

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Commander (dpa-s)
Eleventh Coast Guard District
1001 S. Seaside Ave., Bldg. 39
San Pedro, CA 90731-7391

Commodores' Bulletin and District 11SR Newsletter

Arizona / Southern Nevada /
Southern Utah / Southern California

A NEW BEGINNING

We kicked off the year with one of our finest District Conferences. This conference exceeded all records and was the result of your inputs to the questionnaire and our hard working conference committees. This is your D11 SR Auxiliary. I want to make your experience fun and in the spirit of your majority desires.

We have now completed the PSI process for existing members and have lost a total of nearly 17% of our D11 SR membership from last year. It is now time to rebuild and above all retain our membership. I have heard the statement from the Coast Guard in D11 that they: "Have fun doing great things". As a part of that we, as part of that team, should also do the same. If we, as volunteers, don't have fun doing worthwhile and challenging tasks to help our fellow recreational boaters, and our

Coast Guard parent, we will not be around long. I have asked for goals, for goals are our course to follow, and a measurement of our accomplishments. I would like to give you my major goals for 2007-8:

- To increase and maintain our membership from a membership of 1,644 in January 2007 to a membership of 1,725 in January 2008, and 1,800 in January of 2009.
- Increase membership direct support to the Coast Guard from 66 in Jan 2007 to 80 in Dec. 2008.
- Start a Local Interpreter Corps to support the two Sectors on an as-needed basis.

- To document, understand, and evaluate, our repeater communications systems.

I, as navigator, can only set the course. You must each take up the challenge to keep D11 SR the best by following that course. You must point our District in the right direction, balance the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) programs with the requested tasks to directly support the Coast Guard, and have fun doing it.



In short- **"You must have fun doing great things!"**

Semper Paratus!

Bob Sterzenbach, DCO

Inside this issue:

A New Beginning Bob Sterzenbach, DCO	Front Page
Now For The Job At Hand Jon Eric De Cuir, VCO	3
Presidential Citation	4
Calendar of Events	5
District Conference Photos	6
New Member Recruiting, Retention and Training Dale Zimmermann, RCO, LA/LB	7
Plan for What is Important Today Richard Kolligian, RCO-LA-N	8
Proud to the Core PA1 Anastasia M. Devlin	9
San Diego AOR Michael Fulgham, RCO-SD	10
Happenings in the Inland Division Michael C. Johnson, RCO-I	11
Covered for Injuries only While Assigned to Duty Dick Symons, CDR	12
Complete TCT and ICS Training Chris Ruleman CWO	13

Commodores' Bulletin and District Newsletter

Editors:

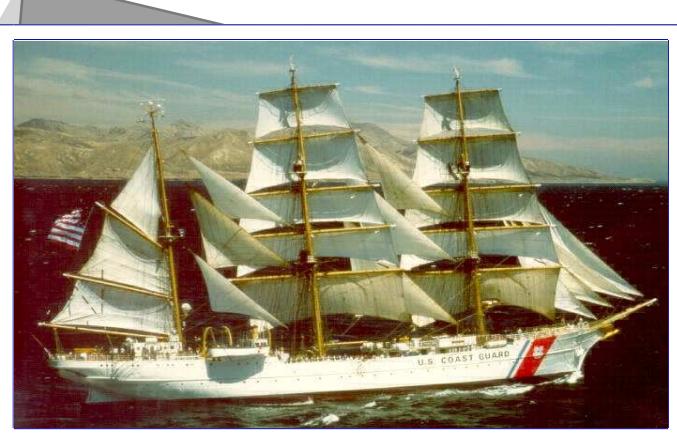
Gerri Flynn, ADSO-PB
gerriflynn@aol.com

Bud Lathrop, ADSO-PB
lathrop@commspeed.net

Bert Blanchette, ADSO-PB
bertdm@earthlink.net

Phyllis Mills, ADSO-PB
msflis@aol.com

Ray Pages, Staff Photographer
rjpages@hollyrock.tv



NOW, FOR THE JOB AT HAND

The new year has begun. Many of us have held our Change of Watch ceremonies. Now, everyone is just settling into our new Auxiliary positions.

