



# CALENDAR ISLANDS CHRONICLE

## USCG AUXILIARY CASCO BAY FLOTILLA 2-1

**AUGUST 2021**

### **Commanders Comments**

Shipmates,

It is somewhat amazing to observe our flotilla move from stand-down to full speed. It's been more than a year since we have been fully operational. I'm not sure why I should be surprised at how well we have done it. I was equally amazed at the efforts of our staff officers during stand-down, when they were essentially tasked with succeeding at a public facing mission, while not being allowed to interact with the public.

As many of you know, incredible accomplishments were born of those efforts in Public Affairs, with an incredible use of Social Media and timely Public Service Announcements; Public Education and virtual classes; Human Resources and launching the state's first Auxiliary University Program, the first Aux Scout Program, the re-emergence of our Aux Chef Assistants (formerly Aux Food Service), and recruiting not one, but two, new member classes; the pioneering work of our Lay Leaders, who never took a break from their service to our members and especially the gold side; in Member Training, where programs were continuously offered virtually so members could stay current, train and re-train; and even in our Program Visitor and Vessel Examination Programs, where our partners were supported and virtual Vessel Exams were offered to those who requested them. The entire staff, including those who lead our missions that could not be accomplished virtually, continued to meet, and collaborate, and solve the many problems that we saw as an organization with important work to do, in the face of COVID-19. Many of our members did the work necessary to be ready to hit the ground running in old and new missions. It's amazing to me that we have been able to emerge with such rhythm and skill – not without bumps in the road and some aggravation, but *despite* bumps in the road and aggravation.

With Update 8, vaccinated members have essentially been cleared to follow COVID protocols in keeping with local, state and federal guidelines, as well as our own level of comfort, based on our unique personal circumstances. \* We also have a new Sector Commander for Sector Northern New England, with the arrival of

Captain Amy Florentino, as well as a new Prevention Department Head, Commander Megan Drewniak. We have recently begun corresponding and, in short, I can tell you there are many opportunities looking for volunteers to become involved. If you don't know where to start, reach out to Peter Poulin, Tom Roche or myself, so we can help you to engage in a track that is of interest to you and fit's your schedule.

Thanks for your focus in staying

Semper Paratus,

Eric C. Dexter  
Flotilla Commander

## STAFF OFFICER REPORTS

### **John Cuozzo -Vessel Examination:**

CONGRATULATIONS to Bill Thompson, Sue Wickson, and Mike Moloney for getting fully involved with VSCs and to the entire available VE team for fulfilling our commitments effectively. Arranging a July 31 second round of VSCs at Aspasia. Team covered several individual VSC requests. Re-examined amended issues and awarded VSC sticker to a Yankee Marina boater.

### **Billy G. Thornton – Navigation Systems & Operations**

Conducted 2 patrol missions - Harpswell Sound and New Meadows River (57nm round trips). We have completed verification of patrols for Casco Bay.

As of 20 JUL, have conducted 20 patrols, including Ptl'd's 4th of July fireworks and SMCC's 75th anniversary marine parade. Crew training has been going well in preparation of qualification/re-qualification QE check-rides. Have been available for CG Station duty sections on TUE/THU for underway training. Have been taking active-duty personnel for u/w harpat and AOR orientation patrols. While u/w, have been involved in 4 SAR-related events.

### **William Henry Thompson- Materials**

Had a very busy July. Will look to complete the supervised PV Visits during August if possible. Scheduled to participate in the repeat VSC day 7/31/2021 at Aspasia Marina (VSC board delivered 7/19/2021) Completed a one-off VSC in Harpswell. Scheduled to work at the Boat Builders show 7/23,24,25. Helped coordinate the summer picnic at Fort William Park including food prep. We had a good turnout for our first in person meeting in over a year. Thanks to all who helped and participated.

There is still some frustration being expressed from new members with ordering uniform components on-line. Part of the problem is each website has different search capabilities and on-screen navigation capabilities. I have prepared a cheat sheet for ordering the ODU. If you hear of anyone having difficulty finding certain components online, let me know. Peter Poulin donated several collar/hat devices for members and FSOs. If you know of anyone looking for these items, let me know.

