

# The Patriot Ledger

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JOE WEBB PHOTOS/FOR THE PATRIOT LEDGER

■ David Scott, vice flotilla commander and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member, tosses a bumper to another patrol boat as they prepare Weymouth Harbor for last night's fireworks display. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is reminding people to use safe-boating practices and always wear life jackets.

## SAFE HARBORS

### Out on patrol with the Coast Guard Auxiliary



■ David Scott and the Seawatch patrol Weymouth Harbor on Sunday.



■ Craig Hall, commander of Flotilla 12-3 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, left, and James Sholomith, captain of the Creole Miss, the tugboat that towed the fireworks barge into Weymouth Harbor.

By Fred Hanson  
THE PATRIOT LEDGER

**AS** ABOARD THE SEAWATCH members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary headed out on patrol with Weymouth Harbormaster Paul Milone this holiday weekend, they passed by a reminder of how fast things can change on the water.

The MV Massachusetts is still tied up to a dock on the other side of the Back River in Hingham. A year ago, the Massachusetts hit Devils Back Ledge off Deer Island and took on water. Milone and the members of the auxiliary helped rescue the ship's 168 passengers and six crew members, bringing many back to land.

Their mission on the day before the Fourth of July went as planned, with auxiliary members showing their presence on the water and their partnership with local harbormasters.

Craig Hall of Weymouth, the commander of Flotilla 12-3 of the auxiliary, said their primary role is boating safety. The flotilla is one of three which makes

up the South Shore Division, which covers the waters from Quincy to Kingston.

One of their initiatives in this area is "Wear it South Shore," encouraging boaters to wear their life jackets while on the water.

"You should treat your life jacket like you treat your seat belt, buckle up and wear it all the time," he said.

The auxiliary also offers safe boating courses, such as the one for newer boaters that will be offered at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Tufts Library, 46 Broad St., Weymouth.

Hall, who was an experienced boater before he joined the auxiliary, said when he took the course "I wasn't as experienced as I needed to be."

Auxiliary members on Sunday set up a safety zone around the floating platform for the annual Weymouth fireworks display.

Hall said that the waters off Wessagusset Beach become as crowded as "a commuter lot" for the display.

The Seawatch made a trip up to the barge, linking up with the Quincy Police Marine Unit and Quincy Police Lt. Robert Gillan. Milone and Gillan discussed the weather, and if it would force a postponement of the fireworks, while a dozen workers were assembling the display.

"It's always a nail-biter in Weymouth with the weather," Gillan said.

The members of the auxiliary work as volunteers, although when they are called on for a mission by the Coast



■ Shannon Joseph, left, and her father, Todd Joseph of Hancock, N.H., sort through pixie dust willow mortar shells as they prepare for Weymouth's fireworks show.

Guard they get reimbursed for their fuel.

Hall and other members of the auxiliary joined as a way to serve their country.

Imants Ansberg, 64, of Cohasset has been around boats since he was 7. He joined after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks "because I was too old to go on active duty."

After the patrol Sunday, Hall presented Milone with a plaque of the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation awarded to those involved in the Massachusetts rescue for the "Seawatch."

"It's symbolic of the boat being part of that," Hall said.

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■ Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary prepare to depart from Tern Harbor as they patrol Weymouth Harbor.

### Boating safety classes

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a series of four boating safety classes beginning Wednesday at Tufts Library, 46 Broad St., Weymouth. The courses are free.

■ About Boating Safety, 6 p.m. July 6

■ PaddleSmart for canoeists and kayakers, 6 p.m. July 20

■ America's Waterway Watch, 8 p.m. July 27

■ Waypoints, 6 p.m. Aug. 3