



D-7



Connection

Human Resources - Winter Issue—2022

Issue 59

Editor: Angela Pomaro

Submit an article to the many
Auxiliary magazines

Attend Flotilla Meetings

Wear my
uniform
correctly



2023 USCG AUX Resolutions

Volunteer for
Auxiliary Positions

Complete CORE courses to
obtain a BQ Status

Advertise our
Public Education
Classes

Complete all
workshops—
whether required or
not

Increase your productivity by at
least one – one more vessel
safety check, one more program
visit, one more hour, one more
mission, one more hour of
instruction

Mentor a new
member

Enter hours in AUXDATA II

USCG Auxiliary

District 7



District 7 Commodore
Pat McMenamin



Chief of Staff
John Holmes

Thank you for your Service



Logistics Directorate



Tom Bamford DDC-L
Directorate Chief

The DSO-HR Team

Thank you for your Service



Angela Pomaro DSO-HR
Human Resources Department



Mark Crary, ADSO-HR
Special Projects



Gil Thomas, ADSO-HR
HR Corner

The District 7 SO-HR Team



Belkys Cuevas_Aviles, SO-HR
Division 1—(Entire Puerto Rico)



Valerie Williams, SO-HR
Division 2—(Augusta, Lake Al-latoona, Northeast Georgia, Hartwell Lake, Central Georgia Lakes, Lake Lanier)



Harry Silverman SO-HR -
Division 3—(Ft. Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Boca Raton, Lighthouse Point, Plantation, Dania Beach)



Jack Neve, SO-HR
Division 4— (Lake County, Daytona Beach, Sanford, New Smyrna)



Robert Hess, SO-HR— Division
5— (The Palm Beaches, Jupiter, Delray-Boynton Beach, Vero Beach/Sebastian, Ft. Pierce)



Division 6— (Homestead, Coconut Grove, Miami South, Coral Gables, Opalocka, North Bay, Miami)



Richard Hockinson, SO-HR
Division 7— (St. Petersburg, Brandon, Apollo Beach, Polk County, St. Pete Beach, Tampa, Gulfport)



Ron Mills, SO-HR
Division 8— (Manatee, Longboat Key, Sarasota, Venice, Englewood)



Ellen DeLeo—SO-HR
Division 9—(Fort Myers Beach, North Port, Naples, Franklin Lock, Marco Island, Wiggins Pass, Charlotte Harbor, Cape Haze, Ft. Myers & Cape Coral)



Chris Poulos, SO-HR
Division 10— (Port Royal Sound, Savannah, St. Simons Island, Hilton Head/Bluffton)



Harvey Prior, VCDR Division 11—
(Clearwater, New Port Richey, Hudson, Tarpon Springs, Dunedin)



Jim Nelson, SO-HR
Division 12— (Inland Sea Lake Marion, Lake Murray, Central Grand Strand, East Cooper, Charleston, Georgetown)



Jim Mathews, SO-HR
Division 13— (Key West, Marathon, Big Pine Key, Ocean Reef, Upper Keys)



John Herald— SO-HR
Division 14— (Amelia Island, Arlington, Jacksonville Beach, St. Augustine, Jacksonville)



Melissa Frank, SO-HR
Division 15— (Crystal River, Ocala, Homosassa, Hernando Beach)



Doug Armstrong , DCDR
Division 16— (St. John)



Faron Petteys, SO-HR
Division 17— (South Brevard, Central Brevard, North Brevard, Osceola, Winter Park)



Division 5 Manatee Lagoon Festival

Taken from the "Jupiter Guardian," Flotilla 52
Jupiter. Photos by Jock Whittlesey and Norm
Sheriff

On Saturday and Sunday, 19-20 November 2022, seven members of Flotilla 52, Jupiter, set up a table/booth at the Manatee Lagoon Season Kickoff Event.

This impressive facility funded by Florida Power and Light is dedicated to educating the public about manatees and the Lake Worth Lagoon Environment. It is open to the public during Manatee Season, 15 November through 31 March.

We were there representing the Coast Guard and Boating Safety. Jesse Bush gave a speech on Saturday and Greg Barth -Flotilla Commander gave one on Sunday.

Thanks goes out to Jesse Bush, Monique Wong, Jock Whittlesey for Saturday and Greg Barth - Flotilla Commander, Angela Pomaro - Flotilla Vice Commander, Bob DiPaolo and Norman Sheriff for manning the booth on Sunday.





