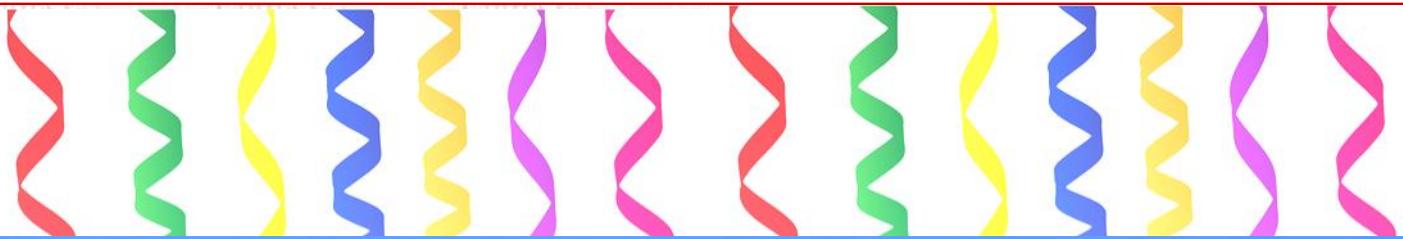


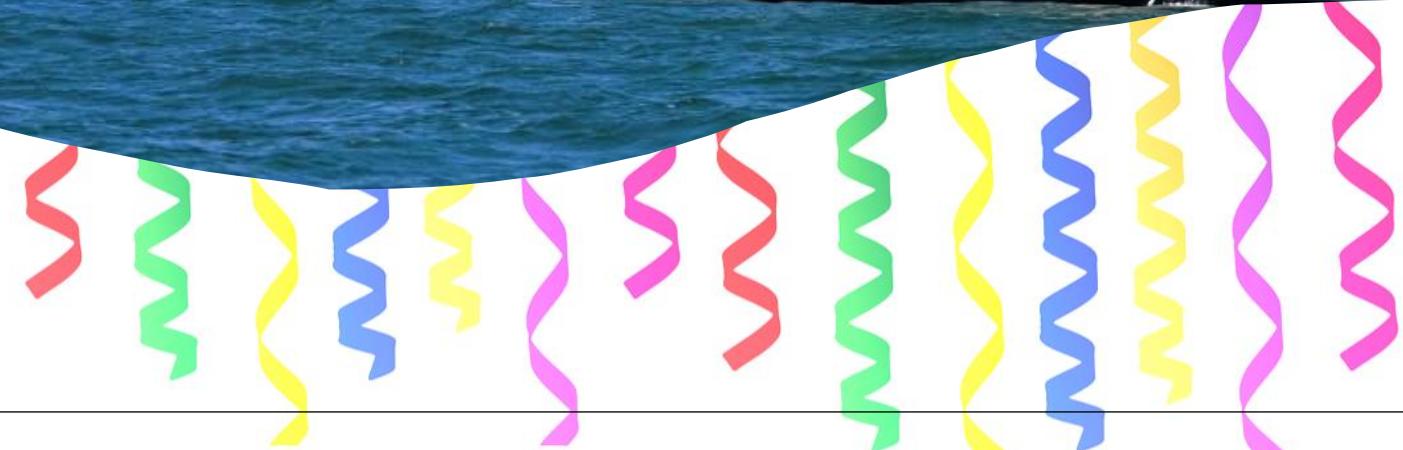
Lake Murray Mariner

Newsletter Publication of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray, SC

August 2015



Happy 225th Birthday to the U. S. Coast Guard



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray, South Carolina

www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com

Flotilla Island, Johnson Marina Road, Chapin, SC





Special dates & events

- AUG 1 Great Portage Race, Sea Cadet Corps
Dreher Island State Park
- AUG 27-30 National Convention (NACON 15)
San Antonio, Texas
- AUG 31 Flotilla Meeting 1900 at Flotilla Island
- AUG 31 2016 Membership Dues
Nominating Committee for 2016 Leadership
- SEP 17-20 District Training Conference (DTRAIN)
Orlando, Florida
- SEP 26 Lake Murray SUP Classic
- SEP 28 Flotilla Meeting 1900 at Flotilla Island
- SEP 30 Mass Rescue Exercise
Charleston, SC
- OCT 3 Division 12 Meeting at Santee Cooper Corporate Office
1 Riverwood Drive, Monck's Corner
- OCT 26 Flotilla Meeting 1900 at Flotilla Island



SC DNR PUBLIC BOATING FORUMS: All meetings begin at 7:00pm

The public is invited to offer suggestions and comments for recreational boating in South Carolina .

