From the Bridge

By Peter Kirkpatrick, FC

What a year you have made for Flotilla 31. Evelyn and I thank you for your dedication and the hours that you have committed to the Flotilla and to the Auxiliary in 2010. As we are making our plans for 2011, each of us, not should, but must be asking ourselves the question “How much time can I devote to the Flotilla, to the Coast Guard and to its core missions, especially in Promoting and Improving Recreational Boating Safety (RBS)?” (underlined and put in bold print this year by Admiral Papp in the Auxiliary Policy Statement). The incoming Bridge you have elected as well as our appointed FSOs for 2011 will be asking and reminding each of us throughout the year ahead this same question. We all know the recruiting style of our VFC Bill Whitlock and he will not be shy in asking this question nor should he or any of us be. For the message is clear, especially in the times we are in today: The US Coast Guard is not just looking to the Auxiliary; the Gold-Side is counting on the active involvement and commitment of each of its Auxiliarists.

Before Congress in 2010, the Coast Guard assured that boating safety and awareness will increase, and the Coast Guard is expecting the Auxiliary to fulfill its missions in Recreational Boating Safety (RBS). For example, in our District, which includes Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and the District of Columbia, there are more than 3 million registered boats and other sorts of various paddle-craft. Less than 1% has undergone vessel safety checks. In 2011, the work placed before all of us in the Auxiliary cannot be clearer. Our Public Education (PE) program is solid; a number of our members have been recognized for their outstanding services in PE. Through the continual growth of PE combined with more of us becoming qualified and trained not only as Instructors (IT) but also in the other vital areas of RBS -Vessel Examinations (VE), Program Visitors (PV) and Public Affairs (PA)- Flotilla 31 in Richmond will answer and assist the Gold-side on its promise to Congress and to the Nation.

With the fellowship, training and dedication of Division members, especially from Flotilla 3-2, 3-3 and 3-10, the period 2009-2010 marks the true beginning in the re-establishment of our Surface Operations Team(s) in Richmond by our Flotilla. Since November, regular monthly multi-mission patrols schedules exist and our crew/coxswains stand ready to augment the Coast Guard, Station Portsmouth and Sector Hampton Roads, by responding to their needs as well as to the public’s needs on the waters of our Area of Responsibility (AOR). Marine Safety, ATON verifications and Chart-Updates, Search and Rescue (SAR), Standbys, Call-outs, all are part of the activities in which you are currently or
One of Flotilla 31’s MS program’s newest initiatives is helping to address the hundreds of waste tires in the James River. Working in conjunction with the Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality and Henrico County environmental protection staff, John is developing a plan for the identification, mapping and future retrieval of waste tires that line the banks and fill the shallows along the James River.

This new program will allow Flotilla 31 to assist the County and State in tracking existing waste tires, dump sites and reporting new sightings. The mapping of these tires will allow future patrols and local river advocacy groups to retrieve and dispose of waste tires that pollute the waters, harbor growing mosquito populations and pose navigation hazards to local river traffic. John is working with the County to develop a disposal procedure for those tires that might be retrieved by AUX Patrols as well as future cleanup programs.

dumped waste tires pose environmental, ecological and boating hazards.

By John Campbell IV, FSO-MS

One of Flotilla 31’s MS program’s newest initiatives is helping to address the hundreds of waste tires in the James River. Working in conjunction with the Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality and Henrico County environmental protection staff, John is developing a plan for the identification, mapping and future retrieval of waste tires that line the banks and fill the shallows along the James River.

This new program will allow Flotilla 31 to assist the County and State in tracking existing waste tires, dump sites and reporting new sightings. The mapping of these tires will allow future patrols and local river advocacy groups to retrieve and dispose of waste tires that pollute the waters, harbor growing mosquito populations and pose navigation hazards to local river traffic. John is working with the County to develop a disposal procedure for those tires that might be retrieved by AUX Patrols as well as future cleanup programs.
In November 2006, a new container service began at the Port of Richmond. Eimskip Shipping Company, Iceland’s largest shipping line, provides the Port with a monthly regular and refrigerated container liner service between Richmond, VA and Halifax, Nova Scotia; Argentia, Newfoundland; and Reykjavik, Iceland. Cargoes include frozen seafood, produce, consumer goods, vehicles, recreational campers, heavy equipment and bottled water. The Port of Richmond installed container refrigeration plugs on the terminal to support its new customer.

In 2008, the Port saw the establishment of barge service for containers. The increasing size of ocean going vessels and the highway congestion in Hampton Roads provided an opportunity to establish a barge service between Richmond and Hampton Roads. The service, “64 Express”, operated by the James River Barge Line provides weekly service between Richmond and Norfolk International Terminal.

