

Commodore's Bulletin & Director's Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2019





**COMMODORE’S BULLETIN
AND DIRECTOR’S
NEWSLETTER
Winter/Spring 2019**

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit all articles, pictures, corrections, and updates to the DSO-PB, Susan Greene
sgreene817@hotmail.com
562-691-1365

WHO WE ARE

Since 1939, the men and women of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary have volunteered millions of hours in support of the U.S. Coast Guard and the recreational boating public. We are the uniformed civilian volunteer arm of the Coast Guard.

OUR MISSIONS

Recreational Boating Safety— consisting of our many boating safety classes, distributing boating safety information to the public, providing free vessel safety checks, and doing safety patrols on land, water and in the air. Support of Maritime Homeland Security and other maritime safety challenges that have emerged in recent years.

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Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX): CDR Paige A. Keenan USCG
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Los Angeles/Long Beach South (LA/LB-S): William Kopenski
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Legal: Michael C. Johnson
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District Commodore Administrative Asst: Mary Jo Aleks
District Commodore Aide: Karen H. Novo
District Commodore Aide: Patrick J. Porter
Auxiliary Sector Coordinator Los Angeles: Leslie "Jon" Ross
Auxiliary Sector Coordinator San Diego: Michael Fulgham
Auxiliary Affairs Specialist: Leslie B. Pelosi

Inside this issue:

Letter from the Commandant of US Coast Guard	Page 4
80 Years of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	Page 5—6
Aux Thrift	Page 7
Cover Story: LA/LB Celebrates Commissioning of the CGC Terrell Horne	Page 8
Remembering Our Shipmates	Page 9
2019 Memorial Marker Shipmates Who Crossed the Bar	Page 10
We Donate Bicycles, Toys, and Hope	Page 11
Upcoming Events	Page 12
We Want You: DCO Application	Page 13
Featured New Member: Dan Nguyen, Flotilla 62	Page 14
Introducing Huntington Beach Radio 2	Page 15

Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Karl Schultz, Issues Letter of Thanks to Auxiliary Members

Karl L. Schultz, Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

(Photo courtesy of the Coast Guard)



On March 12, 2019, the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard released the following letter of thanks to the members of the Auxiliary applauding their efforts during the recent partial government shut-down.

***“To the Men and Women of the
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary,***

Please accept my most sincere appreciation for the Auxiliary's outpouring of care and consideration extended to our entire Coast Guard family during the recent lapse in appropriations. I was humbled by the generosity and support you provided in the face of this unprecedented personal, financial, and emotional challenge imposed upon all segments of our mission ready total workforce. Your generous giving of time, effort, and personal resources in normal "day-to-day" circumstances is always notable; however, the extent to which the Auxiliary exceeded "normal ops" during the partial government shutdown went above and beyond all expectations. Across the Service, Auxiliarists availed themselves to lend active duty, reserve, and civilian team members tangible support, service, and a compassionate ear. The comfort and reassurance you provided Coast Guard women and men, particularly our junior personnel, were invaluable to bolstering their confidence that such daunting uncertainty would be fully resolved, and that no member of the Coast Guard family was ever alone.

Your unflagging resilience during this remarkably challenging period reflected your constant commitment to our Service. Such instrumental support helped ensure the Coast Guard stood ready to "stand the watch."

Thank you for your indelible support to Coast Guard personnel and for helping to cement our public trust. Semper Paratus!”

Respectfully,

Karl L. Schultz

Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Cover: Coast Guard Cutter Terrell Horne during commissioning ceremonies at US Coast Guard base San Pedro. The Terrell Horne is one of four new Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutters to be stationed at sector LA/LB along with CGC Robert Ward, CGC Benjamin Bottom, and CGC Forrest Reddenour. Photo by Richard Horner, 12-4

80 Years of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary



Founding

The development of the single-operator motorboat, and later the outboard engine, during the early 20th century increased the number of recreational boaters operating on federal waters. By 1939 there were more than 300,000 personal watercraft in operation. The previous year the United States Coast Guard had received 14,000 calls for assistance and had responded to 8,600 "in-peril" cases.

