

Division 5 Quarterly 113-05 Suisun Bay

June
2024



Be an Auxiliary witness to the Port Chicago Armory Memorial on Saturday July 20th, 2024

By Giovanni Bacigalupi

The Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial was dedicated in 1994, and a public event is held once a year. For the last two years Mike Smith (05-02) has organized Auxiliary participation. Some of us go to witness, while others go to participate. District Eleven Division Chief, Rev. Michael Chester has been the memorial chaplain; Roger Bazeley (01-02) was there two years ago as event bugler; I have been the Auxiliary photographer; Dinia and Erik Paananen have gone to witness and pay respects.

The memorial event lasts around two hours and includes speakers from the National Park Service, a local poli-

tician, a historian, a civil rights activist, and a family member of a sailor killed or injured during the disaster.

This event teaches us history of the armory and the nearby town, the Coast Guard, and civil rights. The Coast Guard lost five that day. The African American sailors who survived the explosion were prosecuted for demanding safer work conditions. The NAACP, led by Thurgood Marshall, provided legal support and the case led to future reforms in the military.

Pay respect to the Americans that paid the ultimate price to protect democracy. Instructions to attend are on page two. RSVP by 12 July, 2024.

The Port Chicago Armory Disaster

By Giovanni Bacigalupi



Images courtesy Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, National Park Service.

The cause of the first explosion is still a mystery, but the second explosion picked up the fire boat and threw it 600 feet—a distance of 5 football fields—which killed the crew of five. Those five were Coast Guardsmen monitoring munitions loading at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine near Concord, California. On that July 17, 1944, so far from the front, 320 people died as a result of the explosion and 390 people were injured. It is listed as the worst home front disaster of World War II.

The Coast Guard was active in the U.S. and worldwide during World War II. Port security and beach patrol quickly come to mind, but the U.S.C.G. was also heavily involved in search and rescue, marine safety, and convoy escort. Because of the Coast Guard's reputation for handling small boats, deployments were also made for troop transport and amphibious operations. That is how five Coast Guardsmen came to be listed among the dead from the massive explosion at the West

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The Port Chicago Armory Disaster (Cont.)

Coast's Port Chicago Naval Magazine. The Coast Guard fire boat CG-60014-F with its crew of 5 was moored at the same dock as the ships loaded with live munitions. We can assume that all five were reacting to the initial explosions and fire when they became casualties themselves. They were: BM1c Peter G. Broda; MM1c William G. Degryce; McMM3c Edward J. Portz;

S1c Charles H. Riley; S2c James C. Sullivan. Only McMM3c Edward J. Portz and S2c James C. Sullivan could be positively identified.

Sources: *Wikipedia*: Port Chicago disaster ([visit](#)); *NPS Memorial website* ([visit](#)). *Public domain photos Memorial photo gallery* ([visit](#)).

THE USCG CASUALTIES

BM1c Peter G. Broda
MM1c William G. Degryce
McMM3c Edward J. Portz
S1c Charles H. Riley
S2c James C. Sullivan



Here is how you can attend the ceremony.

If you wish to attend R.S.V.P. by July 12, 2024

Join us as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Port Chicago disaster on Saturday, July 20th, 2024, at 10:30am with a reception to follow the ceremony.

Each person in your party will need to make a reservation for this event using our form and provide the following information for access to the military base:

- First name
- Full middle name (no initials)
- Last name
- Date of birth
- Driver's license number and state of issue (please use 2 letter initials (CA for California))

Email or call with questions:
POCH_General_Info@nps.gov
925-228-8860 x6520

[Click here to RSVP online.](#)

80TH ANNIVERSARY

PORT CHICAGO

NAVAL MAGAZINE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Saturday, July 20th, 2024 at 10:30 am

Images courtesy Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, National Park Service.

What's Happening around Division 5

Great Vallejo Race PA Booth



Staffing the Auxiliary table (Left to right) were Rick Ly (05-01), Tom Hurley (05-01), Ron Nathan (05-01), and Giovanni Bacigalupi (05-03) behind the camera.