- JUL 28 FE Dubose Center, Manning
- AUG 6 Horry Georgetown Technical Center, Conway
- AUG 11 Fort Johnson Marine Center, Charleston
- AUG 13 Crowders Creek Elementary School, Clover
- AUG 25 SC DNR Clemson Office, Clemson
- SEP 6 Center for Advance Technical Studies, Chapin

Flotilla 12-3 members will be notified by email of Island Cleanup days, surface operations, training and other special events. For your privacy: Access [AuxDirectory](#) for members email addresses and phone numbers.



Lake Murray Mariner



Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander

As you will find in this newsletter, Flotilla 12-3 was in the Peach Festival Parade on July 4, completed two surface patrols and hosted the annual 4H2O Water Science Camp at Flotilla Island on July 20.

Clay, Barbara and I attended the Division 12 quarterly meeting on July 11 in Monck's Corner. **District 7 Commodore Bob Weskerna** and **Chief of Staff Judith Hudson** spoke to members.

On July 24 we attended the Area Sector Coordinator meeting in Charleston with **Captain Gary Tomasulo**, **Captain of the Port, Charleston**, USCG active duty and District 7 Auxiliary leadership and Divisions 2, 10 and 12 Division Commanders.



Captain Gary Tomasulo, Sector Commander and Captain of the Port, Charleston, poses with Commodore Henry Pratt, Area Sector Coordinator - Charleston, after the ASC meeting on 24 JUL. Photo by Barbara Burchfield.

Commodore (COMO) Henry Pratt has accepted the position of Area Sector Coordinator (ASC) at Charleston in July. With 50 years in the Auxiliary, Henry brings experience and knowledge to the position. He will be the primary point of contact for Auxiliary support and reports directly to the Sector Chief of Response and Auxiliary Liaison Officer as the ASC.

Welcome **BMC Tim Adams**, Executive Petty Officer (XPO), USCG Station Charleston, who relieved **BMC John Palmer** of the assignment in late June.

BM1 Travis Rogers, U.S. Coast Guard Station Charleston Auxiliary Liaison, attended our flotilla meeting on June 29. Recognizing the 230+ miles roundtrip drive and extra duty hours involved, we appreciate and thank BM1 Rogers for his attendance. Local Columbia resident, **Coast Guard Reservist George Crowe** also attended and we look forward to seeing more of him at our meetings and events.

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Charles "Bee" Perry has relieved **CWO Chris Acklin** as Operations Training Officer (OTO) at the Miami Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) office, following a duty assignment at Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral, Florida. We wish Chris a well deserved and healthy retirement, and a sincere thank you for standing up for the Auxiliary membership. We warmly welcome CWO Perry and look forward to working with him.

This month we honor **Michael Mikutaitis** on his **10th year** in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Thank you for your time and service, Michael.

Certificates received this month for flotilla members include Membership Service Awards with Silver Star to:

Gerald Ruschkofski - 35 years (JUNE 1980)

Roger Deaton - 20 years (MAY 1995)

Michael Mikutaitis - 10 years (AUGUST 2005)

Congratulations to **John DeMarco** for completing all testing and qualification to become a certified RBS Program Visitor.

John Mezynski receives his first Sustained Service Award with ribbon and miniature medal for 750 hours of volunteer service. Bravo Zulu, John.

Our prayers to **Carl Brown** for a healthy and speedy recovery and to **Jeanette Brown** as his care giver. As many of you know, Carl and Jeanette, now members of Flotilla 12-2 Little River, are former 12-3 members and contributed to its rich history.



The Lake Murray News

Celebrating
Our
15TH
Year!

