

MARCH 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

FROM RESCUED TO RECRUITER

by Auxiliarist Barbara Burchfield
Flotilla 070-12-03

CHAPIN, S.C. - Flotilla 054-12-03 paid special tribute to C. Russell Jernigan for 40 years of service in the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Flotilla Change of Watch ceremony 1 December 2014.

If it were not for a boating mishap and subsequent rescue by the U.S. Coast Guard, Jernigan might not have joined the Auxiliary at all.

Jernigan attributes his career in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to a boating incident that left his wife (his fiancée at the time) and him stranded on a mud bar outside of Charleston harbor in the summer of 1973. It occurred during late afternoon and he tried everything he could to dislodge his boat with no success. He even tried flagging down boaters in the distance to no avail.

As night approached and darkness set in, Jernigan said that it looked like the only thing that would help them was divine intervention. Soon after, his fiancée and he heard the "whoop-whoop-whoop" sound of rotary blades. Intervention did indeed come from above - in the form of a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter to the rescue. Both were hoisted into the helicopter by the chopper's cable and basket system. Then-South Carolina Gov. John C. West happened to be on the water that afternoon and called the Coast Guard when he noticed Jernigan's stranded boat.

As if that weren't enough, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary retrieved Jernigan's boat off the mud bar the next day and towed it to a nearby launch for him. Jernigan was impressed with the community service and kindness offered to the everyday recreational boater. The next year he joined Flotilla 12-8, Charleston, and became "that guy" himself as boat crew member assisting the public, long before commercial towing and recovery services were widely available. Later, he became an Instructor, teaching boating safety classes and public education courses. With a job relocation, Jernigan transferred to Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray in 1980.



CHAPIN, S.C. – C. Russell Jernigan with a cake and a framed Auxiliary Member Service Award 1 December 2014 at the Change of Watch ceremony for Flotilla 070-12-03. Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander, presented Jernigan with the award, which was signed by Rear Adm. John H. Korn, U. S. Coast Guard Seventh District. Burchfield also thanked Jernigan's wife Janice for supporting him and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary during his long term of service. Photo by Auxiliarist Calvin Bowen

Jernigan held many leadership positions, including two terms as Division 12 Captain, but said that his favorite and most enjoyable job was Personnel now known as Human Resources. He enjoyed getting to know people, recruiting them into the Coast Guard Auxiliary and helping them find satisfying positions that would reward their volunteer time and talent.

Retired as assistant vice president with the South Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Companies in 2006, Jernigan enjoys living on the lake and touring with his pontoon boat. As an active member for Flotilla 070-12-03, he continues to offer his knowledge, assistance and a helping hand to the flotilla wherever he can.

2015 TO BE 'COAST GUARD SUMMER' IN CONNECTICUT

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



WATERFORD, Conn - Division 25 Auxiliary members on board Seadog, an Auxiliary facility, return from a training mission on Long Island Sound in June of 2013.
Photo by Auxiliarist Maura J. Casey

HARTFORD, Conn. - Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has declared the summer of 2015 to be "Connecticut's Coast Guard Summer," his office announced. It is intended to be a celebration of the Coast Guard's 225th anniversary and the Coast Guard's ties with Connecticut, as well as the port city of New London.

Coast Guard ties to New London run deep. Events during the summer will recognize the 100th anniversary of the renamed Coast Guard Academy, which occurred when the Life Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service merged and became the U.S. Coast Guard. The Academy's location in New London dates from 1910, when it relocated from Curtis Bay, MD, to the Fort Trumbull section of New London. In 1932, the citizens of New London donated the current 100-acre site to the Coast Guard Academy. The planned National Coast Guard Museum will be built on New London's waterfront and plans are to open it in 2018. New London is also

home to Coast Guard Station New London, the Coast Guard Research and Development Center, the Marine Safety Lab and the International Ice Patrol.

Gov. Malloy, in a letter to Coast Guard Adm. Paul F. Zukunft, asked that the service send additional Coast Guard ships, aircraft and personnel for the summer to help participate in the celebration.

