

**APRIL 2015**

The Navigator Express is the Coast Guard Auxiliary's compilation of stories covering all Auxiliary activities and is published by the Public Affairs Directorate

**DR. OLIVIA J. HOOKER: CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER, AUXILIARIST AND INSPIRATION**

by Auxiliarist Maura J. Casey  
Flotilla 014-25-05

GREENBURGH, N.Y. – Dr. Olivia J. Hooker believes the most important thing parents should teach their children “from the cradle,” is a reverence for life. She should know, because she has seen a lot of it. She turned 100 in February.

Dr. Hooker is a Coast Guard Auxiliarist (014-06-08), retired clinical psychologist and first African American woman to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard as a SPAR during World War II. SPARS was the nickname for the U. S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve, created November 23, 1942 with the signing of Public Law 773 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. During a telephone interview on March 6, 2015 she said she was surprised to learn that Sector New York Staten Island intended to name a galley in her honor on March 12. She said “I hope I am strong enough to go.” During the ceremony, Dr. Hooker stated, “I want to be able to stand tall.”

A galley named for her is just the latest in a life of accomplishment beginning with her joining the Coast Guard in 1945. However, had the Navy not rebuffed her, she might not have enlisted in the Coast Guard at all. “I tried twice to sign up for the Navy, but I was told I couldn't join because there was a ‘complication.’ But they wouldn't tell me what the complication was,” Dr. Hooker said.

She was determined to join the war effort, however. “This is our country,” she said. “We (African Americans) helped make it what it is today, although most of our labor in building it was unpaid.” So Dr. Hooker went straight to the top for an answer and wrote to then-Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, and asked him what the “complication”



GREENBURGH, N.Y. – Coast Guard Auxiliarists Yolanda Robinson, Pat Push, Karen Schullere, Barbara Jean Schulz, and Peg Millar celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Olivia Hooker (seated), the first African-American woman to join the U. S. Coast Guard. Photo by Donna Davis

could be. He wrote back and said that there should be none at all and invited her to enlist.

By that time, she thought twice about putting her future in the hands of people who didn't want her service. Instead, she took her sister Lesley's advice and joined the U.S. Coast Guard. She served in Boston for 16 months until the war ended and was a yeoman 2nd class at discharge. Dr. Hooker attended Columbia University on the G.I. Bill for her master's degree in psychological services and obtained her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Hooker taught psychology at Fordham University and also worked for Catholic Charities. She said she worked to keep African American boys out of special education, where, too often, they were sent whether they needed it or not. She made sure those who were in need of help got good services and also helped children who lived in homeless shelters.

Dr. Hooker is among the last survivors of the Tulsa race riots of 1921, which historians consider among the worst ever to have occurred in America. Crowds of white men sparked the riots, attacking the well-to-do African American community of Greenwood, where the Hooker family lived and owned a department store. Thirty-five blocks of residences and businesses were burned to the ground and as many as 300 African Americans were killed during the melee.

Dr. Hooker said her mother and grandmother hid her, along with other children, under a table while a mob entered the family's house, shooting, smashing and stealing valuables, throwing the breakfast her mother was cooking in the mud, and even burning the clothes for her new doll that were drying on the laundry line. She suffered from nightmares for years afterward, she said.

What helped her recover was the attitude of her parents. "They taught us not to waste time hating people, but to try to think of a way to make the world better. That attitude helped all of us," Dr. Hooker said.

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## NATIONAL ARTICLES WANTED

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs Directorate is soliciting articles, photos and videos for the "Coast Guard Auxiliary Live" blog at <http://live.cgaux.org/>. Articles must be of national public interest and less than 500 words long. Please include photos, videos and other visual media. If you wish to send an overview of a proposed article, the editors will carefully review it. The AP Stylebook is the guide, and if help is needed, just ask. Use the contact form, under "submit ideas" on the blog site for initial contact at [http://live.cgaux.org/?page\\_id=66](http://live.cgaux.org/?page_id=66)

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## SHERIFFS AND VSCs: A GREAT MATCH IN NEBRASKA

by Auxiliarist Daniel Groenendyk  
Flotilla 085-33-01

OMAHA, Neb. – You never know what will happen during a Vessel Safety Check. That's the lesson I learned one Saturday last summer while conducting



OMAHA, Neb.. - It is important to have a good relationship with local law enforcement. Here Auxiliarist Daniel Groenendyk from 085-33-01 instructs personnel from the Douglas County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Department on the benefits of the Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check program as a way to enhance boating safety. Deputies from Douglas County Sheriff Department spent the morning in a classroom and participated in a hands-on activity outside. Photograph by Auxiliarist Jim Westcott, 085-33-01.

