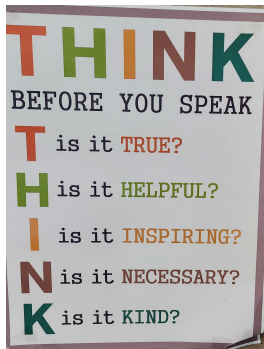


“The Fun One”

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 7, JULY 2023



*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF FLOTILLA #1,
OF THE
GREAT PLAINS DIVISION
IN THE
8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION*



**Omaha NE Flotilla
TANGIER SHRINE CENTER
2823 S. 84th St.
Omaha, NE 68124**



FLOTILLA 33-1 OFFICERS

Flotilla Commander (FC) - Barclay Stebbins
 Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) - Barb Westcott
 Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) - James Wolfe
 AUX Scout - Patrick Rezac
 Communications (FSO-CM) - Jim Westcott
 Communication Services (FSO-CS)- Ben Zimmerman
 Diversity (FSO-DV) - Barb Westcott
 Treasurer (FSO-FN) - George McNary
 Human Resources (FSO-HR) - James Wolfe
 Information Services (FSO-IS)-Barclay Stebbins
 Materials (FSO-MA) - Bernie McNary
 Marine Safety (FSO-MS) - Doug Ives
 Member Training (FSO-MT) - Jim Westcott
 Aids to Navigation (FSO-NS) - George McNary
 Operations (FSO-OP) - Barclay Stebbins
 Public Affairs (FSO-PA) - Patrick Rezac
 Publications (FSO-PB) - Barb Westcott
 Public Education (FSO-PE) - Cannon Kinchelow
 Program Visitor (FSO-PV) - Cannon Kinchelow
 Secretary (FSO-SR) - Cannon Kinchelow
 Vessel Examiner (FSO-VE)-Warren Koehler

Send articles for "The Fun One" to:
 Barb Westcott
 E-mail: kc0h1b@cox.net

Published by and for members of
 Omaha NE Flotilla
 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
 8th Western Rivers Region.
 Opinions expressed herein are not
 necessarily those of the
 U.S. Coast Guard or
 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**On Facebook we are found at:
 USCGAUX Flotilla 85-33-01**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 4 Independence Day
July 8 Summer Social at Barclay Stebbins home @ 1730 hrs
July 17 **NO Flotilla Meeting**
August 5 Division Social
August 21 Flotilla Meeting
August 24-27 BIZTRAIN - St. Louis

8WR DISTRICT MONTHLY TRAINING LOOK AT THE DISTRICT CALENDAR ON THE WOW WEBSITE TO FIND THE DATES
 See the calendars and check our website for possible date changes, RBS dates and other operations.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

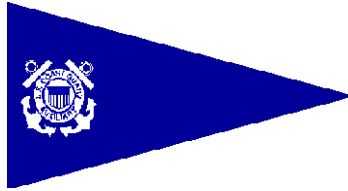
Flotilla Officers	2
Schedule of Events	2
Flotilla Commanders Notes	3
Diversity Minute	4-6
AUX PTT Information	7-8
July Calendar	9
August Calendar	10

Please remember to check out the website at:
<http://a0853301.wow.uscgaux.info>



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE-PRIVACY ACT OF 1974
 The disclosure of the personal information contained in this publication is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. The subject Act, with certain exceptions, prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination or copying of any material containing the home addresses, home telephone number, spouses names and social security numbers, except for official business. Violations may result in disciplinary action by

FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



JULY 2023

Here we are in the grips of summer heat. We started out June with a couple of us having the opportunity to go to the Lake of the Ozarks for some training, getting a QE done for me, and getting our very own George McNary his qualification as a QE! Congrats George this was a long time coming. When we completed all of our training on Friday, we spent Saturday in support of multiple agencies enforcing a No Wake Zone for the Power Fest boat races. That was a very interesting event. We will have some PA opportunities coming up for us to support, the Farmers Market in Bellevue, some Game and Parks sponsored local fishing events, and an event in Dundee 19 Aug. We were also able to conduct a PE class through Offutt Outdoor Recreation. They truly do appreciate us providing that course for them.

Well, now the tough stuff. It is July and many of us have yet to get out on the water in our AOR. George and I are going put together a patrol schedule for the Missouri River. We do need to get some time in for training and this is especially crucial for those that need to review training and to allow enough time to get your QE done before the end of the boating season. During the next few flotilla meetings, I will be working with George to review the QE requirements from the new Handbooks for shoreside and on-the-water requirements and to get these lined up. We know there are a couple of things that have changed. While on the subject of training, many are still needing to finish their Core Training and BQII. So please try to get these done. Also, all members should review their last Core Training dates to ensure they are not at the end of their 5 years.

Congratulations to Patrick Rezac for completing his Instructor Qualification.

