

Sitrep 6-11

News and happenings from Flotilla 6-11, 8CR, Division 6, Beaumont, TX



Happy holidays to each and every one of you. I hope this year finds all doing well and in good spirits.

This issue will pertain primarily to the Change of Watch ceremony held at Don's Sea Food restaurant in Beaumont and the installation of our new Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander.

Also in this issue, the Flotilla Commander expresses what he feels to be the direction the flotilla needs to take and the goals we need to achieve.

I hope to strive to make this a valuable source of information for our members and sincerely hope visitors to our web page will find things of interest as well.



Vessel safety checks help us make boating safer, one boat at a time.
One boater at a time.

Congratulations



Alvin Adams
Flotilla Commander



Dan Ward
Vice Flotilla Commander

Congratulations to Alvin Adams and Dan Ward for their election to the position of Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander respectively.

These two gentlemen have a daunting task ahead but each are aware of this and are eager to cast off and get underway charting a new course and steering the flotilla through the uncharted waters ahead.



The following persons were in attendance at the Change of Watch ceremony:

LCDR Kristi Luttrell,
Operations Officer,
Group Galveston

LTJG Karl Anforth,
MSO Port Arthur

CWO4 Chuck Bush and
Mrs. Bush
OIC Station Sabine

RCO H.K. "Bing" Hastings

DCP Ken Boncic and
Mrs. Boncic

FC Bill Cole and Mary

VFC Alvin Adams and Grace

Ken Herron and Mrs. Herron

Dan Ward and Emily

Charles and Eileen Murray

Catherine LaPointe and Herbert

Frank Leib and Terrie

Kyle Wheelus

Bill White



Flotilla 6-11 Goals for 2005

I would like to thank the members of Flotilla 6-11 for the honor of serving as Flotilla Commander for 2005. I will do my best to continue the work begun by Bill Cole and Frank Leib toward making Flotilla 6-11 a truly outstanding unit that we can all be proud of.

Working together, we can make this happen Our goals for the Flotilla should be first, to provide the best service we can to our customers, the U.S. Coast Guard and the boating public of Southeast Texas.

Here is how we can accomplish this:

Recruiting and Retention:

Our number one job. None of the other programs can succeed without additional members. I am asking each member to bring in at least one new member during the year, and of course we need to retain all our existing members.

Public Education:

We will bring the program to a greater number of the public by making it mobile with improved audio-visual equipment, by training at least one more instructor, and by getting at least one more State licensed instructor. We will also be changing to America's Boating Course during the year, which will improve our program and should increase our revenue.

Vessel Safety Checks and Marine Dealer Visits:

We have been neglecting this very important part of our mission. Our goal will be zero boating fatalities. To do this, we must train new Vessel Examiners and Marine Dealer Visitors and spend more time at the boat ramps. The time spent on "Preventive Search and Rescue" can save lives and money, and may even bring us new members.

Operations:

We will need new Coxswains and Facilities to keep up with our operational schedule and reduce the workload for our one facility and its Coxswain. We will qualify at least one new Coxswain and add at

least one new facility this year.

Coast Guard Operational and Administrative Support:

With new members, we can give more support to the Coast Guard by training Watch standers and assisting with routine administration. Our goal this year is at least 16 hours a month of Operational or Administrative support.

Flotilla Administration:

Staff Officers will communicate and cooperate to accomplish Flotilla administrative tasks in a timely and competent manner. Training will be provided.

On the Individual level our goals will be:

We will have each member qualified in at least one competency (Boat Crew, Vessel Examiner, Marine Dealer Visitor, or Instructor).

We will have each member complete at least one Specialty Course.

We will qualify at least one new Auxop member (we are within reach of having two).

We will qualify at least one new Coxswain.

We will have at least two members complete the Auxiliary Procedures Course (APC).

These may seem like unattainable goals, but I can assure you they are within our reach, and I intend to personally set the example. When we accomplish them, we will have the pride of knowing that we have performed a valuable service to our Country and to the boating public, and we will have the added benefit of recognition (the Silver Oar Award) that shows that our work will be appreciated and valued.

I am looking forward to a safe and successful boating year in 2005 and to working with all of you.

Alvin Adams
Flotilla Commander





We will continue to support our on the water operations. Part of this will be to qualify several new Boat Crew members and a few coxswains.

Flotilla 6-11 is a great group of people and I know we can accomplish many good things this year!

Dan Ward
Vice Flotilla Commander.

Thank you for entrusting me to serve as Vice Flotilla Commander for 2005. I will do my best to work with Alvin and the entire Flotilla to accomplish our many goals for this year.



I see the areas we need to focus on being Recruiting Public Education classes, and Public Education via Vessel Safety Checks.

