

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 17, Anacortes, WA

# Island Time

## Calendar

- Flotilla 17 Staff Meeting, 0900 Monday, 2 March, Anacortes Bowling Alley.
- Flotilla 17 Meeting, 1800 Tuesday, 17 March, Farmhouse Restaurant, Route 20 and LaConner-Whitney Rd., Mount Vernon.
- Anacortes Boat Show, Friday, 20 March—Sunday, 22 March, Cap Sante Boat Haven, Anacortes.
- Seattle Mariners Armed Forces Appreciation Night, Saturday, 18 April.
- Trawlerfest, Thursday, 7 May—Saturday, 9 May, Cap Sante Boat Haven, Anacortes.

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## Just What Do All Those Ribbons Stand For?

*By Ted Krieg, FSO-MT*

As of 26 November 2008 there are 34 ribbons listed on the Auxiliary website for Auxiliarists. Many of the ribbons have similar (but not identical) names. Eleven of the more frequently earned ribbons are listed below with a description of how they are earned.



*COAST GUARD SUSTAINED AUXILIARY SERVICE AWARD*

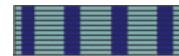
Presented to an Auxiliarist contributing a total of 750

voluntary hours of auxiliary service. Stars for the ribbon are awarded for each additional 750 hours.



*MARINE SAFETY TRIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM*

Awarded for completion of education prerequisites for the Trident program. A gold star is added for each PQS completed and entered in AUXDATA until a candidate earns the Trident device, at which time the ribbon will be removed and be replaced by the Auxiliary Trident device.



*SPECIALTY TRAINING*

This denotes completion of any of the Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) specialty courses. Bronze or silver stars are added to show completion of additional courses. The ribbon is replaced with the AUXOP device after completion of all six courses.



*OPERATIONS PROGRAM*

Recognizes qualifications in the various operations areas such as Auxiliary crew/coxswain, air observer/pilot,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Searching for the History of Flotilla 17

*By David Martens, AFSO-PB*

What is Flotilla 17's birthday? Where might we find a birth certificate? Auxiliary computer records show Anacortes Flotilla 17 with a 1 January 1958 charter date. Since that would have made 2008 our golden anniversary year, I was recruited by Andy Rothman, FSO-PB, to try to track down the milestones of our flotilla's history over the past 50 years. It proved more difficult than we anticipated since, despite the seemingly detailed records now kept by the Auxiliary, there was little available to document Flotilla 17's history.

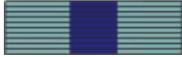
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Dave Martens (l.) and CAPT Gene Davis, USCG, retired.

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ATON verifier; and CG watchstander, crew, or engineer. Auxiliarists show multiple qualifications by adding bronze or silver stars.



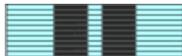
**EXAMINER PROGRAM**

This ribbon is given in recognition of becoming qualified in various examiner program areas such as vessel examiner, recreational boating safety visitor, or commercial fishing vessel examiner. Multiple qualifications are shown by adding bronze or silver stars.



**INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM**

This ribbon recognizes qualification as an instructor.



**AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP SERVICE**

This award is presented to any Auxiliarist who completes five years of Auxiliary membership. Auxiliarists indicate multiple five-year award increments by adding bronze or silver stars.



**AUXILIARY RECRUITING (ANNUAL) SERVICE AWARD**

This ribbon is awarded for recruiting seven or more new Auxiliarists as determined and credited through the Flotilla Commander. Multiple annual awards are recognized by adding bronze or silver stars.



**VESSEL EXAMINATION/ RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY VISITATION PROGRAM (ANNUAL) SERVICE AWARD**

The combined VE/RBSVP Service award is earned by completing 60 or more VSCs, which include examinations of recreational boats, personal watercraft, commercial fishing vessels and uninspected passenger vessels, or for conducting 60 or more commercial establishment visits, or any combination of the above totaling at least 60 checks/visits. Also, the award may be earned by conducting a total of 20 commercial fishing vessel exams. Multiple annual awards are recognized by adding bronze or silver stars.



**AUXILIARY PUBLIC EDUCATION (ANNUAL) SERVICE AWARD**

This award is for completing 30 or more hours as a qualified lead instructor in public education or member training. Instructor aides are credited for one hour lead instructor time for every two hours served as an aide. Multiple annual awards are recognized by adding bronze or silver stars.