Division 5

"Why Bother"?

**Submitted by Sheryl O'Neil,
Flotilla 59, Stuart, Fla.**

Many of you ask, "Why Bother?" There are simple and not so simple reasons.

We Auxiliarists are a force multiplier for the USCG. As such, we are enablers for our Active-Duty shipmates as they go into harm's way to execute US Foreign Policy. Our hours and activities help put food in the galley, fuel in the cutter and aircraft, ammo in the weapon, and all the other equipment needed to protect our freedoms. One could say we are helping the Coast Guard in their missions every day.

On a personal level, their success is "my" success. Ask yourself: "How can I make them more successful?" "How can I lighten their load?" Each of us have our own answer depending on what we do – teaching boating safety, vessel exams, program visits, aids to navigation verification, marine safety, recruiting, learning... and yes, even inputting your mission hours.

Recording your activities provides the critical data for the USCG to do their duty. The hours you record have an impact on the Coast Guard budget development.

As one of your Information Services (IS) officers, I ask that you review what you have done this year and make sure your hours have been recorded. We are entering a season with a plethora of holiday activities. Thus, submitting your hours (especially those from earlier this year) sooner rather than later, will help us.

Another reason for submitting your hours, simply stated, is "Awards". Both flotilla and individual recognition awards are based on data-numbers. From an old-time lottery ad, "You got to be in it to win it!"

If you need any assistance with entering your activities, the "How To" procedures are on the CG Auxiliary website at [AUXDATA II \(uscgaux.info\)](http://auxdata.ii.uscgaux.info).

Still need assistance? Contact your IS officer. They will help you through the process and will continue to accept the "old" 7029, 7030, 7038 and 7046 forms via email.



Division 11

Celebrating our Octogenarians and Nonagenarians

**Submitted by Karen Miller,
Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater, Fla.**

Like many flotillas, especially in Seventh District, Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater, has its share of long-standing members in their 80's and 90's. These prized members contributed substantially to the missions that made 11-1 the outstanding flotilla within Division 11 for years and years.

But, as the years roll on, life events have taken their toll on these members. I am using this article to tell you about three of these highly respected members and what we are doing or have done to honor their service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The first is Ed Kasper. Ed joined the flotilla to give back to his country and serve his community. He owned an airplane that he piloted for AuxAir and a boat that he coxswained for surface operations. In addition, he was an instructor, vessel examiner, and program visitor. And, right up until October of this year, Ed, at age 91, still practiced medicine as an aviation specialist. Most of the pilots at Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater were his patients, as well as many of the local private and commercial pilots. Unfortunately, cancer caught up with Ed in November, and he passed away.

However, a few days before Ed's passing, Stephan Bielawski, 11-1 Clearwater Commander, and I visited with Ed and his wife, Teresa, also a long-time member. We were able to present Ed with a plaque honoring his years of service and the more than 15,000 hours he volunteered with the CG Auxiliary. We also presented him with the Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award, which he had been unable to receive at the flotilla meeting. Ed was beaming and marveled at all he had accomplished with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Our next nonagenarian is Anita Freudenthal, age 92. Anita joined the flotilla 15 years ago and immediately gravitated to hospitality. Anita recognized the importance of fellowship and camaraderie to the well-being and growth of the Auxiliary. She organized the social and culinary tasks for the monthly flotilla meetings and other events. She cheerfully took complete responsibility and was often at the flotilla building hours ahead of meetings and events, ensuring everything was set up and ready. Her remarkable efforts in support of this highly important Auxiliary cornerstone significantly improved the spirit and morale of the members and their families. She consistently volunteered to assist with planning and greeting arrangements for Division 11 Awards Dinners and Changes of Watch and encouraged her shipmates to participate in these morale-raising events. The success of the events she designed, the excellent participation, and the many compliments from the members bear out her essential role in the sustained good health of Flotilla 11-1.





Division 11

Celebrating our Octogenarians and Nonagenarians

Submitted by Karen Miller,
Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater, Fla.

At the November flotilla meeting, Stephan Bielawski, 11-1's Flotilla Commander, and Rick Johnson, Flotilla Vice Commander, had the opportunity to surprise Anita with an Auxiliary Achievement Medal. Anita is still going strong and is on the hospitality committee that is planning our flotilla holiday party.

