

# District 7 AUXOP

A newsletter for the promotion of  
Operational Auxiliarist Member Status

Editor:  
Karen L. Miller  
ADSO-MT, AUXOP  
District 7  
captklm@tampabay.rr.com

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## Update on AUXOP Progress

Back in September 2011, when we sent out the first issue of *District 7 AUXOP*, District 7 had only, only 615 members, or 10.3% of our members who were AUXOP or AUXOP2. While that was consistent with National Auxiliary statistics, the premise was put forth that we're better than that in District 7. We excel in so many other categories; why not AUXOP?

Well, we're improving—but some of that can be attributed to a decline in general membership. As of April 2012 we have 629 AUXOP or AUXOP2 members which represents 11.7%. But, our membership has declined by approximately 580.

This update is a call to action—let's enthusiastically promote AUXOP in your divisions. Later in this issue you'll read and see the voices and faces of many of our more recent AUXOP2 members. Hopefully, they'll inspire you and our members to move ahead and achieve AUXOP status.

### What do we want from you?

- \* **Work with your Division Commander and Vice Commander and encourage them to support centralized division-wide AUX-OP training, if geographically feasible.**
- \* **Work with your FSO-MTs and encourage the flotilla members to participate in AUXOP training courses**
- \* **At your division meetings, speak up and promote the value of the AUXOP program to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the individual member**
- \* **With support from the bridge, select venues, line up instructors and begin scheduling AUXOP courses.**
- \* **If you develop a program, promote the heck out of it and schedule great instructors, "they will come"**

## How to Order Paper Tests (AUXOP and Others)

In a recent conversation with a representative of the Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), it was pointed out that some of our proctors are not ordering paper tests properly. In particular, the 7026 form needs to be used (available on the National Forms Warehouse website). And, the form needs to be either snail mailed to DIRAUX at the address below or requested through the DIRAUX Gateway at <http://D7DIRAUX.org>.

Commander (dpa)  
7th CG District Auxiliary Branch Officer  
3168 River Grove Circle  
Ft Myers, FL 33905

If you are unfamiliar with the DIRAUX Gateway, here are some instructions:

- \* Go to: <http://D7DIRAUX.org>.
- \* On the left side menu, click on Gateway
- \* Then, on the center menu, click Customer Service
- \* Fill in your member number and zip code.
- \* On the drop down menu, select Written Exams
- \* Write in the box that you are requesting paper tests for which exams to be proctored on what date and that the form 7026 is attached.
- \* Go below the box and click on browse and find the 7026 form from your computer.
- \* Click submit. You will receive a receipt for your entry.

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## Another Option—The District 7 Training Conference

In 2011 the September District 7 Training Conference in Jacksonville revitalized an important tradition that had been neglected for many years: the opportunity to take paper tests and have them marked on the spot

with instant results.

Over 30 members took advantage of this offering and two even took their final AUXOP exam and passed!

This is a very viable option that Dis-

trict 7 members should consider. The conference will be held in St. Petersburg on September 20th through 22nd. So, brush up on your course material and stop in and take a test.

## Yet Another Option—District 8 Webinars

Ralph and Suzanne Tomlinson from 8WR Div 33 conduct most of the AUXOP classes via the Internet utilizing webinars and a virtual classroom. The webinars will be led by two instructors making use of video, live audio/chat, cameras and other presentation materials.

Each webinar lasts approximately 90 minutes at usually starts at 1930 Central Time. The virtual classroom is a secure interactive website that allows students to post questions and discuss problems, obtain helpful links and ancillary material, and get

communication from the instructors.

If you are interested, contact Ralph Tomlinson via email at [csr@isunet.net](mailto:csr@isunet.net). He and Suzanne will add you to their email distribution list. Then, several weeks before the next class offering, they will send you an electronic invitation.

**Important Notice:** It is very important that students realize that the burden of learning rests with them. The students must read the text to be covered prior to the webinar and work any assigned homework follow-

ing the webinar. Concerns and confusion with the homework can be addressed on the interactive group hub.

**Testing:** Each student is responsible to find their testing officer and time to take the test. The best time to take the test is as soon as they finish the material.