### **Ian Ronald Riddell - Aux Scout**

Coordinated with Mike Maloney, FSO-PA, to have local TV news station WGME spotlight Sea Scout Ship 243 on a training cruise aboard their vessel, Defiance. Gene Grossi, SO-AS, was able to attend the filming. The news coverage aired on July 12, 2021. Continue to attend weekly Sea Scout meetings and training cruises to support Ship 243. SO-AS Grossi offered the use of Portsmouth's "OSCAR-dummy" for future MOB training simulations. Continuing to attend monthly Ship's Committee Meetings as AUXSCOUT representative. Attended National quarterly All-Staff AUXSCOUT Zoom-meeting July 11, 2021. <https://wgme.com/news/local/sea-scouts-learn-maritime-skills-in-maine?fbclid=IwAR3zfx5g8iWGsaEFZNIY1xuxdJxhPUHZU9cOhwwGjrMUhTys2Jcacb9JmY0>

### **Pierre Lionel Poulin - Human Resources**

Continuing to work with select committee to launch the Auxiliary University Program, continue to support our new members. Have 10 prospective new members and will be recruiting at the Maine Boatbuilders show. Launching new member Orientation and New Member training on 8/25. Completed two full day Navigation training sessions for the Oil Spill Response Team of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and received high reviews. Continue to work with FC and Staff on the development of a job board and evaluating methods of communicating the opportunities to our members.

### **Michael Moloney – RBS Paddle craft & Public Affairs**

Making steady progress towards achieving ACA Level 2 Kayak Instructor Certification status. Scheduled another "A Guide to Paddler's Safety" Zoom class with the Boothbay Harbor Flotilla for Sept 21 & 22. Actively working to recruit a highly skilled ACA Kayaking Instructor to join the Flotilla and the Paddlecraft Team. Conducted 14 kayak VE's at Portland Paddle on July 3rd. (Am now qualified as a VE). Will be volunteering to assist Saco Bay Flotilla with the National Night Out event on August 3, hoping to focus on paddlecraft safety.

Assisted FSO-AuxScout in lining up a TV interview with WGME TV promoting the AuxScout Program. Also created Facebook post to promote the Auxiliary University Program. Had over 650 views. Facebook page continues to be very active, with daily or more frequent posts generating over 3,000 views and over 750 interactions monthly. Positive results for the IF FOUND sticker distribution.

## **OF INTEREST TO ALL:**

Dick Cobb has set up a 2 step First Aid/CPR class.

First step- completion of a self-study portion covering First Aid topics. You can start this First Aid portion on-line at any time after your registration is confirmed and complete it at your own pace. Time required - less than 3 hours.

prepayment of \$25.00

Log in to [shepardsafety.com](https://shepardsafety.com)

Click on Calender - top right corner

Then, click BOOK to select your choice of the day and time of the in-class CPR/AED session you want.

Five sessions are available, please choose one:

**[Please note: Class size is limited to 8 for each session.]**

Saturday, September **11** at **9:00 am**

Saturday, September **11** at **1:00 pm**

Saturday, September **25** at **9:00 am**

Saturday, September **25** at **1:00 pm**

Saturday, October **9** at **9:00 am**

You will receive a confirmation of your registration and a link to pre-pay for the course.

You will then receive a link from ASHI for access to the self-study First Aid portion of the course.

All sessions will be held at the Rusty Scupper, Coast Guard Station South Portland, 259 High St, South Portland, ME. Uniforms not required. Your Auxiliary ID card will be needed for entry into the Station.

For questions, please contact Tony - [shepardsafetyervices@gmail.com](mailto:shepardsafetyervices@gmail.com)

On his cell: (207)515 -1645. \* **Before 3pm or weekends**

Or Dick Cobb: [fsomt21c@uscgauxsoportlandme.com](mailto:fsomt21c@uscgauxsoportlandme.com)

## FLOTILLA CALENDAR

August				
9 August (Monday)	Flotilla Meeting	1900	FC	On Zoom
30 August (Monday)	Flotilla Staff Meeting	1900	VFC	On Zoom

### Uniform of the Day

1 April through October 31 is **TROPICAL BLUE** or **SERVICE DRESS BLUE**.