Many of us are now looking at what's ahead of us. And we are all asking the same thing; "How do we get all of our jobs done?" Our numbers are now fewer and our tasks are becoming greater. The question of "how to get it all done" is at the forefront of our minds.

As I think about the solution to this important problem, I am reminded of a story that took place just after the turn of the last century. Charles M. Schwab, an American industrialist, was serving as the president of Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

One day, Ivy Lee, one of Mr. Schwab's employees at Bethlehem Steel, offered to improve the company's productivity. Schwab responded, "We don't need more knowing but we need more doing! If you can give us something to pep us up to do the things we already know we ought to do, I'll gladly pay you anything within reason that you ask."

Lee handed Schwab a blank sheet of notepaper and said "Write down the most important tasks you have tomorrow and number them in the order of their importance. Put this paper in your pocket and first thing tomorrow look at item one and start working on it until it is finished. Tackle the second item the same way. Continue to do this until

quitting time. Don't be concerned if you only finished one or two. Take care of emergencies, but then get back to working on the list."

"Do this every working day. If you've convinced yourself of the value of this system have your employees try it. Try it as long as you wish and then send me a check for what you think it is worth."

For the next few weeks Charles Schwab tried it and was so impressed he had his entire company using the system. With that system, in five years time Bethlehem Steel grew into one of the largest and most profitable steel producer's in the world.

I believe the challenge of accomplishing all of our Auxiliary missions is similar to Charles Schwab's need to find a better way of doing things. "We need more doing!" as Mr. Schwab proclaimed.

I believe a good starting point can be found in our own National Commodore's vision of success through his three R's of recruitment, retention and responsibility. By putting those words intelligently to work, we can achieve our goal of "Getting all the jobs done".

Let's all benefit from Mr. Ivy Lee's innovation and advice. Beginning tomorrow, take 15 minutes of your day and make your list the three R's of COMO Budar's vision of Recruitment, Retention and Responsibility.

Take five minutes and call a prospective new member. Take a sincere interest in THEIR interest. Help them understand who we are. Find out what brings us together. Through this, WE WILL accomplish balanced recruitment.



Then, take another 5 minutes doing something to improve retention. Fill out that RSVP to the flotilla BBQ, or call that member you haven't seen at your flotilla meetings for some time. Through this, WE WILL retain our members.

And finally, take five minutes to fill out that mission form or work on that monthly report that's due. Through these actions, WE WILL meet our responsibilities.

You may ask, "What is the value of all this?" For Charles Schwab, he was so impressed with what happened to Bethlehem Steel, he sent Ivy Lee a check for \$25,000. For us, I believe we will find it priceless.

Jon Eric De Cuir, VCO
USCG Auxiliary, District 11SR



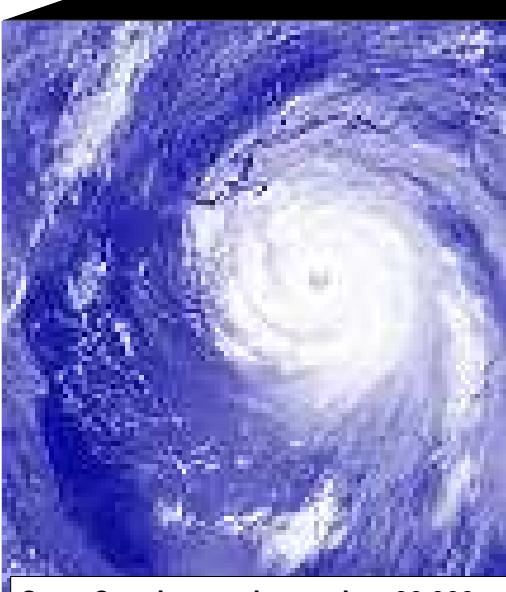
Presidential Citation—Hurricane Katrina

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

"For meritorious achievement and outstanding performance in action from 29 August to 13 September 2005 in preparation for, and response and recovery to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. The United States Coast Guard anticipated the potential for significant loss of life and property and, in advance of Hurricane Katrina, relocated its personnel, vessels, and aircraft out of harm's way. The Coast Guard successfully executed multiple primary missions throughout the Gulf Coast in the wake of the worst natural disaster in United States history. Responding with more than