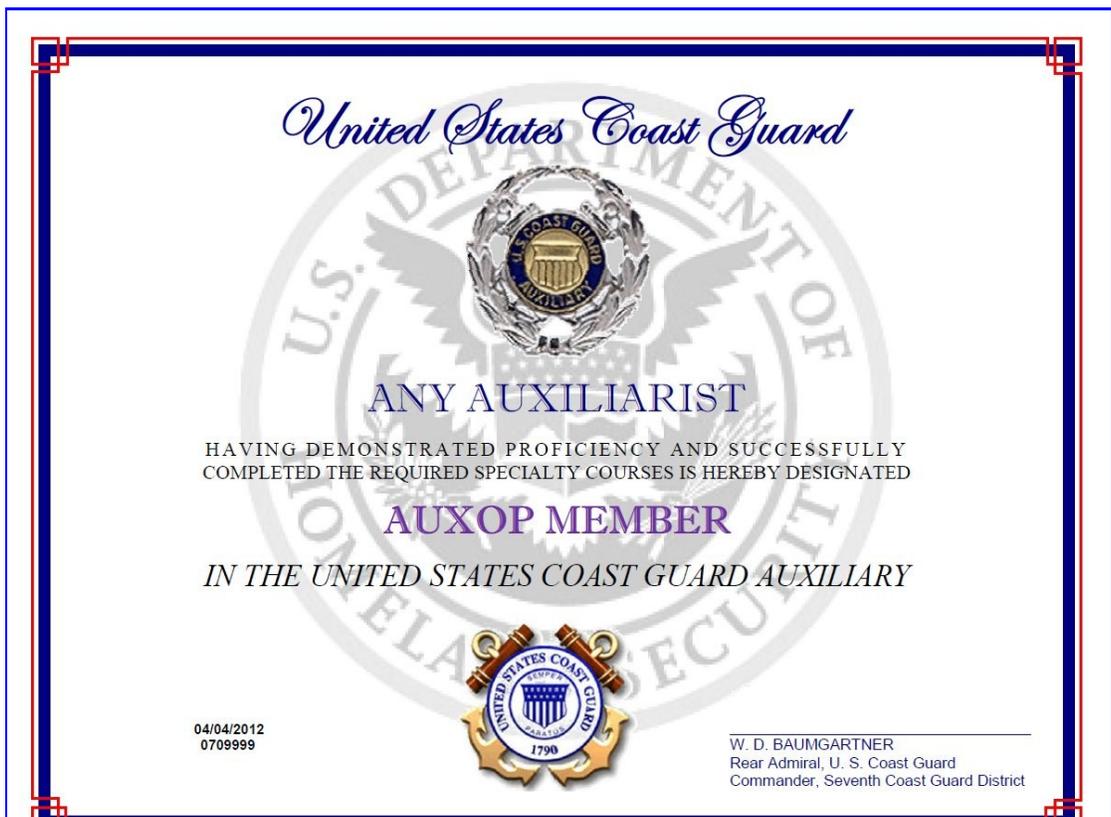
Students don't need any special computer equipment to attend these classes, but it is their responsibility to get the course books/CDs prior to the start of class. Also, remember, the final exams for these AUXOP courses must be proctored by the student's local proctor.

This is the coveted AUXOP certificate.

Once a District 7 member completes all the required courses this certificate is automatically generated.

The certificate is then brought up to the office of the Coast Guard District 7 Commander, Admiral Baumgartner, for his signature.

The signed certificate is then sent to the member's Division Commander for presentation at an appropriate time.



## Test Taking Strategies

### Before the Test Study Tips:

1. Begin to review/study the material a few days before the test, and take study breaks every 20-30 minutes.
2. Take time to do some type of physical exercise to help you to relieve stress and tension.
3. Eat a complete breakfast that morning, and get plenty of sleep the night before.
4. Skim the material and decide which parts are still difficult and which ones you understand best.
5. Read a sentence or two. Stop and close your eyes, trying to visualize what the sentence(s) is/are talking about. If you can't/don't understand what you've read, go back over it again.
6. Pick out main ideas or key terms. Think up possible test questions and quiz yourself.
7. Read aloud and study with a partner. Listen to yourself as you read.
8. Think about the important points that the instructor spoke about in class.
9. Try mnemonics. For examples, "ROY G. BIV" is the mnemonic for colors of the spectrum (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet). A mnemonic for the vessels that don't need a masthead light while underway could be "No Shine From Post" (Not Under Command, Sailing, Fishing, Pilot).
10. Remain motivated and positive always. If you are motivated about learning the material, you are likely to remember the information. It is hard to remember material that doesn't interest you. Your brain believes

what you tell it, so always keep a positive attitude by telling yourself you will do well and that you know a great deal of the information. Do not give up before you begin! "Of course I can be a successful test taker!" Challenge yourself to be the best that you can!

11. Use flash cards to learn the material. Write a question on the front and answer on back, or write vocabulary term on front with definition on the back. Quiz yourself with a yes/no pile or work with a partner.

