

# The Wheelhouse

## On the Road Again...



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*(Editor's Note: Again this winter, COMO Bob Colby heads south with his faithful Golden Retriever, Sparkle.) This year, they're bound for Texas. Here are the first few days of his travel log....)*

**Day one, 12-26-07**

Left Bay City at 0900, arrived Terre Haute IN at 1715. Mostly good roads and medium traffic. except through Indy. Weather was good, mostly sunny and dry, high of around 50. Now it is overcast and 40, may get some wet slushy snow and rain tonight. They have free wi-fi here but can't seem to get the old computer to hook up to it, so I am sending on the slow cell phone connection. I have the Honda generator running and it is nice and warm in here w/Sparky. I am at a Pilot travel center along with about a dozen semis; it is a bit noisy. I don't think that I will have any trouble sleeping as I am really tired tonight... didn't get much sleep last night. Drove 422 miles today, 35 gallons of diesel (\$3.34/gal), 11.3 mpg,

mostly at 61 or 62 mph. Also filled my fresh water tank; nice to have running water again. Tomorrow will go to Hot Springs AK, about 560 miles and stay at Hot Springs National Park campground...\$8.00/night for seniors.

**12-27-07, Thursday**

I couldn't sleep due to the loud diesel trucks on both sides of me so I got up at 0430, fed Sparky, showered, ate breakfast and was on the road by 0600. About 30 miles after I left I went into Central time zone so clocks back an hour, suddenly it became 0530 again. Pretty foggy w/mist and mostly light to medium traffic all morning. By afternoon it had cleared a bit and was just overcast w/occasional mist. High today was 41, now is 35 here in Hot Springs National Park campground (senior citizen: \$5/night). Arrived here at 1700...11 hours driving...560 miles. I have less than 750 miles to go. I will stay tomorrow night at a US Army Corps of Engineers campground in Georgetown TX.

**12-28-07, Friday**

Left Hot Springs National

Park Campground at 0600. Got fuel and was on the x-way by 0645. Mostly light to medium traffic and misty/light fog to clear and dry weather. Texas roads are the best so far, except for the rest stops which are all very small but clean and nice. We're now in Georgetown, TX, at an Army Corps of Engineers campground, 465 miles, \$9/night w/electric and water hookups. We arrived at 1600 with bright sunny skies and 58 degrees; supposed to be down to 30 tonight. This a beautiful park right on a lake, quite a few other campers here. The sites are very nice, wide, deep and each one has its own covered and paved picnic table and grill area. Saw a couple of major accidents today. A flatbed semi had lost a large coil of steel just 4-5 vehicles in front of me and it was right in the middle of the road. Traffic was really getting backed up, but a yellow cab let me into the left lane and I got right through. That was on the outskirts of the Big D (Dallas), then about 50 miles later there were two accidents in the

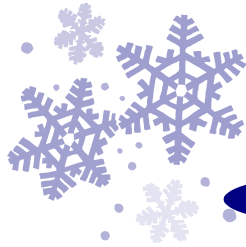
**Continued on page 5...**

**The Wheelhouse** is published quarterly by the Saginaw Flotilla, 15-05 9CR, of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

2008 Edition deadlines are:  
15 MARCH for Spring Edition  
15 JUNE Summer Edition  
15 SEPTEMBER for Fall Edition  
15 NOVEMBER for the Winter Edition

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Flotilla Vice Commander



# Calendars of Upcoming Events



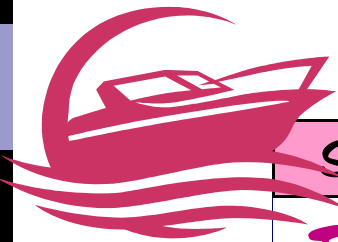
## January 2008






**The Boat Show and Boating Classes will be happening before we know it!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day Kwanza ends 	2	3	4	5 9CR District Meeting, Novi
6	7	8	9	10 Flotilla Meeting, 7:30 p.m., STA Sag River	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Division 15 Change of Watch, BCYC
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
National Training Conference (N-Train), St. Louis, Missouri Discover -- Learn -- Lead						
27	28	29	30	31		

## February 2008



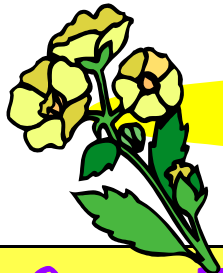
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>THE BOAT SHOW IS COMING!!</b>						1	2 Groundhog Day
3	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7 Chinese New Year	8	9	
10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday 	13	14 Flotilla Meeting, 7:30 p.m. STA Sag River 	15 Mid-Michigan Boat Show, SVSU Leadership Academy, Novi	16 Mid-Michigan Boat Show, SVSU Leadership Academy, Novi	
17 Mid-Michigan Boat Show, SVSU Leadership Academy, Novi	18 President's Day holiday	19	20	21	22 Washington's birthday 	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29		