Finally, some things to consider. First Notice for dues should soon be sent out by FSO-FN, George McNary with the amount due and where to send it. Also, those interested in running for elected office, check the requirements. If you are interested, be sure you are eligible. I will have a list of those eligible at the 8 Jul Fellowship/meeting. We will be asking for the selection of an election committee.

Thank you all for your hard work and continued dedication to our missions. You continue to do a fantastic job! I look forward to seeing all of you on 8 July 2023 for our Summer Fellowship.

Barclay Stebbins, FC



THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

This information can be found at:

[NACO Three Star Award Best Practices \(uscgaux.info\)](http://uscgaux.info)

NACO Three Star Award Best Practices

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION BEST PRACTICES

1. **Establish a sense of belonging**

Establishing a sense of belonging is crucial for employees to bring the best out of them. Having a sense of belonging is one of the most important psychological needs that need to be met for employees to feel connected with their employers and organizations. (Appoint a mentor. Introduce new members to each staff officer explaining to them what their role is so that the member knows who to go to with a question. Also, include them in offerings to sit in on or chair committees).

2. **Treat ALL your employees fairly**

Fairness is one of the crucial prerequisites for employees to feel valued and accepted. Unfair salaries and benefits packages for employees from different backgrounds lead to unhealthy workplace culture and a lack of diversity.

3. **Offer equal growth opportunities**

Opportunity to grow is one of the main factors that attract and keep talent within companies. Therefore, employers need to be careful about offering fair and equal growth and career advancement opportunities to their employees. (Develop a bench. Train and plan for successors for both elected and appointed positions. Consider term limits for appointed positions. One must be appointed before they can be elected. A planned leadership turnover especially for large Flotilla units will make a pool of candidates available to step up for elected positions and lesson the work and burn out for those appointed).

4. **Rewrite your job descriptions and job ads**

If you want to attract more diverse talent, the language you use in your job posting makes a big difference.

A study on job postings found that those using masculine-type words like “ambitious” and “dominate” were less appealing to female applicants. (Language/communication is important. As indicated, choose your words wisely as our words can often betray our intent suggesting that we are looking at or for something other than what is being sought).

Continued on the next page

5. Support innovation and creativity

In order to build a diverse workplace, companies must support creativity within their organizations. If innovation and creativity are not one of your main business goals, it will be hard to build and maintain workplace diversity. (Doing the same thing the same way over and over again and expecting a different or better outcome, negates the possibility of better performance. Try something new and different. You may be surprised of the outcome. If all else fails, you can always modify future operations).

6. Educate employees on diversity and inclusion

For diversity and inclusion to work within your organization, employees need to be educated about the benefits and best practices to support those initiatives.

It is not enough for upper-level management to be aware of what diversity and inclusion mean for business (Flotilla/Division/District and National) success and company's reputation.

7. Support teamwork and collaboration

Teamwork and collaboration are what employees expect from their employers to support. Therefore, in order to attract and keep a more diverse workforce within your organization, collaboration should be one of your main company core values. (Don't always go to the well of the same people for projects and events. Hook in others to your vision or task. This will show all that each are valued members and may reduce burnout of members who constantly step up to aid in unit activities).

8. Support flexibility in the workplace

Research on workplace diversity found that one of the best workplace policies to attract diverse candidates is flexibility.

A PwC survey found that, compared to older generations, Millennials value company culture that supports work/life balance.

McKinsey's research found that the #1 company value for women is a flexible work schedule.

Therefore, offering flexible work locations and hours helps you attract and retain more diverse employees. To extrapolate on the McKinsey Report further, consider changing meeting times, dates, and or locations a few times a year in order to foster interest and make available meeting days and times open to members whose availability may have changed since they have joined. Also, plan social events around times and days when seldom seen members may be available to join in or not have to rush home from work to attend.



Continued on the next page

9. Restructure your recruitment process

In recruitment, focusing on what company candidates worked at or what school they went to can often lead to a decrease in diversity of the candidate pipeline. Find out where your prospective new member's interest lay. (It may not be in the same area that their education or their career track took them. It may be elsewhere).

However, a valid and reliable personality assessments are great tools to measure candidates' personality traits, motivations, and skills.

A study of 150 companies found that those that used a personality assessment in their hiring processes had more racially diverse workforces.

10. Promote diversity and inclusion at all levels of the organization

In order for diversity and inclusion initiatives to work, all levels of your company's (organization's) hierarchy need to understand and support it.\

This information is derived from the article titled: Diversity and Inclusion Best Practices to Focus On in 2022, dated: 02 JAN 2021 which is located at the following link: Diversity and Inclusion Best Practices to Focus on in 2022 (smarp.com) Click on the link for additional information and to review the remainder of the article.

The additional underlined information is offered by COMO David G. Porter, National Commodore for Diversity and Inclusion – 1





U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



AUXILIARY PUSH-TO-TALK (AUXPTT)

AUXPTT provides world-wide two-way communications without the need to purchase special equipment or obtain specialized training.