12. Study a little each day rather than at the last moment.

### Test Taking Tips:

1. Think positively about doing your best!
2. Take a few deep breaths to relax. Breathe in slowly and concentrate on your breathing. Clear your mind of anxious thoughts and worries.
3. Push your feet down on floor to the count of five. Push them harder and harder. Relax. Repeat.
4. Visualize by closing your eyes and picturing yourself in a place where you're happy and peaceful.
5. Bring all necessary materials for the test.
6. Listen carefully to all directions, and ask if you don't understand the directions completely.
7. Write name and date the very first thing.
8. Reread all directions carefully.

9. Look over whole test to see what you must do before beginning.

10. Figure out how much time you'll have to spend on each question, and allow more time for answering essay questions or those worth most points.

11. Read each question carefully before answering.

12. Work on easiest problems first to get as many points as possible.

13. Skip difficult questions, as you may find information later in the test that will help you answer these.

14. Go back and answers questions you skipped.

15. Double check your answers by rereading the questions to make sure that you haven't made any mistakes.

16. Check to make sure that your paper is easy to read and neat.

### The best tip of all

Study the course material, make sure you understand what the material is trying to convey, complete all of the study questions provided with the student text and celebrate sensibly after you pass the exam!

## How to Order Paper Tests (AUXOP and Others) - Continued from Page 1

Some items to consider:

Only the proctor who is going to administer the test may order the exams – not the MT and not the FC. Contrary to the line on the form, the FSO-MT or FC does not have to approve the form – just ignore that information.

It is highly recommended that whenever possible, that the member be encouraged to take exams online at <http://ntc.cgaux.org/>. This will give the member instant gratification since it's marked within seconds of completion and automatically record-

ed in AUXDATA by the following week. If the member fails the exam, they may take it up to seven times online.

Currently, AUXSC&E and AUXNAV B/AUXACN B are the only exams not available online.

If the member is going to take AUXACN/AUXNAV B, the proctor needs to supply them with a fresh, clean 1210TR chart. They are not supplied by DIRAUX. There is a limited supply of 1210TR charts available from ANSC.

There are special rules for the AUXSC&E exam that all certified AUXSC&E instructors are aware of.

We strongly suggest that the proctor use the DIRAUX Gateway option when requesting paper tests to save several days in transit to the mail-room in Miami to make sure the tests are received in time to administer the test when desired. If the proctor can't save the form (it requires the full version of Adobe Acrobat to do that), we suggest the proctor print it out and scan it into a PDF or JPG to attach to the DIRAUX Gateway entry.

## Miscellaneous Good Member Training Information

### Ordering Course Material

Members cannot directly order course material. That's where the Materials Officers come into play. The FSO-MA and/or SO-MA can order class materials. Some courses don't have printed material and the member will have to work from CDs.

The Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC) has a special Excel order form that simplifies materials ordering. Make sure to leave plenty of time prior to the commencement of the course to ensure the material makes it in time.

If the course is a division-wide offering, it's usually more efficient to have the course supervisor or SO-MT place the order with the SO-MA. In this case, each class member's name and member number must be included with the order.

### Practical Requirement for Instructor Certification

Because of certain idiosyncrasies of AUXDATA, a member who wishes to become an Auxiliary Instructor must successfully pass the Instructor Examination and then complete the "student teaching" in a Public Education class. **Note:** regardless of the information contained in the text, only time instructing as a Trainee in a Public Education class counts for the practical demonstration of proficiency. Member Training instructor

time will count for removing a member from REYR status; but, not for initial certification.

Then, assuming the instruction was successful and the time has been properly entered in AUXDATA associated with a Public Education class as a trainee, the member's Flotilla Commander goes into the Director's (DIRAUX) Gateway to request DIRAUX certify the member. The FC will request certification for the member by including the member's name, member's number, flotilla number, date of successful test completion and date(s) of successful trainee "student teaching".

### Team Coordination Training

There is an unusual AUXDATA situation where a member who is not crew (i.e., in crew training) who has taken the eight hour TCT in the prior year will have to take the one-hour TCT refresher, even if they are not yet crew. If they don't take the one-hour refresher, their eight hour TCT drops out of the system and they will have to do it again. So, even though a member is not yet certified as crew and has taken TCT in a prior year, they **MUST** take the one-hour refresher anyway.

