



THE SEXTANT

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A publication for and about the members of Division 10 1SR

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Semper Paratus – Always Prepared

by Claud Macchieraldo, Commander, Division 10



Claud Macchieraldo,
Commander, Division 10

The Coast Guard Family is deeply saddened by the recent loss of Coast Guard Aircraft 6017 near La Push, Washington. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our shipmates at Air Station Sitka and their families.

The loss of CG6017, in transit from Astoria, Oregon to Sitka, Alaska, underscores both the seriousness of the Coast Guard's mission, as well as its inherent dangers. While we, as Auxiliaries, may not face the same challenges our "gold side" counterparts do, the recent mishap, nonetheless, serves as an important reminder to be ... **Always Prepared.**

Regardless of the Auxiliary activity, there is no substitute for proper planning to stay safe and efficient. Yes, it's a message we've all heard before, but it's one I strongly feel needs repeating.

When planning any mission or activity, take the time to make sure you and your shipmates are fully prepared for the task at hand. And, that means not only making sure our personal equipment and facilities are in tip-top shape, but that we are mentally prepared, properly trained and physically ready for the upcoming activity.

For Coxswains, Pilots or other team leaders, no matter how many times you have undertaken a specific patrol or task, take a fresh look at what you will be doing and where you will be going. Consider all activity or mission parameters, including weather, crew, equipment and other factors. And, before shoving off from the dock, taking to the air or starting a project, be sure to fully brief team members on the purpose and scope of the mission or activity. Make sure everyone understands their individual roles, and once the activity is completed, take time to provide constructive feedback, if needed, and encouragement to all.

And finally, I encourage all Division 10 members to take advantage of every opportunity to sharpen our skills through ongoing training.

To quote a TV police sergeant who cautioned his patrolmen at each morning roll call, “Hey, let's be careful out there.”

– *Claud*

Meet Your Shipmate: Neil Bookspan, Flotilla 10-04



For Neil Bookspan of Flotilla 10-04, another USCG decal means another safe boater. Photo: B. Pritchard, Flotilla 10-20.

To say Neil Bookspan of Flotilla 10-04 is the “Grand Old Man of Vessel Exams” is not a reflection of age. Rather, like similar titles given to senior politicians and executives, the sobriquet recognizes Neil's experience and expertise in helping keep area boaters safe.

Working from his “post” at the boat launch on the Hudson River in Fort Lee, NJ, and other locations, Neil has conducted over 700 vessel exams, not only earning the appreciation of a generation of boat owners but the recognition of the “gold side”, as well.

Earlier this year, Captain Jack O'Brien, Immediate Past District Captain, Sector New York, presented Neil with a Gold Coast Guard Commander's Coin in Special Recognition for the the “high degree of efficiency” with which Neil runs the VE Station at the Ross Dock Park in the shadow of the George Washington Bridge. In making the presentation, Captain O'Brien singled out a vessel exam Neil and his “team” conducted last year that “revealed an extremely dangerous gas leak which, had the boat been launched and started, would certainly have resulted in an explosion and fire and possible harm to human life.”

Over the course of his twenty year career in the Auxiliary, Neil has earned a variety of ratings and held a number of staff and elected positions, to include Flotilla Commander, Vice Commander and various FSO and SO posts. For many years, Neil served as a Boat Crew, until medical issues precluded his serving aboard ship. In short order, Neil turned his attention to vessel exams,

explaining: “As much as I enjoyed the boat patrols, I quickly realized I could perform a valuable service for area boaters by helping keep them and their vessels safe.”

Flotilla 10-07 Hosts First Annual “Blessing of the Fleet” on Lake Hopatcong

By Arlene Petronaci FSO-PB 10-07



Chris Scarlata, Commander, Flotilla 10-07, left, greets District Captain Jack O'Brien at the First Annual Blessing of the Fleet on Lake Hopatcong.

Skies were gray and the air was as thick as pea soup, but not even inclement conditions could stop the more than 100 Auxiliary members and boating enthusiasts who turned out for the First Annual Blessing of the Fleet on Lake Hopatcong, on 23 May. The event was in the planning stages for months and included an ecumenical blessing by Auxiliary Chaplain, Scott Birdwell, who noted that these types of events had their origins with the people of the Mediterranean, hundreds of years ago. “The blessing originated as a way to offer good wishes and blessings to the sailors, many of whom would be out to sea for months and even years,” Birdwell said. Birdwell offered a prayer for all those who participate in activities on the Lake, including fishermen and swimmers. Also, Birdwell threw a ceremonial wreath into the Lake, in honor of those in service to our country who had “gone before.”

The event was also a day to engage the public about boating safety. There were information stations set up regarding life jackets, the Paddlesmart program, and public education. Even “Coastie” was there to entertain and educate the youngest boating enthusiasts. “The greatest thing about this day is the tremendous cooperation we received from our sister flotillas,” said Chris Scarlata, FC 10-07. “There were four flotillas represented here, with our shipmates aiding us as watch standers, interacting with the public, and even grilling! We were thrilled to have Dennis Leaver manning the Comms. Trailer, and Sal Cottone, 10-

20 , was kind enough to bring his fellow members of the Jefferson Fire Department to demonstrate how to extinguish a fire on a boat. And, finally, we were so happy that our Division Bridge attended, as well as Captain Jack O'Brien.”



