wash – Flotilla boat crew members return to port after a successful patrol. US Coast Guard photo.