### Auxiliary Online Member Training Website Has Moved!

The member-training website known as the "U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Virtual Classroom" has moved to a new location, and is now called the "Coast Guard Auxiliary – Online Classroom". The new link (URL) to the Online Classroom is <http://classroom.cgaux.org>. Members, member training officers, and unit webmasters should change all bookmarks, links, or other references to the old Virtual Classroom to the new site and address.

All courses previously available in the Virtual Classroom should immediately be available at the new Online Classroom. Old user accounts and course completion history have been retired, as the new site uses automatically provides members with new and permanent accounts based upon the same Member Zone Credentials used for AuxDirectory, NTC, Webforms, etc.

All Auxiliary members are encouraged to use the new Online Classroom. Support is available via the National Help Desk at <http://help.cgaux.org>.

Members should note that the on-hold "Auxiliary Mandated Training Program" scheduled for inclusion on the Learning Management System as most recently referenced in ALAUX 011/11 ("Suicide Prevention", "Privacy Awareness", et. al.) will not be available at <http://classroom.cgaux.org>.

## The Voices and Faces of our Latest AUXOPs

In March we sent out an email to District 7 members who had made AUXOP2 in 2011. In that email we asked them a series of questions and then asked them to include their pictures in uniform. Presented below and on the following pages are some of their responses to our questions and their pictures. Who will be our next AUXOP member?

These are the questions asked:

1. When did you join the USCG Auxiliary?
2. When did you start to get serious about achieving AUXOP status?
3. Which course(s) did you save for last? And, why?
4. Which courses did you have a class in and which ones did you self-study?
5. Did you take your exams online at NTC, via paper tests with your flotilla or division, or at the D7 conference at Jacksonville?
6. What inspired you to become AUXOP?

### Angela Pomaro



*I joined the USCG Auxiliary in August 2005. To become AUXOP was my first priority since I joined. I felt that taking all those courses would be a great accomplishment for me. That was my goal.*

*I started with the Communications Course and left the AUXNAV and AUXSC&E for last. I knew that the NAV Course would require a great deal of time and it did. I really enjoyed taking it. The AUXSC&E was not available for a while so I opted for the NAV Course. Even though I am AUXOP, I still want to take the AUXSC&E to complete all the Specialty Courses. I took the FLC in Titusville given by Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz and John Tyson.*

*All courses and exams were taken in the classroom. I took Part A of the NAV test again online proctored.*

*I am most proud of that pin and all who were it because I know what it took to earn it.*

### Andy Render

*1- I joined the Auxiliary in February of 1997 - in Richmond Virginia - District 5 SR.*

*2-In District 5 SR there was a very active Member Training program and the District often held training sessions at TC Yorktown. I took a number of AUXOP classes there and within our division. I then became involved in several elected officer positions (at both the flotilla and division levels) which drew my attention from attaining AUXOP. It wasn't until we moved to District 7 that I again looked into AUXOP. Problem was, living in central Florida, there were not many "taught" classes within an hours drive of our flotilla. When the AUXOP2 program became available, I looked at what certifications and classes I had, and then took some on-line courses to become qualified.*

*3- In D5 SR I had taken all the AUXOP courses except AUXNAV and AUX-SAR. I took an ACN class but due to time constraints as VDCP and DCP there was never the time to take the AUXOP Nav tests (A or B). I never got to that before moving to D7, and the "taught" courses here were a 90 minute drive each way from where I live. I never did take either the AUXNAV or new AUXSC&E classes.*

*4 -I took the Flotilla Leadership Course online. Additionally, I took the Good Mate and Introduction to Marine Safety courses online. All of the core AUXOP courses I had taken in a classroom setting along with AUXPAT and AUXMIN. All of the optional courses I took online. Of all the courses I took by far, the best was the Introduction to Marine Science- It was also the most difficult.*

*5 After moving to D7 I took all my courses online and tested thru the NTC.*

*6- Since at one time I was heavily involved in surface operations, it was only natural to want to learn more about what I needed to know to become more proficient on the water. (I understood that was the original intent of the AUXOP program).*



### Bill Sorrentino



*I joined the Auxiliary in 1973 when the Coast Guard was still wearing Khakis. I started AUXOP training 1979, taking the Administrative and Patrols Specialty courses.*

*Because of my career as a New York City police officer and a few line of duty injuries, I was not able to continue with specialty training. I retired in 1990 only to become a police officer again in Florida. That again slowed me down for AUXOP. After*

*retiring a second time with the Volusia County Beach Police, I found the time to study and take additional elective courses while working part-time as a police officer.*

*Obtaining AUXOP became serious for me after 9/11. 9/11 seemed to be the changing point for me to get it. Realizing that having almost thirty years in the Auxiliary and I still wasn't AUXOP, I decided to make a sincere and conscious effort to apply myself for it.*

