



FLOTILLA 22 guardian



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May/ June, 2009

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Turns 70

John Kopp, FSO-PB

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrated its 70th year of service to the Coast Guard and the boating public.

Over the past decade, Auxiliarists have saved over 5,000 lives, assisted almost \$1.5 billion in property, taught boating safety classes to over 1.6 million people, conducted almost 1.2 million Vessel Safety Checks, logged over 4.2 million underway hours on operations missions, provide over 2.3 million hours of direct support to the Coast Guard, and volunteered in countless other areas. To celebrate the amazing work of our volunteers and to commemorate seven decades of service, Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thad Allen presented the Coast Guard Auxiliary with a Coast Guard Unit Commendation. In recognition of the Auxiliary's achievement, President Barack Obama issued the following letter:



Adm. Allen presents the Coast Guard Unit Commendation to Commodore Nick Kerigan.

USCG Photo

"I send my warmest regards to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in celebration of your 70th anniversary of service to our Nation.

Formed by an act of Congress on June 23, 1939, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has distinguished itself through gallant service in support of the U.S. Coast Guard and the safety of our Nation's recreational boaters. Today's 29,000 Auxiliarists, and the legions of those who have gone before them, have willingly sacrificed their time and resources to save hundreds of lives, conduct thousands of search and rescue missions, and prevent millions of dollars in property loss.

In the wake of staggering national challenges posed by the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2005, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary selflessly served millions of hours to protect our citizens and improve maritime safety and security. Members of the Auxiliary have always displayed unparalleled devotion to the welfare of America's recreational boaters through public education programs, vessel safety checks, and marine dealer visits. These efforts have proven invaluable to accident prevention and the vast enjoyment of our Nation's coasts, rivers, and lakes.

I congratulate you for your steadfast commitment to the highest standards of citizenship, patriotism, and community service. On behalf of all Americans, I wish you all the best for a memorable celebration. May you continue to find happiness and fulfillment in your many contributions to our country." 

Get-to-Know: Bryan Dees

John Kopp, FSO-PB

Please join me in welcoming Bryan Dees to our Flotilla. Transferring from Division 3, Bryan brings four years of Auxiliary experience to Flotilla 22.

When he joined four years ago, Bryan immediately began pursuing his Boat Crew qualification and was certified during his first year. During the same time, he tackled three of the AUXOP courses and served as FSO-CS for his Flotilla. As FSO-CS, he redesigned the Flotilla webpage and won first place for Best Webpage in District 13. During his second year in the Auxiliary, Bryan was elected Flotilla Commander, served as SO-CS 3, and was the ADSO-CS 13 under Tom Miller. Two years ago, Bryan was awarded second place Boat Crewman of the year in Division 3 and became certified as a Coxswain. In 2008, Bryan was Division 3's Coxswain of the year and participated in several Boat Crew Academies as an instructor.



Bryan Dees (left) on a patrol in 2008.

Outside of the Auxiliary, Bryan works as a Supervising Engineer for Research In Motion, LTD, the company which makes the Blackberry Device. Prior to his employment with Research In Motion, Bryan served just under two enlistments in the U.S. Coast Guard. During his time in the service he served as a Storekeeper aboard USCGC Iris, USCGC Polar Sea, USCGC Polar Star, and Electronics Support Unit Seattle. Currently, Bryan lives in Covington with his wife Sabrina, son (age 15) and two daughters (ages 8 and 11). 🇺🇸



Bryan Dees' facility, Auxiliary 232246 during the QE session for last fall's Division 2 Boat Crew Academy.

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Lake Union Sweep

John Kopp, FSO-PB

On 9 May, 2009, several local Auxiliary members and facilities participated in Puget Soundkeeper Alliance's seventh annual Lake Union Sweep. The event, which worked along the shoreline of Lake Union, Portage Bay, and Union Bay, utilized over 200 civilian volunteers who spent the day recovering trash from the shoreline.

As part of the Coast Guard's Sea Partners program, the Coast Guard Auxiliary was asked to participate and oversee the safety of the volunteers, which included 50 kayaks, 13 small power boats, and two row boats. Because many of the kayak-volunteers were operating rented kayaks with little on-the-water experience, Auxiliary assets were organized into the three different working areas to supervise the safety of the volunteers there. As a secondary task, the Auxiliary assets were used to shuttle small bags of trash from smaller to larger craft, and eventually to shore.



Auxiliary participants pose at the end of the annual event.

