



# DCDR's Corner

By JOE RILEY, DCDR3



There comes a time when every elected officer must bid a fair adieu, a fond fare well, god speed and all that. Now is mine and although I regret the saying a fond farewell, I am pleased to acknowledge those who have made my past four years on the Division 3 Bridge "The Ride of a Lifetime".

I inherited Division 3 from a long line of very capable Division Captains, now called Division Commanders. For that I am quite thankful. They left me a membership cadre steeped in the spirit of volunteerism that the Commandant of the Coast Guard has dubbed the "America's Premier Volunteer Life Savers".

When I was elected for my first term as Vice Captain (now Division Vice Commander) in 2006 I received a congratulatory telephone call from a Past Captain who explained that I had signed on for 5-6 or maybe 7 years. Holy Cow!!" or "Good Grief!!", I said (It was probably a lot worse). But looking back over the past four years as VCDR and DCDR, it has been quite an **incredibly** satisfying ride.

During my four years on the Bridge I was involved in the decision to restructure the Division but my primary focus was on implementing the reorganization. It has been my experience that the hard part of a reorganization is after the decision is made to reorganize. That was the challenge and the members and leaders rose to the occasion and made it happen. As I write this, the

members have reported close to 50,000 hours, 35% more than the year before the reorganization.

The business of the Division, the District and the Auxiliary is conducted at the Flotilla level by members working together to accomplish the missions. I thank and commend you all for the professional manner and skill that you have demonstrated in conducting our business on my watch. You've made the Division the pre-eminent provider in the 5<sup>th</sup> District's Southern Region of recreational boating safety services and support to the Coast Guard. Our job in the future is to continue to live up to our legacy of pre-eminence.

*Joe*



**Joe Riley, Commander—Chesapeake Division**

—Eric Amato

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# VCDR Remarks — Education on and Surviving Cold Water Immersion

By COMO JESSE HARRUP, JR., DVCDR3 (DCDR3-e)

In all boating safety education, including that of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the focus for many years has been on the dangers of hypothermia and what to do when in cold water and protection from hypothermia. Recent scientific research on individuals exposed to immersion in cold water shows that the first problem is surviving long enough to even worry about hypothermia. Depending upon an individual's physiology the real risks of cold water immersion occur when falling into water below 15°C (59°F) and most generally for everyone exposed to water below 10°C (50°F).

Four generally recognized steps in the process of potentially dying from cold water immersion include: 1. Cold Shock, 2. Swimming Failure, 3. Hypothermia, and 4. Post-Rescue Collapse. As you can see, hypothermia is the third problem encountered in cold water immersion, and our Auxiliary education focuses on having a boater-survive long enough for that to be a problem.

Let's look at each of these elements further.

**1. COLD SHOCK** – When someone falls into cold water their first unconscious response is to take a large breath of air...if their face is in the water when that gasp occurs, then their chances of survival immediately diminish.

**2. SWIMMING FAILURE** – After one has been in cold water for 3-30 minutes there's a continued inability to hold one's breath, loss of coordination in the arms and legs results in a body-angle incompatible with swimming.

**3. HYPOTHERMIA** – Here is the subject on which we have historically focused and about which we are fairly familiar. It usually takes about 30 minutes in the water for real hypothermia effects to set in.

**4. POST-RESCUE COLLAPSE** – The hypothermic boater is not out of the woods after rescue. Blood pressure can drop to a dangerously low level, inhaled water can damage tissues in the lungs, and heart problems may develop as colder blood from the extremities is released into the core of the



**COMO Jesse Harrup, Jr.**  
**DVCDR, Chesapeake Division**  
—From the files of COMO Jesse Harrup, Jr.

body.

So, what is the answer to all of this? The answer is to do everything possible to prevent early death from Cold Shock and Swimming Failure and then hope that rescue takes place before hypothermia becomes irreversible. The key then, is for anyone who is on board a boat, when the water temperature is below 60°F, to wear a PFD at all times (versus having it near-by).