VOLUME FIFTEEN • NUMBER FOUR

50 CENTS

lakemurraynews@aol.com

772-5584

JULY 17, 2003

Marine Patrol officer hopes to enhance relationship with CGA

By Ollie Moye

Contributing Writer

Promoting boating safety on Lake Murray goes far beyond writing a citation, the Lexington County Sheriff's Department's new Lake Murray resident deputy assured the Lake Murray Coast Guard Auxiliary during a presentation designed to strengthen the relationship between these two entities.

"I personally don't feel that it's part of my job to come out on the lake and write tickets," Norm Nicholson told members of Flotilla 12-3 at their recent monthly meeting.

Stressing his belief that boater education is the only key to boater safety on Lake Murray, Nicholson stated, "I am more in-

terested in saving lives than in writing tickets. I feel I can be more helpful and make a better case for the importance of boating safety by letting somebody know the danger represented in the violation and that's what I intend to do."

Citing an example, he pointed to the danger represented to boaters at night if the stern light is burned out.

"The boater sees his navigational lights and dash lights are burning and thinks everything is all right," he said. "They may not always see that the stern light is out, and they think everything is fine. But it is not. What they don't understand is that somebody coming up behind them at night sees only a black hole."

*See CGA on Page 3



Norm Nicholson (center) of the Lexington County Sheriff's Dept.'s Marine Patrol unit, discusses safety on Lake Murray with Lake Murray Coast Guard Auxiliary Commander Kent McCoin (left) and Ken Uschelbec. Nicholson addressed the LMCGA unit recently on the importance of strengthening the relationship between the two entities.

Throwback to July 2003 - Making front page news are Kent McCoin and Kenny Uschelbec with Lexington County Sheriff's Marine Patrol. This and more history of the flotilla can be found at www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com in the historical records files.

Member Training

Barbara Burchfield, FSO-MT

It was good to see **John DeMarco** this month and be able to complete his final qualifications for Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor (RBS-PV). John is living in New Jersey and made time to get PV qualified on a quick trip to Lexington.

Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT) courses being presented at flotilla meetings are helping members get the required courses completed. Last month there were 20 Auxiliary members who completed 2 courses at the meeting. AUXMT Suicide Prevention course will be presented on July 27 by Clay Goodwin, Flotilla Vice Commander.

Kudos to **John Byers** who completed all 8 online AUXMT courses this month. That makes 11 members that completed all 8 courses with several members nearly finished.

INFORMED • ENGAGED • VALUED



Lake Murray Mariner



Operations

Festus Burchfield, FSO-OP

The most difficult part of surface operations has been the summer weather and its relentless hot, humid days. Even so, this month we completed several missions: 4th of July Peach Festival Parade, 4H2O Campers escort , and lake patrols with training.

We have a large presence in the 2015 Great Portage Race on 01 AUG with four flotillas supporting the on-water race and swim competition. Flotilla 12-3 also will have several members on land for public affairs coverage.

We've been asked to support the Lake Murray SUP Classic again on Sept. 26 and will coordinate with other flotillas for larger area coverage.

COMO Henry Pratt, the new Area Sector Coordinator (ASC), has taken pro-active steps to communicate policy and standards in the Sector. We attended the ASC meeting on July 24 in Charleston with CAPT Tomasulo and Sector leadership; Carl Motes, District Captain North; Divisions 2, 10, and 12 leadership; and Don Wellons, District Staff Officer-Communications, to name a few who attended. Each division representative provided an overview of their division with resources, achievements, and data in support of their activities.

CAPT Tomasulo emphasized the need for teamwork and to integrate the Auxiliary more closely into Coast Guard operations. He cited the Mass Rescue Exercise and oil spill response as two recent examples of operations.

CAPT Tomasulo said Auxiliary resources on the water are critical, adding eyes and ears to search and rescue response. As a part of the community (and not subject to transfer between stations), the Auxiliary can hold boating safety classes to improve boater knowledge. Boating courses help reduce loss of life and property damage.

Information Services

Michael Mikutaitis

AuxData report for January 1 - July 12:

Activity	Number
Vessel Examiners	9
Vessel Safety Checks	119
RBS Program Visitors	7
Program Visits	66
Instructors	7
Lake Patrols & Regattas	13

AVOID REYR (Recertification required for failure to meet Yearly Requirements). Complete and REPORT before 15 DEC!