Chris Scarlata, Commander, Flotilla 10-07, center, briefs members of Division 10 flotillas and local fire and police units that participated in the First Annual Blessing of the Fleet on Lake Hopatcong.

Also in attendance were members of the Mt. Arlington Town Council, the Mayor of Roxbury, Jim Rille, and Superintendent of the Hopatcong Schools, Mr. Charles Maranzano. Four local police departments, as well as two fire departments were there. Radio stations WDHA and WMTR were on hand to broadcast from the venue and to provide giveaways.

After the event, all who participated were invited to share in fellowship and a boat ride around the Lake. “We’re so thankful to all who contributed to the success of this day,” Scarlata said, “especially the members of Division 10 from other flotillas. We’re looking forward to making it an annual event.”

*The following is a potentially life-saving tip from the **Coast Guard Compass**, the Official Blog of the U.S. Coast Guard. Auxiliarists may wish to share this information with boaters during MDA patrols, marine dealer visits or when conducting vessel examinations.*

Take the SEARCH Out of SAR

Got DSC? Register and Connect:

Did you know that your VHF marine radio is likely equipped with a technology called DSC, or digital selective calling, that can help rescuers that the “search” out of search and rescue? Ever wonder how that red “distress” button on your radio works?

This is how: (Pay attention, this is important stuff; it could save your life.) IF PROPERLY REGISTER AND CONNECTED, that red button allows mariners to instantly send an automatically formatted distress alert and GPS location of your vessel to Coast Guard search and rescue units as well as other DSC-equipped vessels nearby.

Notice the “IF PROPERLY REGISTERED AND CONNECTED” screaming at you in all caps. That's the kicker ... the DSC VHF radio MUST BE properly registered with an MMSI number and be connected to your GPS in order to properly work!! This applies to mounted and handhold marine radios.



Screen of Standard Horizon 850S DSC Radio, in use by many Division 10 Aux Aviators, shows Position Report (or Distress Signal) sent, complete with MMSI number and GPS location.

Two simple steps:

Register:

This means obtaining the MMSI, or Maritime Mobile Service Identity, nine-digit unique identification number and carefully programming it into the radio.

MMSI's are regulated and managed internationally by the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva, Switzerland, just as radio call signs are regulated. Non-commercial users, for example recreational boaters, who stay in U.S. waters can obtain an MMSI through approved organizations such as BOAT US, SEA TOW, U.S. POWER SQUADRON, and Shine Micro (primarily for AIS). Most of these organizations provide MMSIs at no charge even to non-members.

Important: Before programming your MMSI into your radio, read your owner's manual. There may be a limited number of tries (likely only two attempts) before the radio locks out requiring you to send it back to the manufacturer for a re-set.

Connect to GPS.

All DSC-equipped radios, and most GPS receivers, have an NMEA 0183 two-wire data protocol allowing any model of GPS to be successfully interconnected

to any model of radio, regardless of manufacturer. Simply twisting, soldering or taping the wires together between the radio and the GPS will connect them.

Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant Tour



Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, as seen by Aux Aviators patrolling the Hudson River.

For many Auxiliary Boat Crew and Aviators patrolling the Hudson River, Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant has loomed large, imposing – and distant – at a bend in the river below West Point. Recently, through the efforts of David Stern of Flotilla 10-08, fourteen Division 10 Auxiliarists from four flotillas had an opportunity to view the facility ... close-up!



Division 10 Auxiliarists pause for a group photo during a recent tour of Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant.

Following lunch and an overview of activities at the facility, the Auxiliarists were given a guided tour of the sprawling power plant. Wearing hardhats, safety glasses and dosimeters (to periodically record radiation levels in controlled areas), the tour members inspected the enormous turbines and generators that produced electricity for region homes and industry, as well as areas where spent nuclear fuel rods are stored under water. At the end of the tour, all members were required to

pass through a decontamination machine and, as one Auxiliarist put it, no one left the facility glowing – save for the smiles on their faces as they left with a greater understanding of the activities of the Indian Point facility.

Upcoming: ICS 210 Classes

August 7 – Station Fire Island, NY

August 28 – Ft. Wadsworth, Staten Island, NY

September 25 – SECLIS, New Haven, CT

Instructor: AUX Donna Cole

To Register: Please send you name (as it is to appear on the course completion certificate), emplid and flotilla number to Donna Cole at donnacole@optonline.net

We welcome your comments and suggestions ...

The Editorial Staff of **THE SENTINEL** welcomes any and all suggestions and submissions by Division 10 members regarding the content and design of the newsletter. Please direct any inquiries or comments to William “Bill” Pritchard, SO-PB at wpritcharduscgaux@yahoo.com.