4,500 personnel, 130 small boats, 4 cutters, and 60 aircraft to devastation and despair across more than 90,000 square miles and 6,400 miles of coastline, the Coast Guard rescued more than 33,000 people, began cleanup operations of million gallons of oil, replaced and repaired over 1,800 aids to navigation, and most importantly provided hope to hundreds of thousands displaced citizens through its proactive and vigorous actions. This inspiring response is a direct result of the spirit and practice of operational initiative, positive leadership and courage of

the total Coast Guard force of active duty, reserve, auxiliary and civilian members. Every Coast Guard man and woman demonstrated superior professional, commitment, humanitarianism, tenacity, tactical acumen, technical expertise, compassion and support while maintaining the highest level of operational readiness. By their outstanding courage, resourcefulness, and aggressive actions under desperate conditions, the members of the United States Coast Guard reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States of America.



Coast Guard rescued more than 30,000 people

All Coast Guard members are authorized to wear the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon with "special clasp in the form of the internationally recognized "hurricane symbol".





CALENDAR

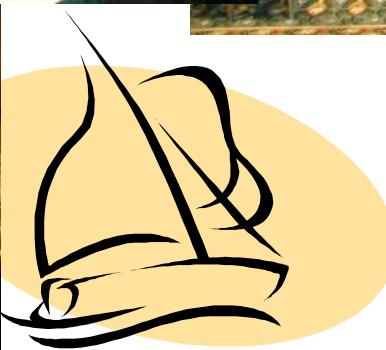
For more calendar and news information go to: www.d11s.org

April	U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
Alcohol Awareness Month Don't Drink and Boat	www.ncadd.org www.uscgboating.org/safety/bui/bui.htm
Palm Sunday	April 1
National Volunteer Week	April 1-21 www.pointsoflight.org
Passover Begins (Tues)	April 3
Good Friday / Easter Sunday	April 6—8
DEXCOM by phone (Thurs)	April 19
May	U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
Clean Air Month	Be safe while cleaning up our waters—wear your life jacket, boat earth-friendly—don't pollute, is your boat earth-friendly?
Memorial Marker Service BBQ Picnic	May 5 San Pedro
District Board & Staff Mtg	May 5 San Pedro
PCA BRUNCH Radisson Whittier Hotel	May 6 Whittier
Mother's Day	May 13
Armed Forces Day	May 19 www.defenselink.mil/afd/
National Safe Boating Week	May 19—25 www.safeboatingcampaign.com
Memorial Day	May 28
June	U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
Flag Day	June 14 www.flagday.org
Father's Day	June 17



Color Guard
Struts Their
Stuff!

A trip to the South
Pacific !!



District Conference
January 2007
Costa Mesa, California

Yes, YES,
YES!!



New Member Recruiting, Retention and Training

Now that we are nearing the end of the Change of Watch season and the weather is warming up, it's time to get out and get to work. While you are out performing VSC's and RBS visits, teaching classes and at PA events, think about recruiting new members. Remember that we lost a large number of members through the PSI process over and above the normal attrition. We also need to concentrate on retention and training.

For those in the Operations program, remember that we have new requirements to meet and that many of you will need your three-year QE check ride this year. To help with that, we are planning on having an OPEX June 22-24. Your Flotilla Commander and/or Operations Staff Officer will keep you informed of the details.

Dale Zimmermann
RCO, LA/LB South



ALWAYS REMEMBER... When you are in uniform or when you are on, near, with, around a Facility, whether it is a Coast Guard Facility or an Auxiliary Facility YOU represent the Coast Guard and EVERY THING it stands for. As far as the public is concerned YOU ARE THE COAST GUARD. Whatever you say or do reflects on the COAST GUARD. "TEAM COAST GUARD".