*The required core courses taken were based on availability of an AUXOP instructor in my flotilla. Once the instructor agreed to teach the courses, it was only a matter of time before we gathered up a small class for Weather, Seamanship and Communications. We started the SAR, but due to the change over to the new SAR, the course was cancelled. I found that having an instructor teach an AUXOP course was much better for learning, then self teaching.*

*The Admin and Patrols specialty courses were the only two courses that were self taught, although there was a proctored sit down test. The rest were classroom settings with a proctored written test. The rest of the courses were: AMLOC given at a district conference, two advanced ICS courses given at a Coast Guard station, and the resident Flotilla Leadership Course also given at a Coast Guard station.*

*I did not consciously save any particular course for last. The course taken was based on availability*

## The Voices and Faces of our Latest AUXOPs—continued



### Dee Kermode

1. When did you join the USCG Auxiliary? July 30, 1994

2. When did you start to get serious about achieving AUXOP status? I was really lucky when I became an Auxiliarist as my flotilla was pro-active in promoting the AUXOP courses. Then, I realized I had taken most of the core courses and had only ½ the AUXACN to master. I actually gave up after taking the second half twice and missing it by an extremely small margin; am told I was using a fat leaded pencil. Then after I co-wrote the FLC which is part of the criteria, it seemed ridiculous not to try again.

3. Which course(s) did you save for last? And, why? AUXNAV (or AUXACN) part 2, as I had passed part 1. I put it off because it's intimidating. I had lived aboard a 42' boat for years and navigated the entire Intracoastal Waterway. Once we were on patrol and were sent to find a sunken refrigerator in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay which we did! I could take a boat anywhere and chart my way but somehow I just kept missing just enough questions to not pass that test.

4. Which courses did you have a class in and which ones did you self-study? All were in classes.

5. Did you take your exams online at NTC, via paper tests with your flotilla or division, or at the D7 conference at Jacksonville? Paper tests with the flotilla; LAMS class at Yorktown

6. What inspired you to become AUXOP? I have always aspired to be the best I could be and when the 'rules changed', I discovered I had something like 11 points though only 7 were needed. I have since taken several of the ICS courses and the TCO PQS. I feel when you join any organization, you should give 110% or don't bother.



### Don Zinner

1. Gosh, it seems like I've been a member most of my life. Its been such a huge part of my life. I joined in 2002

2. I have several mentors that wanted me to go thru AUXOP. By far the people that were my greatest help were Joe and Cathy Welty, Jim Dennen and Gene Kahn

3. I saved Patrols for last, just because I wanted an easy finish

4. The most challenging was AUXSAR. I attended a class on that. The others were self study

5. Really, all three; AUXSAR was a paper test. Most of the others I took online with a proctor and I took my last test at the D7 Conference

6. The quest for more knowledge. I believe that will bring about safer operations in the field



### David Crockwell



I joined the USCG Auxiliary in March, 2007. Right from my very first new member training class, I was told that the AUXOP was the PHD of all the training that the Auxiliary had to offer. I was told only the most dedicated members go on to earn this award. My Flotilla offered AUXOP classes throughout the year. I was able to study and pass AUXWEA, AUXSEA and AUXCOM through my good instructors.

tors.

I studied AUXPAT at home and had a proctor test me at the flotilla computer. So, four down and two to go. I passed AUXNAV A but had trouble with B. At that point the Auxiliary came out with AUXOP2. I found out I had more than enough points with my MS and Leadership courses that I had taken. Earlier last year I was awarded the AUXOP2.

I wear that proudly both on my Trops and ODUs.

### Len Chiacchia

1. I joined in Feb 2011

2. I became serious about achieving AUXOP status in November 2011

3. I left AUXSEA for last. It seemed to be the broadest in scope and so I thought that I could leverage what I had learned in the other subjects for this course. After it was over, I found that I was right and it worked for me.

4. I achieved AUXOP all by self-study. When I reviewed the manuals and study guides for the exams required for AUXOP, I found them to be straight forward and understandable. This gave me the courage to challenge them.

5. I took the exams online (proctored when required) at the NTC. The NTC is an excellent resource.

6. What inspired you to become AUXOP? The mission of the Auxiliary is an important one and I wanted to get more involved Auxiliary operations as soon as I could. If I had to wait for the classes, it may have taken two years or more to learn the subject matter and earn the certification. Also, I wanted to make sure that I had the knowledge, skills, and qualifications to be assigned where needed.