VSCs at a public boat launch on the Missouri River. I turned around from doing a VSC and four deputies from the Douglas County Nebraska Sheriff Marine Patrol (officially known as the Nautical Services Unit) asked what I was doing. I explained that the Coast Guard Auxiliary offers free vessel safety inspections to boaters to help educate and promote boating safety. Several deputies had not been aware of the program, and within a short time I was asked to conduct a class about the VSC program with all the Douglas County Nautical Services Unit officers.

That class took place last Aug. 12, at the main training facility for the Douglas County Sheriff's office. Accompanying me was Jim Westcott, Flotilla Commander, 085-33-01, Omaha, Neb. Jim is a retired Deputy with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department and served on the NSU for 28 years, so he had a personal relationship with many of the officers and understood their operational capabilities. We discussed with the deputies all of the strict requirements in order to earn a VSC decal. Then we conducted a real vessel safety check using a Nebraska Game Park boat, ensuring that everyone understood how thorough an Auxiliary vessel safety check is and the benefits it offers to boaters.

As a follow-up to this training activity, the Douglas County Marine Patrol division asked our flotilla to teach the Boating Skills and Seamanship class this past fall. We taught the course to 14 Douglas County Sheriff personnel. Word has spread, and now other law enforcement personnel have asked for training.

We taught the Sarpy County Marine Patrol Division the same boating class in February and March. We hope to get a lot more referrals for VSCs, and, of course, increase safety on the water, as the result of the increased interest.

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## ALASKA'S COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, VOLUNTEER LIFESAVERS OF THE LAST FRONTIER

Reprinted as received from Coast Guard Alaska  
Official Blog of the 17th Coast Guard District  
by PA1 Shawn Eggert

KUIIU ISLAND, Alaska - A runaway 70-foot barge drifts aimlessly across Saginaw Bay near Kuiu Island, Alaska, and a call goes out for the Coast Guard to rein in the rogue raft before it can wreak ruin upon the waterway. Sector Juneau command center watchstanders dispatch the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Anacapa aided by information and photographs provided by a pair of seasoned mariners aboard a 25-foot Boston whaler, but these are no ordinary good Samaritans. Rick and Kate Rogers, siblings who have navigated the waters of Southeast Alaska since 1974, are members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a 34,000-strong group of volunteers which has assisted the Coast Guard with its many lifesaving missions since 1939.

Though the Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrated its 75th anniversary June 23, 2014, Rick and Kate have only been a part of the organization since 2009 when a friend of theirs, a Coast Guard vessel safety examiner, suggested they join. The brother and sister had been fishing the waters around Kuiu Island and repairing local vessels since their parents began fishing in the area 40 years ago.

"Our fishing boat was built the year the Titanic sank," Rick laughed. "People were already always coming to us with questions about boating regulations and safety equipment and joining the Auxiliary seemed like a good way to stay ahead of the changes that were coming."

"Nobody wants to be sent back to the pier for not having proper paperwork or safety gear on board," added Kate.

Like many Auxiliary members, Rick and Kate assist the Coast Guard with more than providing reports on itinerant barges. The training they receive enables Auxiliary members to assist the Coast Guard with an assortment of tasks.



KUIIU ISLAND, Alaska - Coast Guard Auxiliary member Rick Rogers conducts a vessel safety exam at the pier in Kake, Alaska, June 11, 2011.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is made up of approximately 34,000 volunteers who assist the Coast Guard with a variety of missions.

U.S. Coast Guard photo provided by Kate Rogers.

"The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an invaluable resource to Sector Juneau, providing recreational boating safety training and education," said Capt. Scott Bornemann, commander, Sector Juneau. "They are also able to augment our active duty and civilian component by conducting commercial fishing vessel safety examinations, search and rescue and other missions, often in remote locations."

Mike Morris, Immediate Past Commodore for the Coast Guard Auxiliary 17th District, added, "We live, play and work among those that we educate. Offering courses to local communities and reaching out to many of the more remote sites and villages in Alaska is what we do. We examine vessels as if they were our own, and we are taking our families or friends out on them. Prevention rather than response is what we are attempting to achieve."

