

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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FLOTILLA ELECTIONS

WINTER 2022



Flotilla 23-07 held their annual elections for Flotilla Commander and Vice Commander at the November 8 meeting. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was once again held as a virtual event with members connecting in on a video conferencing call hosted by fellow member Donna McMillan.

Marie Squillace, the Division 23 Vice Commander, conducted the elections per the Auxiliary rules. The Elections Committee reported that one notice of intent to run for FC was filed by Brian Shrift and one notice of intent to run for VFC was filed by Chris Jensen. Nominations from the floor were requested for each position to which none were received. Brian was then unanimously elected by motion for FC and Chris was unanimously elected by motion for VFC.

Congratulations to Brian and Chris on the coming year!

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB

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COLD WEATHER KILLS

On December 9, Flotilla members Paul Manicone, Steve Gershman, Chris Jensen, and Frank Voltaggio gave a presentation to members of the Maryland Natural Resources Reserve Officers on the topic of Cold-Water Immersion and Survivability. The class took place at the Department of Natural Resources Broadneck facility located in Annapolis just outside of Sandy Point State Park.

The first part of the training session was given by Paul and centered on cold water immersion and hypothermia. Drawing on his medical background, he spoke of the effects of mild, moderate and severe hypothermia on the human body and he stressed the points of Flotation, Insulation and Communication as the best foundation for survivability. Paul analyzed some case studies with conclusions to better emphasize proper survivability in cold water.

Steve followed with a discussion on cold water considerations, such as: boating accident statistics, first aid concerns, items to have onboard, and safe boating tips before you get underway.

The last portion of the class was a showing of the U.S. Coast Guard Cold Water Boot Camp video. In this film, eight individuals from various water rescue organizations from around the country participated in a week-long training exercise in the challenge to learn cold water survivability techniques.

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB



DEATH ON THE WATER

2021 has turned out to be one of the deadliest years on the Chesapeake Bay. The common denominator in each case was that the victim was not wearing a life jacket! These are just a few of the fatal incidents that occurred:

Date: January 13, 2021

Location: West River, Maryland

Water temperature: 40⁰ F

Synopsis: An unattended dinghy on the West River led police on a search for its owner, who was later found dead. The dinghy belonged to 57-year-old James Lubber of Anne Arundel County who had last been seen at 1:30 a.m., rowing his dinghy back to his moored vessel.

Date: July 18, 2021

Location: Pamunkey River, Virginia

Water temperature: 67⁰ F

Synopsis: A boater, 37-year-old Cory Redford of Henrico, Virginia, was swimming in the water next to his boat on the Pamunkey River and was swept away by the strong currents. People on board the boat saw him get carried away and tried to save him by throwing him a life ring. They then tried to move the boat closer to the victim but lost sight of him and finally called for help. Police later recovered his body

Date: August 3, 2021

Location: Thomas Point, Maryland

Water temperature: 68⁰ F

Synopsis: Sebastian Buelvas, 21, was on a 19.5-foot sailboat with two friends, towing a kayak behind the boat. Buelvas tried to climb into the kayak from the sailboat while underway and fell into the water. The two friends told the police that they tossed life jackets to him as he began to struggle in the water and tried to rescue him using the kayak which then capsized. The two friends were found clinging to the kayak and were rescued by a Good Samaritan who called for help on VHF Channel 16. Buelvas' body was later found that Tuesday afternoon.

Date: October 27, 2021

Location: Cobb Island, Maryland

Water temperature: 50⁰ F

Synopsis: Doug Hands, 49, a waterman and longtime volunteer firefighter from Cobb Island on the Potomac, went missing from his boat in rough weather October 27. His boat was found empty and his body was later recovered.

Date: November 11, 2021

Location: Slaughter Creek off the Little Choptank River, Maryland

Water temperature: 53⁰ F

Synopsis: A waterman found a 19' open Carolina Skiff with no one aboard. The body of 72-year-old Dale McClain was later found along the shoreline near a duck blind. The victim's truck and trailer were still at Ragged Point Marina, where he had initially launched his boat.