Paton Patrol



AUXFAC Audrey L carried auxiliarists on a Private Aids to Navigation patrol around Suisun Bay and in the Carquinez Straits. Pictured (left to right) are Mike Hay (05-02), and John Albrecht (05-02). Also on board were Bob Bain (05-02), and Tom Hurley (05-01) behind the camera.

Vessel Safety Check



Steve Johnson (05-01), shown with the boat he just examined along with Randy McCormick (05-03). The inspection was at a private dock. Photo by Tom Hurley (05-01).

Rescue Patterns with the USCG



BM2 Alex Reyes USCG, joins Dinia Paananen (05-02), John Albrecht (05-02), and Scott Lingen (05-02) at the helm (05-03), with Tom Hurley (05-01) behind the camera.

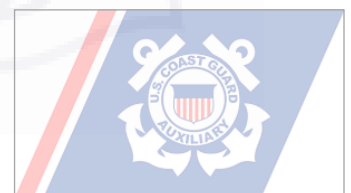
**Send photos with captions!
Send stories too!**

Help us highlight Division 5 member work, fellowship, and learning. Send a photo from your mobile phone or camera, and include a few words about what was happening, where and when it happened, and who is in the shot. One hint: Let folks know you are going to take a picture so they can look their best

Email us at 11305quarterly@gmail.com

**Congratulations
Scott Lingen —**

Division 5 Trainee of the Year, 2023



Hilo Ops San Pablo Bay *Story & Photos By Giovanni Bacigalupi*

All eyes were on the helicopters during Coast Guard rescue training on April 25, 2024. Tom Hurley, Lew Derfuss, Randy McCormick, John Albrecht, and Giovanni Bacigalupi were

tossed around by choppy seas due to tides and wind but not deterred from their watch duties.

Two MH-65 Dolphin helicopters out of Coast Guard Air Station San

Francisco took turns practicing water rescues with dummies (Oscar), allowing the rescue swimmers to practice several freefall deployments and basket recoveries.



In Their Own Words: SN Luciano Salzano

"Throughout my entire life, I have felt a strong connection to the sea. After graduating from Saint Mary's College High School in Albany, CA, I enrolled at the California State University Maritime Academy to pursue my dream of becoming a Coast Guard

officer. I was part of the Auxiliary University Program (AUP), which provides training and experience in Coast Guard duties through local Flotilla participation and qualification, however I was unable to continue my studies at Cal Maritime. As a result, I

submitted my enlistment paperwork in 2021.

"While waiting for my orders, I worked full-time as a pipefitter in Fremont, CA, and spent my free time at S.T.A. Vallejo, where I stood countless comms watches and trained for boat crew. As well I trained onboard FC Tom Hurley's "Audrey L." I also completed vessel safety checks alongside FL 05-01 FSO-VE, Jim Minkel at several Flotilla 05-01 events.

"After two years, I received orders to report to Coast Guard Training Center Cape May on January 30th, 2024. I graduated as a Seaman on April 29, 2024, and was awarded the Highest Academic Achievement Award at graduation.

"I reported on April 7th to the CGC OSPREY stationed in Port Townsend, WA. It's an 87ft Marine Protector Class Cutter, and one of the first built! Very excited!

"I am thrilled to say that I have the most fun and coolest job in the world! In the next few years, I hope to attend A-School to become an Aviation Maintenance Technician."



Luciano Salzano's USCG portrait as a Seaman. He spent time training at Station Rio Vista, and on Aux facilities.



Luciano (right) with MK3 Marshall Platt (left) who is holding his puppy, stand in front of the CGC OSPREY.



CGC OSPREY stationed in Port Townsend, Washington state. Photo courtesy Luciano Salzano.

COMO Curtis Han Awarded Cutterman Insignia

Photos and story by Roger Bazeley, with additional photo by Jim Losi



The four Auxiliary Cutterman (left to right): COMO Curtis Han; Jim Losi, DCOS; Flotilla 6-2 Commander Bard Mansager; Gary Kaplan. XPO Gonzalez, USCG (right). Photo Roger Bazeley.

