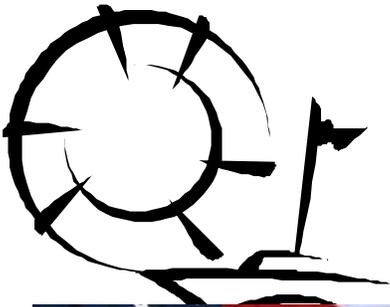


**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
COMMANDER (dpa-s)
ELEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
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SAN PEDRO, CA 90731-7391**

Volume 8, Issue 4



Commodore's Bulletin & Director's Newsletter

**Arizona / Southern Nevada /
Southern Utah / Southern California**

Bob Sterzenbach, DCO

THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY

As I complete my second and final year of my term I want to take this opportunity to say: "Thanks for the opportunity"; the opportunity to represent you at National, to try new approaches, to start new programs, to set the foundation for modernization, to integrate your talents into the Coast Guard's needs. The list goes on and on. No leader can be successful without the support of his/her fellow members, and your support I have received.

It is not easy accepting change; but we can't move forward aggressively without change. We cannot stick our head in the sand and ignore our surroundings. When Admiral Allen said the Coast Guard and all its parts must change, you stepped forward and organized committees representing our members. You brought forth your ideas for a better and more efficient D11 SR. Thanks for your perseverance. We are a TEAM.

As we move forward in the coming years I ask you to support your elected and appointed leaders for change may slow but never stops. It can't. The details of implementing Modernization to be ready for the 2010 methodical implementation will consume much time but we can't forget our purpose to bring RBS to our public and to support our Coast Guard.

We can't do it without all work and no play. Let's start 2009 by combining learning with play by attending the DISTRICT CONFERENCE on January 2-4. Your Conference Committee has again organized an interesting and fun conference. They have succeeded in keeping the quality high while holding the costs down. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Semper Paratus!



Some of the many Auxiliary Members working at Sector LA-LB along with Gold- Side Counterparts

Results of the District Elections completed on Sep 13th

Michael Johnson, District Commodore 2009-10

Harry Jacobs, District Chief Of Staff 2009-10

Mary Klock, District Captain-Inland 2009

Wally Berry, District Captain-San Diego 2009

Don Napolitano, District Captain-LA South 2009

Bert Blanchette, District Captain-LA North 2009



CDR Dick Symons

**GREEN AND BLUE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND US COAST
GUARD AUXILIARY JOIN FORCES TO KEEP BOATERS SAFE**

Press Release issued by the Lake Mead Recreational Area

LAS VEGAS – Volunteers of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary have been assisting boaters on Lakes Mead and Mohave for decades. Now their relationship with the Lake Mead National Recreation Area has been formalized with an agreement between the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Coast Guard. The agreement brings together the resources of both agencies, namely trained boat drivers from the Auxiliary and boats from the NPS to increase safety patrols on the lakes.

“This is an important milestone. Education is the best tool we have to keep boaters safe and prevent accidents. Traditionally boater education has taken place on shore. With the Coast Guard Auxiliary using NPS boats, we will now extend boater education to the water,” said William Dickinson, superintendent of Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

The first patrol took place at the end of September 2008 on Lake Mohave. Phillip Sherman, a Cal-Ari-Nev, Nev. resident and retired defense contractor participated in the inaugural patrol. Sherman joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2005. “Usually we use our own personal boats and the Coast Guard covers the fuel.

But the park service boats are a lot better equipped for our patrols,” said Sherman who is the commander of the Mohave Valley Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla. Coast Guard Auxiliary crews are trained and held to rigorous qualification standards set by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The agreement took about a year to workout between both agencies said Coast Guard Cmdr. Richard Symons, Director of Auxiliary for the 11th Coast Guard District, Southern Region. while auxiliary members don’t have law enforcement authority, they will be on the water educating park visitors about safe boating practices, providing information, and when called upon will assist with search and rescue. Coast Guard Auxiliary patrols using NPS boats on Lake Mead should begin by the summer of 2009.



