

# HELLO ALL STATIONS

Issue 2 – Vol. 2  
<http://fl05S2301.org>

Flotilla 05S - 23 – 1  
Annapolis, MD

March – April 2010  
<http://AnnapolisCGAux.org>

## BRAVO ZULU!



HARWOOD, MD – Walt Discenza, FL23-1 (third from right) receives a Coast Guard Auxiliary Sustained Service Award for superior performance of duty to recognize in excess of 7500 cumulative hours of service as of 31 December 2009. The award, issued by The Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard on 27 January 2010, was presented by Captain Mark P. O'Malley, Commander Sector Baltimore who was assisted by District Captain (DCAPT) Robert J. Birrane, Sr. (on left) and District 5SR Commodore (DCO) Albert Lee DeJean, Jr. (behind him) during the Sector Baltimore's Annual Spring Workshop held on March 27, 2010 at Southern H.S.. Photo by John Kostak (SO-CS), Div 23 and member FL23-1. ❖

## WARNING ABOUT DSC RADIOS

EDITED FROM USCG NAVIGATION CENTER  
24 APRIL 2010  
<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/gmdss/dsc.htm>

The Coast Guard issued a warning on 19 April 2010 about the possibility that an automatic channel-switching feature found on certain models of VHF-FM marine radios equipped with digital selective calling (DSC) may unexpectedly shift these equipments to Channel 16 whenever a distress alert comes in.

A navigation safety hazard may consequently occur if the radio is being used to maintain a listening watch or to communicate on the designated bridge-to-bridge radiotelephone or vessel traffic services (VTS) monitoring channel.

Additional information is available at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/MARCOMMS/gmdss/dsc.htm>. ❖

## BCQ CREW TRAINING

Flotilla 23-01 will be conducting BCQ Crew training this year. New members Wendy Norwitz, Ron Price, Barry Ramsey and Margaret Butler attended the first class on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Coast Guard Station Annapolis. In addition, members from Flotillas 21-07, 22-05 and 23-03 are attending. The program includes classroom sessions, on-the-water training and a night patrol.

The schedule is fast paced, taking place every Saturday for 11 weeks. The Trainees and instructors are all focused on QE day – June 12<sup>th</sup>.

After completing the course the new crew members will start serving on patrols. Our Area of Responsibility (AOR) is very active. This year the Flotilla is scheduled for 70 safety patrols and regattas.

*Hello All Stations* will follow this class through its training.

Stay tuned!❖



ANNAPOLIS, MD – 2010 BCQ class. Lower Row – left to right – Margaret Butler (23-01), Kathleen Sullivan (22-05), Ed Condon (21-07) Upper Row – Barry Ramsey (23-01), Ron Price (23-01), Wendy Norwitz (23-01), Ed Ward (23-03), Larry Romjue (21-07). Photo by Wendy Kravit (FC, F23-1).

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

By Caryl Weiss (FSO-PA), F23-1

We will need Vessel Examiners (VE) and other members to help out at Public Affairs (PA) tables at the following events:

- May 1 - VE day at Mears Marina, Annapolis; 08:30-1300. Need someone to do PA.
- May 8 - Tentative VE day at Ferry Point Landing Marina, Arnold. Need both VEs and PAs.
- May 15 - Tentative VE day at West Marine in Hillsmere, Annapolis; 1000 – 1400. Need someone to do PA.
- May 16: Help out at Sandy Point State Park for kickoff of National Safe Boating Week festivities. Activity will be run by Division 22, but they welcome everybody. Need VEs and PAs.
- May 22: National Safe Boating Week festivities at City Dock, Annapolis--all day. This is a family event, with Coastie (if it's not raining), music, and public appearances by local notables. Need VEs and PAs.
- May 29 and May 30: 2nd annual Annapolis Nautical Flea Market at the Navy Stadium. Need PAs to manage a PA booth and one or two VEs. Good chance to run around and spend your tax refund on all things nautical and to recruit new members!❖

## HOW CAN I DISPOSE OF EXPIRED FLARES?

- Contact the nearest fire department and discuss the type and quantity of flares. In most cases they will tell you to bring them to the firehouse.
- Contact the Anne Arundel County Fire Marshal Division at (410) 222-7884 and ask for a fire investigator. They will make arrangements to pick up the material and safely dispose of it.❖

### Disclaimer Notice

As a matter of policy, member addresses and telephone numbers are not included in any articles appearing in this publication. Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. Posting of this publication on the Internet is restricted to approved DHS, USCG and USCG Auxiliary websites and must fully comply with the provisions in the Privacy Act of 1974.