Continued on page 4

USCG BOATING SAFETY APP

As the nation's recreational boating safety coordinator, the Coast Guard works to minimize loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and environmental harm. Our boating safety program involves public education programs, regulation of boat design and construction, approval of boating safety equipment, and vessel safety checks for compliance with federal and state safety requirements. The Coast Guard Mobile App supports these missions by providing the essential services and information most commonly requested by boaters. Features of the app include:

- Find the latest safety regulations
- Request a vessel safety check
- Check your safety equipment
- File a float plan
- Navigation Rules
- Find the nearest NOAA buoy
- Report a hazard
- Report pollution
- Report suspicious activity
- Request emergency assistance

When location services are enabled, users can receive the latest weather reports from the closest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather buoys as well as report the location of a hazard on the water.

The app also features an Emergency Assistance button which, with locations services enabled, will call the closest Coast Guard command center.

The Boating Safety Mobile app was not designed to replace a boater's marine VHF radio, which the Coast Guard strongly recommends all boaters have aboard their vessels. The app was mainly designed to provide additional boating safety resources for mobile device users.

The app is self-contained, so personal information is stored on the phone and is not sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to send it. The Coast Guard does not track a user's location, and the app does not track a user's location unless the app is being used.

Go to the App Store and enter *USCG Boating Safety App* for a free download.



DEATH ON THE WATER CON'T

Date: December 29, 2021

Location: Dares Beach, Maryland

Water Temperature: 45⁰ F

Synopsis: A boater, 44-year-old Ernie Sigmon, left Plum Point, Maryland at 1 p.m. in his 25 foot open 252 Sportsman vessel for a day of fishing. After receiving an overdue report from family members, his boat was discovered off of Dares Beach, underway and going in circles. Mr. Sigmon was not on board but his cell phone was still on and was located inside the boat. His body has yet to be recovered.

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB

AUXDATA II – IT'S COMING

Mention AuxData II to just about any member and you will probably see them cringe in pain. Despite that, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has made the firm commitment to switch over to the new data basing service developed by the Salesforce Company. Many Auxiliarists around the country are already using it on a regular basis and all of us will be switching over to it in the near future.

Fortunately for those of us in Flotilla 23-07, our newly elected Flotilla Commander, Brian Shrift, is versed in the ins and outs of the program and on January 12 he held a virtual Zoom training session on a crash course in AuxData II. Members from our flotilla as well as others from Division 23 tuned in to get up to speed on topics such as logging in, setting up passwords, entering time, and finding our personal data records. Brian navigated through the numerous dropdown menus and data entry points in an effort to basically familiarize those members who are new to the program. Additionally, he created four on-line You Tube presentations that you can link into at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrmT2mTVM-m4aqwjJc9Gyyw>.

Like anything new, it may take a while to master but our FC and FSO-IS will be there to help us along.

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB

THE LIFE LINE AN AVERAGE DAY IN THE COAST GUARD

- Small boats are underway for 396 sorties/missions.
- Aircraft fly 164 missions, logging 324 hours, of which 19 hours are flown off patrolling cutters.
- Law enforcement teams board 144 vessels.
- Cutter and small boat crews interdict and rescue 14 illegal immigrants.
- Marine Safety personnel open 8 new cases for marine violation of federal statutes.
- Marine Inspectors board 100 large vessels for port safety checks.
- Vessel examiners conduct 20 commercial fishing vessel safety exams and issue 11 fishing vessel compliance decals.
- Pollution investigators respond to 20 oil or hazardous chemical spills totaling 2,800 gallons.
- Buoy tenders and Aids to Navigational Teams service 135 aids to navigation.
- Vessel Traffic Service controllers assist 2,509 commercial ships entering & leaving U.S. ports.
- Auxiliarists conduct 377 vessel safety checks and teach boating safety courses to 550 boaters.

PASSING THOUGHT

There are logical explanations for our tendency to go to the water's edge for some of the most significant moments of our lives. Water offers you a compass, a craft, some sails, and a wind chart. In an age when we're anchored by stress, technology, exile from the natural world, professional suffocation, personal anxiety, and hospital bills, and at a loss for true privacy, casting off is wonderful.

Wallace Nichols

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