- ◊ Vessel Examiners need a minimum of 5 vessel safety checks (VSC)
- ◊ RBS Program Visitors need a minimum of 4 annual program visits (PV)

Thanks to Michael Mikutaitis for sharing this link about bug spray containing DEET and its affect on plastic (and, yes, possibly your boat):

<http://theboatgalley.com/deet-and-plastics/>





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Flotilla Meeting Highlights

Twenty Auxiliarists attended the brief meeting which was followed by two Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT) courses presented by Al Crothers, District Staff Officer-Member Training (DSO-MT) and Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander (FC). BM1 Travis Rogers, Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO) USCG Station Charleston is shown in the photo below introducing himself to members. Maritime Enforcement Specialist 3rd Class (ME3) George Crowe, USCG Reserves at Station Charleston, also attended the meeting. See their welcome & introduction in this newsletter.



New Member certificates and package presented to Calvin & Hiroko Bowen at the June 29 flotilla meeting by Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander (FC).

Festus Burchfield, FC, delivers the second of two AUXMT courses with Al Crothers, DSO-MT, assisting. Al instructed the first course with Festus assisting. Popcorn and sodas were provided with the training. Photos by Barbara Burchfield.





Lake Murray Mariner



Thank you for your service

Gerald Ruschkofski -

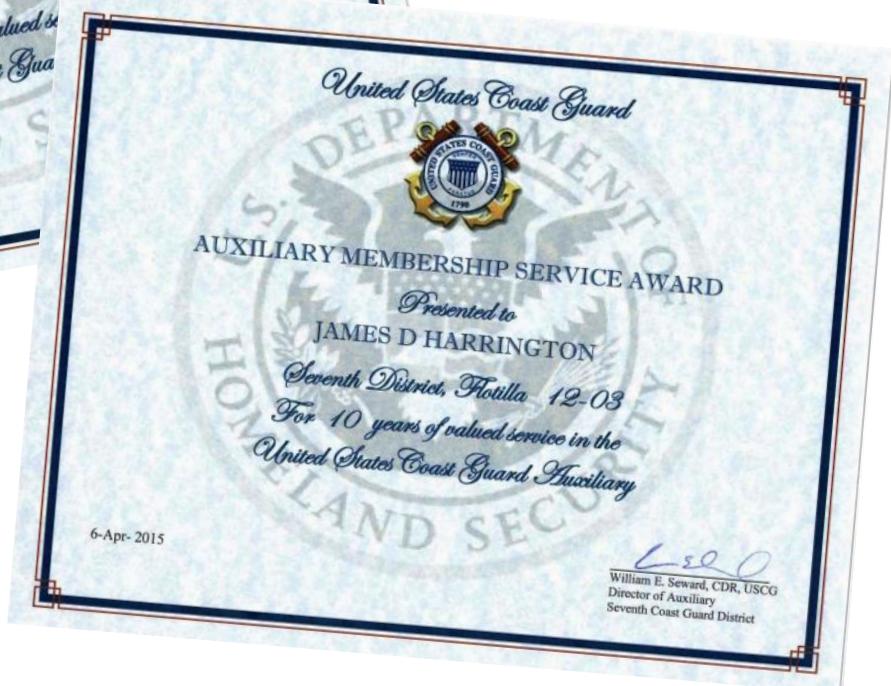
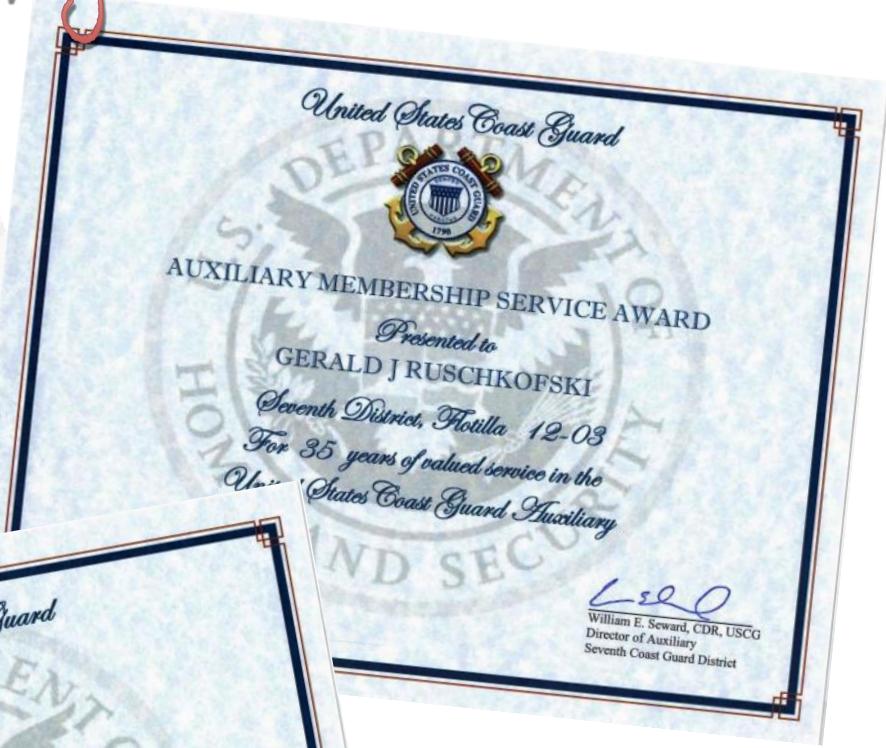
35 Years

