

Lake Murray Mariner

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

September 2015

Great Portage Race 2015

Joint mission in support of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray, South Carolina
www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com
Flotilla Island, Johnson Marina Road, Chapin, SC





Lake Murray Mariner



2015 STAFF OFFICERS

Communications
Kenneth Plesser

Communication Services
Barbara Burchfield

Diversity
Peggy Peterson

Finance
Barbara Burchfield

Human Resources
Festus Burchfield

Information Systems
Michael Mikutaitis

Marine Safety
Scott Iverson

Materials
Michael Mikutaitis

Member Training
Barbara Burchfield

Operations
Festus Burchfield

Public Affairs
Bill Lindsay

Publications
Barbara Burchfield

Public Education
Kent McCain

Program Visitors-RBS
Scott Iverson

Secretary/Records
Lucy Wingard

Vessel Examinations
Clay Goodwin

Parade Coordinator
Stephen Pstrak

NSBW Coordinator
John Mezynski



FLOTILLA 12-3 LAKE MURRAY

Flotilla Commander
Festus Burchfield

Vice Commander
Clay Goodwin

LAKE MURRAY MARINER

Newsletter Staff
Editor Barbara Burchfield with C. Russell Jernigan, John Mezynski & Calvin Bowen

LAKE MURRAY MARINER is the official newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 and is intended as a publication to keep the membership apprised of the activities of the Auxiliary. All articles and photographs submitted must be consistent with the policies of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary and may not be returned.

Personal information of members is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. The use of these rosters, addresses and telephone numbers on any computer or online service including the Internet is prohibited by the Act.

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DIVISION 12

Commander John Murphy
Vice Commander John Owen

On the cover: Preparing for departure at Dreher Island State Park, crew members from four flotillas supported the 2015 Great Portage Race with safety zone patrols on August 1, 2015. Photo by Barbara Burchfield, Flotilla 12-3, Public Affairs Specialist 1.



Lake Murray Mariner



Special dates & events

- SEP 7** **Chapin Labor Day Festival & Parade**
9:30 a.m. downtown Chapin
- SEP 8** **SCDNR Boating Public Forum**
7:00 p.m. at Center for Advance Technical Studies, Chapin
- SEP 17-20** **District Training Conference (DTRAIN)**
Orlando, Florida
- SEP 26** **Lake Murray SUP Classic**
- SEP 28** **Flotilla Meeting** 7:00 p.m. 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** 7:00 p.m. at Flotilla Island
Election of Officers



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 the newsletter cover shows, a joint mission took place on August 1 in support of the **2015 Great Portage Race**, sponsored by the Navy League. There were four flotillas participating in the safety zone portion while seven flotilla members covered the public affairs mission on land. Many thanks to Flotilla 12-1 Lake Marion, Flotilla 12-6 East Cooper and Flotilla 21 Augusta for their support and fellowship. I am particularly proud of Flotilla 12-3 member participation this year - thank you all for doing a great job!

On July 29 we attended the Lake Murray Safety Consortium (LMSC) at Bundrick Island for an exchange of current information with fellow boating safety partners.

Welcome to our newest member **Eric Starmer** who is in the process of transferring from Flotilla 17-2 South Brevard, Florida to Flotilla 12-3 this month. We are pleased to announce that **Mrs. Shennaya Pons** has begun the application process for membership in August. We look forward to their fellowship and participation in the flotilla.

Be sure to send your **2016 member dues** in as soon as possible since it greatly reduces the flotilla expense of sending certified mail.

A special note of thanks to **Bill Lindsay** for donating the parade entry fee and the cost of our advertisement in the Chapin Labor Day Festival & Parade book.

Coming events and member opportunities include the **Chapin Labor Day Parade** on Sept. 7, the **Lake Murray SUP Classic** on Sept. 26 and the **Mass Rescue Exercise** in Charleston on Sept. 30.

The **District 7 Training Conference** in Orlando is Sept. 17-20, always an engaging and fun experience. We will attend and I encourage you to come also. Register online at District 7 website and check out the area discounts for your family entertainment while you're in one of the great training sessions available. The Florida Hotel and Conference Center is conveniently located and offers an on-site shopping Galleria.