**AUXILIARY (ANNUAL) OPERATIONS SERVICE AWARD**

This ribbon with the "O" device is awarded for 60 or more surface underway hours (excluding training), or 30 or more airborne underway hours (excluding training). With the "S" device, it is awarded for 200 or more hours Coast Guard Support not involving movement of a vessel, such as watchstanding. Multiple annual awards are recognized by adding bronze or silver stars. A silver star on a ribbon is equivalent to five bronze stars.

Eligibility for the above awards is documented by the District Director of Auxiliary using AUXDATA information, with the exception of the Auxiliary Recruiting (Annual) Service ribbon, which is determined and credited through the Flotilla Commander, and the Trident Training ribbon, which is credited through District Staff Officer for Marine Safety (DSO-MS).

The detailed information on how ribbons are earned is in chapter 11 of the Auxiliary Manual COMDTINST M16790.1F, but even with the erratum some ribbon appearances are not up to date.

For the latest on ribbon appearances go to <http://nws.cgaux.org>; click on members, click on "manuals & publications", click on "chief DIRAUX page for Commandant Instructions/Publications", click on "manuals". Then on the left hand side click on "Awards", then click on "uniform & ribbons", click on "flotilla uniforms & medals", and scroll down. This site was last updated as of Nov 26, 2008.

## Staff Officers for 2009

### Elected Officers

*Flotilla Commander (FC)*

James Engelson

*Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC)*

Don Coleman

*Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC)*

Ron Umland

### Appointed Staff Officers (FSO's)

*Member Training (MT)*-Ted Krieg

*Public Education (PE)*-Greg Devault

*Vessel Examinations (VE)*-Bill Boerner

*Operations (OP)*-John Alexander

*Personnel Services (PS)*-John Bermingham

*Public Affairs (PA)*-Barry Daniel

*Publications (PB)*-Andy Rothman

*Secretary (SR)*-Bruce Bottolfson

*Finance (FN)*-Alice Devault

*Materials (MA)*-Walt Barnard

*Marine Safety (MS)*-Jim O'Neil

*Communications Services (CS)*-James Engelson

*Communications (CM)*-David McKibben

*Information Services (IS)*-Sandy Scrogam

*Navigation Systems (NS)*-Ted Krieg

*Public Visitation (PV)*-John Slagboom

*Fun (FUN)*-John Slagboom

*Coast Guard Augmentation (AUG)*-Harry Ota

*Personal Watercraft (PWC)*-Marsh Collins

If you think you may be interested in working in any of these areas of specialization, don't hesitate to ask the appropriate SFO for more information.

## Operations QE Session



Walt Barnard (l.) answers questions from Qualification Examiner Tony Ford during oral boards at a recent QE session for candidates in the boat crew program.

Two candidates for Crew qualified for the first time, and two candidates completed their three-year re-qualifications at a QE session held on 7 February.

After answering questions dockside for their oral boards the candidates completed required tasks during check rides on "Restless III," owned by John Alexander, FSO-OP, and "Tranquility Base," owned by Marsh Collins, ADSO-IS. Walt Barnard, FSO-MA and Greg Devault, FSO-PE, qualified as Crew. Ted Krieg, FSO-MT/NS re-qualified as Coxswain and Harry Ota, SO-MT, re-qualified as Crew.

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[www.a1300107.uscgaux.info](http://www.a1300107.uscgaux.info)

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Unable to locate even the written charter for Flotilla 17, I turned for help to C. Kay Larson, BC-ASH, who is the Auxiliary's National Historian.

"I looked up my flotilla listing of charter dates and did not find one for yours." Kay emailed me. But, she added, since the Coast Guard District lines changed about 1958 with newly computerized files, "... the 1958/59 founding dates are not necessarily that. They are normally the computer founding date." She also thought that with Anacortes located on the West Coast, it is possible membership goes back to World War II.

"You need to get hold of the publication *Norwester*, Annual Edition, 1945," Larson said. Auxiliary District 13 published this book on the district's activities during World War II. "Having searched for your location in my atlas, I looked under the two Bellingham flotillas, 11 & 12. On page 31 of Flotilla 12's history, it reads, "A cruise planned for June 16 and 17 took us to Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands where we met with units from Mount Vernon, Anacortes, and Friday Harbor. So it's not clear here whether "unit" means separate flotillas, or a subdivision of Bellingham 12."