The Coast Guard Reserve Act of 1939 was passed by the United States Congress creating a civilian reserve force for the United States Coast Guard that would have four specified responsibilities. They were charged with promoting safety at sea, increasing boater efficiency for citizens of the United States, assisting them with laws and compliance, and supporting Active Duty members of the Coast Guard. Boat Owners were organized into flotillas within Coast Guard districts around the United States. They conducted safety and security patrols and helped enforce the 1940 Federal Boating and Espionage Acts.

In 1941 Congress passed a law to restructure the Coast Guard Reserve which was created just two years earlier. The Coast Guard would hence forth have two reserve forces. The existing civilian organization would be renamed the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. In addition, the United States Coast Guard Reserve was created that year and would have military and law enforcement responsibilities.

During World War II

During World War II many Auxiliarists became temporary members of the Coast Guard Reserve. The temporary members brought their boats which would be used for safety patrols. Coast Guard Headquarters allowed some of those boats to be equipped with machine guns and they could carry pistols and rifles on patrols. In 1941 the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, and Coast Guard Auxiliary were transferred from the United States Treasury Department to the United States Department of the Navy and in 1942 the Coast Guard Auxiliary was authorized to wear uniforms.

During the war Auxiliarists would help the Coast Guard with recruiting and training active duty personnel. Beginning in 1942, in response to the growing Nazi German U-Boat threat to the United States, the U.S. Navy ordered the acquisition of the "maximum practical number of civilian craft in any way capable of going to sea in good weather for a period of at least 48 hours." A large number of vessels, owned and piloted by Auxiliarists with crews made-up of Coast Guard reservists, made-up the bulk of the American coastal anti-submarine warfare capability during the early months of World War II. As newly constructed warships took over the load, the Coast Guard abandoned the concept. None of the two thousand civilian craft, armed with depth charges stowed on their decks, ever sank a submarine, though they did rescue several hundred survivors of torpedoed merchant ships. From 1942 through the rest of the war Auxiliarists and Coast Guard reservists served on local Port Security Forces to protect the shipping industry.

Post World War II Activities

In 1950 National Commodore Bert Pouncey was elected and the National Board for the Coast Guard Auxiliary was established. In 1955 Auxiliarists started to participate in programs to support the recruitment of potential candidates for the United States Coast Guard Academy.

The North American Boating Campaign was originally known as "Safe Boating Week," observed by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as a Courtesy Examination weekend in Amesburg, Massachusetts in June 1952. This tradition continued until 1957 when an official National Safe Boating Week observation took place sponsored by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in various parts of the country. As a result, the U.S. Coast Guard prepared a Resolution, and on June 4, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed PL 85-445, to establish National Safe Boating Week as the first week starting on the first Sunday in June.

Early in 1973, budget cuts forced the closing of seven Coast Guard stations on the Great Lakes. At the request of the affected communities, Congress ordered the stations to be re-opened and operated by the Auxiliary. The local division captains took responsibility for manning them and ensuring that Auxiliarists' boats were always available to assist distressed vessels. The Auxiliary later took over seven more stations on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

In 1976 the Coast Guard commissioned a study of the Auxiliary by a private research firm, University Sciences Forum of Washington. After interviewing key personnel in the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary and analyzing questionnaires filled out by about two thousand Auxiliarists, the researchers concluded that that Auxiliary was in good health. "In summary," they wrote, "we consider the Auxiliary the greatest economical resource readily available to the COGARD. It performs in an outstanding manner and its personnel are among the most professional group of volunteers in the nation."



In April 1980, the government of Cuba began to allow any person who wanted to leave Cuba to assemble in Mariel Harbor and take their own transport. The U.S. Coast Guard, working out of Seventh District Headquarters in Miami, Florida, rescued boats in difficulty, inspected vessels for adequate safety equipment, and processed refugees. The Auxiliary was heavily involved in assisting with this effort.