With Alaska being as large as it is, Auxiliary members provide another useful benefit to the Coast Guard. Auxiliarists are largely drawn from the same maritime communities and professions the Coast Guard is sworn to protect, meaning their knowledge of local waterways and connections with their fellow mariners serve as a bridge for both spreading education and informing them of the Coast Guard's ability to respond to emergencies.

"Sometimes people don't know what to make of a stranger in uniform, but we have history with these communities," spoke Kate. "We provide a familiar face to the boaters we work with."

Long before they joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kate and her brother had already assisted with

several rescues involving sinking or grounded vessels, and the Rogers believe that quality of devotion to community is an attribute shared by all Auxiliary members. Citing the value and importance of their local knowledge and experience on Alaska's waters to saving lives at sea, the Rogers both agreed they would like to see more of their peers become involved with the organization. They even managed to convince their mother, Darleen, to join and train as a radio watchstander who dutifully monitors the airwaves for signs of distress.

"We try to help out however we can," said Rick. "The Auxiliary is such a natural fit with our lives and my only regret is we didn't find it 20 years ago."

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## CALL FOR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FOR THE NAVIGATOR

It's never too early to start! We are collecting stories and photos for the 2015 Navigator, and we need your assistance in finding the best of the best in activities, mission successes and outstanding contributions. As we marked our 75th year, let's start off the next 75 in spectacular fashion by showing the Auxiliary's work at its finest.

Please, review your files for people who have made a significant difference in our RBS missions, who have served long and well, and for outstanding missions or activities that show our contribution to the Coast Guard and our nation. Send them to us for possible inclusion in this year's Navigator edition. Email Anne Lockwood at [anne.lockwood@me.com](mailto:anne.lockwood@me.com) to submit content or to obtain additional information.

We need these articles by 15 July 2015. Photos should be high resolution, show action and everyone in proper uniform conducting correct procedures. All photos need proper captions following The Associated Press Style Guide. [Follow the Navigator Guidelines](#)

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## AUP STUDENT CREATES HASHTAG TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

By Bethany Buchanan  
Flotilla 054-05-03

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. - It may be the end of 2014, but Auxiliary University Programs (AUP) student Berhilo Galvan is already working to ensure a safe boating season in 2015.

Galvan, who goes by B.H., created the #GetMyVSC hashtag this fall for use across social media channels, such as Twitter and Facebook, to spread the word about safety boating checks and practices ahead of Safe Boating Week in May. He is a member of District 8 Coastal Region, Flotilla 05, Division 7 in Austin Texas..

"National Safe Boating Week isn't until May, but we're starting in January because our boat show is in January, and we're trying to make people aware of getting a safety check at the beginning of the year, that way people have it in mind," said Galvan, who is studying computer information systems at Temple Junior College in Temple, Texas. "... We're trying to ramp up all our messaging leading up to Safe Boating Week."

# #GetMyVSC

An AUP student asks everyone to use this hashtag to spread the word about **vessel safety checks**.

Getting the vessel safety check at the beginning of the year makes things a little easier on boaters, as the decal is good for the rest of the year, Galvan said, and ensures that the boater who receives a decal is following federal, state and local safety regulations, such as carrying a fire extinguisher and life jackets on board

Creating and sharing the hashtag "has been an internal experiment, but I'm going to try to bring it to a national audience," said Galvan. "Slowly the word is starting to get out. I don't know how long it will take before it will take off, but I'm telling everyone about it. It's a matter of time before everyone knows about it.

"I have been using a lot of the energies and ideals I've gained from the AUP in communicating with the public in a modern way," Galvan said. "We try to gain more interest ... and nothing is easier than saying follow us on Facebook and Twitter."

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## GATHERING PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER OF THE COAST GUARD

By John A. Sasso  
Flotilla 014-22-07

NEW YORK - Despite the raging snow on the morning of January 9, 2015, a small crowd of 50 – 60 gathered at the graveyard outside Trinity Church, NYC, to kick off the weekend long celebration of Alexander Hamilton's 258th birthday.