K. Roger Deaton -

20 Years

James Harrington -

10 Years



Auxiliary Membership Service Awards received from DIRAUX were presented at the July 27 flotilla meeting or mailed to the member.



Lake Murray Mariner



Introducing BM5 Travis Rogers

A true "local", Boatswains Mate (BM1) Travis Rogers is from Spartanburg, SC. His parents reside in the upstate, an easy commute from Charleston when he is able to visit.

Rogers attended SMC (Spartanburg Methodist College) 1997-1999 and went to USC Upstate 1999-2000. He ran cross country competitions at both schools. Later he finished a Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice from Liberty University Online 2010-2013.

He joined the Coast Guard in 2000, attending Boot Camp in Cape May, NJ and from there attended 2000-QM (Quartermaster) A School in Yorktown, VA.

Duty assignments included being stationed on the USCG Cutter Gallatin out of Charleston, SC from 2000 to 2003, followed by ANT (Aids to Navigation) duty at Saugerties, NY from 2003 to 2007.

BM1 Rogers was stationed at Station San Juan, PR 2007-2010, followed by duty on USCG Cutter Reef Shark out of San Juan, PR, from 2010-2012.

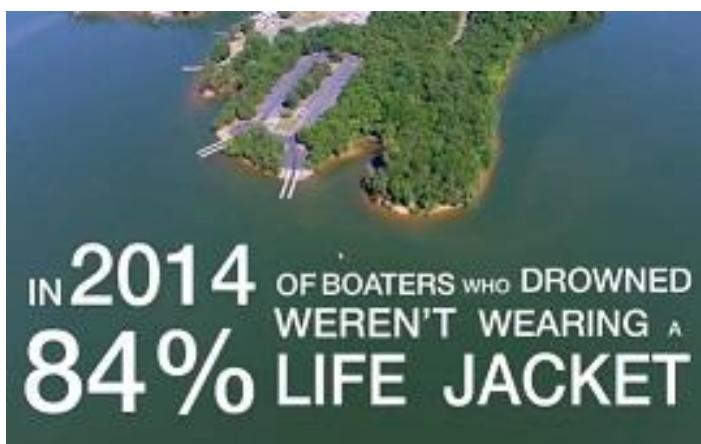
He has been stationed at Station Charleston since then and serves as the Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO) to five flotillas in Division 12.



Along the way, Rogers earned the USCG 100 ton Captain's License with a towing endorsement.

On the personal side, Rogers likes to watch Clemson football and the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team. Still a bachelor, he never married and does not have children.

We hope to see BM1 Rogers often!



According to the U.S. Coast Guard, in 2014

84 percent of boat-related drowning victims weren't wearing a life jacket.