The last member I want to highlight is Norm Grantham. Norm, 89, joined the CG Auxiliary 19 years ago and transferred to Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater, when he retired from his dentistry practice. Like Ed Kasper, Norm flew for AuxAir. In addition, Norm reveled in performing Vessel Safety Checks and Program Visits and earned several Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) awards for his quantity and quality of activity.

In December, Norm recently entered Arden Court's memory care unit and officially retired from the CG Auxiliary. Rick Johnson, Flotilla Vice Commander, Mike Kadis, Flotilla Member Training Officer, and I recently visited Norm at his new home. The events director, Ruth, arranged a lovely gathering to welcome us and honor Norm. There were about 30 people in attendance, plus Norm's wife, Laurel, and son, Norm. After having us enter the presentation room while *Semper Paratus* was playing, we were provided seats in the front of the room. We all rose for the pledge of allegiance and sang *America the Beautiful* and the *Star-Spangled Banner*. During these opening ceremonies, Norm and another veteran attendee held the flag. After some preliminary remarks from the events director, the program was turned over to us.

Rick read the DHS award to Norm, and the audience and Mike pinned the ribbon on Norm, who was in full tropical blue and looking sharp like he always did. Then, I read Norm's achievements for the 19 years in the CG Auxiliary, including his competencies and 23 awards. Then, I presented him with a certificate of appreciation and a challenge coin for his work in Recreational Boating Safety over the years.

They served red, white, and blue cookies with red punch to celebrate the occasion. We all left there feeling overjoyed with the time we could spend with Norm and the wonderful reaction from his family and the staff.

That's how Flotilla 11-1, Clearwater, honors and celebrates its members.



Welcome



October 1 to December 31, 2022

Division 2

Bishop, Michael
Bodnar, William
Burkly, Ann
Burkly, Michael
Coulter, William
Deleon, Robert
Huber, Rachael
King, Scott
Oberg, David
Pennelli, Karen
Smith, Christopher
Smith, Russell

Division 3

ACS, Levente
ACS, Richard
Adelstein, Michael
Blanco, Lucas
Braun, Tobias
Davidson, Eric
Dearen, Mathew
Franklin, Renee
Ganapolsky, Igor
Goonwardena, Harsha
Kirby, Andrew
Langsam, Eliyahu
Markunas, John

Division 4

Dubias, Ronald
Eastlake, Thomas

Division 5

Bernard, Ralph
Cohenford, Scott
Collavino, Giorgio
Kreger, Alan
Lavryonova, Irina
Richter, Joshua
Samson, Ross
Tripaldi, Paul
Werley, Christopher

Division 6

Mas, Karin
Patlak, Maryann
Spitalieri, Francisco

Division 7

Davis, Sherwood
Evans, Lewis
Harris, Samuel
Sanberg, Nicole
Schauer, Sara
Stephen, Matthew
White, Anthony
Zybala, Tristan

Division 8

Bailey, Peter
Block, Robin
Fabelo, Wilda
Gaedertz, Hans
Gasey, Michael
Gordon, Steve
Knox, Bruce
Porter, John
Rollins, Keith
Rosenbaum, Philip
Silverman, Bruce
Stewart, Albert
Watters, Seth
Weinshel, Laura
Weinshel, Steven

Division 9

Dentremont-Butts
Eberle, David
Loforte, Ross
Perusse, Gary
Sanchez, Jose

Division 10

DeAngelis, Sebastiano
McWilliams, Robert
Pike, Roger

Division 11

Bajis, Catherine
Merseal, Arlene
Riebe, Michael
Robinson, Jeffrey

Division 12

Brophy, Patrick
Burch, William
Deavenport, Gabriel
Henning, Madison
Horton, Colton
Kent, Joshua
Paulino, Sebastian
Petro, John
Shaw, Mason
Still, Christopher

Division 13

Gonzalez-Carvajal, Ricardo

Division 14

Anstett, Roxanne
Beauregard, Robert
Demaision, Jeffrey
Dierks, Dante
Filmlater, Abraham
Ross, Brien
Sintes, Thomas

Division 16

Leblanc, Patrick

Division 17

Joia, Paul
Rodriguez, Adrian

D-7 Golden Anniversary Club

50 Years of Service



<u>Name</u>	<u>Flotilla</u>	<u>Enrollment Date</u>
Barry Porter	72	13 November 1959
Robert Strong	14-8	23 June 1964
William Benson	44	26 June 1964
Commodore Henry Pratt	10-11	9 September 1964
Philip Tallon	14-2	30 January 1968
Judith Davis	14-4	23 April 1968
Thomas McColough	9-10	3 June 1968
Karen Pitts	84	30 October 1972
Richard McCully	29	2 November 1972

Your long-standing service is acknowledged and appreciated.