## 2010 AUTHORIZED VESSEL SAFETY CHECK DECALS

Edited from USCG Boating Safety Resource Center  
15 MARCH 2010

<http://www.uscgboating.org/news/default.aspx?ArticleId=335>

Due to a first run printing error, limited amounts of the solid red design of the 2010 Vessel Safety Check Decals were released. This matter has been rectified. Since a limited number have been already placed on vessels, the above two designs are authorized as valid Vessel Safety Check Decals for the 2010 boating season.❖



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Q&A session for members that are current aids verifiers – 1 May. This ATON workshop will be at Berry Hall, USCG Yard, Curtis Bay, Baltimore, MD. This activity will have Coast Guard and Auxiliary representatives on hand for discussion and questions about the program. If you are currently an NS staff member or an AV and are interested in attending, please contact Doug Robinson (FSO-NS), F23-1.
- SAR Competition Run Off and ASAR – 19 June (Run Off) and 23-25 July (ASAR Competition). An Atlantic Area East Search and Rescue (ASAR) competition will be held at Yorktown Training Center. In preparation for that event, the Fifth District Southern Region will hold a Run Off competition at Station Portsmouth to determine who will represent our District at the ASAR. The event tasks are very similar to the tasks required for the E Award plus a mystery event. Each team consists of three members with a fourth as an alternate.❖

## RANKIN MISSION

By Walt Discenza (FSO-CS), F23-01

As part of the many opportunities offered to members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, I recently had the privilege to spend a day aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *James Rankin* with 7 other Auxiliarists from different Divisions. We boarded the Rankin at its berth in the Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay, located in Baltimore, Maryland, at 0800 sharp. Once onboard, we had full run of the ship and were allowed to take pictures.

The *James Rankin* is a 175-foot Keeper Class buoy tender constructed in Marinette, Wisconsin. Its main purpose is to maintain and service large and heavy buoys. The buoy tender and crew are responsible for maintaining over 400 buoys scattered throughout the coastal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Due to its Z-Drive propulsion system, this highly maneuverable vessel is also designed and equipped to perform other Coast Guard missions including homeland security, search and rescue, marine environmental protection and domestic ice breaking.



The *Rankin* is an engineering marvel. As part of the engine room tour, we saw the 2 main engines that power its Z-Drive propulsion system and 3 generators that power the bow thruster, crane and all other equipment onboard. All these systems are controlled by the *Rankin's* highly advanced computerized systems.

The advanced GPS-based computerized navigation system automatically controls the vessel's position during the retrieval, servicing and redeployment of the wide range of buoys types and classes used throughout the Chesapeake Bay. This is accomplished by simply entering in the system the latitude/longitude coordinates of the buoy, buoy type and the side of the vessel on which the buoy is to be located.

Although its huge crane is manually operated with a

joystick for safety reasons, its position information is feed into the navigation system so during the entire process the Rankin is dynamically kept in position within about one meter accuracy.



Servicing ATONs of the type and class the Rankin handles is not an easy task. A typical buoy may weigh between 7,500 and 11,000 pounds. Once in position during our mission, the deck crew of 8 sprang into action and attached the crane harness to the buoy (an Aid to Navigation or ATON), and retrieved it onto the service deck. Once loaded, the deck crew checked its electrical and mechanical integrity including, checked the entire mooring system with its chains and anchor, made any required repairs as well as removed the mud, marine growth and barnacles from it. The entire process took between 1 and 1.5 hours.

On route to the next buoy, the crew was busy cleaning the deck and preparing to go at it again. It was fascinating to see how hard the highly skilled crew worked together and communicated with one another to successfully complete their mission in an efficient and safe manner. The deck crew assignments are for two years and when they complete this tour of duty they are in top-notch physical shape.

When we returned to Curtis Bay at the end of the day, everyone agreed that our time on the *Rankin* was a unique and rewarding experience. We had the opportunity of seeing great Americans protecting the property and lives of fellow citizens aboard of an extraordinary vessel. ❖

## SEARCH AND RESCUE NEWS

Edited from Caribbean Search and Rescue Website  
As of 25 April 2010  
<http://carsar.cgaux.org/whatsnew.html>