LAKE MOHAVE, Ariz - U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr Richard Symons and Lake Mead National Recreation Area Deputy Superintendent Gary Warshefski shake hands during the inaugural USCG Auxiliary patrol using NPS boats.

Save the Date ...
January 02, 03 and 04, 2009
Annual District Training
Conference, Awards Luncheon
And Commodore's Banquet
Orange County/Costa Mesa Hilton Hotel
And Conference Center

PLEASE NOTE: Nov 17th was the last day for early bird registration and on Nov 18th the fee for new members joining in 2008 will be \$20 and for all other members \$40.



Eric DeCuir, VCO

WE SEEMED MORE LIKE FAMILY THAN STRANGERS

With this being my final opportunity to write for the Commodore's Bulletin, I first would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your District Vice Commodore. It has been a real privilege to work with COMO Bob Sterzenbach DCO and COMO Lois Conrado ARCO-P and the rest of the District Board and Staff for the past two years.

As I look back at my past articles for the Bulletin I noticed an unintentional pattern. Nearly all my articles were about how individuals shaped our Auxiliary. So, I thought a final story would be in order.

Just last week my wife Barbara and I were on vacation in Hawaii. It was a great trip. We were enjoying the nice change of pace and break from everyday life as we attended a Luau on Oahu. As we sat on the charter bus taking us to the event, we met a young gentleman in his 20's in the seat in front of us. His name was "Huth" (a cross pronunciation between Hugh and Ruth as he said it.)

As our conversation continued we learned that he was a new member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary! He was a newly BQ'ed member of Flotilla 22 in District 13. What a coincidence. From that moment on, it seemed like we were old friends reacquainting ourselves rather than strangers meeting for the first time. We talked about the boat crew program that he was greatly interested in and also his augmentation role at Sector Seattle. We seemed more like family than strangers.

That to me is the most amazing thing about the Coast Guard Auxiliary and what makes it the great volunteer organization it is today. Over the years we have sustained a common sense of unity and the continuing drive to serve the American public. But most of all, we have nourished the glue that holds it all together; our sense of camaraderie. But, most amazing is how the traditions are past. The people change but the ideals do not.

So as we leave District Eleven Southern leadership the DCO and I both wish Mike Johnson DCO(e) and Harry Jacobs DCO(e) and the rest of the new Board and Staff the best and remember the glue! – Semper Paratus!.



Richard Kolligian, RCO-N

A MOMENT TO LOOK BACK, EVALUATE, and LOOK AHEAD

This will be my last written communication to you as your RCO/DCAPT LA-North. In the preceding issues of these past two years, I discussed distinct and basic features of what I personally feel are my principles of the Auxiliary and promoted as a formula for success. Proper attention to them lays the groundwork for improved service to our members and provides a source of attraction for new members. I also maintained the importance of our fourth cornerstone, fellowship, which undergirds all of the elements and is the cement that binds them.

If nothing is permanent in this world except change, why are we so easily threatened by it? Is it that a new and, maybe, an easier method is hard simply because it is a departure from the old? The status quo is known and comfortable. Change implies uncertainty, and uncertainty can bring about discomfort and disruption of the status quo. Self-interests are threatened in addition to inaccurate perceptions, objective disagreements and psychological resistance. The world hates change but this is the only process that has ever brought about progress. Changing times require adaptations that few could have envisioned several years ago. Things were different in earlier times. Then there were few activities to fill one's free time. But simply put, that was then and this is now. Necessity demands that the Auxiliary either change with the times or be changed by the times. If we are to survive, then we actively change with the times. Otherwise, we could just orchestrate ourselves out of existence, hardly a desirable consequence for the Auxiliary that has contributed so much to the making and molding of this nation. So let's welcome the need to try something new in the Auxiliary by boldly embracing the Modernization program. Two Years as your RCO LA-N have taught me that this Auxiliary will continue to survive and thrive, even as the faces that represent that Auxiliary age and change. What remains the same are our principles. When you fight fire with fire, you get ashes. It's easier to make a good person better than to make a bad person good. It's easier to make a good organization better than to make a bad organization good.