Plan for What Is Important Today...

Welcome 2007. So long 2006. The 3-year PSI process was concluded in 2006. Effective immediately the new member PSI process, using the new 2007 form, will begin in our district. Bravo Zulu to all the PSI screeners for their outstanding efforts.

I would like to thank our members for attending and supporting the very successful 2007 D11sr Training Conference. The materials presented and discussions in the workshops were lively and informative. However, our success depends not only on good material and ideas but also on members to implement them. Bravo Zulu to our Commodore Sterzenbach and to Chris Rhamy and his very capable and untiring TEAM.

One of my goals for the Big Picture is to strategically plan for what is important today, and evolve and grow as a TEAM or 'family' Coast Guard for the long road ahead. I would like to emphasize and reinforce NACO Steve Budar's watchwords "Achieving mission excellence thru Recruiting, Retention and Re-

sponsibility is not a goal but a process". I am looking forward to (net) growth in membership in our Divisions. It is nice to recruit, but we absolutely must retain our members. Education and proper training is key to retention. Let us all execute the plan into ACTION.

In January, I attended the AUX-05 RCO Academy in St. Louis. I had the unique opportunity to meet, learn and to share ideas, goals, ambitions, failures and successes with other District RCOs from the Atlantic (East), Atlantic (West) and Pacific Areas. The workshop provided senior leadership interaction and the hands-on leadership tools needed at the RCO level. The training staff/facilitators provided excellent presentations with very useful subject matter targeting the appropriate leadership competencies.

All of us should observe our uniform policies. We must be observant of our fellow Auxiliarist's uniform and its correctness, squaring away the member, if need be. I am proud to be an Auxiliarist.

A joint LA/LB area OPEX is tentatively scheduled the same weekend as the Charles Redmon Radio Field Day, June 22-24. Plans are also in work with LA-N and LA-S combining for a fourth cornerstone event. More information regarding these two major events will be forthcoming as details are put in place.

Richard Kolligian, RCO LA-N



PROUD TO THE CORE

Friday, February 16, 2007

By PA1 Anastasia M. Devlin - U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Detachment, San Diego

Eighty-year-old Auxiliarist, Damaso H. Sutis, found his way to the U.S. Coast Guard after serving 24 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. and another 24 years teaching industrial technology to high school students.

Damaso H. Sutis joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1944 and spent the next 24 years serving his country until he retired.

An auxiliarist 60 years in the making

He's a social butterfly with a buzz cut. His bright eyes, framed by thick glasses, reflect a passion for telling great stories, but the sharp creases in his uniform show he's just as professional as he is intriguing.

Eighty-year-old Auxiliarist Damaso H. Sutis, known for the better part of his life as "Sarge" or "Gunny," has been a part of Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach, Calif., for more than a decade. His story of how he came to the Coast Guard by way of the Marine Corps starts in 1930s Chicago.

Although raised in a happy family by his Filipino father, a multilingual railroad porter with two degrees, and his beautiful Creole mother from New Orleans, Sutis said that growing up on the violent south side Chicago was tough.

"Most of us males had to prove ourselves," he said as recounted his times of running with his own "gang" in the heyday of Al Capone and the middle of the Great Depression.

He joined the Marine Corps in 1944 to do just that, and one year later, found himself on the beach at Iwo Jima dodging gunfire.

Not even 20 years old, Sutis returned to the states as a war veteran, and came back to the south side of Chicago to celebrate. There, he met his future wife, or, as he calls her after almost 60 years of marriage, "my bride."

"She was one of the younger kids," he said, explaining that he hadn't really gotten to know her before he left. "When I got back, there she was. I saw this beauty coming down the street from a distance, and I said to the guys, 'My God, who is that?' Eventually won her over, and they married. Their happiness increased when they were blessed with a beautiful daughter, but life was not easy. "To stay in, I had to sign a waiver saying

I was a single guy - I had no wife, had no baby - because congress cut off all funding for spousal benefits."