## The Voices and Faces of our Latest AUXOPs—continued



**Andy Anderson**

1. When did you join the USCG Auxiliary? I joined the Auxiliary in July 2007.
2. When did you start to get serious about achieving AUXOP status? Almost immediately.
3. Which course(s) did you save for last? And, why? I saved AUXWEA for last because I could see it was difficult and would require extra study time.
4. Which courses did you have a class in and which ones did you self-study? I took a class in AUXCOM and did self study for the rest.
5. Did you take your exams online at NTC, via paper tests with your flotilla or division, or at the D7 conference at Jacksonville? The AUXCOM test was offered as a paper test. All the other tests I took were online.
6. What inspired you to become AUXOP? I wanted to achieve the highest level and training and qualification as an Auxiliarist.

**Jim Ryder**

I joined the Auxiliary on 20JUL05.

I probably got serious about completing the AUXOP in 2010. I felt I had other Auxiliary priorities prior to 2010 and I decided to take the AUXOP courses that I felt would help me meet those priorities. I had successfully taken the Advanced Nav course with the Dunedin Flotilla prior to joining the Auxiliary in 2005. I felt I had a fairly good grasp on plotting. I missed the first opportunity for a crew class in 2005/2006 and decided to attempt crew qualification on my own. I was crew qualified in November 2006. I was sorry I missed the crew class since I felt it left me behind those who joined the Auxiliary around the same time that I had. I also completed the Nav rules exam in 2006 plus three of the ICS courses. I started the coxswain class in early 2007 when I received the opportunity to be a part of the division ISAR team. The majority of 2007 was devoted to ISAR training, becoming Instructor certified and Operational Excellence crew qualified. The goal of coxswain certification was put on hold in 2007 for ISAR.

In July of 2008 I was given the opportunity to attend the new C-School SC&E course. I was certified coxswain in September and completed AUXNAV A&B in October 2008. In 2009 I was elected VFC for the Dunedin Flotilla and in 2010 the FC. AUXOP certification was pushed into the background although I did complete the AUXWEA course in 2010. I felt that I had completed all of the difficult AUXOP courses and would be able to take the remaining courses without formal classes. At the end of 2010 I learned the qualifications for AUXOP were changing and I was very disappointed. I knew I didn't have the time to devote to completing AUXOP prior to the end of 2010. I completed AUXCOM in March 2011 and AUXPAT and AUXSEA in April (two days after I completed AUXCOM). My goal was to complete all of the original AUXOP courses regardless of the new requirements.

As indicated above, I saved AUXCOM, AUXPAT and AUXSEA for last because I thought they were the easiest and I could take them without instruction. I had formal instruction in AUXSC&E, AUXNAV A&B, AUXWEA, and AUXCOM. I studied AUXPAT and AUXSEA on my own.

I took the AUXSC&E exam at the conclusion of the C-School course, the remaining courses were division courses with the exception of AUXPAT and AUXSEA that I took online with our SO-MT as proctor.

To me, AUXOP always represented a special level of accomplishment within our organization. AUXOP requires a commitment that is above the average member's commitment. I'm proud to be included with the AUXOP group.



**Paulette Parent**

1. When did you join the USCG Auxiliary? 26SEP1997
2. When did you start to get serious about achieving AUXOP status? When new AUXOP2 was announced - I was not great at navigation and knew I would probably not be able to pass the Nav A & B course, especially after taking and passing the Basic Coastal Navigation course.
3. Which course(s) did you save for last? And, why? AUXWEA - I took the class previously and felt I had not learned it well enough to take the test, so I put it off for a year and attended another class and then took the exam at the D7 Conference.
4. Which courses did you have a class in and which ones did you self-study? I took a class for all my courses, except ICS courses. I much prefer the classroom environment for learning.
5. Did you take your exams online at NTC, via paper tests with your flotilla or division, or at the D7 conference at Jacksonville? Some of the earlier tests were taken in class with paper exams. I took the AUXWEA test at the D7 Conference in Jacksonville which was a terrific opportunity. I hope this testing at the D7 conference continues.
6. What inspired you to become AUXOP? I felt I should be the best I could be and set an example as I was a Division officer.

**Alma Sola**

I joined the Aux by invitation of the BS&S instructors on January 1996.

Becoming an AUXOP was important to me for personal improvement; it's a means to help others at BS&S classes and to be helpful to the boating community.

To properly learn, I need someone KNOWLEDGEABLE to help me with my questions and I do not like computers. I have always had classes. I do not like Internet tests.

I attend all most of the District Conferences (out of my pocket) but do not take tests.

