

Back on the Water

COVID has changed just about everything. What we do, where we go, and how we get there have new rules. The Hudson River changed, too. But rather than imposing restrictions, its open waterways have welcomed seasoned boaters and first-time boaters seeking solace from the virus. The Coast Guard Auxiliary, on the other hand, was ordered to stand down for most of 2020 for the safety of its members. This year, the Auxiliary is back on the water to assist boaters on the Hudson, including vessel safety checks and boating safety classes, both online and in person.

There was a dramatic increase in the number of boating incidents last year. The Coast Guard attributes this to the increase of new boaters and to the lack of the Auxiliary's presence. This year, Auxiliary flotillas up and down the Hudson will be renewing efforts to promote boating safety and interact with the public.

This is especially true on the east side of the Hudson, from the Bear Mountain Bridge to the Mid-Hudson Bridge. The Auxiliary has had limited resources in this area and recognizes a need to rebuild relationships with marinas and the boating community along this stretch of the river.

There is much to be done this year. The Auxiliary is actively looking for new members to improve the service in the Hudson River area and to better meet the growing need for boating safety. People interested in joining the Auxiliary should contact their local flotilla. Boaters can locate a flotilla by zip code, request vessel safety checks and register for boating safety classes on the Coast Guard Auxiliary web page, www.cgaux.org.



The Coast Guard Auxiliary returns from COVID restrictions for the 2021 Boating Season

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of Team Coast Guard. Founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress as the US Coast Guard Reserves, it was re-designated the Auxiliary in 1941. The 26,000+ volunteer men and women donate millions of hours in support of Coast Guard missions every year.

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**United States
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