Thank you



2022 Retirees

October 1, to December 15, 2022

Department of Homeland Security

Takes pleasure in conferring to:



Thank you for your Service

<u>Members</u>	<u>Flotillas</u>	<u>Service Years</u>
Bartolett, Frank	14-4	40
Cunningham, Ronald	12-1	40
Uschelbec, Kenneth	12-3	40
Karney, Steven	34	38
Davis, Dudley	11-1	35
Makenian, Arthur	36	35
Karney, Leslie	34	34
Dennen, James	13-8	33
Rahn, Pamela	84	31
Appleman, Bernard	96	30
Georges, Paul	81	27
Gerardino, Fred	38	27
Render, Andrew	15-3	27
Bryant, Carl	74	26
Clavin, Linda	10-10	25
Johnson, Nancy	29	25
Carroll, James	95	24
Page, Walter	44	24
Sladkey, Kenneth	13-4	24
Beake, Fred	15-8	23
Clukey, Michael	96	23
Burel, William	25	22
Camper, Patricia	59	22
Foster, Michael	13-4	22
Duda, Samuel (Ed)	44	21
Janaro, Gerard	44	21
Ruso, Marcella	7-16	21

*in the
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary*

*In recognition of significant contributions and devoted service to the organization and
its boating safety programs.*



2022 Retirees

October 1, to December 15, 2022

Department of Homeland Security

Takes pleasure in conferring to:



Thank you for your Service

<u>Members</u>	<u>Flotillas</u>	<u>Service Years</u>
Timms, Richard	58	21
Wilson, William	54	21
Coman, Robert	10-2	20
Hehnly, Robert	74	20
Smith, Eric	84	20
Wilcoxson, Conrad	84	20
Grantham, Norman	11-1	19
Jaskiewicz, Barbara	95	19
Benavides, Ewa	44	18
Blair, Kenneth	15-8	18
Kourasis, Constantine	17-6	18
Toplak, Frank	78	18
Brand, Dolores	15-4	17
Burchfield, Barbara	12-6	17
Davidson, Roger	15-8	17
Hastie, Robert	10-2	17
Knapp, Richard	17-11	17
Montembeault, Karen	75	17
Erhardt, Pamela	81	16
Gibson, Everett	17-2	16
Moritz, Randall	84	16
Passariello, Vincent	29	16
Wiggins, Randall	27	16
Clark, Elaine	11-10	15
Clark, William	11-10	15
Ezell, Suzanna	81	15
Johnson, Robert Jr	84	15
Taber, Arthur	84	15

*in the
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary*

*In recognition of significant contributions and devoted service to the organization and
its boating safety programs.*

Division 15



**Submitted by Linda Jones,
DCDR—Division 15**

On Oct. 15, 2022, Dr. Larry Berman of Crystal River, Florida, previously Gainesville, FL, passed away.

Dr. Larry Berman was born in Pennsylvania and lived in Orlando as a child. Over the course of his life, he lived in Florida, Virginia, and New Jersey. He attended college and became a doctor. He did his pediatric residency in Miami and an anesthesiology residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He completed a fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology/Critical Care at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He joined the Navy and worked at the Philadelphia Navy Hospital and the Portsmouth (VA) naval hospital. He then moved on to the University of Florida. Dr. Berman was a faculty member with the University of Florida, Department of Anesthesiology, from 1978 until 2010 when he retired. Even after retirement, Dr. Berman continued to work with UF as OPS faculty until 2016 when he became professor emeritus. He specialized in pediatric anesthesiology and had board certifications in both anesthesiology and pediatrics.

After surviving a heart attack at age 34 and a bypass at age 44, he decided to buy himself a boat. Next, he attended a safe boating class given by Flotilla 15-5 of Gainesville. Not soon after that, he became a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. His volunteer service extended for over 30 years!