The National Telecommunications Division is pleased to offer Push-to-Talk service to Auxiliarists, providing worldwide coverage in a familiar push-to-talk format on your cellular phone. Switching seamlessly between Wi-Fi and cellular coverage, AUXPTT is an encrypted system, available only to Coast Guard Auxiliarists. You'll have access to channels restricted for your District, and other channels to talk to members of other Districts. Your fellow AUXPTT users will be only a button press away. Gone will be the need to make repeat phone calls to send a message to your team — get them all onto AUXPTT and you'll reach them all with a press of a button!

AUXPTT is not just for our COMMS personnel, but an easy and convenient tool for all Auxiliarists. Whether you use it to stay in touch with your flotilla members, coordinate field activities such as vessel inspections, conduct surface patrols, or communicate at civic events and contingency operations, you'll find it the perfect partner.

Plus, AUXPTT provides you with real-time mapping, showing your location and the locations of all other AUXPTT users right on your smartphone.

National TeleCOMM has specially trained administrators on the system to provide you with help if you need it. Those ADMINS can reconfigure the system in an emergency, providing additional channels, or merging channels with other Districts.

Using AUXPTT is easy. Just push the PTT on the channel you want to talk on, mention the name of who you're calling, then your name, and announce the channel you're using — just like on a two-way radio. That's our only etiquette. We like keeping it simple, so you don't need "over" or "out" or call signs.

AUXPTT relies on Wi-Fi and cellular coverage — it is not a replacement for two-way radio.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does AUXPTT service cost?

The monthly service charge is \$4.57 per month (per device).

Do I need special equipment? No, AUXPTT works on your existing smartphone, regardless of your cellular carrier.

Do I need special training? No, AUXPTT is intuitive, plus National provides you with a custom written instruction manual and personal training, if needed.

Continued on next page

How do I get AUXPTT?

1. Send an email to Andrew.W.Ely@cgauxnet.us.
2. Include your full name, your member number, your personal email address, your District, and the number of the cellular phone you will be using for AUXPTT.
3. You will receive a confirmation email, along with printed AUXPTT instructions.
4. You will also receive a text message on your cell phone. Follow the text message's instructions. Answer "yes" to any permission requests.
5. Then, go to <https://eschat.com/uscg-pay/> and enter your billing information. You will be billed automatically monthly for your \$4.57 payment.



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

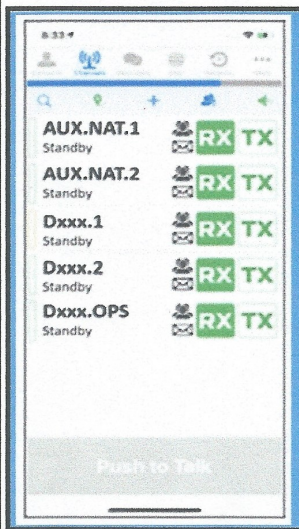
Auxiliary Push-to-Talk



Can I use AUXPTT while underway?

Yes. National staff views AUXPTT as an enhancement to our two-way radios and both should be used as tools. Of course, the operator of a radio or AUXPTT must be careful to always maintain situational awareness.

What does AUXPTT look like on my cell phone?



On the left you'll see the basic screen, with five different channels. The first two are "National" channels for speaking to members of other Districts. The bottom three are for the use of your District's members. You can listen to all channels, or just one, by pressing the "RX" icon next to the channel(s) you want to monitor. You can only talk on one channel at a time. The lower part of the screen acts as a Push-to-Talk button.



The map on the left shows Auxiliaries using AUXPTT while assigned to Hurricane Dorian.

The map on the right shows an Auxiliary at the Zurich Airport. (We told you that AUXPTT has world-wide coverage!)



FAQ Frequently Asked Questions

Who can I talk to? AUXPTT allows you to talk to any other Auxiliaryist who has AUXPTT, anywhere in the world.

Is AUXPTT secure? Yes, AUXPTT is encrypted, end-to-end. Also, only Coast Guard Auxiliaryists are allowed AUXPTT service.



What happens if I get a phone call while I'm using AUXPTT? AUXPTT is polite, and will automatically stop when you get a call. Your phone will work just like it does normally. AUXPTT will resume after your call is over.

I use hearing aids, will that be a problem? If your cell phone has Bluetooth, you'll hear AUXPTT through your hearing aids, and through your car radio's Bluetooth as well.

Can I use AUXPTT on my computer. Yes, AUXPTT will work on your smartphone and tablet computer. There is also a special version of AUXPTT that will work on a computer.

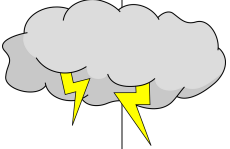

July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8 Flotilla Summer Social 1730 hrs
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Omaha Flotilla Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27 	28	29	30	31	