ICS 100,700 NIMS 200,800 I took on line and then reviewed my knowledge with the Active Duty in a formal class for several days. All my Specialty courses have been taught to me and I have taken a paper exam. **Continued on page 8.**

## The Voices and Faces of our Latest AUXOPs—continued



**Festus Burchfield**

1. *When did you join the USCG Auxiliary? I joined the Auxiliary in October 2005 after attending a Boating Skills & Seamanship course in Bellingham, Washington. We had recently retired and moved to the Pacific Northwest from Alaska.*
2. *When did you start to get serious about achieving AUXOP status? In September 2006 I attended the first Search & Rescue Specialty (AUXSAR) Course offered to Auxiliarists on the West Coast. It has held at Sector Seattle- there were only 5 Auxiliarists and about 40 Coast Guard personnel taking the course. It wasn't easy. I was encouraged by fellow Auxiliarists to become AUXOP qualified. I believe that learning and participating keeps a person moving forward and not just stuck in place. It works for me.*
3. *Which course(s) did you save for last? And, why? I chose to take the most difficult course first, and for me, that was Weather. I saved AUXSEA for last because, for me, it was more interesting and something I've been working with since joining the Auxiliary.*
4. *Which courses did you have a class in and which ones did you self-study? In class: FLOTILLA LEADERSHIP; ATON C-SCHOOL; AUXSAR  
Self-Study: AUXCOM; AUXPAT; AUXWEA; AUXSEA. I went to the library to study these courses - it's generally quiet, there's no other distractions and no refrigerator! Also, the AUXPAT course is one that I would recommend for all coxswain and boat crew to take, regardless of their AUXOP ambitions. AUXPAT gives a clear overall view of procedures for supporting Auxiliary safety patrol missions.*
5. *Did you take your exams online at NTC, via paper tests with your flotilla or division, or at the D7 conference at Jacksonville? I took NTC On-line proctored tests*
6. *What inspired you to become AUXOP? My inspiration initially came from the Auxiliarists and Senior Chief James Herzog, OIC USCG Station Bellingham, who taught me professional skills and standards for boating in the Pacific Northwest. I was assigned Assistant Maintenance and Crew Training Officer for a Coast Guard owned boat used as an Auxiliary operational facility, docked at the Coast Guard station. As a result, Coxswain and Boat Crew Auxiliarists had the benefit of working directly with the Coast Guard personnel. This interaction and standardization of training further inspired me to conduct a Coxswain and Crew Training Academy for Division 12 South Carolina last year; it was held at USCG Station Charleston. 21 Coxswain and Crew from the academy training have been qualified. My personal challenge is to achieve the highest proficiency I can.*

**Sue Hastings**



1. *When did you join the USCG Auxiliary? Sept 1989 in 9th Eastern Flotilla 42 in Rochester, NY – moved to Georgetown, SC and transferred to 7th District Flotilla 12-10 in October 1999.*
2. *When did you start to get serious about achieving AUXOP status? I started in the 1990's while in Rochester and took all except NAV B which I did not take because of becoming involved at National for Personnel Department in the Join the Auxiliary eResponders Program and District 9ER as DSO-IS and then District 7 as DSO-IS. When the new criteria came out for AUXOP, I only needed the Leadership course which I traveled to Savannah to take last year.*
3. *Which course(s) did you save for last? And, why? The Flotilla Leadership Course as it was added to the new AUXOP and I had all the other required courses.*
4. *Which courses did you have a class in and which ones did you self-study? I did all the courses in the classroom setting. In Rochester during the months from October through April when there was no boating, we had AUXOP classes set up on some weeknights and Saturday mornings. These were Division classes and we usually had a big group of people taking the class from all the flotillas in the divisions.*
5. *Did you take your exams online at NTC, via paper tests with your flotilla or division, or at the D7 conference at Jacksonville? I took paper exams for all the classes.*
6. *What inspired you to become AUXOP? I wanted to become AUXOP as it is considered the highest achievement in the Auxiliary. It took me a long time but I was glad that I finally was able to achieve this status.*

### Alma Sola—continued from page 7

*Classes were very interesting and we asked questions. We learned from others experiences.*

*I like to be proficient in what I do. I train a lot with the Active Duty. I want to be able to answer people when they ask navigation and boating questions*