But why would a man with a family continue to serve in the midst of all this?

"I thought that anyone in uniform was doing something worthwhile," said Sutis. "It was the tail end of the depression; we needed to do something. It was the camaraderie, yes, but we were making a difference."

Dee Sutis was not so happy with the Marine Corps. During their first 21 years of marriage, seven of those years were spent apart. Some days, she didn't know where he was, or if he was dead or alive. "The only thing it taught me was, as they say, not to sweat the small stuff."

After facing two more wars with the Marine Corps, Sutis decided 24 years was enough. He had gone through life in the military never believing he'd make it to retirement, but was now ready to try his hand in the civilian world.

Leadership in the Marines Corp, paired with his skills in welding, construction and machinery, transferred well to a career teaching high school industrial arts.

"I started at a high school that was mostly made up of Mexican-American kids. It was a tough school, and it was like teaching Marines," said Sutis. "I drilled them around the parking lot. If they really screwed up, I took them out the back door to the girls P.E. field and made them do calisthenics. And I got away with it."

His tactics worked. The students improved, and four years later, he was division chairman of the industrial technology department, including industrial arts, home economics and business.

After twenty years as the school's technology division chairman, he moved to a position within the school as a career advisor. That's when he joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

He attended an Auxiliary-sponsored event to hear more about the Coast Guard Academy as a possible option for his students, and while he was there, learned more about the Auxiliary itself.

"I said, 'Auxiliary? That'd be something I'd like to do.'"

The auxiliary is the Coast Guard's civilian arm, providing safety patrols and classroom training on waterway navigation, as well as assisting the Coast Guard in search and rescue cases and environmental protection.

Gunny found that he excelled at auxiliary work just as much as being a Marine and teaching high school. He became the District Staff Officer for auxiliary marine safety and marine environmental missions and now serves as the Coast Guard's representative in the Los Angeles harbor safety committee and subcommittee on recreational boating.

Coast Guard Capt. Paul Wiedenhoeft,

Captain of the Port for Los Angeles/Long Beach and commanding officer of Sector LA/LB, said Sutis is the model auxiliarist. "His appearance and bearing are amazing - it's the old Marine in him. What comes across is 'have some pride in your appearance.' It's helped bring up the level of care that people might not have had in their appearance."

Wiedenhoeft said that Gunny's enthusiasm for the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary are both infectious and contagious. "He's really a pleasure to work with, and he's a great mentor to young folks. The guys like to hear his stories from his Marine and teaching days." He says Gunny's skills as a Marine and a teacher are helpful, but it's his attitude and his desire to get out and talk to people that really makes a difference.

At 80, Sutis still comes to work four to five days a week for the Coast Guard, and his pictures from his time on Iwo Jima have given him a new popularity. Since the photos were featured in the end credits of the recently released movie, "Flags of Our Fathers," Gunny's had multiple requests for signed copies, an honor the man dismisses with a modest wave of his hand.

He's indifferent to the fame, although he loves to talk to people about his experiences.

His expression is sincere when he admits, "I'm one of those people who looks at the world through rosy glasses - [one who believes] that the glass is HALF-full, not half-empty. The world is full of good people, and until they prove me otherwise, that's what I believe."

The expression changes to mischief, and his eyes narrow with a smile.

"But if you step on my spit shines, I'll punch your running lights out." His good-natured laughter is contagious, and his eyes sparkle again.



SAN DIEGO AOR

The two divisions in San Diego AOR have been busy in the first three months of 2007. After sending a record number of new members to the District Training Conference, they focused on conducting their third joint change-of-watch and awards event on February 17th. The dining-out part of the celebration was certainly a different approach, which appeared to be enjoyed by many with some lessons learned for next year. Both divisions have also supported several Coast Guard and Navy operations during the last two months.

