



# The Cary Flotilla



4th Quarter 2009

US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Fifth Southern District - Division 9 - Flotilla 11

## History



Bolling Douglas being sworn in as the first woman District Commodore of the 7th Coast Guard District, 1979.



Auxiliary patrol manning security zone around a one million gallon gasoline tanker that caught fire, September 1990, docked on the Saginaw River, Michigan. The Auxiliary directly rescued five crewmen from the ship and assisted in the rescue of three others.



The "line toss" for real, Ocean City, NJ, May 2, 1991.



Yet another Auxiliary rescue on Long Island Sound in 1967

## The View Astern - 2009

**A**s we make the turn from 2009 to 2010, it's worthwhile to check in with our aft watch and see how we did in 2009. The Cary Flotilla had a good year by any measure, and has a lot to be proud of in the ways that we served the missions of Team Coast Guard here in central North Carolina. We can categorize our work into three major areas - physical resources, qualifications and skills, and volunteer hours.

Physical resources refer to the member-owned resources such as radio and vessel facilities that are offered by the owners for use by the Coast Guard. Offers for use require that the member maintain the facility and associated equipment to the high standards set by the Coast Guard, and the offer for use is accepted by the Director of Auxiliary for the 5th Southern District of which our flotilla is a part. These assets become the physical backbone of our Operations program.

**Physical Resources are the backbone of Auxiliary Operations**

In 2009, our flotilla maintained 13 vessels for use by the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary operations, ranging from center consoles under 20' in length up to cruisers in the 30' range. These vessels were used to assist nearly 60 boaters with disabled vessels or who were otherwise in jeopardy on local lakes during 2009, representing nearly \$250,000 of property owned by the boating public.



In addition to vessel facilities, Cary Flotilla members maintain a network of marine VHF radio facilities that support the central North Carolina radio net. This radio net is tested with drills monthly to establish communication links

that could be used in the event of a disaster or other situation that impeded use of conventional communication channels such as telephones. Maintaining a functional and prepared radio net is just one of the ways that the Auxiliary lives up to the Coast Guard motto "Semper Paratus" - always prepared.

**Personal Qualifications support Coast Guard missions**

Another way that our flotilla supported the Coast Guard mission is through acquiring and then maintaining personal qualifications. This represents countless hours of training, self-study, and participation in examinations under the authority of the Coast Guard.



These qualifications (including vessel examinations, public instruction, and boat crew/coxswain ratings) then require annual work by the members to maintain proficiency and to regularly exercise the skills learned in support of our missions.

continued on page 2...

For example, twenty-six (26) of our members are trained as either boat crew members or coxswains, supporting our operational program on the local lakes. Similarly, our members represent about half of the instructors teaching boating safety classes in central North Carolina, with sixteen (16) active qualified instructors working with the boating public.



Finally, the most important thing that Auxiliary members do is by virtue of contributing their time. In the last year, our flotilla spent more than 300 hours in public instruction activities teaching a broad range of course from introductory boating to more advanced navigation skills. We had nearly 1100 hours of time spent by members in 2009 supporting operations activities either on vessels or supporting radio operations. We spent over 500 hours supporting the Coast Guard's efforts to recruit top-flight students to enter the prestigious Coast Guard Academy. All-in-all, we committed nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer time in 2009 to support the missions of the Coast Guard. Nationally, 4.4 million hours were contributed by Auxiliarists all across the country, which is the equivalent of about 2,200 full-time employees.

**10,000 hours by Cary Flotilla in support of Coast Guard Missions**

All in all, the Coast Guard Auxiliary continues to support Team Coast Guard, with a particularly strong focus on recreational boating safety. In 2009, the Cary Flotilla stepped up in every way to make our contribution to the team, and Flotilla members should be proud. The next challenge will be to see if we can do even better in 2010!

## Looking ahead to 2010

We can look back at 2009 with pride in our accomplishments and the progress we made. Now we have some real challenges to face in 2010 and the years ahead.

As the Director of Auxiliary has emphatically remarked, recreational boating safety needs to be a primary focus for the auxiliary. This has been made clear in the extraordinary number of fatalities in water and boating safety even though North Carolina has not been the leader in this undesirable statistic. On course with this conviction is our flotilla vision statement:

***“The Cary Flotilla supports all aspects of the Team Coast Guard mission, but has a primary focus on Recreational Boating Safety”***

## New opportunities in the coming year are:

- **New boating law** and all the ramifications with regard to PE.
- **Agency partnerships** – interaction with NC Wildlife Resources Commission with our quick reaction team concept and interaction with other agencies.
- **Division 9 support** – working more closely with our colleagues in Division 9 to offer and seek support
- **New members** – strengthening our mentor program to insure no one is “left out” and that everyone is engaged to the extent that they wish to be.

## Our priorities are envisioned as:

- **Public education**
- **Operational Missions**
- **Vessel Safety Checks**
- **Public affairs**

## How we can “get it done”

- **Continue our growth in member participation – build on our 2009 successes**
- **Staff Officers setting goals for 2010**
- **Measuring progress in our goals throughout the year**
- **Correcting our course as needed.**

As your FC and VFC, our commitment is to make our flotilla a success by:

- 1) **engaging and encouraging all members to participate in areas of interest to them – expecting positive results;**
- 2) **to make our meetings more interesting and informative;**
- 3) **to draw out the very “best” in our membership.**

We are always open to listening to suggestions and making course corrections when and where needed. We need your active participation and energy to make 9-11 the “best”.

