

Newspaper Article 1: The Coast Guard Auxiliary

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and *your area name*

The Coast Guard has a long tradition of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. Those commitments spread throughout the service and certainly include the Auxiliary, the all-volunteer arm of the Coast Guard.

So, what exactly does the Coast Guard Auxiliary mean to *Your Area*? First, let's look at the Coast Guard goals for our area. They are rather basic and include both safety and security issues. By the start of the next boating season, the *your area Flotilla* of the Auxiliary will:

- Have a minimum of (*number*) operational patrol boats and (*number*) of two-person crews.
- Conduct safety and security patrols most weekends and on special holidays and events.
- Have a rescue boat and crew on "stand-by" status 24/7. (?)
- Conduct monthly boating safety classes for the boating public from March through September.
- Conduct a minimum of (*number*) Vessel Safety Checks during 20XX.
- Have at least one aircraft based in the area with a trained three-person crew.
- Establish a marine radio network for the southern part of the area.

While there are other minor programs, these objectives spell out the most important needs. Let's look at the first two this week and then the others next Sunday.

The first three go hand in hand. We are looking for volunteers who want to be a part of these patrols. If you have a boat, you may want it to be available for patrol work. Don't worry, you get to operate your own boat and have final say as to a mission – even when you are a trainee. When your boat is under orders and on patrol, you will be reimbursed for fuel and meals and you are covered for liability issues.

If you do not own a boat, you can be a part of the action by crewing on one of our vessels. In any event, new crew members will be trained to Coast Guard standards. The first qualification is to become "Crew Qualified". This is accomplished by both classroom and on-water training. You will be assigned a mentor – a qualified Auxiliarist who will guide you through your training.

The second qualification is "Coxswain". He/She is the mission commander who plans and executes missions.

In order to participate, you must be at least 17 years old, a U.S. citizen and a member of the Auxiliary. Our dues are \$XX per year, and you purchase your own uniform (less than \$100). The Flotilla meets on the *week Day* of each month at *the location*. (*If appropriate*) *Dinner is at 6:30 PM* and the short business meeting starts at 7:00 PM. This is followed by a training session.

If you are interested, please come on down to one of our meetings or contact me directly and I can give you more details and answer your questions.

I am often asked, "How much of my time will membership require?" The answer is that we are all volunteers so the amount of time spent is in your hands. Having said that, unless your lifestyle will permit a minimum of eight hours a month, you probably should not volunteer.

Next week we will have a look at the other missions of the Flotilla.

Don't forget the boating safety family course on *Month date*. Contact me for details and to enroll.