

THE LIFE LINE

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 5 SR - Division 23
Flotilla 23-07 Herring Bay, Maryland

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BOATYARD BARGAINS

SUMMER 2022



Herrington Harbor North Marina played host to their annual Boaters Yard Sale on June 4. Located at Tracey's Landing, Maryland, the marina contacted local boaters and residents to set up their tables and display their used boating wares. Included among these were anchors, dinghies, PFDs, and an assortment of marine paraphernalia. There were many great bargains to be found.

Flotilla 23-07, along with additional members from Division 23, was on hand to man a table of their own and pass out boating safety information. They met with over 100 people through the morning and conducted numerous vessel exams as well as passing along important recent changes to the Federal Boating Regulations.

In attendance were Brian Shrift, Flotilla Commander, Chris Jensen, Vice Flotilla Commander, Virginia Shrift, Paul Manicone, and Frank Voltaggio from 23-07 and Margret Butler, Division Commander, Leonard Butler, Alberton di Capitani, Dave Sire, and Mark Bertacchi from Division 23.

In all, it was a successful outing for the Auxiliary and helped to reinforce our presence to the boating public in the Tracey's Landing area.

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB

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GUIDE TO SKIN WOUNDS AND WATER CONTACT

Vibrio are bacteria that occur naturally in brackish and salt waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries as well as coastal bays, especially when the water is warm. If *Vibrio* or other bacteria come into contact with an open wound they can cause serious infections, particularly for people with liver disease or a weakened immune system.

Protect Yourself

- If you have any cuts or scrapes, avoid warm Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributary waters.
- If water contact cannot be avoided, cover wounds with waterproof bandages.
- Clean any cut or a scrape immediately with soap and clean water or hand sanitizer then wash as soon as possible.
- Wear shoes and gloves to avoid cuts and scrapes.

If you develop a wound with unusual redness, swelling or drainage, **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY** and let your health care provider know whether you came in contact with brackish or salt water.



LOOKOUT DUTIES

Lookouts must be posted by the coxswain so they have the best possible chance of seeing and hearing an approaching vessel or searching for an object in the water. The coxswain should perform the following procedures when positioning lookouts:

Step Procedure

- 1 Choose a boat speed that enables lookouts to effectively and safely perform their duties.
- 2 Position lookouts so they can effectively and safely perform their duties under the operating conditions (e.g., restricted visibility, boat speed, sea state, weather).
- 3 During periods of rain, sleet, and snow or when taking spray over the bow, select lookout positions that minimizes impairment of vision.
- 4 During a search, post two lookouts when able. Lookouts should be positioned on each side of the vessel so that each can scan a sector from dead ahead to directly aft.
- 5 Select a stable location that will not place the lookouts in danger of being blown or swept overboard.
- 6 When whales are spotted in the area or the boat is within 3 NM of shore, lookout duties should be kept to a minimum to allow for early detection and decrease the likelihood of whale and turtle strikes.

The following guidelines must be used to stand a proper lookout watch:

- Remain alert and give full attention to the assigned duty.
- Remain at Station until relieved.
- Do not distract others with excessive conversation. (However, some conversation among crewmembers may be beneficial in reducing fatigue and maintaining alertness.)
- Speak loudly and distinctly when making a report.
- If the object sighted, smelled or heard cannot be positively identified, report what is believed at that moment.
- Repeat report until it is acknowledged by the coxswain.
- When conditions impair ability to see, smell, or hear; report the condition so the coxswain can take corrective action.
- Report everything seen including floating material, even if it has to be reported several times.
- Make certain duties are understood. If duties are not understood, ask for more information.

Coxswains must assign and station lookouts properly in order to comply with the requirement noted above. Lookouts must report to the coxswain everything seen, smelled, or heard as well as everything they think they see, smell, or hear. If in doubt, report it! A sharp lookout is often the first means of protection for the boat to avoid trouble, not to mention locating situations to investigate (e.g., vessels/people in distress, law enforcement, or pollution). Some examples are:

- Ships.
- Land.
- Obstructions.
- Lights.
- Buoys.
- Beacons.
- Discolored water.
- Reefs.
- Fog signals.
- Whales.
- Sea Turtles.

