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# Central Arkansas Flotilla 15-8 8<sup>th</sup> Western Rivers Region U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 2023 Highlights

## Boating Safety and Education

The primary purpose of the Auxiliary is to promote boating safety and we do that through a variety of programs.



This year we resumed teaching boating safety classes at the Auxiliary station for the first time since the onset of the pandemic.



Additionally, we conducted free boat safety checks and distributed boating safety literature at local marinas, boat dealerships, outdoor recreation stores and at events such as the Little Rock boatshow.

## Marine Environmental Protection

In April the Flotilla partnered with the North Little Rock Fire Department to conduct a shoreline cleanup in the vicinity of the Inland Maritime Museum



in conjunction with Earth Day.

Firefighters had to rappel down the steep banks to reach trash near the river level while Auxiliary members picked up trash along the top of the bank.

A Fire Department boat transferred buckets of trash from the bottom of the bank to Auxiliary members waiting on the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum barge.



Afterwards all had a great lunch cooked by Auxiliary Culinary Assistants.



The North Little Rock Parks and Recreation



Department provided trash bags, grab sticks, and buckets and disposed of the trash when it was done.

## Arkansas River Patrols



The Auxiliary conducts patrols on the Arkansas River to assist boaters in distress, check the status of river navigation aids,

demonstrate Coast Guard presence in the vicinity of critical infrastructure, and assist local agencies upon request.

The Central Arkansas Flotilla conducted 12 patrols and were underway 44 hours in 2023 and reported 23 problems with navigation markers, buoys, or bridge lights. We also located one large log within the river channel that was a hazard to navigation.



## Coast Guard Recruiting Support

Like the other military services, the Coast Guard has faced difficulties in recruiting both reserve and active-duty members in recent years. A Coast Guard recruiting detachment was assigned to the area in 2023 and the Auxiliary is helping with this mission.

In October, Auxiliary members worked alongside active-duty recruiters at the Little Rock Air Force Base airshow in providing information about the Coast Guard to potential recruits and giving tours of one of the small boats assigned to the Coast Guard in Memphis.



The recruiters have not yet moved into an office in the area and have utilized the Auxiliary station within the North Little Rock RV Park on a regular basis for their own training.

## Auxiliary Station North Little Rock



Located within the North Little Rock RV Park since 2012, the station is used for regular meetings, training by active duty and Auxiliary personnel, and is occasionally used by groups visiting the RV Park.

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BY Via email

DATE 1-8-24  
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

RECEIVED by J. Thomas



This is an official publication of the Central Arkansas Flotilla 15-8, 8<sup>th</sup> Western Rivers Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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