Since Hamilton was the founding father of the Coast Guard, the attendees and participants included Coast Guardsmen and Auxiliaries. The U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard of Sector New York presented the colors while Auxiliary Louis DiLeo, principal trumpeter and vocalist for the Auxiliary Band, performed an inspirational singing of the Star-Spangled Banner. Father Mark Bozzuti-Jones of Trinity Church performed the blessing of Hamilton's grave, followed by the presentation of the traditional memorial wreath sponsored by the Museum of American Finance. The



NEW YORK - Auxiliary Louis DiLeo of the Auxiliary Band sings the National Anthem during the birthday ceremony marking what would have been the 258th birthday of Alexander Hamilton.  
U.S. Coast Guard Photo by PA3 Frank Iannazzo-Simmons

ceremony concluded with the playing of taps by DiLeo on the trumpet.

This was the second time DiLeo has sung the Star Spangled Banner and sounded taps for a Hamiltonian Celebration. "Singing the National Anthem and sounding Taps at the grave of Alexander Hamilton was a great honor," comments DiLeo. "The opportunity to support the Coast Guard in paying tribute to its founder at this ceremony could only have been afforded to me as a member of the USCG Auxiliary Band.

The responsibility of wearing the uniform and performing in a professional manner, no matter what the situation or conditions, is what being an Auxiliary is all about."

This year marks 225 years from that inaugural day of August 4, 1790 when Congress in New York City (the capital at the time), established the Revenue Cutter Service and the Coast Guard was born. Stay tuned for announcements regarding the celebrations in honor of the milestone 225th birthday.

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## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



This annual contest recognizes Coast Guard Auxiliary Photographers who have successfully captured interesting and compelling images of Auxiliary members and assets in action across specified program categories. Each Coast Guard Auxiliary member may submit up to two photographs per category. (ONLY one category per email please) Each submission must:

1. Indicate the category to which it is being submitted in the CAPTION and EMAIL SUBJECT LINE - Example: "2015 Photo Awards Contest - Fellowship"
2. Photo titled with the topic category and photographer's initials (example: Operations JM) - OR - proper USCG AUXILIARY VIRIN
3. Contain a concise photo caption and credit information/name of photographer as per the Coast Guard PA Stylebook.
4. Photos must have been taken between 1 May 2014 and 30 May 2015.

If identifiable minors are present in the photo a signed proper model release form must also accompany the submission form #7020:

[http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads\\_wowII/092/ANSC\\_7020\\_photo\\_release.pdf](http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/092/ANSC_7020_photo_release.pdf)

All entries must be in digital .jpg format of at least 5 megapixels and follow all standards as outlined in the USCG Auxiliary Public Affairs Policy Guide and USCG Policy on Photography. Only red eye removal, lighting enhancements, and cropping are permitted. Photos may be color or black and white. Any photograph with improper uniforms, procedures or other infractions of policy will be excluded.

All photos and accompanying material must be submitted electronically to Branch Chief-Photography Joseph Giannattasio:  
[pa\\_pb\\_contest\\_entries@cgauxnet.us](mailto:pa_pb_contest_entries@cgauxnet.us) no later than 30 May 2015. No hard copies will be accepted.

Eight categories for photo submissions are:

**Public Affairs Event** - Auxiliarists spreading the Auxiliary message to external and internal audiences

**Fellowship** - Auxiliarists having fun in a social setting (alcohol and smoking not visible)

**Marine Safety** - Auxiliarists engaged in proctoring marine license exams, assisting in inspecting containers, vessels, engaged in beach cleanup and or other environmental activities

**Member Services** - Auxiliarists recruiting and/or providing information or services for members such as training, finger printing, photo taking and mentoring

**Operations** - Auxiliarists operating boats, aircraft, radios, etc.

**Public Education** - Auxiliarists providing recreational boating safety instruction or courses in weather, GPS

**Vessel Safety Checks** - Conducting recreational boating safety checks, discussions of proper boat equipment

**Team Coast Guard** - Auxiliarists, reservists and Active Duty working together on missions, training, PA events or fourth cornerstone events

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## MANDATED TRAINING DEADLINE EXTENDED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR MEMBER TRAINING OFFICER – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=mandated-training>

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### HELP WANTED

<http://cgaux.org/members/wantads/>

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## USCG AUXILIARY PHOTOS AROUND THE NATION



AUXILIARIST DON DOBSON PREPARES FOR EVENING COLORS ABOARD THE  
USCGC MAKO, STATION CAPE MAY, NJ  
PHOTO BY AUXILIARIST JOSEPH GIANNATTASIO, 053-08-02

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