There were **418 drowning deaths** last year, which leaves **351 lives that could have been saved**, if only they had been wearing a USCG-approved life jacket.



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Introducing ME7 GEORGE CROW



Maritime Enforcement Specialist 3rd Class George Crowe grew up in West Columbia, SC. He joined the United States Coast Guard in 1998, went to boot camp at the Cape May Training Center Cape May, and was then stationed on the Coast Guard Cutter Bear, a 270' cutter out of Portsmouth, VA.

On the Cutter Bear, Crowe qualified as helmsman, lookout, boatswain's mate of the watch & boarding team member. He helped conduct many missions in counter drug and migrant immigrations during the two years he was stationed on the Bear.

In 1999 he was a part of the crew that went overseas for Operation Allied Force and Operation Noble Anvil in the Adriatic Sea where the Bear

assisted the Navy and Army in multiple operations.

Following his tour on the Cutter Bear, Crowe went to Machinery Technician "A" school in Yorktown, VA where he graduated as a Machinery Technician 3rd Class. He was then sent to Coast Guard Station Panama City, FL where he became Watch Stander for radio communications, boat engineer, boat crewman and boarding team member. He was also the K-9 Handler during his time at the station. Crowe conducted many boardings for boating safety and search and rescue missions.

From Station Panama City, he was assigned to duty at Station Charleston, SC. At station Charleston, George was sent to Boarding Officer School in Yorktown, VA where he became a Boarding Officer. He was then transferred to the Military Out Load in Charleston where his duties consisted of boat crewman, boat engineer, boarding officer & law enforcement instructor for the unit.

After his 8 years of active duty, Crowe left the US Coast Guard with an honorable discharge and went to work for his father at Displays Unlimited in West Columbia, SC. During his time out, he got married and became the father of two children.

After about 6 years he started to miss the Coast Guard and decided to rejoin. He was sent back to Cape May, NJ for boot camp again and then sent to Marine Safety Unit Savannah. While at MSU Savannah, Crowe went to Maritime Enforcement Specialists "A" school for his new rating. He graduated as a ME3 and soon after reporting back to MSU Savannah, he was transferred back to Station Charleston where he currently stationed as a Coast Guard Reservist with duties of boat crewman and boarding officer.

~ Welcome home, George.



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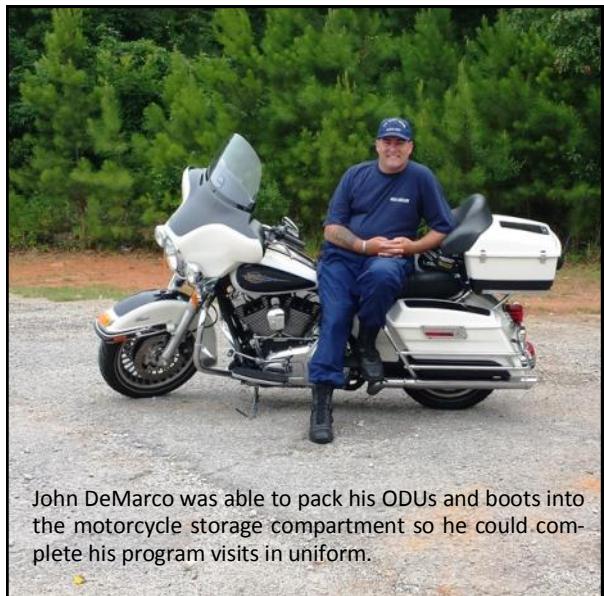


John DeMarco Qualifies as Program Visitor

Member John DeMarco rode his bike all the way from New Jersey to Lexington and back to attend a friends wedding over the July 4th weekend. During his 24 hour stay in the area, John completed his two supervised Program Visits on July 4 with Barbara Burchfield, Flotilla Staff Officer-Member Training, to qualify as RBS Program Visitor.

Timing is everything some days. At Jake's Landing, a full Independence Day celebration was taking place with a patriotic golf cart parade, picnics, parties and lots of boating. It was a good time to replenish the literature racks, talk to boaters about safety and leave a good impression.

Well done, John. We miss you!



John DeMarco was able to pack his ODUs and boots into the motorcycle storage compartment so he could complete his program visits in uniform.