A copy of the 1945 "Norwester" edition is in the Coast Guard Museum Northwest collection at Pier 36, Seattle. Andy and I and David McKibben, FSO-CM, called on CAPT Gene Davis, USCG (retired), curator of the museum. CAPT Davis gave us nearly two hours of his time browsing through the collection and is a rich history resource. (We learned, for example, that during World War II the Coast Guard had its own "cavalry" – mounted units that pa-



Official U.S. Navy Photo

When Flotilla 17 moved to Oak Harbor in January, 1968 the turnout included (l. to r.) Ray Hyser, IPFC; Oak Harbor Mayor R.O. Ellis; CDR William Heath, 13th District DIRAUX; COMO Delancey A. Coward, Commander, Coast Guard District 13 and Earl Pierce, FC.

trolled beaches in the Northwest and elsewhere.) He found the 1945 "Norwester" among the Museum's extensive collection and, sure enough, there was Anacortes, but listed as Flotilla 13 rather than 17. Named as officers were Lloyd L. Monroe, FC, and Fred G. Cartwright, VFC. Meetings were held Thursdays at 1930 in the American Legion Hall. Although the "Norwester" includes write-ups from a number of flotillas, there is none for Anacortes. This mention of an Anacortes flotilla dating to 1945 provides the basis for further study. *Editor's Note: Currently there is no Flotilla 13 in the Thirteenth District. Flotilla 11 is still in Bellingham and Flotilla 12 is in Edmonds.*

Several sources told me that D13 member Barbara Kormos had written a history of the district, but my search for that book was unsuccessful.

The national historian, Kay Larson, also steered me to the East Carolina University Joyner Library in Greenville, NC., which holds a collec-

tion of historical material about the Auxiliary. She said "... the graduate students there can do limited research ... there may also be scrapbooks submitted."

This tip sent me to Martha Elmore in Joyner's Special Collections section. She found, "We have some of The (Flotilla 17) Communicator newsletters back to 1996 and some of the minutes back to 1993. We have a new online searchable database at <http://media.lib.ecu.edu/spclcoll/coastguard> that only has a small percentage of USCGAUX material included at this point." There was nothing in the collection to verify the charter date.

However, with the help of John Alexander, FSO-OP, we did locate a flotilla scrapbook put together perhaps 10 or 15 years ago by retired member Linda Mellinger. Among the entries are:

**January 1968** Flotilla moves from Anacortes to Oak Harbor. The "Whidbey News-Times" reported, "Members felt that the prospect of the new city marina in Oak Harbor and the activities of the Whidbey Deception Pass Boat club in Oak Harbor pointed toward moving the base of operations to the Whidbey side." Flotilla 17 continued meeting in Oak Harbor, at least on an alternating schedule, until moving back to Anacortes fulltime in 1985 or 1986,

**December 1986** A letter of Appreciation from T.J. Wojnar, Commander,

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Thirteenth Coast Guard District to Donald W. White, flotilla member reads in part: "You are commended for superior operational performance as a crewmember aboard the AL-



The ferryboat "Hyak" aground off Shannon Point, Fidalgo Island, in 1986.

LEGRO II on 14 April 1986. The ALLEGRO II, operated by Auxiliarist Marion J. Rowan received a call to assist the Washington State ferry HAYAK aground off Fidalgo Island. Responding quickly, the ALLEGRO II came alongside the HAYAK and commenced disembarking passengers. Sixty frightened passengers with belongings and pets were disembarked for a safe transfer to shore. You reassured the passengers, calming them with your professionalism and ability to carry out all required tasks. Your diligence and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**1991** Flotilla 17 recognized for its part in the Chart Up-Dating Program "for superior performance in providing information to the charting and geodetic maintenance programs of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

**November 8, 1994** Flotilla 17 member Donald White shown appreciation from G. O. Kinney, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Group Seattle, writing, "Thank you for your swift assistance in locating the missing divers on Lopez Island October 30, 1994. You immediately responded to our Urgent

Marine Broadcast and transited to the search area. You were able to locate the divers in less than 10 minutes after arriving on scene. Even though a helicopter and utility boat were enroute, without your assistance the divers would not have been located for quite some time. As an Auxiliarist, you are an indispensable and active part of our Coast Guard Team Thirteen. Please accept my heartfelt thanks and pass my personal gratitude on to the crew of "ORCA V". I greatly appreciate your help and look forward to working with you in the future."