HOOF PRINTS IN THE SAND

In the summer of 1942, two groups of German agents landed from submarines on American beaches near Amagansett, New York and Jacksonville, Florida in an effort to sabotage American shipping in our major ports. Fortunately, they were apprehended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and jailed before they could do any harm.

A month later, a national Beach Patrol Division was organized by the U.S. Coast Guard with the purpose of acting as the eyes and ears of the government along our shoreline for just such incidents. Using small boats, jeeps, trucks, horses, and dogs, they were able to cover over 50,000 miles of coastline in ten coastal districts. Patrol areas encompassed from Maine to Florida including areas of the Gulf of Mexico and from Southern California to Seattle, Washington.



Official U.S. Coast Guard photograph.

One of the largest contingents of the Beach Patrol was the mounted patrol. Civilian-volunteer members of the Coast Guard Temporary Reserve - the forerunner of the Coast Guard Auxiliary - were the earliest to fill those positions. Their ranks were made up of experienced horsemen including cowboys, polo players, horse trainers, jockeys, rodeo riders, and just about anyone else who knew how to ride and willing to volunteer.

In a seeming paradox where sophisticated armaments such as aircraft, tanks, jeeps, and trucks were the norm for warfare in the 1940's, mounted patrols in ones and twos using one of humanity's oldest working companions, filled a very valuable service.

As events proved, the Coast Guard's maritime cavalry could cover twice as much terrain and make better use of existing manpower than a walking beach patrol. Plus they had the added advantage of getting into areas that were inaccessible to motorized vehicles especially along the barrier islands many of which lacked serviceable roads.

But as with all good ideas whose time has come and gone, the mounted patrol was disbanded in 1944 as the war had moved further away from American shores and closer to the enemies' homeland. Still, the sight and sound of riders in Coast Guard uniforms galloping along the beach must have been an impressive spectacle to behold.

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB



AMERICA'S WATERWAY WATCH

The U.S. Coast Guard is asking boaters to help keep America's waterways safe and secure. The Coast Guard has developed a program called America's Waterway Watch (www.americaswaterwaywatch.org). It asks boaters to call 877-24WATCH if they notice suspicious activity or behavior on or near the water.

Am I witnessing a threat or a crime?

Most of us have found ourselves wondering this at some time or other. However, because we are not really sure, we tend to ignore what we have just seen and, hoping it wasn't so, we continue about our business. Prior to September 11, 2001 this would have been an acceptable reaction. But times have changed, and we no longer have that luxury. Keeping in mind that "People aren't suspicious, behavior is," here are some situational examples of behaviors and activities that may help you determine what is suspicious and thus, what should be reported:

- Unusual operations of a vessel, small boat, or a boat and vehicle on land.
- People taking still photos or video tape of bridges, trains or tracks, U.S. buildings, government vessels or facility's or other items that might be used to cause harm to the U.S.
- A person running away from an area close to a secure facility.
- A person engaged in what looks like surveillance.
- Suspicious Conditions or Physical breaches of security.

Do not take matters into your own hands. Call 877-24 WATCH. In cases of immediate danger to life or property, call the Coast Guard on Channel 16 VHF-FM, or dial 911 for emergencies.



THE LIFE LINE

PASSING THOUGHT

Good judgement is usually the result of experience. And experience is frequently the result of bad judgement. But to learn from the experience of others requires those who have the experience to share the knowledge with those who follow.

Barry LePatner

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11 - Flotilla meeting, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

August 2 – National Night Out, Shady Side, Maryland, 1800

August 8 - Flotilla meeting, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

August 11 – Harbor Cove Marina, Deale, Maryland, Suddenly in Command, TBA



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