If a boater simply has the PFD in-hand, he or she most likely will not be able to put it on in an emergency. But if they end up in the water and are wearing a PFD, they remain upright and their head is maintained in a position so that they don't inhale water during Cold Shock. In a PFD, even if they experience swimming failure, they will continue to remain upright and can be rescued.

We also need to teach boaters that if they're ever called on to rescue someone who has fallen into cold water that the individual in the water may not even be able to grab onto anything that is thrown to them and, as a result, the use of a boat hook to get the victim to the rescuer's boat is a real likelihood.

The key to all of this is the wearing of a PFD and ideally an anti-exposure garment. It is pretty evident that if someone falls into very cold water they will drown from a combination of cold shock and swimming failure unless they are very, very lucky. No matter how fit they are, no matter how good they are at swimming, these things happen to anyone who goes into cold water, and the life-saving device that will keep them alive long

*"The key to all of this is the wearing of a PFD and ideally an anti-exposure garment."*

enough to be rescued is a PFD. If we teach recreational boating safety anywhere where water temperatures get below 60°F, or to people who boat in such waters, it's critical that we "hammer home" the mandatory use of a PFD for everyone on board in our boating education classes and PA events.

## Honor's Roll

Information Provided by JOE RILEY, DCDR3

The following members have received Certificates of Advancement as Vessel Examiners:  
Evelyn Koon, FL 31; Jason Wilmoth, FL 31

The following Auxiliarists have received Membership Service Awards:  
Five Years:

K. Bruce Blanchard, Jack Conti and David Wilkerson, FL 31;  
Gary Palsgrove, FL 3-10

Ten Years:  
Gerald Hawley, FL 33

Please join us in congratulating these members on their achievements.

# SPOTLIGHT on Flotilla 33

By BRIAN McARDLE

Flotilla 33 is finishing off one of its best years ever. At the end of October, Flotilla members had already surpassed 2008 volunteer hours and are already planning for 2010. "This was a very active year for us," commented Wally Dawson, Flotilla Commander. "Our members really stepped up this year and got involved in a lot of different areas. Over 1/3 of our total hours were dedicated to Marine Patrols, Operational Support and Search & Rescue. This does not include time spent on Public Affairs, Education, Visitors Program and Vessel Safety Checks."

Operationally, the number of patrols is up 21% in 2009 while patrol hours were up 29%. The Flotilla's busiest boat, Family Time completed 67 patrols through the end of October with 1,871 member hours. "Family Time is open to all Auxiliary members," commented Jim Thomas, Coxswain. "We have the opportunity to conduct winter operations where some other flotillas do not, but we welcome anyone that would like to patrol with us. Over 5% of our hours were by auxiliary members from other Flotillas."

Early in the year Flotilla 33 Coxswains were out on winter patrol. "There were times when we had to act as an ice-breaker this winter to get to open water, said John Mill, Coxswain. "However, it was worth it to get in some Dry Suit training, be available for the Commercial Fisherman and occasional recreational boater, insure ATONs were in good condition and operational after the bad weather and check for hazards to navigation."

Just because it is winter, doesn't mean training and QE exams are suspended. Knowing that Flotilla 33 members train year round, Peter and Francois Kirkpatrick, FL 31, traveled from Richmond to get in some training time and even passed their crew qualifications in Dry Suits.

One of our early Flotilla meetings was held at Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). After the business meeting, Flotilla members were given a tour of the facilities, given presentations on "Ghost Pots" and met with Instructors in the labs.



**Flotilla meeting at VIMS.**

—Jim Thomas III, IPDCDR

Also early in the year, Flotilla 33 joined up with Air Operations to conduct training exercises. Air Operations personnel never

had the opportunity to participate in a Search and Rescue exercise. "We were happy to assist the air operations group in their first SAR training," commented Jim Thomas, Coxswain of Family Time. "To simulate a real scenario, we laid out a debris field, gave them a search pattern and later lit some flares to see what they could and could not observe. It was satisfying to develop this training exercise for air operations and start a program where other Flotillas could learn how to work with Air Operations in a joint exercise."