However Bob Ross, Connecticut's director of the state office of Military Affairs, hopes that events will take place all over the state to recognize the Coast Guard. "We want towns to look at all the activities they have that may have a maritime theme and add the Coast Guard to raise awareness. We have banners that towns and cities could use to hang in downtown. We've engaged in school systems across the state to educate the kids before they leave school for the summer."

"There's a big role for the Auxiliary to play in this," said Ross. Auxiliarists in Connecticut have already attended organizing meetings to see how the Auxiliary can help, and in particular, how "Coast Guard Summer" can be used to emphasize boating safety at every public event.

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

CALL FOR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FOR THE 2015 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 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](#)

COAST GUARD AUXAIR NEW YORK SUPPORTS NBC NIGHTLY NEWS STORY

by Auxiliarist Louis M. Volpato
Flotilla 014-01-06



NEW YORK – Preparing for flight are Petty Officer 2nd Jetta Disco, Auxiliarist Ronald J. Kaplan, Auxiliarist Louis M. Volpato and Chiara Sottile, a multimedia journalist with NBC Nightly News
Photo by Flight Maintenance Crew

NEW YORK - Coast Guard Auxiliary First District, Southern Region pilots Ron Kaplan (12-07) and Lou Volpato (01-06) conducted an ice over flight of New York City and the Hudson River to observe and document shipping channel conditions in support of the 2013-2014 winter icebreaking season known as Operation Reliable Energy Northeast Winter (RENEW), Saturday.

Kaplan and Volpato flew with Chiara Sottile, a multimedia journalist with NBC Nightly News, and Petty Officer 2nd Jetta Disco of Coast Guard Public Affairs Detachment New York, to obtain video footage of ice conditions on the Hudson River and to observe firsthand the Auxiliary Air program's role in helping the Coast Guard keep vital waterways open to commercial shipping during the winter months.

The Coast Guard relies heavily on the AuxAir flights for providing daily photos and ice

reports of these local waterways. The photos and reports help the Coast Guard decide when and where on the river to dispatch their ice breaking cutters, saving valuable time and money. The imagery taken during the over flights is also available online to local shipping companies who move home heating oil and consumer goods.

“AUXAIR works so well because of the training of our members and close cooperation with the Coast Guard,” said Ron Kaplan, an aircraft commander with the Coast Guard Auxiliary First District, Southern Region.

The crew flew past the Statue of Liberty and past the Freedom Tower looking for ice flowing into New York Harbor. Then, they headed north on the Hudson River to West Point, a critical choke point where large amounts of ice collect blocking navigable paths for maritime traffic.

Further north on the Hudson, the aircrew observed the Coast Guard Cutter Sturgeon Bay and commercial shipping traffic transiting smoothly along the icy waters near the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

The Auxiliary crew said that AuxAir's winter operations occur seven days a week (weather permitting) from the Shrewsbury and Naversink Rivers in New Jersey to the north including points on the Hudson River to Lake Champlain and the New York/Canadian border.

In addition to the Coast Guard's Auxiliary Air Division, The NBC show, "[Frigid Winter Freezing Waterways](#)" which aired 1 February 2014, also featured Coast Guard cutters from Philadelphia and New York.

HARDLY A VACATION

Reprinted as received from Coast Guard Pacific Southwest
Official Blog of the 11th Coast Guard District
by Fireman Katherine Hays of Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe

TAHOE CITY, Calif. - Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe is nicknamed "Station Vacation" for its remote, pristine location and proximity to world-class ski resorts, but it may be more deserving of the nickname Station Fitness. High-altitude training allows station members to push their physical craft to the next level, training beside crystal clear waters and mountains that stay snowcapped late into the alpine spring.

Swim training challenges even strong swimmers in a lake that hovers in the 50-degree range in the hottest months of summer. Station members compete regularly in Nevada and California powerlifting competitions with several state records achieved, proving that, pound for pound, the U.S. Coast Guard is one of the best.

Although Tahoe is one of the deepest lakes in the world, shallow rims and sheer drop-offs make navigation of the north and south shores challenging as drought continues to drag the lake level closer to all-time record lows. Newly emerging shoalwater challenges coxswains to navigate in an area of responsibility that shifts with the rain and snow (or lack of it).