Several flotilla members urged an interview with Walter and Dee Gillespie who retired in 2004 following 40 active years in the auxiliary. Walt was a Qualification Examiner for 18 of those years. After 20 years with Flotilla 28 in Seattle, they moved to Flotilla 17 for another 20 years. During a recent visit, they recalled the story of the "Hayak" running aground in Gumes Channel in 1986:

"As luck would have it, Dee's cousin's husband was the skipper on the Hayak that day," Walt recalled. "But the mate was at the helm making the turn into the terminal when he hit a rock. The weather was good, but the little kids were pretty scared. There were six of us Auxiliarists aboard the Allegro II (48-feet). Sharon Rowan was pretty nervous herself, but she took those kids down below and managed to calm them down. We took 25 to 30 people off the Hayak at a time and made three trips. Marion was recovering from surgery at the time, but he went anyway."

Bill Boerner, FSO-VE, recalled the Hayak had left Lopez Island after the crew painted one end of the ship. Wanting to keep the freshly painted deck dry, the crew tuned the ship around for the trip to Anacortes. For that reason they swung in close to the



Walt and Dee Gillespie

day mark at Shannon Point to turn around and approach the Anacortes terminal the right way for vehicles to unload. That swing turned out to be too close to shore and the Hayak ran aground.

"On another occasion," Walt reminisced, "John Given got a call from the Coast Guard during Thanksgiving dinner. A diver had disappeared, so three of us went out and searched all around Cypress Island 'till dark, but we never located that diver. He was finally found two years later, tangled in seaweed."

During most of the time Walt and Dee were in Flotilla 17 the 82-foot



Walt Gillespie (I.) and John Slagboom, FSO-PV/FUN at decommissioning of USCGC Point Richmond.

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Point Richmond was based at Cap Sante Boat Haven in Anacortes.

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“We had a close relationship with the active duty side in those days,” Walt recalled. “The commanding officer of the Point Richmond would often call and invite us along on patrols. On one occasion, when they were going to Seattle, they invited a bunch of us to go along and basically turned the ship over to us to run.” The Point Richmond was decommissioned in 1996 and all operations in the area moved to Bellingham.

Although a publication deadline presses for an end to this report, Flotilla 17’s birth date is still uncertain. Members are definitely entitled to a

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. What remains to be determined is how much farther back the flotilla’s past *really* goes. That is another story.

Flotilla Commanders

- 2009 James Engelson
- 2008 Ronald Umland
- 2007 Harry Ota
- 2006 Harry Ota
- 2005 Marsh Collins
- 2004 John Alexander
- 2003 John Alexander
- 2002 Jay Saul
- 2001 John Bermingham
- 2000 John Bermingham
- 1999 John Bermingham

- 1998 Lin Folsom
- 1997 Lin Folsom
- 1996 John Slagboom
- 1995 Mary Krieg
- 1994 Lisa Lewis
- 1993 Ted Krieg
- 1992 Ted Krieg
- 1991 Russell H. Dean, Jr.
- 1990 Malcolm E. Hardy
- 1989 Cameron C. Schulz
- 1988 Walter Gillespie
- 1987 Dolores Gillespie
- 1986 Dolores Gillespie
- 1985 Marlon Rowan
- 1968 Earl Pierce
- 1967 Ray Kyser

## Keeping Up....



There was no shortage of awards, certificates and commendations to be handed out to Flotilla 17 members at the last membership meeting, on 17 February.

John and Sandy Scrogam (FSO-IS) received the Auxiliary Meritorious Service Award for five-years of service (top, left).



John Lowrie was presented with his certification as Crew in the Surface Operations Program by Don Coleman, VFC (bottom, left).



Bruce Bottolfson, FSO-SR, received his certification as Instructor (IT) (top, right).

Barry Daniel, FSO-PA and Bill Boerner, FSO-VE, received Unit Citations for their participation in the Citizens Action Network Team (bottom, right).



Don Coleman, VFC and Andy Rothman, FSO-PB received their certifications as Coxswain.