

12-3 Flotilla Commander's Message

April 2022

United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary



Swinton (Skip) Hudson, FC

The Devotion to Duty of our members is a continual inspiration for me. I am very appreciative to those who have stayed the course, and especially grateful to those who have gone above and beyond despite the challenges we've faced these past three years. There is light on the horizon! The word has been passed down that positive changes to the current AUXILIARY COVID-19 RECONSTITUTION GUIDANCE will be forthcoming which should allow all of us to return to normal operational activities. When and what exactly that will entail are yet to be known. Until then, we will hold course and continue to strive for inclusivity. As a Christian in this Easter season, I am reminded of the commandment to "Love one another." The Respect that we show to our shipmates brings Honor to the Coast Guard and each other. – Semper Paratus

USCG BAND PERFORMANCE



Bravo Zulu to volunteers Ken Plesser, Traci Pollard and Roddy Whitaker who served as greeters for the USCG Band performance on 2 April at Lexington High School.

At right, Roddy talks with MSTC Jodi Hoover (Marine Science Technician Chief and Recruiter in Charge) at the Coast Guard recruiting information table.



Photos provided by Ken Plesser.

Ken Plesser adds that the concert was extraordinary and generated multiple standing ovations from the audience. This is the second time that the Coast Guard Band has performed at this venue. Ken says that if they do it again next year; be sure not to miss it!

2022 TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

Festus Burchfield, FSO-OP, will host the 2022 Telecommunications Workshop at 18:30 on Thursday, 21 April via virtual Zoom meeting. Festus has sent a meeting link to all members by email.

This workshop is required of all operators and owners of Auxiliary Radio Facilities. It is required of those currently holding a Telecommunications Operator (TCO) qualification or in training for TCO qualification, and those who are using AUXCOM as their "grandfathered" qualification for radio operation. This does not apply to operation of radios on aircraft or vessels which are covered by crew certification.



HELP WANTED

If you are interested in serving as FSO-HR, FSO-MS or FSO-DV, please contact me at swhudson.cgaux@gmail.com. To be considered, candidates must have completed at least one year as an Auxiliarist, hold Basic Qualified (BQ) status or higher, and be current on Core Training requirements.

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PALMETTO SPORTSMEN'S CLASSIC

Joined by the local USCG recruiter office, Auxiliary members Linda Warren, Roddy Whitaker, Dave Smith, and Calvin & Hiroko Bowen contacted an estimated 575 people during the three day Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic event. John Bradley and Skip Hudson also provided logistics support. FSO-PA Linda Warren was instrumental in coordinating another highly successful public affairs activity. Thank you to all who helped with this year's event!



BM1 Mike Bowman, USCG Recruiter, and Auxiliarist Roddy Whitaker engage people at the Auxiliary recreational boating safety information table. Photo by Linda Warren.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

It will be here before you know it – NSBW is technically 21 – 27 May, however we hold NSBW activities throughout the entire month of May. You can help by conducting vessel safety checks, program visits, social media postings, and many other activities that are being planned. You will hear more from Linda Warren, FSO-PA who is chairing this important recreational boating safety (RBS) event.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

Thank you and a hat tip to Greg Mundy, former FSO-VE, for delivering a robust VSC program in the first quarter. Greg and a small cadre of Vessel Examiners have completed annual exams at Saluda Shoals as well as at Fort Jackson. Ken Johnson has been appointed FSO-VE from 1 April. To learn about how you can become a certified Vessel Examiner, contact Ken at jkenjohnson@hotmail.com.

Vessel Examiners and anyone interested in becoming a VE, please attend any of the following scheduled dates at Jake's Landing, from 09:00 – 12:00. Greg Mundy is the VE point-of-contact for this VSC location.

MAR completed	2, 16, 30 APR	14 MAY	4, 11, 25 JUN
9, 23 JUL	6, 20 AUG	11, 18 SEP	2 OCT

BRAVO ZULU AWARD AND OTHER NOTABLES

We continue to recognize one Auxiliarist at each monthly membership meeting with a Bravo Zulu for their exceptional contributions, participation, devotion to duty, and a job well done. You must be in attendance at the meeting, however, to be recognized!

March – Linda Warren, FSO-PA

Congratulations go out to two of our newest members, Jackson Kamb and Sarah Liebenow, on achieving Basic Qualified (BQ) status!

Also congratulations to Barbara Burchfield on being recognized by Director of Auxiliary for Seventh Coast Guard District with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal (Gold Star in lieu of a third award).

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REPORT YOUR TIME



All members are reminded to report your mission time for recording in AuxData II. This can be accomplished by one of three ways: 1) use the [7029 Webform](#) to report mission code "99" hours and mileage, 2) submit the applicable reports by email to the [FSO-IS](#), or 3) enter your time in [AuxData II](#). If you have questions about reporting, or would like to learn more about using AuxData II, please email me at swhudson.cgaux@gmail.com.

NEXT FLOTILLA MEETING – 28 APR 2022

Please to join us at 19:00 on Thursday 28 April in our Zoom virtual flotilla meeting. Plan to come in a few minutes early for some social time and stay for the training session immediately after the meeting. The agenda and Zoom link will be published on the Monday preceding the meeting. We hope to see you there!