No more clearly has this been illustrated than by the grounding of the tourist paddleboat Tahoe Queen in shallow water off the south shore in August last year, which was the largest search-and-rescue case in the history of Station Lake Tahoe. The more than 300 people on board were required evacuation from the Tahoe Queen after being stranded for several hours.

Station Lake Tahoe partners with multiple maritime agencies to respond to the needs of the busy summer tourist season. In winter, Station Lake Tahoe stands vigilant, ready to respond when the lake is frigid and the weather is at its most volatile.

While conducting search cases and recreational boardings to promote boating safety among Lake Tahoe's large tourist population, Station Lake Tahoe also conducts regular two-boat training with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and occasional high-altitude air drops with C-130 aircrews from Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento.

With a limited crew in unpredictable mountain conditions, Station Lake Tahoe members exemplify the Coast Guard's dedication to preparedness to the physical and mental demands of successful execution of law enforcement and search and rescue in an alpine environment.



TAHOE CITY, Calif. – A Coast guard Auxiliarist heaves-in a P-5 dewatering pump from a Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe boatcrew during two-boat training on Lake Tahoe. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE

By Auxiliarist Maurice E. Clifton III
Flotilla 054-05-23



HUDGINS, Va. – U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist Joe Safranek stands radio guard at U.S. Coast Guard Station Milford Haven. Photo by Auxiliarist Maurice E. Clifton, III.

HUDGINS, Va. - Peer pressure isn't always a bad thing, especially in the case of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist Joe Safranek. A U.S. Air Force veteran of 15 years service and a ham radio operator, Safranek possessed qualities his friends thought would be valuable to the Auxiliary. It was their friendly, yet constant, peer pressure that got him to join.

Safranek works at U.S. Coast Guard Station Milford Haven, where he puts his skills to work as a radio watchstander. Since 2009, he has contributed more than 5,000 hours as a radio watchstander alone, in addition to his involvement with the boat forces program and other Auxiliary activities.

Safranek's proficiency certainly doesn't go unnoticed. Chief Petty Officer Brian Martin, Station Milford Haven's officer in charge, said Safranek is "like a professional communications expert ... this is what

he's done his entire life." Not only is Safranek extremely proficient at radio watchstanding, he's also a valuable team member when it comes to training and mentoring new Coast Guard members as radio watchstanders. Some of them are fresh out of boot camp, Martin said, and they view Safranek as a mentor and an honorary granddad who they can talk to about anything.

From being on the airwaves to being on the waves of the bay and teaching others how to do the same, Safranek enjoys it all. "There's nothing really in the auxiliary I dislike," he said. With eight years in the Auxiliary and nearly 18,000 hours of service to his nation and the Coast Guard, Safranek is a lot of things, but the one thing he's not is an average Joe.

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>

HELP WANTED

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

USCG AUXILIARY PHOTOS AROUND THE NATION



N-TRAIN PA ON 1 FEBRUARY 2015 IN ST. LOUIS.
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY PHOTO BY COMMODORE JERRI SMITH.

DISCLAIMER

“THE APPEARANCE OF ANY PRODUCT OR SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT ON THE SITE TO WHICH ANY LINK IS DIRECTED DOES NOT CONSTITUTE, AND SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS, AN ENDORSEMENT OF THAT PRODUCT OR SERVICE BY THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD OR COAST GUARD AUXILIARY.”

NAVIGATOR EXPRESS IS AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY.

COMMODORE HARRY M. JACOBS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS | RICHARD F. MIHALCIK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BRADFORD V. SIMPSON, EDITOR - NAVIGATOR EXPRESS | MAURA J. CASEY, ASSISTANT EDITOR - NAVIGATOR EXPRESS

DISTRIBUTION:

- ALL MEMBERS U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
- COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION INC MEMBERS AND STAFF

Note: please add uscgaux-ms@cgauxnet.us to your address book. Messages sent from that email address are official messages of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.