Quickly taking notice of USCG Auxiliarist John DeMarco in uniform, several people at Jake's Landing joined in for this photo. Prominently decorated with patriotic themes, about twenty golf carts paraded at Jake's Landing. Photos by Barbara Burchfield.



How it's done in the South - celebrating Independence Day!





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Lucy Wingard, Flotilla Staff Officer-Secretary/Records, waves at spectators lining the streets of Gilbert for the Lexington County Peach Festival parade in Gilbert on July 4th. Also aboard Flotilla 12-3 operational facility "Voyager", Clay Goodwin, Vice Commander, and Barbara Burchfield , Flotilla Staff Officer-Publications, greeted everyone as Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander, drove the tow vehicle. Stephen Pstrak, Parade Coordinator, followed in his older model Lincoln Continental.

Photos by Taylor Goodwin & Barbara Burchfield.



Local singing celebrities "The Pinup Girls" pose with Clay Goodwin, Stephen Pstrak, Lucy Wingard, Barbara Burchfield and Festus Burchfield following the parade.





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Judith Hudson, District Chief of Staff (DCOS)



District Commodore Robert Weskerna (DCO)



John Murphy, Division Commander (DCDR) and
John Owen, Division Vice Commander (DVCDR)



Al Crothers, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR); Clay Goodwin, Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC), Flotilla 12-3; Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander (FC), Flotilla 12-3; and Perry Moses, Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations (FSO-OP), Flotilla 12-1. Photos by Barbara Burchfield.

The Quick Version:

The eight flotillas in Division 12 meet quarterly to discuss current events and challenges, relay information, develop strategies and plan for future events such as the Mass Rescue Exercise in Charleston on Sept. 30. This meeting was preceded with Flotilla Leadership Course training by Al Crothers, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR). Special guests Robert Weskerna, District Commodore (DCO) and Judith Hudson, District Chief of Staff (DCOS) who spoke to division leadership of present achievements and goals. William Carter, National Safe Boating Week Coordinator, displayed photos of NSBW activities. John Murphy, Division Commander (DCDR) announced he will not be running for DCDR in 2016.

Dates to remember: The fall meeting has changed to 03 OCT and the Division 12 Change of Watch will be January 9, 2016, at Litchfield Resort.



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Cybersecurity Awareness

In June the U. S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) became aware of a cybersecurity incident. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Communications has relayed the following information to all members.

Steps for Monitoring Your Identity and Financial Information:

- ◆ Monitor financial account statements and immediately report any suspicious or unusual activity to financial institutions.
- ◆ Request a free credit report at www.AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228. Consumers are entitled by law to one free credit report per year from each of the three major credit bureaus – Equifax®, Experian®, and TransUnion® – for a total of three reports every year. You can find contact information for the credit bureaus on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website, www.ftc.gov.
- ◆ Review resources provided on the FTC identity theft site www.identitytheft.gov. The FTC maintains a variety of consumer publications providing comprehensive information on computer intrusions and identity theft.
- ◆ You may place a fraud alert on your credit file to let creditors know to contact you before opening a new account in your name. Simply call TransUnion® at 1-800-680-7289 to place this alert. TransUnion® will then notify the other two credit bureaus on your behalf.

Precautions to Help You Avoid Becoming a Victim:

- ◆ Be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls, visits, or email messages from individuals asking about you, your employees, your colleagues or any other internal information. If an unknown individual claims to be from a legitimate organization, try to verify his or her identity directly with the company.

PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY



- ◆ Do not provide personal information or information about your organization, including its structure or networks, unless you are certain of a person's authority to have the information.
- ◆ Do not reveal personal or financial information in email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information. This includes following links sent in email.
- ◆ Do not send sensitive information over the Internet before checking a website's security (for more information, see Protecting Your Privacy, <http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST04-013>).
- ◆ Pay attention to the URL of a website. Malicious websites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling or a different domain (e.g., .com vs. .net).
- ◆ If you are unsure whether an email request is legitimate, try to verify it by contacting the company directly. Do not use contact information provided on a website connected to the request; instead, check previous statements for contact information. Information about known phishing attacks is also available online from groups such as the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<http://www.antiphishing.org>).
- ◆ You should take steps to monitor your personable information and report any suspected instances of identity theft to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.
- ◆ Additional information about preventative steps by consulting the Federal Trade Commission's website, www.consumer.gov/idtheft. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with the commission using the contact information below.