SC DNR's public forum on boating in South Carolina is Sept. 8 in Chapin. This is a chance for all boaters and lake users to make their voice heard. We attended the first forum with Flotilla 12-1 in Manning on July 28, with topics ranging from boating education to wake zones.



Commodore Robert Weskerna offers CWO Chris Acklin retirement wishes as he is relieved of duty as USCG 7th District Operations Training Officer (OTO). Photo by Vickie Aponte, DHS-USCG Auxiliary Affairs Assistant.



Flotilla 12-1 members Ron Cunningham FSO-MA, William Hayes FC, Perry Moses FSO-MT, and Larry Odom FSO-PV staffed a public affairs table at the SC DNR public forum in Manning. Festus Burchfield & Barbara Burchfield, State Liaison Officers-SC, attended also.



Lake Murray Mariner



RBS Program Visits

Scott Iverson, FSO-PV

We now have PV literature display racks available, thanks to Mike Mikutaitis, FSO-MA. The come in separate packing and will need to be assembled.

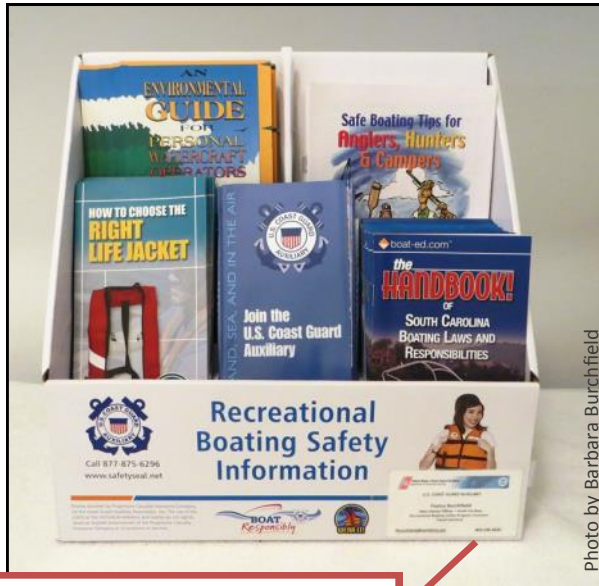


Photo by Barbara Burchfield

We found that a little tape inside the racks will prevent pamphlets from “falling” off the upper shelf. Be sure to put in the appropriate pamphlets for the marine dealer/program partner that you visit. In some inland lakes, paddle craft literature and the Safe Boating Tips for Anglers, Hunters & Campers go very quickly. Spanish language pamphlets are also available.

OPERATION PADDLE SMART brochures are now available in limited quantities and probably will be very popular in our area.

Where can you find all this stuff?

The storage van at Flotilla Island has a good supply of literature.

Or you can ask Mike!



Finance

Barbara Burchfield, FSO-FN

Where else can you volunteer for an organization and have to take a test to apply, get your fingerprints taken, wait for over a year for security approval, buy your own uniforms and pay membership dues months ahead of time?

Yup, that’s us - the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Why do we do this? That’s a question you have to ask yourself. For many, it’s that we want to do something for our country and our community. Some members want to give back in appreciation of what our military has selflessly provided; security, peace and goodwill. Training and fellowship are big Auxiliary benefits, as well as the satisfying feeling that you’re part of something bigger than yourself. Which works for you?

If it does, then send your 2016 membership dues payable to “USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3” to me before October 1, 2015. Email notifications have been sent already with the mailing address. Members with more than 15 years service and wish retirement status should immediately let FC or myself know. If you wait until the last minute to process retirement papers and don’t pay the 2016 dues, you may not have time to avoid disenrollment process after October. We hope you choose to stay with the flotilla - it’s going to be a great year!

Materials

Michael Mikutaitis

The Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC) has a catalog of materials online available here: <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/misc/DCAT.pdf>

Look up what you need and send an email to me listing those items, including the stock number. Be sure to stay within the maximum allowance. I can have them shipped directly to your home address. My email address is in AuxDirectory.