I have registered and plan to attend the District 11sr Conference in January. I'm encouraging all of you to do the same. This is the one 'fourth-cornerstone' you should not miss. By now, you should have received a detailed Registration Information flyer.

It is my sincere hope that your Holiday Season will be one of peace, dedication and thankfulness, to live in a land where all things are possible.

The past two years have given me opportunities to work alongside you; to listen to your concerns; to view your talents and skills in action; and to benefit from your wisdom and humor. I have been honored to serve as your RCO LA-N, and I thank you for your support, honesty and input. I gladly pass the DCAPT LA-N leadership to my successor, Bert Blanchette.



Michael Johnson, RCO-Inland

**WHAT AN EXCITING TIME TO BE A MEMBER OF THE
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY!**

The Coast Guard is in the midst of one of the most comprehensive rianization/modernization programs in the history of the service. We in D11S are planning and carrying out our own modernization program so that we can better perform our task of serving the two Sectors we support. Vice Admiral Breckenridge (select), a tremendous supporter of the Auxiliary, is returning to command the PAC Area and lead its transformation into FORCECOM. We have just elected a new President who will presumably be appointing a new Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in the near future. Our District and its Divisions have completed their elections, resulting in a new slate of elected and appointed officers. The last two months have been exciting indeed.

Your District has been busy organizing another excellent Training Conference, putting in countless hours to make sure it is an event not to be missed. This year we will once again convene at the Hilton in Costa Mesa, CA, just a short shuttle ride away from the John Wayne Airport. The Hilton has all the great amenities we need and the price is certainly reasonable thanks to the foresight of previous Commodores who scheduled the facility years in advance. Signing up for the Conference couldn't be easier—just log onto our District website at www.d11s.org, click on “Members” then “What’s New”. You will then see a link to the Conference registration page. You can select your meal choices and using a credit card pay right on line. The entire time to register should take only a few minutes. The hotel registration page can be accessed from the same website. Log on, check it out, and get registered!

I encourage all members to attend. The event starts off on Friday evening with a trip back to the Wild Wild West. Wear your western duds and join us for a great time of fun, fellowship, food, music and dancing into the night. Starting Saturday morning, take advantage of the many workshops we have produced. This year we are inviting our Sectors to partner with us by providing personnel to participate in our workshops. New members will be able to attend a workshop that will get them started on the path to a rewarding career in the Auxiliary. Our newly elected leaders will discover a workshop designed just for them. We are taking care of that pesky new ICS 210 requirement as well. Our OTO, Chris Ruleman has arranged to have two active duty members available to teach 4 separate sessions of this new requirement for coxswains, PWC classes will be posted soon. Don't forget the many awards that will be presented to our deserving members. Come celebrate with your fellow members for another year of success. We will also have some wonderful raffle prizes this year, including an Auxiliary blue ensign that was flown by the Eagle during its voyage from the west coast and through the Panama Canal—certainly a one of a kind memento for some lucky member.

Please sign up for the Conference early; in fact, why not log on and do it right now!

Wild Wild West at Tucson Inland Rendezvous





Harry Jacobs, RCO-S

CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS DIRECTION, DISCOURSE AND DISCLOSURE

Attending the District Conference in January 2009? I hope so, because if you don't, you will be missing some very interesting information that will affect your future as a Member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The District Board has approved a revised system of recognition for Awards Year 2008-2009, which places the emphasis on training and performance at the Flotilla, not the Division level. It re-emphasizes that the Flotilla is the primary unit responsible for training its members and it makes the Division Staff responsible for augmenting that Flotilla training activity, not just reporting it. The shift also means that member training at the District Conference needs to focus on those issues that are not addressed at the Flotilla level, rather than duplicating them.