The 2009 year brought a number of challenges to the Port of Richmond. The economic down turn decreased the marine cargo movements throughout the United States. In Richmond we saw the downturn first hand with the loss of ICL and decreased vessel calls from Eimskip. Independent Container Line, experiencing declining volumes, moved their operation to Wilmington, NC. Waterborne cargo in Richmond decreased by 78% and Federal Marine Terminals decided to not to renew its lease due to their reduced volumes and the uncertain economy. In 2009, due to the decreased business volumes and with the departure of Federal Marine Terminals, the Port changed its business model from the port operator having leasehold to where the port operator has an operating contract. To enable this change the Port purchased all the necessary operating equipment including two cranes, top lifts, reach stacker, yard trucks, bomb carts, forklifts, and various stevedoring gear.

Today the Port of Richmond, “Virginia’s Mid-Atlantic Multi-Modal Freight Center,” is steadily increasing its transshipment cargo that comes into the Port by water, rail and truck. The Port handles machinery, aluminum, consumer goods, frozen seafood, produce, bottled water, project cargo, vehicles, wire coils, wire rods, pipe, steel, steel products, textiles, chemicals, forest products, pharmaceuticals, and aplite. The Port serves Canada and Iceland through the Eimskip service, and the world through the weekly barge service to Hampton Roads.

The Port of Richmond celebrated its 70th Anniversary as a unique transportation facility on the James River in 2010. Significant capital investment continues to be made at the Port in equipment and in the facility. The Port is optimistic that the Port of Richmond will continue to be a valuable regional asset that benefits not only the Greater Richmond Metropolitan area, but also the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Learn more about the activities of the Port of Richmond at our January Flotilla meeting as M. David McNeel, Executive Director of the Port of Richmond, comes to speak to our members.
Making Our Waters Safer
By Peter Kirkpatrick, FC

In 2010, Flotilla 31 launched for the first time its Marine Safety (MS) program. John Campbell took up the challenge in this new area and became our staff officer for the MS program. The activities and public outreach John developed in Marine Safety during 2010 have been nothing but impressive. Not only has John gained his own qualifications in MS but he has also encouraged us to take on-line and as well as hands-on training in marine and environmental safety. Furthermore, John has many projects already set or in development for 2011.

Auxiliarians have a wide range of programs and missions in Prevention in which to become active (see the Auxiliary National website on Prevention for more information: http://pdept.cgaux.org/) and can get their “feet wet” in Marine Safety by going on-line to study and to take the Good Mate course and the newly-revised Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection course. Combining John Campbell’s leadership in MS with our Flotilla’s Surface Operations Team will further enable our Flotilla members to pursue their desires in making the waters of our Area of Responsibility (AOR) both cleaner and safer. For example, just since November and December, scheduled patrols on the James River have not only retrieved debris from the waterways to be recycled but have also removed hazards to navigation.

On one patrol in November, the crew of Facility 22281 (see picture) found a large section of dock floating just barely sub-surface in the middle of the channel near marker #150. It was a busy day on the water with many fishermen zipping up and down the James searching for bass, catfish and stripers. Flotilla 31 crewmembers towed the large obstruction out of the channel and secured it. In just two months of patrols, ten members of our Flotilla have already participated in nine on-the-water marine and environmental safety patrol missions. Want to become involved? Contact John Campbell.

Casper the helpful boat
By Nick Kuriger, FSO-CS, FSO-PE, SO-CS, DVC-MP

On December 7th the flotilla had a new Operational Facility accepted into it ranks. Facility 19922 is now on its third tour of duty with the Auxiliary. It first entered service in 1996 with Julian Everly of Flotilla 3-10. Joe Riley also of Flotilla 3-10 later purchased it and giving it the name “The Life of Riley”. Next, Nick Kuriger of Flotilla 31 purchased it this last November giving Facility 19922 it’s third name, “Casper”.

Kuriger named his new boat after the Captain’s gig of the command ship USS LaSalle (AGF-3) whose call sign was Casper. His first military small boat experience was on this vessel during the first Persian Gulf War where he served as the bowhook on several missions re-supplying multi-national mine sweeping forces who were clearing shipping lanes into Kuwait.

Kuriger has given authorization for all of the Coxswains in the Division to operate his facility under orders. The facility is currently in a dry slip at Kingsland Reach Marina near Osborne Landing. Therefore it is easily accessible and Kuriger hopes that it will be widely used both with and without him onboard. The facility is a 19’ center console. It has a 120 HP engine and a specialized stern towing rig.
Navigation Systems (NS), Get Involved!
By Peter Kirkpatrick, FC

In 2010, a number of Flotilla members were busy with Navigation Systems (NS). This summer during a patrol on the James, for example, a Flotilla crew member filed a discrepancy report on buoy #126 which had been damaged by a vessel. During a recent November patrol, Chris Messenger filed his report on nun #172 which is missing, on several locations, its reflective numbering. The Flotilla currently has five members who are ATON verifiers. With the number of ATONs in the AOR, it is anticipated that several current and soon-to-be ATON verifiers will want to pursue their qualifications even further. What about you?