Enhanced role

Prior to 1997, Auxiliarists were largely limited to activities supporting recreational boating safety. In 1997, however, new legislation authorized the Auxiliary to participate in any and all Coast Guard missions except direct military and direct law enforcement. Auxiliarists may directly augment active duty Coast Guard personnel in non-combat, non-law enforcement roles (e.g. radio communications watch stander, interpreter, cook, etc.) and may assist active duty personnel in inspecting commercial vessels and maintaining aids-to-navigation. Auxiliarists may support the law enforcement and homeland security missions of the Coast Guard but may not directly participate (make arrests, etc.), and Auxiliarists are not permitted to carry a weapon while serving in any Auxiliary capacity.

Department of Homeland Security

In 2003 the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, and Auxiliary were realigned to be under the United States Department of Homeland Security. As of 2004, the Coast Guard Auxiliary had 35,000 members who collectively provided 2 million man hours of service annually.

Recognition

In May 2006, at the Change of Command ceremony when Admiral Thad Allen took over as Commandant, President George W. Bush awarded the entire Coast Guard, including the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation with hurricane device, for its efforts during and after Hurricane Katrina and Tropical Storm Rita.

On June 19, 2009, the Commandant of the Coast Guard awarded the Coast Guard Unit Commendation to Auxiliary members for "performance...nothing short of stellar" from the period of June 24, 1999, to June 23, 2009.

On the 75th anniversary of the USCG Auxiliary, June 23, 2014, the Commandant awarded another Coast Guard Unit Commendation ribbon to all Auxiliarists.

Today there are over 30,000 Auxiliarists (men and women) who provide millions of hours in support of Coast Guard missions. The Auxiliary has been assigned by the Commandant the primary responsibility for many recreational boating safety tasks, including public boating safety education and voluntary Vessel Safety Checks (formerly called Courtesy Examinations). Additionally, Auxiliarists use their own vessels boats and aircraft (once registered as Coast Guard facilities) to conduct safety patrols, aid in search and rescue missions, and perform other tasks on behalf of the Coast Guard.

Source: Wikipedia

Aux Thrift

Aux Thrift is the District 11 South Materials Used Uniform and Accessories program for our members offering used items at a fraction of the cost of new.

Donate your uniforms

If you are interested in helping your fellow members by donating your uniforms and accessories, please email us so that we may arrange the easiest way to collect your donation.

Donations may also be dropped off at Base LA/LB in San Pedro on Tuesdays.

Visit the District 11 South Materials webpage at: www.d11sr.org and learn more about the Used Uniform Program and what we have to offer.

Volunteers Needed

Want to help build the program and manage inventory and orders?

Contact Desiree de Liser at: www.auxthrift11sr@gmail.com

Used Tropical
blue shirt
\$5—\$7

Tropical
blue pants
\$10

Belt and
Buckle
\$5

Garrison hat
\$4

Currently, we have new D11South logo items including garment bags, aluminum water bottles, camelback water bottles, mugs, mouse pads, polo shirts, fleece vests, and many more.





Cover Story

LA/LB Celebrates Commissioning of CGC Terrell Horne

The sun was shining, the breeze was crisp and the sound of waves lapping at the pier could be heard at Coast Guard Base Los Angeles-Long Beach. Family members, shipmates and friends of a fallen Coast Guard hero gathered March 21, 2019, to celebrate the life of Senior Chief Petty Officer Terrell Edwin Horne III, with a commissioning of a cutter named in his honor.

Horne was serving as the executive petty officer of the Coast Guard Cutter Halibut in 2012, when he led a boarding team on a counter-smuggling operation off the coast of Southern California. Accompanied by three crew members, Horne deployed the cutter's small boat to investigate a suspicious vessel. Shortly after the Coast Guard crew approached the vessel and identified themselves as law enforcement, the smugglers accelerated their panga towards the boarding team.

When the panga's impact became imminent, Horne pushed his coxswain out of the way and exposed himself to the oncoming collision. Horne made the ultimate sacrifice.

The cutter's new crew – the plankowners – went aboard, manned the rails and rendered honors, bringing the cutter to life as Coast Guard aircraft flew overhead in salute. Horne's shipmates who were with him on the Halibut's small boat the night he died were also made honorary plankowners for the new cutter to ensure their bravery, dedication and spirit of public service will also live on in the deck plates of the most fitting tribute to a true Coast Guard hero – the Coast Guard Cutter Terrell Horne.