On June 6, 2024, USCGC Tern held a historic Cutterman ceremony for U.S.C.G. Auxiliary D11N District Commodore Curtis Han to award his Cutterman insignia at sea aboard the 87' Coast Guard cutter Tern. Attending were the four District Cutterman, Bard Mansager (06-04), Gary Kaplan (01-07), Jim Losi, D.C.O.S. (12-91), and the newest Cutterman D.C.O. Curtis Han (05-02). The U.S.C.G. Cutterman Insignia was also awarded to Derick Rivera Ramirez, CS2, U.S.C.G. Air Station San Francisco provided a low-level fly-by with their bright orange Dolphin M65E helicopter during the ceremony. Attending the ceremony were C.D.R. Christina Jones, D.I.R.U.X., U.S.C.G.; O.T.O. Chief Carlos Thomas, U.S.C.G.; X.P.O. Gonzalez, U.S.C.G.; LT Nagle, U.S.C.G.; the crew of the Tern, and invited shipmates.



United States Coast Guard Cutter Tern. An 87-foot Marine Protector class cutter, the Tern is stationed at Sector San Francisco at Yerba Buena Island. Photo Roger Bazeley.



Support crew (left to right) — event photographer Roger Bazeley (01-02); CDR Christina Jones, DIRUX, USCG; COMO Curtis Han (05-02); Dinia Paananen (05-02); Deb Rocchild (05-02); DCDR Randy McCormick (05-03); Erik Paananen (05-03); Gary Kaplan (01-07); and Chief Petty Officer Perezze, USCG Photo Jim Losi.



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Cutterman pin earned by 24 Auxiliarists.



Air Station San Francisco Dolphin M65E helicopter flyover during the ceremony. Photo Roger Bazeley.

What's Happening around Division 5

Side Tow Practice On The Audry L *Photos by Tom Hurley*



Aboard the AUXFAC AUDRY L (Left to right) Brian Barton (05-05) looks on while Jim Losi (12-91) waits for orders.



(Left to right) Boat Crew Candidate Randy Saxe (05-05) and Brian Barton (05-05) work a tow line. Jim Losi (12-91) assists.



QE Paul Verveniotis (04-06) aboard the AUXFAC MARIANNE seems pleased following the side tow evolutions.

"No deaths, No damage, No dings, No drama". Side tow practice with the AUXFAC vessels AUDRY L and MARIANNE. Auxiliarists on a Private Aids to Navigation patrol around Suisun Bay, and in the Carquinez Straits, pause to practice towing. Participating were Brian Barton (05-05), Jim Losi (12-91), Randy Saxe (05-05), Paul Verveniotis (04-06), and Tom Hurley (05-01).

News From Flotilla 05-03, North Solano County *Photos by Giovanni Bacigalupi*



On April 16, 2024, Flotilla Commander Rene Steinhauer (05-03) swears in the newest members of Flotilla 05-03: Linda Arnold and Gary Arnold. Congratulations and welcome aboard.



Gary knew about the Auxiliary from a boating safety course about 30 years ago, and after retirement he looked up the Auxiliary on Google. "I love boats and two way radios. My wife and I showed up for a flotilla meeting." It's progressed from there. Gary is now BQ qualified, and will be trained as a Watchstander in Rio Vista.



On May 21, 2024, Kit Galvin (L) (05-03) receives two certificates from Flotilla Commander Rene Steinhauer (R) (05-03), for completion of Leadership Competency Level 2 AND for Level 3.



On May 21, 2024, Bill Malloy (L) (05-03) receives a ribbon from Flotilla Commander Rene Steinhauer (R) (05-03), for the Coast Guard Sustained Auxiliary Service Award.