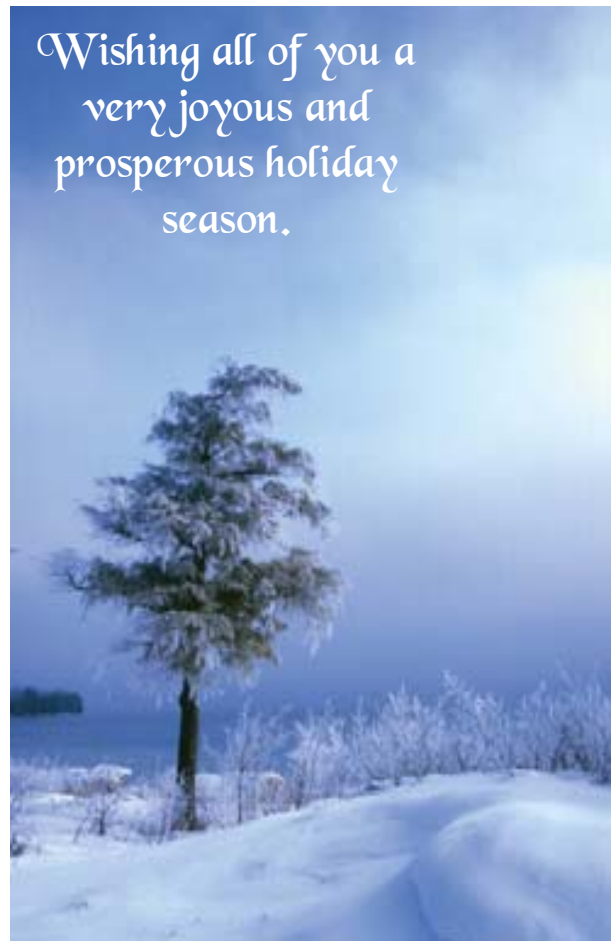
I want to encourage everyone to share their positive experiences about the Auxiliary with their friends, neighbors, and coworkers and invite them to come to a meeting or attend an event. The time we put into the Auxiliary demonstrates our dedication to the missions of the Auxiliary. We can better accomplish these missions if we have a larger pool of people willing to volunteer their time and energy.

Public Education classes and Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) are our best ways to educate the public. Please consider completing qualification as an Instructor or a Vessel Examiner.

We will be working on ways to increase visibility of our public education classes, including moving the location of the class. In doing this we also hope to make contacts with potential new members and educate a wider range of boaters.

We will be increasing the number and scope of our VSC ramp days. Our first VSC ramp day will be in conjunction with Safe Boating Week (mid May). In order to make this a success, we need at least two more examiners. VSC allow us to do "on the spot" boater education while checking their vessel for safety. It is also a good opportunity to plug our PE classes. You would be amazed the number of people who just don't know the basics of boating safety, and WANT to learn but don't know where to go. I am planning to have this first ramp day also be a social gathering for the flotilla with our first flotilla BBQ in several years. Please plan on joining us at the ramp for a day of VSCs, recruiting, and food. Details will follow once the dates are established

Wishing all of you a
very joyous and
prosperous holiday
season.



Come visit us at our Web site.
[Http://www.uscgaux.org/~0810611/](http://www.uscgaux.org/~0810611/)



Frankly Speaking....

By Frank Leib

Whether it is on patrol, teaching a public boating safety class, or performing a vessel safety check, our actions and our appearances reflect not only on us, but on the Coast Guard as well.

As a whole, the vast majority of the public is very unaware of the difference between the Coast Guard and us. Many may actually come to the boating safety classes somewhat intimidated by the uniform we wear, especially if they are in the class because of a violation. At the beginning of each class, we take the time and use our "captive" audience to expound on the Coast Guard Auxiliary and to explain our function in relation to the recreational boating safety programs as well as how all this ties in with the overall Coast Guard mission.

We also take this time to set them at ease with the course material and remind them that boating is a recreational activity that the entire family can join in. We also let them know that we hope to make them a better boater who can go out for a days boating, have a good time, get back home again so they can repeat the activity.

Many of these folks consider us an authority on boating. It is because of this that as instructors we must ensure that we stay up to date with rule changes and other things related to boating. The way we present this information or the way we answer questions once again reflects on the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.

We must demonstrate that yes, we can answer your questions, and yes, you can see us setting examples especially while on patrol, wearing PFD's. This is only the tip of the iceberg as far as our presenting the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary to the public. Everything we do or say reflects directly on Team Coast Guard whether for good or bad. Let us make sure we ALWAYS put our best foot forward.

Semper Paratus



COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
PATROL

Nautically speaking . . .

By Frank Leib

In this column, we will attempt to enlighten our members with a bit of nautical trivia by either sharing some sea story (dockside sailing) or introducing some nautical word or phrases to fill your vocabulary with nautical sense and nonsense!

Our first attempt at this will be to explain our publication's title, SITREP 6-11.

SITREP is the acronym for Situation Report. After trying on many different names for this newsletter, we felt that SITREP 6-11 is the best way to explain what this newsletter conveys. It is about how the flotilla is progressing throughout the year.

If anyone has an interesting bit of trivia or would just like to tell us about something that has impressed you or maybe encouraged you while participating in an Auxiliary event, please feel free to email me at **fleib@hotmail.com** and I will be happy to include your story, idea, or what have you in our newsletter. And oh by the way, recipes are always a favorite subject of mine.

Perhaps one of our new members might like to tell of their feelings about his or her first training patrol, or maybe their first vessel exam or class room setting as an instructor. Things like this help point out areas where we are doing well and maybe even areas that could use some improving.

In our next issue, I hope to have a patrol schedule listed so anyone can access it and see if they might be able to augment the listed crew. I know Kyle Wheelus is always happy to have additional smiling faces aboard during patrols and if you are in need of local waterway knowledge, then you owe it to yourself to get out with Kyle as often as possible.

I know I have enjoyed Kyle's insight into the local knowledge of our waterways.

Along that line I would like to thank Kyle for all the time he has given to Port Security and Safety Patrols.

Kyle, words can not express the admiration and gratitude I and many others have for you in your dedication to a safer waterway and port system.

THANK YOU KYLE