Issues facing members, elected leaders, and active duty Coast Guard personnel responsible for administering the Auxiliary program will be the primary focus of the Conference. Workshops will focus on a broad base of these issues including report writing, uniforms etiquette and military courtesy, proper use of e-mail, proper use of government postage, documenting member performance, proper VHF-FM Coast Guard Communications, security and confidentiality, surface operations, understanding and applying the non-emergency SAR towing policy during surface patrols, ICS, POMS and many more important and timely items that will expand your knowledge base.

The new **direction** for the Coast Guard and Auxiliary will be shared with all of you. The presenter will fully explain the current status and goals of the Coast Guard's Modernization program. Augmenting that presentation will be Coast Guard active duty personnel teaching the newly required IC 210 Course, an updated Staff Officer Academy, the New Member Academy, and specific department roundtable discussions that will address the issues you have and provide a true forum for **discourse**.

Finally, **disclosure** of information issues will be addressed, along with a discussion of the safety implications for you, your family and your country of not being aware of your surroundings at all times. The presenter will talk about involuntarily leaking information, confidential or otherwise, wearing your uniform in public places not associated with Coast Guard or Auxiliary assignments, improperly relating Coast Guard information to the public and the penalties for non-conformance for these and other violations.

These are challenging times for the USA and the American people. Our mission is to mitigate that challenge, not make it worse. Be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem! Get educated on these and other issues by attending Conference 2009.

Register Now! Check the District website at www.d11s.org for Registration information.



Mike Fulgham, RCO-SD

TRAINING IS OUR FUTURE

Over the last seven years, members in the Coast Guard Auxiliary have seen a paradigm shift towards increased qualification requirements involving Auxiliary membership training. This can certainly be attributed to growth of operational support for Coast Guard District 11 South by the Auxiliary since September 11, 2001. What has helped members meet these increased training requirements is the continuing development of membership training at our district training conferences.

Leadership seminars and member training events at these conferences offer all of our members, both new and old, opportunities to learn what changes are occurring in our policies, organization, and operations. They are certainly great venues to learn how to become better leaders, staff officers, and specialists in a wide range of public boating safety instruction, operations, and direct support of the Coast Guard. All members should make every effort to attend our upcoming district training conference this next January 2 and 3, 2009.

As an attendee to this conference, I look forward to using the event as a springboard to new challenges and assignments as I leave my office as the Rear Commodore, San Diego. It has been an extreme pleasure working with my District's Commodore, Bob Sterzenbach, Vice Commodore, Eric DeCuir, and the District's bridge. This is especially true with my Divisions 01 and 16 Captains, Stu Neffeler and Bob Nowak and their

flotillas. They are real troopers when it comes to working together in order to get things done.

I also look forward to supporting our new District Commodore, Michael Johnson, and his bridge and the 2009 Divisions 01 and 16 Commander-elects, Dale Matthews and Mary Davis in their efforts to address the upcoming District's modernization program and continuing membership training evolutions. Those training evolutions for sure must make us focus on our primary mission of recreational boating safety education while supporting operations as required by the Coast Guard Sector Commanders in District 11 South. Membership training is certainly in my choice for the future, and I look forward in helping meet the challenges that we will face



CWO Chris Ruleman

ICS 210 has become this year's hot topic. In case you have not heard, all Coxswains, Pilots, PWC Operators, and Trident folks must get this course early next year or lose certification. The good news is that help is on the way in the form of ICS instructors at the district conference January 2nd through 4th. Please stay tuned for chances to register and take this important class.

I have recently spent time reviewing our district policy directives and have found many areas for improvement. I expect to have new or updated policies ready for you at the conference and Sunday morning will be your best opportunity to ask questions.

Facility owners; make sure you know when your facility was last inspected. The old standard of being good for the whole year is not valid anymore. Your facility will be dropped at the one year anniversary in AUXDATA.

I look forward to seeing you soon. Semper Paratus

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