Dr. Berman served in numerous positions at various levels of the Auxiliary. On the local level, he served as Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs, Instructor, Program Visitor, Member Trainer, Aids to Navigation staff officer, Vessel Examiner, Crew, and Coxswain, TCT/Risk Management facilitator, and Proctor, Staff Officer for Communications, and Coordinator of Rescue Search and Survival Equipment. He served as Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 15-5 Gainesville several times, most recently 15-1 Crystal River. Since 1996, Dr. Berman served as Division Staff Officer for Information Services. Dr. Berman also held the position of Division Commander twice for Division 15. In his free time, he volunteered at Coast Guard Station Yankeetown as a Radio Watchstander and assisted in the galley as a certified Auxiliary Culinary Assistant..

Over the years Dr. Berman moved up the Auxiliary ladder. He was Director of Prevention for District 7 and the National Branch Chief for the Help Desk. He was certified as a Qualifying Examiner (QE) of crew and coxswain trainees and those re-certifying. He was responsible for reviewing new member applications and held the position of Director's Divisional Security Liaison (DDSL).

Dr. Berman's dedication was greatly appreciated by the United States Coast Guard, National Coast Guard Auxiliary, District, Division and Flotillas as evidenced by the numerous commendations and awards he received over the years.

After retiring from his position as a pediatric anesthesiologist at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida in 2016, Dr. Berman decided to volunteer for the Citrus County Sheriff's Department.

In his free time, he enjoyed shopping at flea markets, going to his timeshare in the Smoky Mountains, spending time with his Auxiliary friends in the Keys, and playing with his grandchildren and his pets.

Famous actor Denzel Washington once said, "At the end of the day it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about WHO you've lifted up, WHO you've made better. It's about WHAT you've given back." Dr. Larry Berman chose to do just that. He will be greatly missed by his friends in the USCG Auxiliary Division 15, District 7 and beyond.

Dr. Berman is survived by his wife Diane, son Scott, daughter Heather Simon, and grandchildren Hanya and Sydney.

Crossed the Bar

October 1, to December 15, 2022

PLEASE NOTE

A DECEASED MEMBER CAN ONLY BE HONORED IF AN ANSC 7035 FORM IS SUBMITTED TO THE D7 HELP DESK INDICATING HIS/HER PASSING.



David Erickson
Flotilla 29



Kenneth Franz
Flotilla 61



Earl Lund
(RET)
Flotilla 72



Theresa Rochford
(RET)
Flotilla 72



Robert Zaiser
Flotilla 72



Guy Mandigo
Flotilla 75



David Friend
Flotilla 37



Robert Daum
(RET)
Flotilla 72



Shirley Tomesko
Flotilla 78



Anthony Sapuppo
Flotilla 82



Joan Lapin
Flotilla 86



Roy Pirain
Flotilla 96



Charles Shughrue
Flotilla 9-10



William Capitan
Flotilla 10-10

*Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.*

By Alfred Lord Tennyson

Crossed the Bar

October 1, to December 15, 2022

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Edward Kasper
Flotilla 11-1



Robert Hutchinson
Flotilla 11-6



Lee Nelson
Flotilla 13-4



Gary Nelson
Flotilla 14-2



Klaus Baumann
Flotilla 14-7



Robert Schultz
Flotilla 14-7



Lawrence Berman
Flotilla 15-1



William Ferreira
Flotilla 15-8



James Roche
Flotilla 17-6



David Griffin
Flotilla 11-6



Robert Pallme
Flotilla 11-6

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When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
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When I embark;
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By Alfred Lord Tennyson



ARCHIE GOES FISHING

Taken from Daily Mail.com

Do bears fish in the woods? Russian woman's giant animal companion she rescued from a safari park loves going fishing with her in Russian forest's lakes

Archie the bear and Veronika Dichka like to spend time 'fishing' together on the forest lake in their native Novosibirsk, found in southern Siberia.

Veronika rescued Archie from a safari park that was running out of business two years ago and keeps him as a pet.

The pair are like any other friends cherishing each other's company and a video shows their quality time on the water. They are shown with fishing rods in hand, and Veronika hugging her furry friend.

With fishing rods in hand, Veronika waited for any bites whilst Archie managed to resist the urge to jump in and hunt the food for himself.

