



November 18, 2011

To: Commodore Angelo Perata
Rod Collins, COS
Mary Kirkwood, DCAPT
D11NR Board and Staff

From: Perry Joiner, DSO-Public Affairs

Subject: November 2011 Report

I was recently appointed to take over as DSO-PA and am grateful to be a part of the district staff and excited about expanding the district public affairs and supporting many of our ongoing programs.

Members from several divisions assisted in the moving of USS Iowa to Richmond for retrofit to become the Pacific Battleship Museum in Los Angeles. Sector Public Affairs asked for assistance in covering the event and we were able to provide PA support.

BZ to Rich Postal SO-PA of Division 8 for outstanding coverage of the ten year anniversary of the Auxiliary in Crescent City. See addendum at end of report.

Had great success at our Introduction to Public Affairs training. I will continue to offer PA classes for the division hopefully at the PCS fair and DTrain. I am currently focusing on getting District PAs to be minimally qualified by taking the intro course which outlines all the areas of Auxiliary public affairs and is the first step for those interested in working towards Public Affairs Specialist qualification. I still working with national leadership to waive the online quizzes requirements for course completion. I intend to have other class offerings including photography and news writing.

Our new District Ceremonial Team will be making its debut at the memorial dedication. This is an ongoing program and Jim Duffley of Flotilla 12-1 is the program coordinator. The intent is to participate in District and civic activities. People interested can contact Jim for further info.

District 11 Public Affairs is interested in having auxiliarists work with them in covering events in our AOR. There are opportunities here to go out on missions or to events for taking photos or video, ect. Contact me for more info on that.

Victoria Hudson of Division 12 is working with me to train and establish direct District Public Affairs augmentation for crisis situations like Cosco Buson and Deepwater Horizon. This is the foundation of our PARTNER (Public Affairs Readiness Training and Event Response.) Program. More information as this is further developed.

As a general reminder, Media queries and press releases need to be sent up the chain for review. If anyone is identifying himself or herself as an auxiliarist or working in any capacity as one, prior review is required for release.

We have continued involvement with Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets.

Looking for further involvement with VA outreach programs. Looking for an outreach coordinator.

I will be presenting Public Affairs information at Elected Officers Training.

Command messages: Know them, Use them.

Wearing Life Jackets Saves Lives!

Boating Sober Saves Lives!

Taking Boating Safety Classes Saves Lives!

Getting Vessel Safety Checks Saves Lives!

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Joiner

Public Affairs Officer

District 11 Northern Region

Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrates 10 years

Written by Rick Postal/Triplicate staff November 01, 2011 05:04 pm



A Coast Guard Auxiliary boat, right, in Crescent City Harbor. Del Norte Triplicate/Rick Postal

When two concerned citizens didn't get what they asked for after a tragic accident off the Crescent City jetty near Battery Point Lighthouse, the events that followed would lead to the formation of a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla in Crescent City. Following the sinking of the commercial fishing boat the F/V Paul C on Dec. 15, 1999, which resulted in the loss of the lives of two local crab fishermen, Bev Noll, a former commercial fisherman, and Mary Messal, a then-active member of "The Commercial Fishermen's Wives Association," campaigned for increased Coast Guard protection for offshore boaters in the Crescent City area.

As it is now, the Coast Guard Cutter stationed at Whaler's Island in Crescent City was often away on maneuvers at sea and unavailable for local open ocean rescue. The closest lifeboat stations, intended for near-shore patrol, were at Humboldt Bay, and Brookings, Ore., both too distant for timely response to the fishing grounds off Crescent City.

After the locals solicited the help of U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, negotiations with the Coast Guard began, resulting in several visits to Crescent City by Coast Guard personnel. Noll then flew to Washington, D.C., representing The Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Committee, and while there, continued to lobby for a small boat station in Crescent City.

In the end, however, the Coast Guard maintained it did not have the resources to

meet the request, and according to Noll, the final visiting Coast Guard representative said, "let's see what the community is willing to pony up." Noll and Messal accepted the statement as a challenge, and proceeded to organize and arranged to train 16 of their friends and relatives.

As a reward for the effort the Coast Guard presented them with the keys to a boat, and Crescent City then became the home of the first-ever U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary organization to operate an official Coast Guard watercraft in open Pacific Ocean waters for search and rescue purposes.

The first Coast Guard boat they received was a 20-foot rigid hull inflatable (RHI) that became surplus to the Coast Guard when they were replaced by more current technology.

Beginning Friday, Flotilla 8-11 will host a 10th anniversary celebration in Crescent City. The event will be attended by both Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel, plus friends and guests. Saturday's activities will include skill-related competitions at the Coast Guard Station and conclude with a banquet at Veteran's Memorial Hall.

Flotilla 8-11 is now on its third Coast Guard boat and continues to provide open ocean rescue response for the Crescent City commercial and sport boating community. Dispatch orders predominately originate from the Coast Guard at Humboldt Bay, and coordination with any other agency is arranged at that level. Some years as many as 40 requests for assistance have been answered by the local flotilla. Skill levels for the boat crews are set by Coast Guard standards and are monitored closely by the Coast Guard. Training is ongoing. In 2006 a Flotilla 8-11 boat crew flew to Cape May, N.J., to compete in the National Search and Rescue Competition. Its members returned home national champions.

In addition to search and rescue, the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Crescent City teaches boating safety courses, offers free boat safety inspections that qualify the boat owners for discounts with many insurance companies and provide local children with free life jackets

It also stands ready to assist the Coast Guard whenever necessary. On March 11, a tsunami generated by a severe earthquake in Japan caused catastrophic damage to the Crescent City harbor, sinking many of the moored fishing and pleasure vessels. The Coast Guard immediately took charge and started the process needed to minimize environmental damage.

The Coast Guard requested that the Auxiliary be part of the team. Auxiliary members, with local knowledge, helped build a successful liaison between emotionally charged boat owners and the agencies delegated to do the work. Flotilla 8-11 received recognition and an award from the Coast Guard for its participation.

Like all U.S. Coast Guard auxiliaries, Flotilla 8-11 is a volunteer, non-military component of the Coast Guard, with a mission to promote boating safety and assist the Coast Guard in completion of their civil responsibilities. Membership is open to all U.S. citizens, 17 and older.