Identity Theft Clearinghouse
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20580
<https://www.identitytheft.gov/>



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Coast Guard kicks off 225 years of Service to Nation

Posted by LTJG Katie Braynard, Monday, May 4, 2015

Aug. 4, 2015 marks the 225th birthday of the United States Coast Guard. Throughout the year, we'll be unveiling a series of blog posts and other events that mark this important milestone. Stay tuned to learn more about the Coast Guard's 225 years of Service to Nation and join the celebration!



We celebrate our legacy. 2015 marks 225 years of the U.S. Coast Guard's lifesaving legacy. As we honor our milestone birthday, we have the opportunity and responsibility to reflect and remember who we are, how we operate and where we started. Today's Coast Guard is more complex, vital and versatile than ever; no one else can do what we do. Remember that

what we do today – our missions, our accomplishments, our devotion to duty - has evolved from what we've done.

The Coast Guard traces its history to Aug. 4, 1790. On that date, President George Washington signed a law that authorized construction of 10 revenue cutters, and under the leadership of Alexander Hamilton established our earliest fleet of cutters and the incarnation of the modern Coast Guard. While many have noted that 2015 is also the centennial of the service's present name, the Coast Guard's roots were planted 225 years ago and we celebrate all 225 years of that journey, and the complex evolution as a service. We have always been an adaptable service, meeting the operating demands of a complex, diverse and rapidly changing world.

We celebrate our partnerships. Everyone is invited to this birthday party. When we talk about the Coast Guard, its history and its missions, we also highlight the history and growth of the towns, states and waterways where we serve. The locally based, nationally deployed nature of our work as Coast Guard men and women provides us the privilege to interface with the maritime communities in which we operate. We are service members, and we are neighbors. The Coast Guard's readiness and mission success stem from our ties with law enforcement, other military services, federal and international partners, and state and local governments. Take time to commemorate this birthday hand in hand with our neighbors and host communities. In reaching out into our communities, we honor the Coast Guard's long history and rich heritage by enhancing the understanding of our missions.

A number of national-level outreach events, including Coast Guard City celebrations, Coast Guard Band concerts, Coast Guard Honor Guard performances, and the unveiling of the Coast Guard "Forever" Stamp will mark our birthday throughout the year. We encourage service members, families, auxiliary and veterans to further engage with the communities where we live and serve, highlighting our interdependence and growth together — as a service, as a nation, and as communities — over the last 225 years.

<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/coast-guard-kicks-off-225-years-of-service-to-nation/>



Lake Murray Mariner



DCO 7 MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

District 7 Commodore Robert Weskerna has released his third video message to members in July. The message includes the districts 2015 first half year performance and how we're doing in RBS programs. DCO also talks about the District Meeting and Training Conference opportunities, training and fellowship events September 17-20, 2015.

View it here: [DCO VIDEO MESSAGE](#)

Also available on the District 7 website



Proud to be an American!

"Proud to be an American" is the theme for Fun Night on Saturday, September 19 at DTRAIN. Featured is a ten piece band, all military veterans, contracted for the evening courtesy of District 7 Commodore Robert Weskerna and Mrs. Jackie Weskerna. Join us for the fun!



DTRAIN CONFERENCE - September 17-20, 2015
Florida Hotel & Conference Center, Orlando

For a list of courses and training opportunities, activities schedule, hotel information and to register, visit District 7 website or :

[FIND IT HERE](#)

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The Privacy Act of 1974 protects names, addresses, telephone/fax numbers and e-mail addresses of Flotilla 12-3 members which may appear in this or other USCGAUX publications. As a matter of policy, information described above is not made available to the general public or outside groups without that member's expressed and/or written consent. When such information appears, its privacy shall be safeguarded and the information will be clearly labeled. Publication of this information by the general public and/or outside groups is prohibited by the Privacy Act.