Excerpt from The Coast Guard Compass "A Fitting Tribute—The Commissioning of Coast Guard Cutter Terrell Horne" by Seaman Ryan Estrada

On a recent gloomy June morning an enthusiastic group of Auxiliarists from Divisions 6 and 11 were guests of the CGC Terrell Horne as the crew conducted sea trials including high speed maneuvers. Auxiliarists were made to feel at home by the crew and were even allowed to remain on the bridge to observe the new GAR, how they plotted their position and conduct lookout watch standing. To put it mildly, a great time was had by all.

Back row L-R: Joel Kaplan, Gary Bean, Susan Greene, Angelo Skiparnias, Desiree DeLiser and Jim Babcock. Kneeling L-R: Bill Kopinski, Lt. Beal, CO of CGC Terrell Horne, Jon Ross, Neal Greene, and Rudy Lopez. *Photo courtesy of Neal Greene*



Fast Response Cutter

The Sentinel-class fast response cutter is a key component of the Coast Guard's offshore fleet that is capable of deploying independently to conduct missions that include port, waterways and coastal security; fishery patrols; search and rescue; and national defense.

Named after Coast Guard enlisted heroes, the FRCs are replacing the aging Island-class 110-foot patrol boats. The Sentinel-class cutter project delivers vital capability to the Coast Guard, helping to meet the service's need in the coastal zone and adjacent waters. Operationally, FRCs saved 21 lives and interdicted over 14,200 pounds of cocaine – valued at over \$191.3 million – and 874 migrants in fiscal year 2018.

Characteristics

- Number Planned: 58
- Length: 154 feet
- Beam: 25 feet
- Draft: 9 feet 6 inches
- Displacement: 353 long tons
- Maximum Speed: 28+ knots
- Range: 2,500 nautical miles
- Endurance: Five days
- Crew: 24

Features

- Enhanced response time with a minimum top speed of 28 knots
- Ability to conduct missions on moderate seas up to transit speed for eight hours in all directions
- Ability to survive on very rough seas up to loiter speed for eight hours in all directions
- Armed with a stabilized 25-mm machine gun mount and four crew-served .50-caliber machine guns
- Fully interoperable command and control systems with Coast Guard existing and future assets and with the departments of Homeland Security and Defense

Source: USCG Acquisitions Directorate uscg.mil



Remembering Our Shipmates

By Barbara DeCuir, Flotilla 12-5

Memorial Marker Ceremony – This year’s commemoration to our members took on some new challenges. Almost all the members participating in the day’s events were new to the putting on the Ceremony. Planning also had a small window because of the government shutdown and the earlier date in which the Ceremony was held this year due to conflicts with the Coast Guard’s schedule.

However, all the members involved stepped up and forged ahead to make it a very memorable day under the leadership of Eric and Barbara De Cuir and as always, the assistance of Leslie Pelosi, Auxiliary Affairs. Even though it started out to be a misty and foggy day, the weather cleared enough to allow us to have a beautiful ceremony.

Pat O’Leary, Vice President Past Division Commanders Association, served as the Master of Ceremonies. COMO Harry Jacobs, PDCA President, welcomed us to the ceremony. Maurice Scott, led the Honor Guard as it presented the flag and raised it to half-staff. The audience was then treated to three inspiring speeches given by CDR Marshall Newberry, Chief of Prevention. Sector LA/LB, CDR Paige Keenan, Director of Auxiliary D11sr, and COMO Chris Harshfield, District Commodore D11SR.

A beautiful invocation and benediction were given by our Lay Leader Wayne Palmer, and Will Tisch played the bag pipes which created a very emotional effect. As always, the active duty Coast Guard provided the cannon fire, lead by Chief Michael Hall. That was a very chilling reminder of the sacrifices everyone has made for us in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

A fly over of an Auxiliary Aircraft, owned by Paul Raymond, was piloted by Michael Domino and Air Crew Greg Fucci was a beautiful tribute to all the members. Rob Tanner rang Eight Bells and Victoria Jacobs read each member’s name who crossed the bar. Bear Harshfield, in charge of sound, made sure everyone presenting could be heard and Roy Lay coordinated the cannon fire and aircraft flyover. COMO Bert Blanchette made sure pictures were taken to memorialize this event.