Lake Murray Mariner



Operations

Festus Burchfield, FSO-OP

Three surface missions took place on August 1, 5 and 13 at the lake. We have approved Coast Guard orders for four missions in September so far, including the Chapin Labor Day parade. Any member wishing to ride in the boat or towing vehicle is welcome to come along. We will wear ODU with long pants and ball caps. Thanks to Stephen Pstrak for making the parade arrangements.

Coxswains and boat crew members are reminded that a minimum of 12 hours underway time is required annually to remain qualified.

USCG Chief Warrant Officer (CW04) Bee Perry is District 7 Operations Training Officer (OTO) at the Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) office. He has issued a clarification of D7 policy that addresses the problem of expiring Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) batteries. DIRAUX has not been able to provide enough replacement batteries for expired batteries so far this year although they are on order. The OTO confirmed that no waivers for Personal Protective Equipment, including EPIRBs, will be granted. Coxswains may borrow a unexpired battery for missions or use a personal approved EPIRB that has been accepted and recorded by the Order Issuing Authority (OIA).

Auxiliary Order Management (AOM) system for requesting patrol orders was revised without warning or instructions in August, changing the process for entry of minimum crew requirements. Since it created huge problems in the real world, the new version was removed and the original version was reinstated. However, in the immediate future when the program is fixed, coxswains must enter the names of crew members to satisfy the minimum crew member requirement for each operational facility. OIA will not be able to approve orders without this entry.

Information Services

Michael Mikutaitis

AuxData report for January 1 - August 23:

Activity	Number
Vessel Examiners	9
Vessel Safety Checks	121
RBS Program Visitors	7
Program Visits	73
Instructors	7
Lake Patrols & Regattas	17
Members- Boat Underway Hours	267

Public Affairs

Bill Lindsay

We placed an ad in the Chapin 2015 Labor Day Festival & Parade book. Flotilla members and a boat will be in the parade on Monday, September 7.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY Homeland Security

Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray
www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com

- boating safety classes
- free vessel safety checks
- regatta safety zones
- safety literature for boaters
- serving the local community

Promoting boating safety on Lake Murray since 1947

We had good flotilla involvement and exposure in the 4H2O event July 20 and Great Portage Race August 1. Also placed a notice in the Chapin weekly newsletter about the Coast Guard mobile application released this year.



Lake Murray Mariner



Member News

This month we received some long awaited awards and certificates from the DIRAUX office.

Stephen Pstrak and Burnette Sheffield received their First Sustained Service Award with ribbons and miniature medals. **Peggy Peterson** received her Third Sustained Service Award. Each award represents 750 reported hours of volunteer service in the Auxiliary.

John DeMarco received a Certificate recognizing his qualification as RBS Program Visitor.

Barbara Burchfield received two Auxiliary Performance Award certificates for Public Education and VE-RBSVP. She also received her 11th Sustained Service Award with gold hourglass, representing 15,000 documented service hours.

At the July 27 flotilla meeting **John Mezynski** was presented his First Auxiliary Sustained Service and **Clay Goodwin** and **Rafael Fernandez** received their Auxiliary ID card after a long and patient wait.



Festus Burchfield, FC presents John Mezynski his 1st Sustained Service Award and Clay Goodwin his Auxiliary ID card. Photo by Barbara Burchfield.

F.Y.I.

Elections for Flotilla Commander (FC) and Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) will be held at the Oct. 26 flotilla meeting. If you are interested in either position please contact one of the Nominating Committee Members: Al Crothers, Russ Jernigan or Michael Mikutaitis.

Member Training

Barbara Burchfield, FSO-MT

Fully one-third of our membership has completed the Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT) courses. Several members only need one or two courses to finish.

Scott Iverson will present "Civil Rights Awareness" at the Aug. 31 flotilla meeting, the fifth course completed in a classroom setting since being authorized. Don't miss it!

Public Education

Kent McCain, FSO-PE

The Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety 2014 Boating Accident Report shows these factors:

- ◆ **Alcohol** use was the **leading factor** in 21 percent of boating fatalities.
- ◆ The **top five factors** in accidents were operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed and alcohol use.
- ◆ Where cause of death was known, **78 percent** of fatal boating accident victims **drowned**; of those, **84 percent** were **not wearing life jackets**.
- ◆ Where boating instruction was known, 77 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where **the operator had not received safe boating instruction**.