AUX Photo/ Jon Jacques Umphrey, ADSO-IS 13

In all, four Auxiliary PWC's and two surface facilities were underway for the day. Jon-Jacques Umphrey, ADSO-IS 13 and Kelly Garber, SO-OP 2 from Flotilla 22 were among the Auxiliarists participating. 🚤

Many Thanks: Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club

John Kopp, FSO-PB

Many thanks to Bill Barnes, VFC and the Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club for arranging and allowing use of the Club House. 🚤

Seattle Maritime Festival

John Kopp, FSO-PB

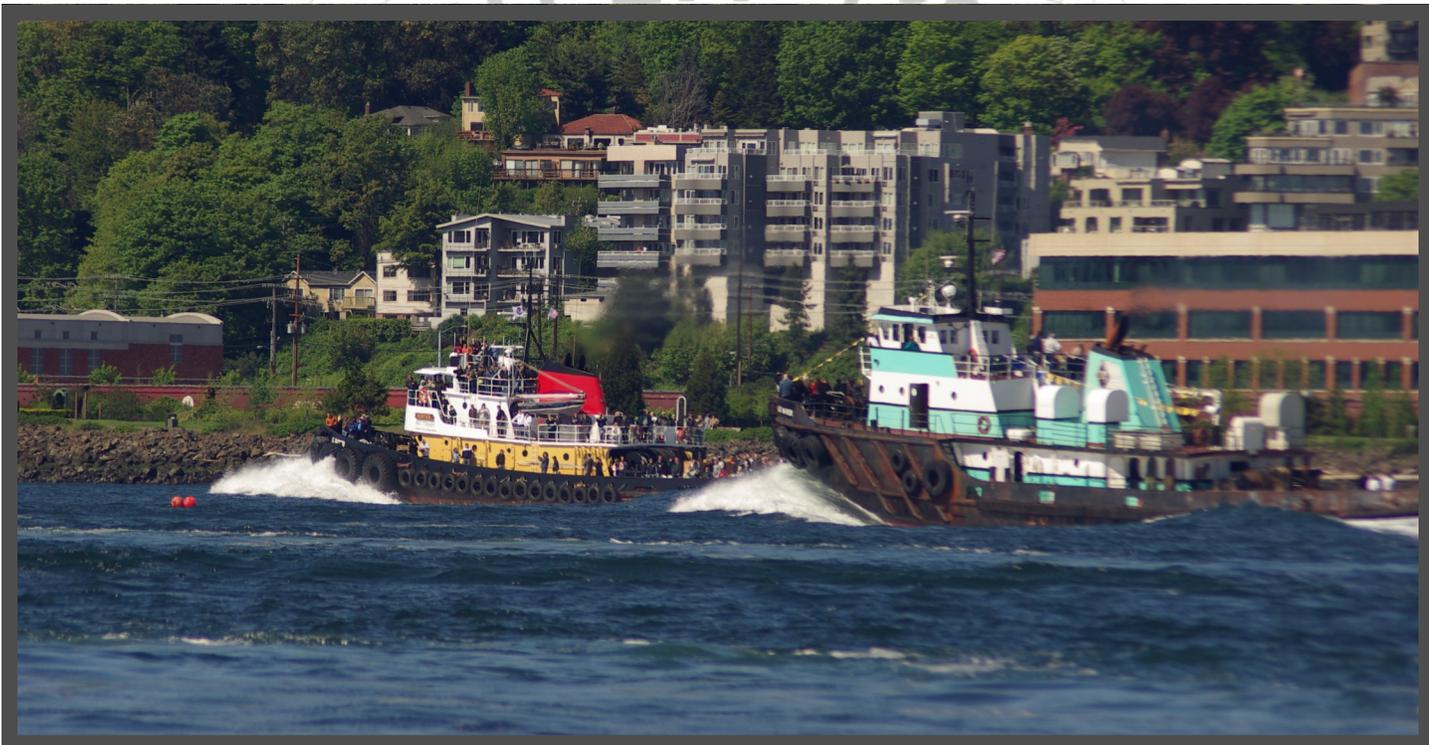
Saturday 9 May was a busy day for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In addition to the Lake Union Sweep operation, Auxiliary facilities and members were at work on Elliott Bay supervising the annual Seattle Maritime Festival. The day's main festivities included a search and rescue demonstration by a MH-65C from Air Station Port Angeles, a maritime parade, and the always-exciting tugboat races. Several members from Flotilla 22 were underway on Auxiliary facilities in the area. 🚤