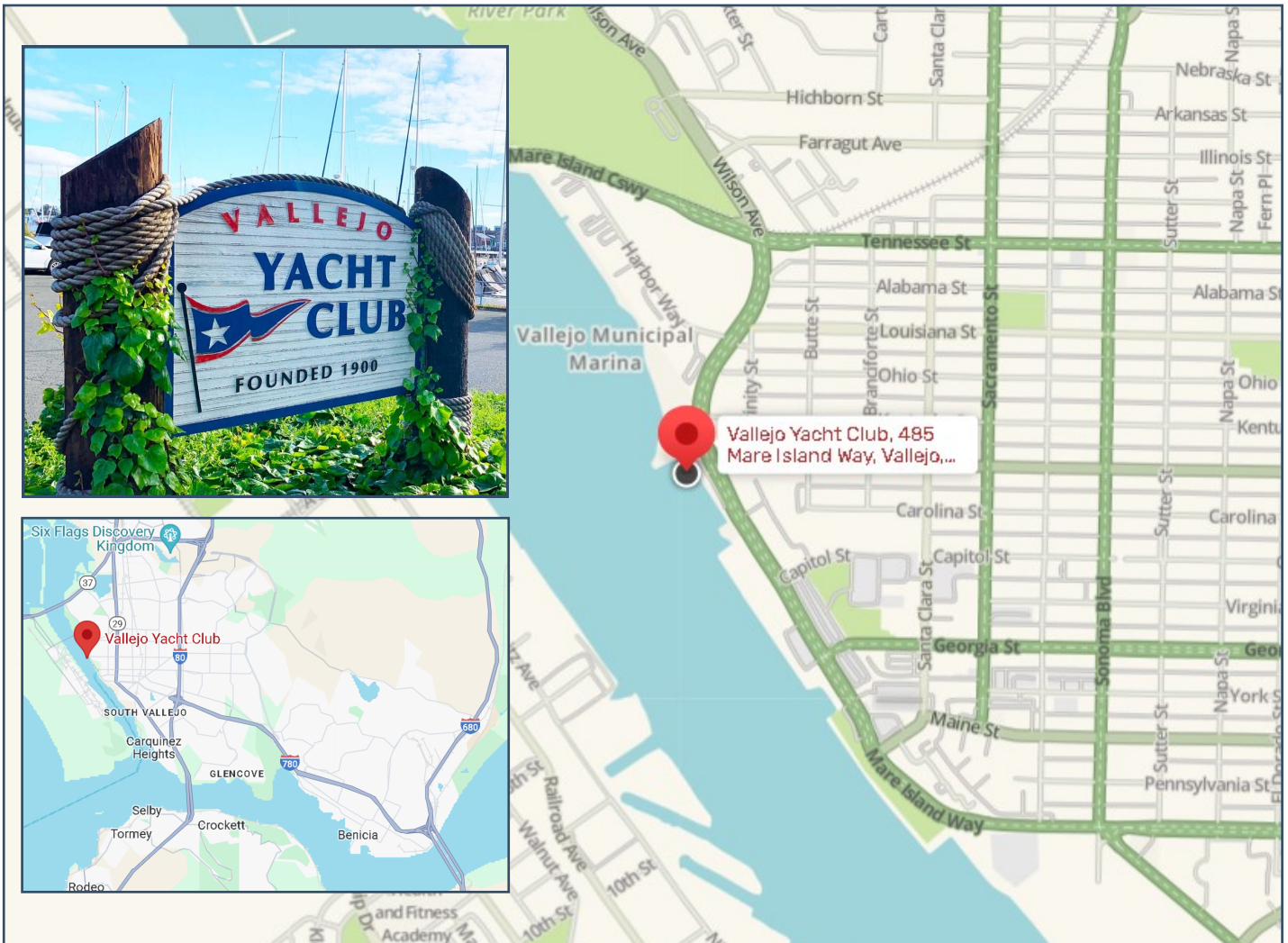
This award is presented to an Auxiliarist contributing a documented total of 750 volunteer hours of Auxiliary service.



Division 5 Monthly Meeting, District 11NR

Meetings the first Thursday of each month, at 19:30. Open to all.

Vallejo Yacht Club, 485 Mare Island Way, Vallejo CA 94590



Division 5 Elected and Appointed Offices

Division Commander

Randy McCormick

Vice Division Commander

Kit Galvin

Auxiliary Scout

Steve Johnson

Communication Services

Randy McCormick

Diversity

Dinia Pannanen

Finance

Doug Twitchell

Information Services

Curtis Han

Operations

Lew Derfuss

Public Affairs

Jim Matthies

Publications

Giovanni Bacigalupi

Public Education

Kit Galvin

Program Visitor

Ron Nathan

Secretary & Records

Heather Porterfield

Vessel Examinations

Tom Hurley

Newsletter Editor/Production: Giovanni Bacigalupi

You can send news, events, and photos to 11305quarterly@gmail.com