**FL 33 members using smoke flares during Air Ops training.**

—Jim Thomas III, IPDCDR

Winter operations were not the only thing Flotilla members were conducting. Public Education, Public Affairs and Program Visitors were all under way. In addition to the regular Public Education Classes, well-

*"We were happy to assist the air operations group in their first SAR training."*

attended seminars were conducted at local Yacht Clubs.

During the year, Flotilla 33 hosted some special guests on Patrol. The Argentina Navy's Liaison to the United States Coast Guard, Commander Walter Guido participated in patrol and visited Station Milford Haven. Capt. Mark Rizzo, Chief Director of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary also joined Flotilla members on patrol and just recently LCMDR, Kelley Hall, OIC of the Yorktown Command Center Training School, participated in a patrol on the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay.

During 2009, Flotilla members participated in a number of SAR cases and rescues. In one case the Coast Guard had a large sailboat under stern tow, but due to the wind, current, narrow channel and the size of the sailboat, they asked for the Auxiliary Facility to take the sailboat in an alongside tow. "Our two boat training sessions with Milford Haven's boats really paid off," said Don Gallagher. "Not only were we well prepared to handle a tow in high winds and 2-3 foot waves, but the Coast Guard personnel had the trust in us that they could pass a boat taking on

*(Continued on page 4)*

# SPOTLIGHT on Flotilla 33

By BRIAN McARDLE

(Continued from page 3)

water over to us in those conditions.”

Flotilla members provided support to Operation Dry Water by standing watch and being on BO Standby at Station Milford Haven. Coast Guard personnel and Marine Police were then free to conduct an operation looking for boaters operating a boat under the influence.



**B-O SAR Standby at Station Milford Haven during the Weekend of Operation Dry Water.**

—BM1 Richard Gonzalez, XPO Station Milford Haven

The Flotilla was also recognized for some of its special activity. An “E” award was earned by crew members in 2009. This was the second “E” award issued in the Flotilla and only the third in the Division. Also, crew members, Jim Thomas, David Pope, Amy Thomas and Brian McArdle were presented an Award of Operational Merit for their role in saving a sinking power boat at night. In addition, John Mill, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, was recognized by United States Coast Guard Admiral Wayne Justice for his participation in constructing a special chart



**FL 33 members with ADM Justice at Coast Guard Station Milford Haven.**

—BMC Matthew Welsh, OIC Station Milford Haven

table for Station Milford Haven in honor of the Auxiliary’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (See latest Navigator Magazine.)

In addition to a couple of our Flotilla members participating in the Turkey Shoot Regatta in October, members gave up their weekend to provide safety patrols for the more than 140 sailboats that raced on the Rappahannock River. It was a challenge to keep speeding boats out of the race course. Members from other Flotillas joined us on the safety patrols and we appreciate the assistance. A lot of nice comments were made by race participants when they observed an Auxiliary Facility bringing a sailboat to Yankee Point Marina under side tow and putting the boat safely alongside the pier. Of course, it was at the end of the day when everyone was already at the Marina and watching.



**Sailboat assist by AUX 27137 after Turkey Shoot Regatta.**

—Ed Hind

“All of our successes could not have been achieved without the individual contribution of every member,” said Wally Dawson,

*“All of our successes could not have been achieved without the individual contribution of every member.”*

FC. “Our continued contribution to the Auxiliary will even be better with the new members that joined this year. Our new members were very active, participated and got crew qualified in a short period of time. We look to an even better year in 2010.”



# United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Memorial—Station Milford Haven

By BRIAN McARDLE

A United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Memorial has been installed at Station Milford Haven. The purpose of the Memorial is to honor the memory of deceased Auxiliarists who honorably served in Station Milford Haven's Area of Responsibility and those contributors to the fund prior to June 1, 2009.



after notification of the party who submitted the Application. Placement will begin at the center and work outwards and will be installed by receipt date of application. Requests for a specific location cannot be accepted. The engraved bricks will replace the already installed bricks.



The Memorial consists of approximately 10 foot square array of bricks placed in a "basket weave" configuration with a Memorial Stone as the center piece flanked by four marble benches along each side. Compass points engraved in larger stone work mark the four corners.