Divisions 01 and 16 are now focusing on recruiting and retention as well as supporting marine domain awareness and environmental protection operations at Coast Guard Sector San Diego. Members in Division 01 have volunteered to help staff Sector San Diego's medical clinic to help maintain medical records. Flotilla 1-5 conducted its first new member orientation workshop on February 24th for its new members as well as for four new members from Flotilla 1-1. Nine members from both divisions have started training to be Assistant Pollution Inspectors, and plans are underway to prepare for Safe Boating Week in May and to increase the number land patrols at local San Diego County marinas. Work by a joint-division steering committee will also commence this month to plan for a San Diego area June 2007 OPEX and to create operational response and emergency contingency plans for both divisions as well as for their flotillas.

It should be an interesting and exciting year in the San Diego AOR due to the great leadership and staffs of both divisions and their flotillas.

I know I am enjoying it!

RCO-SD Fulgham



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



HAPPENINGS IN THE INLAND DIVISIONS

Before I get into the "meat" of what is happening in the Inland Divisions, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave me the opportunity to serve the District and especially Divisions 9 and 10 as Rear Com-



modore-Inland. I especially want to thank Virgil Campbell, who made a special effort during the final months of 2006 to bring me up to speed with the ongoing events, and the challenges that are incumbent to the position. Virgil and I served during 2003 and 2004 as the Division Captains of Divisions 9 and 10 respectively, and we made it a point to make sure that the two divisions worked synergistically during our terms. Virgil did a superb job as RCO, and I know I have some pretty big shoes to fill.

Both Division 9 and Division 10 have been very busy. There is very little down time in the Inland area. Division 9 conducted the first Change of Watch/Awards Banquet of the year, followed

a week later by Division 10. Both events were quite enjoyable, with good food, fitting and well-deserved awards presentations, and, of course, fellowship. The division membership of each division supported the event admirably, as did the District Board. I was especially happy to note that CAPT Strangfeld, Commanding Officer of Sector San Diego was able to take time out of his busy schedule to spend time with us at both events. The Division Captains, Roger Horner, DCP 9, and Mary Klock, DCP 10 obviously put many hours into the planning of their changes of watch.

Both divisions are planning to conduct Operational Exercises, primarily focusing on giving their members opportunities to complete their new third-year maintenance requirements. Both divisions have a huge number of members who must complete those requirements this year, and the task of putting them through the paces will be daunting. But from what I have seen of Roger Horner, Mary Klock and their staffs, I know they will be equal to the challenge. I encourage all members of the divisions to complete their requirements as early as possible.

Sector San Diego has been keeping both Divisions busy conducting regatta patrols. During February alone, there have been five major marine events on Lake Havasu, and both divisions provided boats, crews, radio facilities and watchstanders to help ensure the safety of the boating public. These events have included fishing tournaments, water ski races, endurance PWC races (300 miles in one day on a PWC—what are those people thinking?), and a Mardi Gras parade to honor special Olympians. The pace of these regatta events will not be letting up anytime soon, and I am confident our members will continue to provide the support requested by Sector.

All in all, it is an awesome responsibility that Divisions 9 and 10 have here in the desert—a huge area with logistical nightmares, 10 lakes and a river to patrol. Six of these bodies of water have been identified as in the top 14 most dangerous waters in terms of accidents in the entire United States. No part of these waters are patrolled regularly by the gold side. But it is without question that Division 9 and Division 10 are up to the challenge.

Michael C. Johnson, RCO-I

Covered for Injuries Only While Assigned to Duty

The DIRAUX staff is going through some changes. Many of you may know that our Administrative Assistant, Judith Hall, has been recalled to active duty with the Coast Guard Reserve for an extended period. She is currently serving in Bangor, Washington on the staff of the Maritime Force Protection Unit. We have solicited for a temporary replacement and expect to have someone hired and in place by mid-late March. Additionally, our storekeeper, SK2 Phillips, was recently discharged and left another hole in the DIRAUX staff. It's unknown at this time when we'll get a replacement. The DIRAUX staff will have its hands full, but with the always-ready assistance of several enthusiastic Auxiliary members, we'll continue to support you and the Auxiliary program.