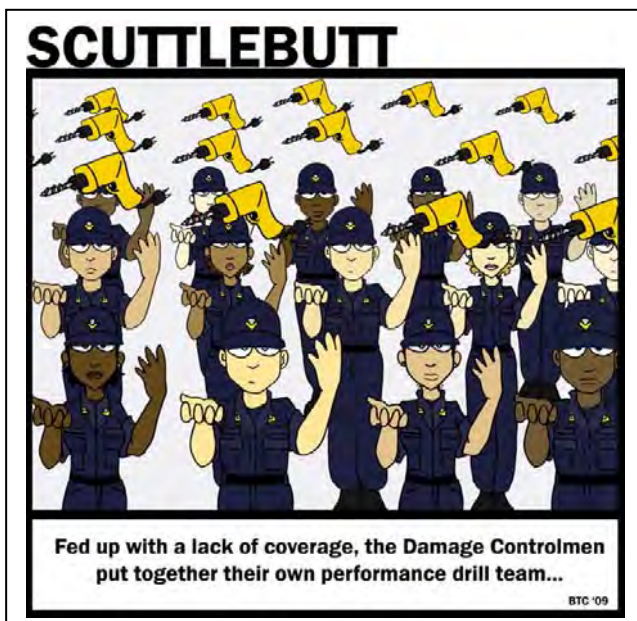
The US Coast Guard now has a [web site that reports weekly SARSAT rescues](#). A SARSAT (Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking) rescue is counted when a beacon alert involving the use of emergency distress beacons and the [International Cospas-Sarsat System](#), was the primary means of notification or primary locating method for a rescue. [Posted: 17 Mar 2010. Source: John Cooper, International Affairs - Caribbean Division Chief]

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a [News Release on February 17](#) stating that the National Weather Service will use a new hurricane scale this season called the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. It keeps the same wind speed ranges as the original Saffir-Simpson Scale, but no longer ties each of the five hurricane categories to specific surge and flooding effects. [Posted: 18 Feb 2010. Source: George Navarini, International Affairs - Caribbean Communications Branch Chief]

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The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) has issued a [Request for Public Comments](#) indicating that the US Government is considering several mitigation options prior to changing the health status of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite IIR-20M (satellite vehicle number 49 - SVN 49) from unhealthy to healthy. Teleconferences to discuss the mitigation options will be conducted on March 26 and April 30. Written comments should be submitted by May 28. (75 Fed. Reg. 14658 - March 26, 2010). [Posted: 26 Mar 2010. Source: John Cooper, International Affairs - Caribbean Division Chief]❖



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HOTLINE

Edited from the Maryland DNR webpage  
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/hotline.asp>

The Chesapeake Bay Safety and Environmental Hotline is a toll-free phone number for Maryland citizens to call to report a problem on the tidal portions of Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay as well as the Coastal Bays. One phone call to **1-877-224-7229** direct citizens to the appropriate agency to make a report 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call to report any of the following:

- Boating accident or reckless activity
- Fish kill or algal bloom
- Floating debris that poses a hazard to navigation
- Illegal fishing activity
- Public sewer leak or overflow
- Oil or hazardous material spill
- Critical area or wetlands violation
- Suspicious or unusual activity❖

## DNR REGIONAL SERVICE CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED THE FRIDAY PRIOR TO MEMORIAL DAY

Edited DNR News Release  
24 March 2010

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2010/032410b.asp>

All Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offices will be closed Friday, May 28, 2010, as part of the State's Furlough and Temporary Salary Reduction Plan. This includes regional service centers, which are historically busy on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

DNR asks all boaters to plan accordingly, and register their boats early. Anglers can purchase fishing licenses online 24/7 at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/service/license.asp> or over the phone at (800) 918-2870.

Maryland State Parks and other public lands managed by DNR will remain staffed and open to the public. To compensate, all non-essential employees working to serve Maryland park-goers will take an alternate day of leave.❖

## CONTRIBUTORS

Wendy Kravit (FC); Caryl P. Weiss (FSO-PA), Walt Discenza (FSO-CS); Jim Farrell (FSO-OP), Doug Robinson (FSO-NS), Ed Martin (FSO-MT), John Kostak (Member), and PO3 Barb Patton.

Hello All Stations is a bi-monthly publication open to articles and pictures of interest for all Flotilla 23-1 members. Please forward any material to Braulio Mercader (FSO-PB) at FSO-PB@fl05s2301.org. ❖



## USCGC JAMES RANKIN



BALTIMORE, MD – A partial view of the USCGC *James Rankin*. Photo by Walt Discenza (FSO-CS), F23-01.

## AT THE HELM



DOGUE CREEK, VA – John Kostak at the helm of Coxswain Mitchell Mutnick's (FSO-MT, F25-5) operational facility "Docket" during a patrol in support of the National Security Summit Conference on 16 April 2010. Photo by John Kostak (SO-CS), Div 23 and member F23-1. ❖

## 2010 FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS

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