Division 3 Change of Watch
By COMO Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., Commander Division 3

Directions from Fredericksburg/ Maryland
Arrive Kilmarnock on Rte 3, turn left onto Rte 200 in center of town. Go to Bluff Point Road and turn right to Club Drive.

Hope to see you there!

Directions from Richmond/Newport News, etc.
Arrive Kilmarnock on Rte 3, turn right onto Rte 200 in center of town. Go to Bluff Point Road and turn right to Club Drive

January Medal of the Month (Part 1)— Auxiliary Instructor Program Ribbon
A monthly look at ribbons and medals available to members through participation in critical AUX missions
By Awards Committee

Completing the Instructor Development Course allows members to participate in another of the primary missions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The IT certification will allow you to participate in the promotion of recreational boating safety through Public Education and to instruct in the many Auxiliary Member Training courses. The course requires a trainee to pass an online open book exam (http://ntc.cgaux.org/) and successfully complete Performance Qualification System (PQS) tasks. Following the completion of PQS tasks, the trainee will be required to conduct training events in accordance with the IDC course material.

A certified mentor instructor will evaluate the event presentations. Course material is available at the National Education Department website (http://www.cgauxed.org/elib/idc.htm). For additional information contact Nick Kuriger, FSO-PE.
After receiving the volunteer hours from our very own FSO-IS Rick Neal it is apparent that Flotilla 31 has certainly progressed within various areas of the Auxiliary. Looking at the numbers from 2007 through 2010 it is evident that this flotilla continues to grow and increase its efforts. It is truly a collective effort to achieve this significant increase over the last few years. It is also inspiring to know that so many have offered their personal time and talents to assist the USCGAUX and ultimately the USCG. Well Done Indeed!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATON-Aids to Navigation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUXADMN-Aux Admin Support</td>
<td>5,966.00</td>
<td>7,645.25</td>
<td>10,009.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUXMP-Marine Patrols</td>
<td>98.80</td>
<td>45.70</td>
<td>562.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGADMN-Cg Admin Support</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGOPS-Cg Operational Support</td>
<td>776.50</td>
<td>939.57</td>
<td>682.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVSUP-Government Agency Support</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA-International Affairs</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS-Marine Safety</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT-Member Training</td>
<td>161.50</td>
<td>97.25</td>
<td>153.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR-Operational Research</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBS-Recreational Boating Safety</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1,834.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN-Auxiliary Radio Net</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR-Search And Rescue</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMDV-Marine Dealer Visits</td>
<td>56.00</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>22.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPA-Public Affairs</td>
<td>292.00</td>
<td>325.65</td>
<td>333.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPE-Public Education</td>
<td>589.75</td>
<td>681.20</td>
<td>1068.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UREC-Recruiting Assistance</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSC-Vessel Safety Check</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>38.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,991.35</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,828.12</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,733.61</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January Medal of the Month (Part 2)— Auxiliary Examiner Program Ribbon
A monthly look at ribbons and medals available to members through participation in critical AUX missions
By Awards Committee

Completing the Vessel Examination Course allows members to participate in the promotion of recreational boating safety through on-board vessel safety checks. This course may be completed by self study and a test can be completed online at (http://ntc.cgaux.org/). Trainees then are required to field inspect at least five vessels under the direct tutelage of a qualified VE.

While still considered a separate qualification, the Program Visitor qualification is enhanced if the member has also completed Vessel Examination training. When acting as a Program Visitor, Auxiliarists promote recreational boating safety by installing and maintaining boating safety displays in businesses or any public area that approves the display. Program Visitors are responsible for maintaining and stocking the displays throughout the year but especially during boating months. This course may be completed by self study and a test can be completed online at (http://ntc.cgaux.org/). In addition to the course material, PVs must perform two visits under the tutelage of an experienced PV member.

Course material for both qualifications can be found here, http://safetyseal.net/training.asp.
2011 Flotilla 31 Challenge Coin
By Awards Committee

A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization’s insignia or emblem and carried by the organization’s members. They are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. Our Flotilla Commander, Peter Kirkpatrick, at his own expense has decided to take part in the tradition.

Through the course of the year Kirkpatrick will present a coin to guest speakers at Flotilla meetings and members who have assisted the Flotilla in its mission. The backside of the coin prominently displays our commander’s focus for the year: Response and Prevention and Recreational Boating Safety.

The coin uses the Flotilla 31 logo created last year by Nick Kuriger. Kuriger also had a hand in designing the back of the coin.