March 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Daylight saving time begins (clocks forward) 	10	11	12	13 Flotilla Meeting, 7:30 p.m., STA Saginaw	14	15 Division 15 Meeting, STA Sag River, 9 a.m.
16 Palm Sunday	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 Vernal equinox	21 Good Friday	22
23 Easter Sunday 	24	25	26	27-29 OCR Spring Conference		
30	31					



April 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 April Fool's Day 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Flotilla meeting, 7:30 p.m., STA Sag River	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Division 15 Meeting, 9 a.m., STA Sag River
20	21	22 Earth Day 	23 Administrative Professionals Day	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Time to get those AUXFACs in the water! 		



## Latest News from the National Auxiliary Website

From: [CGAUX.org](http://CGAUX.org)

### | About Boating Safely

The Auxiliary Center is now shipping the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's *About Boating Safely* course and supplements in place of the *America's Boating Course*®. The last shipment of ABC Course materials shipped from the Auxiliary Center on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The number for ordering the About Boating Safely Course is stock number 10070 while the supplement, which serves 10 students, is stock number 10071. The course and supplement are the same price as was ABC. For information about the course please go through your Public Education Officer Chain of Responsibility. Questions regarding orders for the course and supplement should be directed to your DSO-MA or the Auxiliary Center.

### N-Train 2008 – Discover, Learn & Lead

N-Train (National Training) 2008 is scheduled from January 21 through January 27, 2008, at the Renaissance Hotel St. Louis Airport in St. Louis, MO. General information, as well as information for making hotel reservations, travel arrangements and the agenda can all be found on the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association website. Please note that the hotel's deadline date for making reservations is Friday January 7, 2008. Do not wait to make your reservations in order to receive the meeting rate.

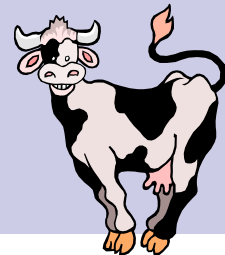
### 'A' Department Launches New Digital Photography Course

The Training Branch within the Department of Marketing & Public Affairs (A) has developed a new online *Introduction to Digital Photography Course* replacing the old *Basic Photography* course. The new course covers Light, Digital Cameras, Composition, Flash and Studio, Caption Writing, and Image Editing. Register for the new course at the USCG Auxiliary Virtual Classroom. This course is one of the requirements for the Public Affairs Specialist Qualification.

## Reminders of Fun to Come!

Even though it's just December of 2007, remember that we've got some big 2008 events coming up before the next Wheelhouse will go to press.....just look at the calendar of events!!! The Division 15 Change of Watch will be on Saturday, January 19th at the beautiful Bay City Yacht Club. The invitations will be in the mail soon. The Mid-Michigan Boat Show will be February 15-17.....we'll need **everyone** on hand to help out. Remember that we get most of our public education students from the Boat Show — it's our opportunity to fill our classes and also spread the important message of safe boating to those who may not know their bow from their stern. Working at a boat show doesn't take any special training...just a desire to help your flotilla and do your part. As the end of March rolls around, you'll see that our 9CR Spring Conference is the last weekend, again at the Marriott in Pontiac. We've got lots of fun activities planned, so please put 28-30 March on your busy social calendars. April, of course, brings the excitement of spring, AUXFAC readiness, and our public education classes.

All of this before you receive the next *Wheelhouse*, can you believe it???? Holy cow!!!



## Mark Your Calendar!

Come one, come all — for excellent training, fun and fellowship!



Conference location:  
Detroit Marriott Pontiac  
at Centerpoint  
3600 Centerpoint Parkway  
Pontiac, Michigan 48341

## It'll Be Here Soon — The 9CR Spring Conference!!

Along with a full schedule of training activities the entire weekend, there will be several other opportunities for fun at your Spring Conference. Back by popular demand, we'll travel to the historic Redford Theatre to view the 1980 classic, "The Blues Brothers" on Friday evening. We're also planning to stop for dinner on the way to the theater. And, let's not forget the exciting Awards Banquet on Saturday evening! Much to see; much to do!