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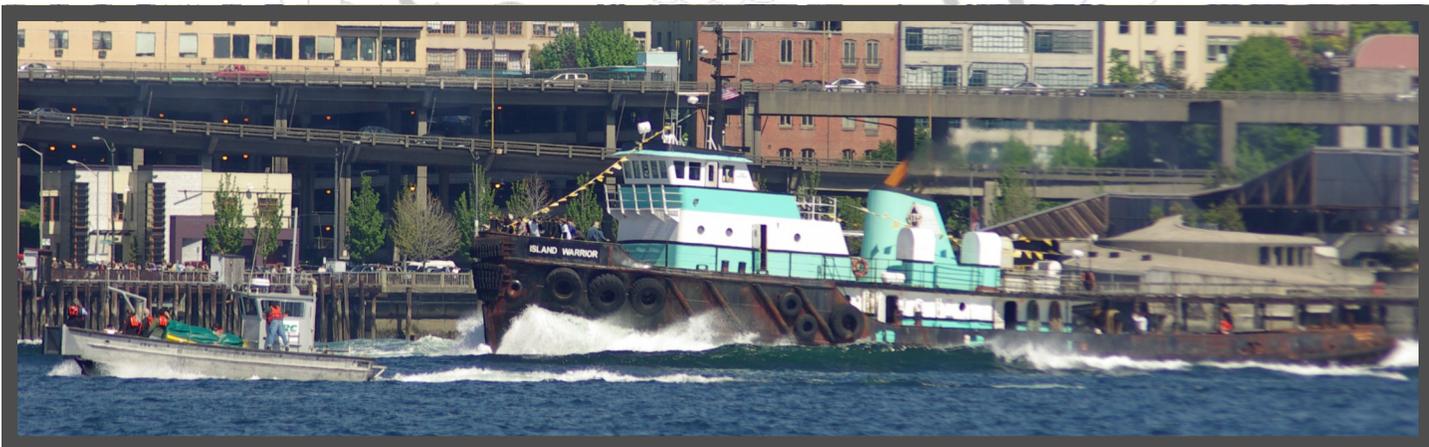
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An MH-65C from Air Station Port Angeles deploys a rescue swimmer during the search and rescue demonstration.



Things were neck and neck during the tugboat races that capped off the day.



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 130-02-02



Division 2 Boat Crew Academy

John Kopp, FSO-PB

On 20 June, 2009, the Division 2 Boat Crew Academy held its underway QE session. Though cold weather and a lack of proper personal protective equipment caused several delays, Amos Leviant, FSO-VE 24; Gene Rubbert, FSO-MT/OP 32, and John Kopp, FSO-PB 22 were certified as Coxswains. Ed Odom, FSO-MS/PV 24 was certified as a Boat Crew member.

Thanks to Kelly Garber, Bryan Dees, Jon McGlone, Doug Julien, Garry Bromwell, and Richard Pinches for their active support, mentoring, and logistic help. Division 2 has once again shown the value and success of the Boat Crew Academy model. 🚢



AUX Photo/ Kelly Garber, SO-OP 2

Auxiliary facility 363196 (Tagish), maneuvers in front of 192152 (Kabuki) during a towing evolution.

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Fellowship: Flotilla Picnic, 15 July, 2009

John Kopp, FSO-PB

Get ready for this year's Flotilla picnic! It's scheduled for 15 July at 1800 at the Laurel Park Condominium Club House (11200 NE 68th St. Kirkland, WA). The uniform of the day is casual civilian attire, and all members, potential members, family members, and guests are invited and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP with John Warner if you plan on attending. 🇺🇸



AUX Photos/ Penny Dustin, IPFC

Huoth Tea, Doug Julien, and Ted Schiesswohl relax at last years Flotilla picnic.

Recognition

John Kopp, FSO-PB

At the 17 June Flotilla meeting, the following Flotilla member was recognized for their achievements:
Bonnie Schiesswohl received a Ten Year membership Service Award. 🇺🇸

Upcoming Events

John Kopp, FSO-PB

Editor's Deck

John Kopp, FSO-PB

More information is located online in the Division 2 calendar. Some of the following events are specific to Flotilla 22, may be subject to availability, and may require registration.

Flotilla Picnic: 15 July

Flotilla Meeting: 16 September @ 1930

GNATS: 9-10 October

Flotilla Meeting: 21 October @ 1930

AUXPAT: 11, 14 November @ 0800

CPR Certification: Fall 2009

AUXNAV: Fall/ Winter 2009

AUXSC&E: Fall/ Winter 2009 (Must pass AUXNAV prior to registration.)

Flotilla Meeting: 18 November @ 1930

Flotilla Party: 16 December @ 1930 🇺🇸

Flotilla 22 Guardian will be soliciting stories, pictures, and comments from Flotilla members and staff officers. The content may include recent activities, calendar submissions, action photos, etc. It is crucial that members submit content for the success of the newsletter and the education of its readers. Please direct any submissions, comments, or questions to the Editor.

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