The final design and the actual coin was created by the company All About Challenge Coins.

The annual Fifth District Winter Conference will be held February 25 and 26 in Richmond. Please plan to come!

The Fifth District, Southern Region, will hold its annual two-day winter Conference on Friday, February 25, and Saturday, February 26, at the new Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa in Richmond, Virginia. Please save the date and be on the lookout for registration forms which will be going out soon.

This one will be different. We’re planning two days of fun, fellowship and training that we’re sure you’ll find rewarding and enjoyable as well. Just one of our fellowship activities: A Friday-evening Southern Feast of Carolina barbecue and southern fried chicken with all the fixin’s, apple cobbler for dessert and live bluegrass country music (bring your country and western duds if you have them)—all for a modest $21 a person.

We’ll send you a flyer soon with more information, but meanwhile we hope you’ll mark this on your calendar and plan to bring your spouse or significant other.

Note for Flotilla 31: We are looking for volunteers to help setup for the conference since this is in our hometown.

2011 Meetings and Speakers
By Meeting Committee

Our new Flotilla Commander, Peter Kirkpatrick, promises that our meetings this year will be informative and succinct. The business part of our meetings, Peter hopes, will be only 15 minutes long followed or preceded by a guest speaker and fellowship.

Our guest speaker for the January 25th meeting will be M. David McNeel. Mr. M. David McNeel with 30 years of maritime industry experience became the Port of Richmond’s third Executive Director in 2008.

Our guest speaker for the February 22nd meeting will be CDR Steven D. Whitehead, Director of Auxiliary. CDR Whitehead has 30 years of experience in the Coast Guard. He has a degree in Business from Averett University. His awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, USCG Commendation Medal, the 9-11 Medal, two USCG Achievement Medals, and a USN Achievement Medal.

Future meeting guests will include local maritime law enforcement, James River history experts and other USCG representatives.
Changes to The Gangplank
By Ben Chappell, FSO-PB

At the November Flotilla Meeting it was announced that there would be changes in the format and the style of The Gangplank. Please note the changes and advise me of your feelings as to how you like them.

Winter Patrols
By Françoise Kirkpatrick, FSO-OP

From Wednesday, November 24th to Thursday, December 7th, nine patrols were conducted while aboard Flotilla 31’s Facility 22281. Total time underway was 55.1 hours representing 162.7 hours of patrol time for crewmembers. Patrols included hands-on experience for boat crew candidates Tom Jordan and Jason Wilmoth, marine safety missions suggested by FSO-MS John Campbell and ATON observations by verifier Chris Messenger. Multi-mission patrols are key to our Flotilla’s surface operations. Jim Campbell, Tom Rummel, Gene Sorrell and Bruce Blanchard also joined Peter and Françoise during the scheduled patrols. November patrols were conducted in Mustang Anti-Exposure Coveralls, then the drop in temperatures dictated the use of dry-suits. Despite the snow and the early sunsets, fishermen were out on the river. Many fishermen indicated their thanks to our crewmembers who pointed out to them not only the dangers of anchoring in the channel while fishing but also not displaying any anchor light. Beginning patrols slightly before sunrise or ending them after sunset also allows for verification of ATON lights as well as reflective numbering. Throughout 2011, the monthly schedule for signing-up for patrols will be sent out to crewmembers, coxswains and trainees at the end of each month for the upcoming month. If you are not yet part of our Flotilla’s Surface Operations Team, join us by starting your boat crew training. Contact Françoise Kirkpatrick (FSO-OP) and Mary Messenger (FSO-MT).

2011 Officers and Staff

Flotilla Commander (FC)  
Peter Kirkpatrick

Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC)  
Bill Whitlock

Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC)  
Evelyn Koon

Navigation Systems (FSO-NS)  
David Wilkersen

Communications (FSO-CM)  
Chris Messenger

Marine Safety (FSO-MS)  
John Campbell IV

Operations (FSO-OP)  
Françoise Kirkpatrick

Public Affairs (FSO-PA)  
Roy Skinnell

Public Education (FSO-PE)  
Nick Kuriger

RBS Program Visitor (FSO-PV)  
Pat Brashears

Vessel Examiner (FSO-VE)  
Gene Sorrell

Communication Services (FSO-CS)  
Nick Kuriger

Materials (FSO-MA)  
Jason Wilmoth

Member Training (FSO-MT)  
Mary Messenger

Human Resources (FSO-HR)  
Tom Rummel

Finance (FSO-FN)  
Jeff Moore

Information Services (FSO-IS)  
Rick Neal

Publications (FSO-PB)  
Ben Chappell

Secretary/Records (FSO-SR)  
Kim Fauerbach

RBS Task Force Leader  
Nick Kuriger

Response Task Force Leader  
David Wilkersen