- Phil Vasko, FC and Tom Cole, VFC



---

## New Law for Boaters

Did you know that starting May 1st, 2010, you must have completed an approved boating safety class if you are 25 years old or younger and operating a vessel in North Carolina waters? Governor Perdue signed legislation intended to promote better boating safety on our waterways and this has a direct effect on NC boaters



If you are 25 years old or younger and are operating a non-commercial (i.e. recreational) vessel, you must have completed a "NASBLA\*-certified" class. These classes familiarize you with basic boating safety practices, the "rules of the road" for safe boating around other boats, and covers the basics of navigation and boat handling. Completion of the

\* National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

class and associated exam gives you a certificate and card showing that you are in compliance with the new law. Boaters 25 and younger must carry the card with them when operating the boat or personal water craft.

The good news is that qualifying boating safety classes are available from a variety of agencies in North Carolina including the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In central North Carolina classes are scheduled throughout the spring to ensure that boaters are qualified and ready for boating season. See our Public Education pages on:

<http://www.coastguardaux.com/> for class schedules and information.

Safe boating classes aren't just a good idea; they are about to become the law. Be prepared by signing up for classes now!

- Tom Cole, VFC

---

## No More \*CG

In an effort to improve Search and Rescue Response the Coast Guard has requested all wireless providers in states other than Alaska to remove the specialized keying sequence, \*CG, used to reach the Coast Guard for maritime emergency assistance.



The \*CG feature was introduced by some cellular communications companies in the early 1990s, but never developed into a nationwide service. As wireless providers moved to digital systems, some didn't migrate \*CG to the new system and others even lost track of whether or not they were continuing the feature. This patchwork of service is confusing for the mariners who choose to use it, and may, in fact, prevent them from making a timely call for assistance should they find themselves in an area where \*CG is not available.

The Coast Guard has found through research and experience that with the multitude of wireless systems and the misalignment of cellular coverage areas with our regions for Search and Rescue response, the use of this specialized service has resulted in misdirection of emergency calls. This has often added significant delays in the Coast

Guard response to those calls for assistance.

The Coast Guard has requested that the cellular companies reroute all \*CG calls to the 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) nearest to where the call originated. As an added precaution, mariners should stop using the special keying sequence \*CG and begin using 911 on their cell phones to notify authorities of a distress at the onset of a maritime emergency if a cell phone is their only means of communication.

The one exception to the discontinuance of the \*CG specialized keying sequence is the Alaskan cellular phone region. Cell phone companies operating in Alaska all have the \*CG feature available, and because the Coast Guard has a single number for routing those emergency calls, the cellular and Coast Guard regions are fully aligned; calls are not missed and can not be misdirected. The \*CG feature will remain active in Alaskan waters.

Mariners are encouraged to invest in a VHF-FM radio as their primary means of distress alerting on the water. Communication via VHF-FM radio provides superior alerting capabilities over cellular phones.

-Kathryn Manzi [USCGsafeboating.org](http://USCGsafeboating.org)

# The Parades

The Cary Flotilla continued its tradition of participating in local parades last Fall. Ken Hoadley and his daughters braved a dreary November morning to promote our on-water patrol activities.



Ken Hoadley family at the Cary Band Day Parade



The retired Coast Guard RIB got a make-over to include a Christmas tree bedecked with 30 life jackets loaned by flotilla members. According to the participants, the "Crowd went wild!" Lew Gurkin exclaimed that we received the best response ever in all his years of waving at the crowd.

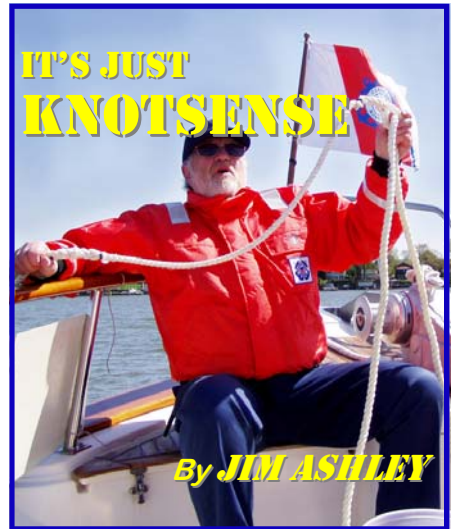
Decked out for the Cary Christmas Parade

- Jim Ashley, FSO PA/PB

# New PA Display



For those that missed the unveiling celebration...this all-weather Auxiliary display bulletin board was constructed by Jim Ashley and installed last summer at the comms trailer, New Hope Overlook ramp with the able assistance of Phil Vasko.



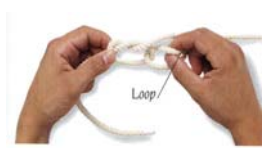
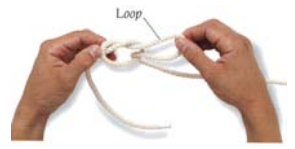
## Simple Chain Sennit

Makes a decorative pull for light or bell or loop for hanging things.



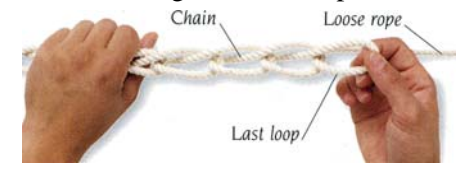
Make a crossing turn, bringing part of the line up through the turn.

Grab line to form a loop and pull through the turn to form another loop.



Keep repeating by pulling each succeeding loop through the previous loop.

Complete by pulling the remainder of the line through the last loop.



Reference: Handbook of Knots, by Des Pawson, 1998

*Ships Log* is a publication of Flotilla 9-11, District 5SR of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
 All rights reserved  
**Editor: Jim Ashley, FSO-PB**  
 Cary, NC  
 Phone: 919-469-8360  
 Email: [9-11.FSO-PA@CoastGuardAux.com](mailto:9-11.FSO-PA@CoastGuardAux.com)