The most inspiring, memorable and tear-jerking portion of the ceremony was the tributes members made to each of the fallen. They talked about making lifetime friends, how they were motivated, encourage and learned from these members. In some cases, how they had changed their lives in a positive way.

Barry Chapman, Auxiliary Chef, and the galley crew made sure we were well fed following the event.

2019 MEMORIAL MARKER SHIPMATES WHO CROSSED THE BAR

Henry N. Alcott

Richard E. Baron

Ralph B. Bettman

Judith Castle

Marlene J. Charton

Carey A. Daus

Donald C. Delles

Walter L. Dexter

Helen Emer

Bernerd R. Granich

Eugene "Dean" Hadley

Robert E. Holm

Harriet L. Howard

Thurman W. Jessup

Michael P. Kane

Paul L. Krieger

La Verna A. Larkin

Melvin Lubman

Robert W. McFarland

Josephine G. Mendoza

Stephen A. Nesmith

Carl Printz

Santo A. Regalbuto

David S. Rowley

Fernando Sendra

John R. Sommer

Damaso "Gunny" Sutis

Hal Swaim

Joan E. Swartz

Walter E. Weiss

We Donate Bicycles, Toys, and Hope

By Patricia Swope and Jeremy Thio

In December of 2018, the generosity of District 11SR exceeded expectations and provided much needed goodwill during the Christmas season and at a critical time in Coast Guard history. Sector L.A./L.B. volunteer Pat Swope writes,

Many, many thanks to you all for your generosity to the Coast Guard kids. Through your efforts as well as other flotillas in Division 6 plus donations from other Divisions and Flotillas, we once again exceeded our expectations in helping to make this Christmas a very happy one for the kids. Please note in the picture that there are SEVEN bikes. In 2015, Division 10 brought one bike; the next year Division 10 donated 2 bikes and Division 9 sent 1 bike plus 2 from Division 11. Last year Division 10 gave 3 bikes and Division 11 gave 2. Bravo Zulu to the Auxiliary members in all the Divisions who have helped to make this another banner year for our Coast Guard kids.

Little did we Auxiliarists expect the partial government shutdown just around the corner – one that would last more than a month and one that would impact members of the U.S. Coast Guard so greatly. Later on, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Schultz remarked to his fellow Coastguardsmen, “We’re five-plus weeks into the anxiety and stress of this government lapse and your non-pay. You as members of the armed forces should not be expected to shoulder this burden. I remain heartened by assistance available to you ... and the outpouring of support from local communities across the nation” (Wolfgang, 2019). As the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, let us be proud of the support we provide to the Coast Guard. We never really know how far it goes.



DIRAUX staff celebrate the generosity of District 11SR flotillas in donating toys to Coast Guard families during the Christmas 2018 season. Photo courtesy of DirAux staff

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION		
Every Tuesday	D11SR Administrative Radio Net	1930			
4 Jul	4TH of July Holiday				
12 Jul	District Board and Staff Meeting	1800	Conference Call		
22—25 Aug	NACON Register at: https://www.cgauxa.org/auxa/nacon-2019/		Rosen Centre Hotel	Orlando, FL	
2 Sep	Labor Day				
6 Sep—8 Sep	Tall Ships Festival	0900—2000	Ocean Institute	24200 Dana Point Harbor Dr.	Dana Point
13—15 Sep	District Board and Staff Meeting	1000	Sector LA/LB	Lighthouse Room	San Pedro
14 Sep	PDCA Meeting and Election		Sector LA/LB	San Pedro	

WE WANT YOU

To be able to provide the best qualified personnel to serve in our District Staff Officer position this year we are asking all of those interested, including those already serving as DSO to fill out a simple application. This will help us choose the best possible member to lead us in 2020.

All application should be submitted no later than 15 November 2019 to Charlie Geiger, DCOS.