Boating education courses make a difference.

What's wrong with this picture?



Bing stock photo.



Lake Murray Mariner



2015 Great Portage Race



BRAVO ZULU to all Auxiliary volunteers for supporting this annual event.

Visit [The Great Portage Race 2015](#) online to view and download photographs in larger resolution. Each photo has the photographer's name for photo credit.



From front left: Robert Young (FL 12-1), William Hayes (FL 12-1), Festus Burchfield FL (12-3), Perry Moses (FL 12-1), Al Crothers (FL 12-3) and Ann Graham (FL 12-6). On the blue vessel: Jim McMenamin, John VanOsdol and John Neivel (FL 21). Sgt. Troy Livingston is underway on Lexington Country Sheriffs' marine patrol boats. Photo by Barbara Burchfield.



Lake Murray Mariner



2015 Great Portage Race PA Team

Article by Barbara Burchfield

This year Flotilla 12-3 provided public affairs photography with a magnificent team of seven members: John Mezynski, Calvin Bowen, Hiroko Bowen, Lucy Wingard, Bill Lindsay, Matthew Lindsay and Barbara Burchfield.

We met at Dreher Island State Park at 08:00 on Saturday, August 1. This is the fourth GPR sponsored by the Navy League for Sea Cadets from four states who compete in a number of events. This is also the 4th year Flotilla 12-3 has participated. The Navy League provided all Auxiliary volunteers a navy blue 2015 GPR t-shirt which has USCG Auxiliary logo on the back with other sponsors. Team Leaders were required to wear red GPR t-shirts for quick identification, all in extra-large sizes!



Lucy Wingard, Barbara Burchfield, Matthew Lindsay and John Mezynski taking shots of the cameraman. Photo by Billy Lindsay, FSO-PA. Other photos on the page are taken by the Flotilla 12-3 GPR PA Team .

Since the event has increased in scope and size, we split up to cover the different event locations spread out in the state park. We tromped up and down hills, through the brush and dust, trying to get that best shot. By noon the heat was oppressive. It was fun being with our team and working together, and sometimes goofing off.

Calvin and Hiroko captured great action in the marksmanship competition and of Sea Cadets with mock weapons pursuing “bad guys” in the bushes. Everyone took wonderful photos throughout the day of action on land and water, covering everything from the Knowledge Stations to the canoe portages. Hundreds of photos were taken and the best have been uploaded to a DropBox folder for everyone to view and download: [GREAT PORTAGE RACE 2015](#)



Matthew Lindsay



Calvin Bowen



Barbara Burchfield, Lucy Wingard and Hiroko Bowen



John Mezynski



Bill Lindsay



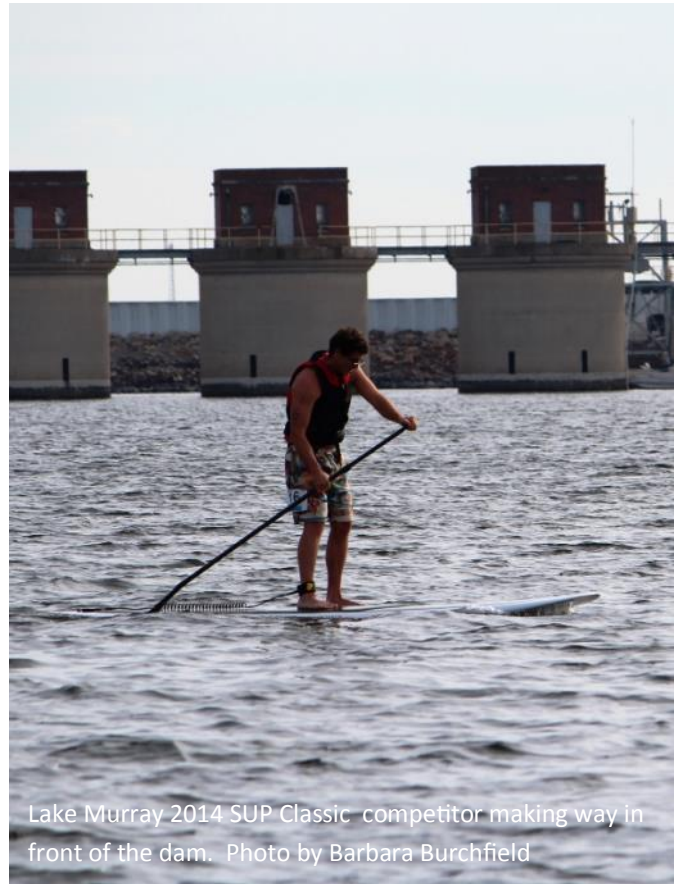
Paddle vs. Prop:

Three Safety Tips for Stand Up Paddlers When Boats are Around

When it comes to enjoying the outdoors, stand up paddleboarding (SUP) has led the nation in growth with a 38 percent increase in participation from 2013 to 2014, according to the Outdoor Foundation's 2015 Outdoor Recreation Participation Top-line Report. But as these human-powered watercraft become more common in crowded harbors, busy waterfronts and other navigable waterways, sharing the water with both recreational boats and commercial vessels requires paddlers to up their safety game. With many of its half-million members owning both boats and paddlecraft, BoatUS offers its unique look at the issue with three easy to remember safety rules for stand up paddlers.

When is a paddleboard a boat? According to the US Coast Guard an SUP is considered a "vessel," so it's important to understand certain boating responsibilities. Follow all local navigation rules and use common sense when paddling around other vessels that may not be as maneuverable or are restricted by their draft or size. Generally, a paddleboard is more easily able to turn and stop whereas larger craft take time and distance to stop. Typically, it is safest to pass astern of other vessels and let them cross in front of you. Try to avoid heavy boat traffic and pick a route away from congestion.

Practice defensive paddling: Defensive paddling is preventing collisions and mishaps in spite of the actions of others around you. Remember boats may travel faster than you do and can carry a large wake. Some boats have awkward blind spots that prevent good visibility at certain trim angles so don't assume a boater can always see you, especially at dawn or dusk. Wear bright colors and wear your life jacket with a whistle attached. Falling in, or swimming in heavily trafficked areas can lead to the start of a bad chain of events. In narrow channels stay as far right as possible and avoid crossing busy lanes. If you must, cross perpendicular to the lane so you get across quickly. If in a group, cross as a compact group – spreading out in



Lake Murray 2014 SUP Classic competitor making way in front of the dam. Photo by Barbara Burchfield

a line like a bunch of baby ducks hinders traffic and increases the chance for a collision.

Don't leave home without it: A life jacket is the minimum gear – but it only works if you wear it so don't leave it strapped to the board. If you're concerned about comfort, take a look at high-tech, low-maintenance belt-pack inflatables or the newest vest designs that offer complete freedom of movement. Add a whistle - it will always beat yelling at the top of your lungs. Avoid paddling at night, but if you must, you'll have to show a white light in sufficient time to avoid a collision. A flashlight or headlamp meets this requirement; a glow stick does not. And finally, a safety leash is most helpful in preventing an awkward and potentially dangerous separation from your board.

Source: BoatUS press release August 19, 2015



Lake Murray Mariner 4H2O Water Camp



Students board three pontoon boats for Flotilla Island arrival.



The annual 4H2O Water Camp started Monday morning July 20 with USCG Auxiliary escorted pontoon rides to Flotilla Island, provided by Lake Murray Association, for 23 students ages 10-14. Split into four groups, the students rotated through a series of water and safety related presentations provided by Flotilla 12-3, SeaTow Lake Murray, Lexington County Sheriffs Department, and the National Weather Service.

At one station, students were challenged by Barbara Burchfield to locate and properly don the correct size life jacket with two scenarios; 1) trying to find the right one in a pile of possibilities and 2) having a properly fitting PFD within arms reach of your seat. Students quickly recognized the importance of having a properly fitting jacket readily accessible.

Barbara Burchfield uses a stopwatch to time the PFD competition.