## The Voices and Faces of our Latest AUXOPs—continued



**John Tyson**

1. *When did you join the USCG Auxiliary? I joined in December of 1999.*
2. *When did you start to get serious about achieving AUXOP status? I took my first AUXOP course in April 2000, shortly after joining the Auxiliary.*
3. *Which courses did you save for last? Aux SC&E was my last course before qualifying as AUXOP. I didn't plan to save the course for last. Rather, it was a new course and I wanted to know more about the search and rescue system.*
4. *Which courses did you have a class in and which ones did you self-study? All but the Administrative Procedures Course were taken in a class setting. I enjoy the fellowship that comes with in-class learning so the on-line opportunity to take an AUXOP was not as appealing to me.*
5. *Did you take your exams online at NTC, via paper tests with your flotilla or division, or at the D7 conference in Jacksonville? I took the APC exam on-line at NTC and the remainder using paper tests.*
6. *What inspired you to become AUXOP? Becoming AUXOP was an important personal achievement. I viewed it as having developed several higher level skill sets that are needed to meet mission requirements in the post 9-11 era. I also looked at each AUXOP course as gaining knowledge that will be important to me throughout the remainder of my Auxiliary service.*

**Barbara Carolus**

*I feel very honored to have obtained the AUXOP status as it was one of the four accomplishments I wanted to complete during my Auxiliary membership. There were four altogether: 1. To complete the leadership training, which I did in Petaluma in my early years as an Auxiliarists. 2. Become a coxswain (boats and jet skis) 3. Become Division Captain (now Commander) and 4. Become a QE. I managed to complete all four things on my wish list*

*My husband and I had been boating many years on Grand Lake, Lake Mary Ohio. Grand Lake is a 10 mile long 5 mile wide man-made lake which was originally part of the Erie Canal waterway system.*

*We moved to Florida in 1994, bought a boat and thought we would continue to enjoy our recreational boating weekends. You can't begin to know our fears and frustrations after a couple of excursions out on the water and our boating friends made suggestions for boating the inland waterways. Red right return was an oft repeated phrase and is very good advice to new boats to this area, but it would have been a lot more helpful if someone had explained its meaning. For obvious reasons after a couple of weekend outings we had the perfect name for our new boat, "Sand Seeker".*

*In the lake a channel maker did just that, it marked the channel where the next restaurant was located. There was a ski zone but I don't remember seeing a marker there, everyone just knew where it was. There was also an old oil well out in the middle but there were no markers there either, you just knew you were in the middle when you saw the pile of rocks.*

*With all that being said in the summer of 1996 we saw an advertisement for an Auxiliary Boating Skills and Seamanship course, a 13 lesson course taught by Auxiliary volunteers. While we were attending the course we listened to the experienced boating talking about the missions they did and the assistance they gave to the Coast Guard and decided we wanted to be counted in that number. We became members in June 1997.*

*I attended flotilla and division meetings on a regular basis and loved every part of my Auxiliary experience. I believe that Chuck Randall and Stu Robinson were the Division elected leaders. At the next Division election Karen Teston became the Division Vice Captain and Nancy Robinson was a QE at that time. I admired them and set out to be everything that they represented to me.*

*In 1998 I studied the AUXAPC course and in 1999 became Flotilla Commander. That's all I needed to get me started with wanting to do everything that I thought our flotilla was capable of doing. In 1999 the MT held the VE, MDV, Instructor, and AUXCOM courses all of which I completed successfully. These tests were then proctored paper test.*

*Also in 1999 I also completed the Instructor Trainer (C-School) and continued on to become an instructor in the same BS&S class that I had taken when I first learned about the Auxiliary and the AUXOP designation.*

*In 2001 I took a class for AUXWEA, (paper test), completed a self study effort for AUXMIN, and AUXPAT. In 2002 I did the online study and passed AUXSEA. In 2003 I completed the coxswain qualifications, ATON and CHART UPDATING (C-School) and became an AID VERIFIER. In 2004 I became qualified as a PWC Operator. In 2005 I became Division Vice Commander (then Captain). In 2005/2006 I became a QE for crew, coxswain, and PWC operators. I also did online study and completed the FEMA- ICS, 100, 200, 700 and 800. In 2007 I completed the AUXILIARY MID-LEVEL OFFICERS Course (AMLOC) and became Division Commander (then Captain).*

*I saved the AUXNAV for last as I had attended the course twice and determined that I didn't feel confident enough about navigation to pass the very difficult course. I had almost given up completing the courses necessary to obtain the AUXOP when they changed the requirements and with all but the originally required AUXNAV I became AUXOP.*

*When I first joined I had ideas about what I wanted to accomplish in the Auxiliary, FSO-SR, SO-SR, FC, DCDR, Crew, Coxswain, Personal Watercraft Officer, QE, and AUXOP all of which I have accomplished.*