It can be downloaded from the District website under Breaking News by following this link:

<http://www.d11s.org/breaking-news.php>



Featured New Member

By Rudy Lopez, 62

Meet Don Nguyen, Flotilla 62's newest member. Don came to us after stopping by the PA Booth set up at the Veteran's Day Celebration held at the Orange County Fair in November, 2018. After talking to our Coast Guard Auxiliary, he contacted Flotilla 62 inquiring about joining. On 27 MAR 19, Don was sworn in at the Flotilla 62 meeting. A week later, on 02 APR 19, Don was honored at a Los Angeles Dodgers Baseball game held at Dodger Stadium as the Military Hero of the Game.

Don is a 27 year military Veteran who retired in January, 2015 as an U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel (O5) with communications signal intelligence cybersecurity IT expertise with multiple joint humanitarian (hurricanes & medical) communications disaster response operations with FEMA, joint interagency drugs-narcotics intelligence operations with US Coast Guard, DEA, & multiple local/state/federal law enforcement agencies, and multiple overseas Iraq War combat deployments.

You see, Don's wife heard about the Military Hero of the Game Program at Dodger Stadium and in November, 2018 submitted a letter for them to consider selecting Don as their "Hero".

In the letter, she wrote that Don Nguyen was born in 1969 in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and that following the war his family escaped and left the newly occupied Vietnam Communist Regime seeking freedom and opportunity for a better life in 1978.



Photo provided by Don Nguyen, Flotilla 62

She further wrote that his family survived as political "boat people refugees" and experienced starvation, dehydration, turbulent weather, and without fuel, drifted in the South China Sea until rescued by the UNICEF international humanitarian effort. She added that Don was just ten years old when he immigrated to America in November of 1979. He grew up in Houston, Texas and quickly learned the English language, and how to become an American. She included that Don began his military career with the Air Force in 1988 and retired in 2015 as a U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, having served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, served in post 9/11 Operation Noble Eagle, and served in two consecutive combat deployment tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was an easy decision for the Dodger Organization in making their selection, citing his Vietnam War Political Refugee survival, his immigration to America and his military service to our Nation.

Flotilla 62 is very fortunate, proud and honored to have Don as a member. We thank him for his service and welcome him to the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Introducing Huntington Beach Radio 2

Coast Guard Auxiliary's newest Fixed Land Radio Facility

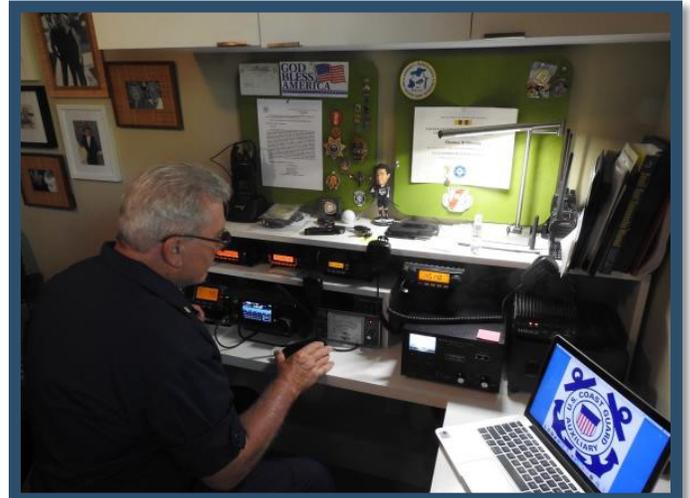
By Jeremy Thio, 66

The Coast Guard Auxiliary now has another fixed land radio facility working the area of Huntington Beach. The station, officially recognized as **Huntington Beach Radio 2** (HBR2) is a fixed land based station operated principally by Tom Oberlin, FSO-CM (pictured) from our Flotilla 62.

HBR2, located in Huntington Beach, was inspected and deemed operational this year and adds an ever-so-important radio link to our base-to-patrol boats and to the Coast Guard. The benefits of this location also allows communications to reach some areas not easily attainable by Auxiliary Radio Newport due to terrain.

This station now compliments our radio systems capabilities along the southern California coast.

For more information about HBR2, contact Tom Oberlin at kj6cm59@yahoo.com.



All photos taken by Rudy Lopez Jr, Flotilla 62 FSO-PB.





SEMPER PARATUS
ALWAYS READY