On the dock, Kenny Uschelbec and Festus Burchfield demonstrated how to tie lines and knots and also talked about the Auxiliary. LCSD Sgt. Thomas Hamilton, Jonathan "Bubba" Garris, and Sgt. Troy Livingston emphasized safety and gave the students hands-on operation of the fire boats water canon. SeaTow Lake Murray Captains Jim Holland and Joe Williams explained how they recover distressed vessels and use a water pump to prevent boats from sinking. Whitney Smith, National Weather Service, gave interesting demonstrations of thunderstorms and lightning. Photographers John Mezynski, Lucy Wingard and Barbara Burchfield captured the scenes unfolding.

Kenny Uschelbec and Festus Burchfield teach lines and knots.



4H2O is sponsored by Clemson University Extension Service. It has become one of Flotilla 12-3 signature annual events and supports the Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7 mission to promote recreational boating safety programs. We are honored to be partners with local boating safety advocates.



Whitney Smith, National Weather Service, uses a soda bottle to simulate how a hurricane forms.

Capt. Holland demonstrates how a water pump works.



Sgt. Thomas Hamilton, Jonathan "Bubba" Garris, Kenny Uschelbec, Festus Burchfield and Sgt. Troy Livingston are all smiles at the end of the morning lessons. Photos by John Mezynski and Barbara Burchfield.



Lake Murray Mariner



Coast Guard receives new Vice Commandant



WASHINGTON — U.S. Coast Guard Vice Adm. Charles Michel formally assumed the role of vice commandant of the Coast Guard during a ceremony at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters Monday.

As vice commandant, Michel will oversee the Coast Guard's operations, strategic development, organizational governance and management of the service's more than 58,000 employees and 30,000 volunteers.

Michel became the 30th vice commandant of the Coast Guard after serving as the service's deputy commandant for operations, responsible for establishing and providing operational strategy, policy, guidance and resources as needed to meet national priorities for Coast Guard missions, programs and services.

His previous flag officer assignments include deputy commander of U. S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area; director of Joint Interagency Task Force South; military advisor to the secretary of homeland security; and the director for the Coast Guard's governmental and public affairs directorate.

Tours of duty afloat included serving as commanding officer of Coast Guard Cutters Resolute and Cape Current, executive officer of Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless, and as deck watch officer aboard Coast Guard Cutter Decisive. Michel also served as chief of the office of maritime and international law in Washington, D.C.; staff attorney at the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans; head of the operations division for the office of maritime and international law in Washington, D.C.; and as legislative counsel for the office of congressional and governmental affairs in Washington, D.C.

Source: U.S. Coast Guard news release August 17, 2015

U. S. Coast Guard stamp released 04 August



This stamp honors the United States Coast Guard for its role in protecting the security of the nation and advancing its vital maritime interests.

In an oil painting on masonite, renowned aviation artist William S. Phillips depicts two icons of the Coast Guard: the cutter Eagle, a three-masted sailing ship known as "America's Tall Ship," and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter, the standard rescue aircraft of the Coast Guard.

One hundred years ago the agency received its current name, when President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the 1915 "Act to Create the Coast Guard." The origins of the Coast Guard, however, go back to 1790, when President George Washington signed into law an act that provided for a fleet of ten boats, or "revenue cutters," to aid in "the collection of duties ... imported into the United States."



Source: <http://uspsstamps.com/stamps/>



Lake Murray Mariner



Special member benefits have been established for you as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association. These benefits provide you with savings on various products and services such as travel and hotels, insurance, merchandise, and many others.

You may view the benefits offered by visiting the Association's website at www.cgauxa.org and then go to the Members Benefits & Resources link in the top right corner of that page. Benefits are displayed on that page along with a Member Login button which allows you access the specific benefits that you choose.

Use your Auxiliary Member ID along with your password to log in. If you have forgotten your password, it's easy and fast to get a new one. Go to www.auxofficer.cgaux.org/auxoff/ and follow the directions.

Using these benefit resources not only provides you discounts, but also generates a royalty which helps to support the overall Auxiliary program.

When you're shopping online, consider using the **AmazonSmile** program and choose the **Coast Guard Auxiliary Association** as your preferred charitable organization. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.



COMMODORE'S VIDEO MESSAGE August 2015

District 7 Commodore Robert Weskerna has released a brief video message to members on August 18, 2015:

[AUG 2015 Video Message](#)

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](#)

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!

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

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