Veronika said: 'He sees me as a member of his family, we share food, [he] sleeps in my arms when afraid, and hides behind me.'

'We rescued him from the safari park but can't release him into the wild as he has lived in captivity his whole life.'

'Archie spends every day with us and is madly in love with water. He loves it very much when I take him to new places, so this shooting was a pleasure for him!'



DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 60% of the adult human body is made up of water. Research has indicated that both the human brain and heart are around 73-78% water.

The human tongue heals the fastest compared to all body parts. This is due to the rich supply of blood that circulates the tongue. It may also be because the mouth is constantly replenishing your taste buds.

Cows do not have upper front teeth. They eat their food by roughly grinding grass in their mouths and then swallowing it whole. Cows do not need front teeth to properly grind their food.

White is considered the safest color for a car. This is because white cars typically stand out against the black roads. Statistics state that white cars are 12% less likely to get into an accident compared to black cars.

Grapes explode in the microwave. The water found in grapes interacts with the wavelengths of energy from the microwave. After a few seconds, the radiation from the microwave and the plasma in the grape react together which causes the grapes to explode.

The most sensitive finger is the index finger. The index finger is the second finger on your hand and it is also called the forefinger. This finger also possesses the highest dexterity among any other finger.

The urine of cats glow under a blacklight. Cat urine will glow brightly underneath a black light because it contains phosphorus. Shining a black light around your household will also make it easier for you to clean after your cats.

Only female mosquitoes bite you. Need some insect did you know facts? No problem. Only female mosquitoes bite us because the required nutrition from their victim's blood is needed to develop their eggs. Male mosquitoes feed on the nectar of flowers.

The majority of dust found in households is made from dead skin. Scientists have stated that 80% of dust found in households is made from the dead skin of its inhabitants. This is the same for offices and other locations that are crowded with people.

The thigh bones of humans are stronger than concrete. The thigh bones support the weight of the entire body and are approximately eight times stronger than concrete. However, they are still prone to break when serious injury is inflicted on the bone.

Ice rinks will always go counter-clockwise. This is because the majority of people are right-handed. Those who do not know how to skate will often grab onto the railings on the outermost side of the ring. How's that for cool did you know facts?

Flamingos eat with their heads turned upside down. Flamingos are unable to eat normally due to the structure of its mouth. Their bills are made to filter food from the mud and water. They feed by coming through the mud with their feet and catching their prey in their beaks.

Everyone with blue eyes are related. Scientists in Copenhagen University have found that 6,000 to 10,000 years ago, everyone had brown eyes. Due to a sudden mutation of the OCA2 gene, blue eyes were formed! From this, they were able to conclude that all blue-eyed people are related to the same ancestor.

A clownfish can change its gender. All clownfish begin their life as males, while carrying both male and female reproductive organs. Only when the alpha female clownfish dies, an immature male clownfish will change his sex and take her place as the alpha female to mate with other breeding male clownfish.

Trivia

1. The average American Consumes 7,000 calories on Christmas Day.
2. Santa wasn't depicted as fat, jolly and with a white beard, until Coca-Cola commissioned an artist to reimagine Santa's image in 1931.
3. The tallest snowman ever built was in Bethel, Maine. The monster snowman measured 122 ft.
4. The X in X-mas actually represents the Greek letter Chi, which means Christ in Greek.
5. The highest grossing Christmas movie of all time is "How the Grinch Stole Christmas:" in 2000.
6. The island nation Kiribati in the Central Pacific is the first location to ring in the new year each year.
7. Times Square first hosted a New Year's Eve celebration in 1904 with a giant fire works show but when city leaders banned fireworks a few years later, the ball drop tradition was born in 1907.
8. The idea of a ball "dropping" to signal the passage of time dates back to 1833 when a ball was installed on top of England's Royal Observatory at Greenwich, allowing the captains of nearby ships to precisely set a vital navigation instrument.
9. The current ball is a 12-foot sphere that weights 11,875 pounds and is covered with 20,688 Waterford Crystals
10. This is the seventh version of the ball. The first New Year's Eve Ball, made of iron and wood and adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs, was 5 feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds
11. The first food baked in space was Christmas cookies.
12. Some cities use beet juice, beer waste, and pickle brine on icy winter roads instead of salt.