Recent questions about compensation for injuries incurred while assigned to duty have led to some misinformation. Under Chapter 5 of the AUX-MAN (sections A, J, and K), Auxiliary members properly assigned to duty are considered federal employees for purposes of compensation for work injuries. Specifically, under Public Law, 14 U.S.C. Section 832, "*Members of the Auxiliary who incur physical injury or contract sickness or disease while performing any duty to which they have been assigned by competent Coast Guard authority shall be entitled to the same hospital treatment afforded members of the Coast Guard.*" The key is injured while performing duty. Unlike active duty members who are considered on duty 24/7, Auxiliary members are only covered as federal em-

ployees while they are assigned to duty. The Department of Labor (DOL) makes the final determination in certifying the Auxiliarist as an employee within the scope of employment conducting authorized Coast Guard duties.

Semper Paratus,

CDR Dick Symons



**UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY**

Complete TCT and ICS Training

The Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Program had some significant changes go into effect as of the first of the year. A few items I feel compelled to point out are the requirements to have TCT and ICS completed prior to a receiving a check ride from a QE. In the past, members could get qualified and complete TCT within the next year but that policy has been replaced with TCT becoming a prerequisite for qualification.

I could not have been happier with the success of the mini Operational Exercises last year. This year, we are going to need make them even better in order to maintain the health of our Operations program. As many of you already know, we are going to need to double our re-qualification output in order to cover everyone with the same number of QEs. I have asked the Division Captains to re-

search the needs of their people and we will plan accordingly. I can say that we have already scheduled OPEXs for Division 9 and 10 with a tentative date of 22 June for LA/LB.

As of now, I expect all facilities to report their GAR (Green, Amber, Red from TCT) when getting underway. You can get the GAR worksheet online or from your Operations Officer. I encourage all of you to embrace this requirement as it really will make you a safer team. The process of determining risk using the GAR model makes you have a discussion and gets everyone involved in planning and risk management.

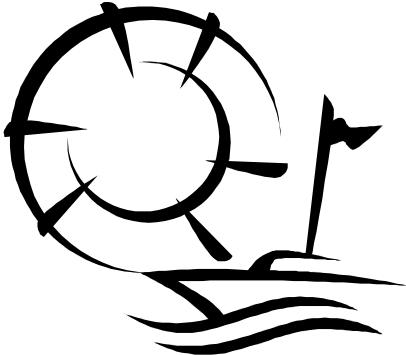
I look forward to seeing you soon.

CWO Chris Ruleman



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
COMMANDER (dpa-s)
ELEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
1001 S. SEASIDE AVE., BLDG. 39
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731-7391

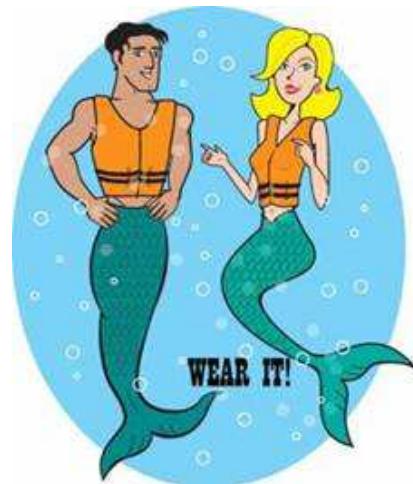
PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES
PAID USCGA
PERMIT NO. G-157



What Mythical Sea Creatures Are Partnering For Boating Safety?
Our mascots, Myrna the MerMaid and Herman the MerMan are partners for safe boating. To all boaters, power or sail, their message is “Life jackets save lives! ”

National Safe Boating Week
May 19—25

www.safeboatingcampaign.com



Echoing this sound advice, the National Safe Boating Council, partnering with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, state that “Safe and responsible boating starts with all boaters in a boat, wearing their life jackets at all times while on the water. ”