March 28-30,  
2008

## 2008 Wheelhouse Publication Schedule

*By: Jerri A. Smith, FSO-PB*

As you know, the 2007 Wheelhouse was published quarterly instead of monthly. The same will continue in 2008. The deadlines for next year will be as follows:

**15 MARCH** for Spring Edition

**15 JUNE** Summer Edition

**15 SEPTEMBER** for Fall Edition

**15 NOVEMBER** for the Winter Edition

I ask kindly that you please adhere to these deadlines, so the Wheelhouse can be published on schedule and get to you in a timely manner. As always, I would like to see articles from the Flotilla Commander, Vice Commander, and at least one staff officer per edition. When writing your articles, please keep in mind the quarterly schedule and focus on the "big picture..." several months need to be taken into consideration.

Thanks in advance for supporting your publication. As I've said many times before, "This is **YOUR** newsletter, I cannot produce it without your help."

## On The Road Again.... (continued from front page)

northbound lane, cars and semis involved in both, south bound traffic gawkers had traffic slowed down and backed up for me but not too bad. Sparky and I have about 270 miles left tomorrow to Amistad National Recreation Area. We should be able to be there early afternoon and get all parked, disconnected from truck and hooked to utilities way before dark, if all goes right.

### Saturday, 12-29-07

Left Georgetown at 0630, arrived at Amistad National Recreation Area at 1230. 269 miles, 6 hrs. You've got to love civil servants, there was a trailer on my site when I got here, they were supposed to have it off and all cleaned up. It is one that is used by the fish and wildlife service a couple of times a year, not even hooked up to utilities now. I finally got a hold of someone at the office and they sent a park ranger out. He in turn went and got a maintenance guy and by 2 PM they had it moved and I parked and got hooked up. Got up to 65 here this afternoon. I get about 6 channels on TV, 6 of which are Mexican channels broadcast in Spanish. Same thing with radio, all are Mexican, did find one country station that was English. Guess I'll miss the big games this weekend, I'll see if I can find an AM radio station that has them on tomorrow. (Update, can't find any AM stations that come in good enough to actually hear above the static) Also couldn't get hooked up to internet with my cell phone. It would show a connection but not be able to get on, I'll try my outside amplified antenna tomorrow. I may check into either phone service to get dial up internet and/or satellite TV.

*When we accept tough jobs as a challenge to our ability and wade into them with joy and enthusiasm, miracles can happen.*

~ Arland Gilbert

# The Wheelhouse

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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
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America's Volunteer  
Lifesavers<sup>sm</sup>



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<http://www.geocities.com/dogmom1cgaux/>

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## 2008 Flotilla Bridge

Flotilla Commander  
**Mike Boshaw**  
Flotilla Vice Commander  
**Cheryl Simoni**  
Immediate Past Flotilla  
Commander  
**COMO Robert C. Colby**

## 2007 Flotilla Staff

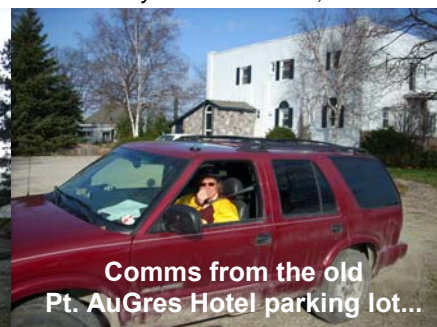
**Ted Billy**  
Public Education  
**Mike Boshaw**  
Materials, Marine Safety and  
Vessel Examinations  
**Jean Colby**  
Finance  
**COMO Robert C. Colby**  
Aids To Navigation, Information Systems  
and Operations  
**Kristin Sexton**  
Personnel Services &  
Secretary of Records  
**Mike Skowronski**  
Communications Services  
**COMO Mark Simoni**  
Communications and Member Training  
**Jerri A. Smith**  
Public Affairs, Publications,  
RBS Program Visitor & Web Manager

Photo by Jerri A. Smith, FSO-PB



Pt. AuGres in winter....

Photo by Mike Skowronski, FSO-MT



Comms from the old  
Pt. AuGres Hotel parking lot...

## Flotilla Members Involved in Division 15 Radio Net

**By: COMO Mark Simoni**

Division 15 held a VHF net exercise on 25 NOV in the Saginaw Bay area. The test included five land mobile radio facilities and one land fixed radio facility. Messages were successfully passed from the southeast corner of Saginaw Bay up the west side of the Bay to Point AuGres. These tests also included comms checks with STANT Saginaw River. COMO Robert Colby served as the exercise coordinator. Participants from the Saginaw flotilla included: COMO Robert Colby, Jean Colby, COMO Mark Simoni, Cheryl Simoni, Jerri Smith, and Mike Skowronski.