Procedures have now been established for persons or groups to honor an Auxiliarist by purchasing an engraved brick. All engravings will be consistent with ½ inch lettering. Each brick will contain three lines:

- Line 1: First name and initial or first initial and middle name
- Line 2: Last name and suffix
- Line 3: Year of Birth and Year of Death (four characters each.)

The cost of an engraved brick will be \$50.00 which includes the cost of the brick, engraving, shipping, installation and a certificate for the purchaser.

The process to obtain an engraved brick is to complete an application with as much information as possible and can be obtained from a Flotilla Commander. Upon completion of the application, it will be submitted to the appropriate Flotilla Commander for approval.

It is important to note, that the engraver of the bricks will only process an order of 25 bricks or more, so some time could pass between the application submission and the installation since we have to wait for 25 approved applications to be processed.

Installation will be done upon receipt from the manufacturer and



# Application for Engraved Memorial Brick

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Name of Auxiliaries being honored: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates served in Auxiliary: \_\_\_\_\_ Member number: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Flotilla: (Flotilla number or location) \_\_\_\_\_

Application submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

## **INFORMATION TO BE ENGRAVED ON MEMORIAL BRICK**

### **LINE 1**

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

FIRST INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LINE 2**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SUFFIX: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LINE 3**

YEAR OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF DEATH: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

**Flotilla Commander Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

.....

Submit check in the amount of \$50.00 payable to:

Auxiliary Memorial Committee

c/o Mr. Frans Kasteel

101 Emlaw Lane

Lancaster, Va 22503

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Due to the requirements of the brick company, orders can only be submitted in amounts of 25 or more bricks. Installation date depends upon how fast a group of 25 orders can be placed. Substantial delays could occur between order time and installation.

# Editor's Note

By SHARON M. BEACH, SO-PB

Happy Holidays to all my fellow Auxiliaries, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

I have enjoyed serving as SO-PB over the past two years and look forward to the next two. I certainly could not do this without the cooperation and assistance from all of you who devotedly send articles for publishing in the PORTHOLE. Kudos to you all!

Please remember our men and women in the armed services over the holidays; I have received several emails regarding sending holiday cards to "A Recovering Soldier" at Walter Reed Army Hospital. I thought this was a GREAT idea, but investigated this on snopes.com, and in fact, cards sent to Walter Reed will not be distributed to soldiers per then Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Transportation Policy in 2001. This decision was made to ensure the safety and well being of patients and staff at medical centers throughout the Department of Defense.

HOWEVER, the American Red Cross with support from Pitney-Bowes will distribute cards to our proud warriors, and the cut off date is **7 DECEMBER**:



Send cards to:  
Holiday Mail For Heroes  
P.O. Box 5456  
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456



**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY  
DIVISION 3  
FIFTH DISTRICT • SOUTHERN REGION**

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"Porthole" photograph on front cover by  
Sharon M. Beach.

*"Semper Paratus."*



## 2009 Officers and Staff

### Division Commander (DCDR)

Joe Riley

### Division Vice Commander (VCDR)

COMO Jesse Harrup, Jr.

### Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR)

Jim Thomas

### Navigation Systems (SO-NS)

Ted Tulis

### Communications (SO-CM)

Donald Chamberlain

### Marine Safety (SO-MS)

Frans Kasteel

### Operations (SO-OP)

Bernard "Huck" Cogbill

### Public Affairs (SO-PA)

Brian McArdle

### Public Education (SO-PE)

Carroll Barrack

### RBS Program Visitor (SO-PV)

Ian Duncan

### Vessel Examiner (SO-VE)

Ian Duncan

### Communication Services (SO-CS)

Fred Woodard

### Materials (SO-MA)

John Slayman

### Member Training (SO-MT)

Julian Everly

### Personnel Services (SO-PS)

Carole Riley

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Jean Everly

### Information Services (SO-IS)

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### Publications (SO-PB)

Sharon Beach

### Secretary/Records (SO-SR)

Antoinette "A" Ashburn

### Grant Writer

David Herndon

### Readiness Coordinator (RC)

Bruce Blanchard

### Security Coordinator (SC)

John Rives

### Chaplain

Ted Tulis

### Memorial Fund

Wayne Ploger