

THE JETTIES



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Vol. 21 Issue 1, A publication of Flotilla 38, 1-NR, Newburyport, Mass. Feb – Mar 2002

DISTRICT CHANGE OF WATCH A MEMBER OF FLOTILLA 38 TAKES THE HELM



(Photo at left; pictured from left to right)
COMO Gene Seibert, NAVCO-A (E), administers the oath of office to COMO H. Edward MacKenzie, the new District Commodore.



(Photo above right)
In a lighter moment during the proceedings, one of the gifts for the incoming commodore is displayed; boxer shorts with commodore's stars, patriotic red white and blue no less.

NEXT FLOTILLA MEETINGS

WED 6 February 02 at 1830

NOTE: starting 1 hour earlier for a dinner meeting at Starboard Galley Restaurant

THUR 7 March 02 at 1930
Plum Island Boathouse

FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT

Ron Booth, FC

Flotilla 38 had a great last year, and with your help, this year will be even better. In order to make this happen, we must all work together. As usual the members are already coming through, we already have received six new membership applications and are getting ready to shepherd these new members through basic qualification so that they may join our community. As usual our current members have not stopped working to help make *Team Coast Guard* stronger.

Congratulations to John McDonald on completing boat crew qualification, and to Bill Graham, on 20 years of service to the Auxiliary. We are still looking for Bill and have some reconnaissance that indicates that he is in warm sunny Florida. When he returns we will present him with his 20-year award. At our last flotilla meeting, we swore in two new members, Cheryl Clancy and Eric Grossimon. Eric's dad, Charlie Grossimon, was sworn in at the December meeting, so we now have two father-son teams in the flotilla. With Mike Keslof, FSO-CS and Eric Grossimon (both age 17) aboard, the median age of the flotilla has dropped significantly. We should all feel much younger!



As most of you know, Flotilla 38 has adopted the USCGC RELIANCE under the adopt-a-cutter program. On 10 January we met aboard the ship to get our new mission underway. Joining me was Frank Keslof, who will serve as Flotilla 38's liaison officer to the RELIANCE. We met with CDR Michael Hamel, USCG, Commanding Officer and BMC Ron Batchelor, USCG, Command Chief. Following that meeting, a couple of teams from 38 started on-the-job training aboard the ship. We are feeding small groups of 4 people at a time into a training rotation that will operate whenever the RELIANCE is in port. These flotilla members are working their way through the Damage Control Qualification Program, which is required to be a watchstander. This is a great opportunity to help out the gold side, so if you haven't filled out your application to participate in this new mission, please do so as soon as possible and get it back to me.

I'm also happy to report that Mary Holmes, one of our past flotilla commanders, has accepted the position of Ombudsman for the RELIANCE. This is one position where CDR Hamel specifically asked for an Auxiliarist. As Ombudsman, Mary will function like a family support officer for the spouses of crewmembers when the ship is at sea. She will be a point of contact to direct spouses to services that may be needed as a result of family emergencies. To function in this role, Mary will attend formal training provided by the First Coast Guard District.

Coxswain training started up on 12 January and will be ongoing at Station Merrimack River at 0900 on Saturdays. If you're interested in joining the sessions let me know. Additionally, the Auxiliary course on weather (AUXWEA) begins 6 February. The first session conflicts with the flotilla meeting but you can still jump into the class at session 2. Search and Rescue (AUXSAR) is the next specialty course slated for member training. Books need to be ordered, so let me know as soon as possible if you want to attend.

Let's all keep up the good work and make 2002 another fantastic year for Flotilla 38.

Photo left: "O.K., take in a deep breath, and then let it all the way out."

Lil Booth helps Ron Booth, our Flotilla Commander, into his cummerbund as he dons formal dinner dress for the commodore's ball at the district conference.



FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE COMMANDER

Roberta Shippee, VFC

Well, the New Year is here and the start of a fun and exciting year for Flotilla 38. This is all new to me so I will be working closely with Ron Booth, our new flotilla commander. I am open for any and all suggestions and constructive criticism. I can be reached at shipp@amesbury.net or 978-388-3130.

First I would like to make sure all the FSO (flotilla staff officers) have the name, e-mail address and telephone number of their division level 'SO' (staff officer) counterparts. Since the District 1NR directory is not published as of yet, I will provide the staff with this information at the February flotilla meeting.

If you have not done so already, it is important that you contact your 'SO' counterpart at division, the next level up in the chain of management, and introduce yourself. This will be another person that you report to on a monthly basis and that person will keep you informed about what is going on at the division level. Remember, in the Auxiliary we have what is called parallel staffing in our chain of management. Your monthly reports are sent to me, the vice commander, who serves as chief of staff to the flotilla commander. In addition, you need to send a copy of that report to your Division 3 Staff Officer counterpart.

One change: I will be asking that all reports from the flotilla staff officers be e-mailed to me no later than the day before each monthly meeting. This will help the meeting run much smoother. Also, if you are late or unable to attend a meeting I will have the report on file and can report for you. We seem to have gotten lax over the past few years in our written reports. It is very important that both Ron and myself have those reports for reference if needed.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting, which is a casual dinner meeting at the Starboard Galley Restaurant. Remember it starts earlier than usual, attitude adjustment begins at 1830 with dinner at 1900. Also note that when we dine, we meet on **Wednesdays instead of Thursdays** to take advantage of special restaurant prices.



PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE

Dolly Thomas, FSO-PE

The winter 2002 Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) and Basic Coastal Navigation (BCN) classes have begun. Classes are underway at Pentucket Regional Middle School in West Newbury from 1900 to 2130 on Tuesday evenings.

The BS&S course has nearly 50 students enrolled, so **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Its great to have a large turnout, but we will definitely need more instructor aides for the sessions involving practical skills. Those sessions where more hands-on assistance is needed are as follows:

12 & 26 February - piloting

5 March - lines & knots

12 March - correcting the final exams

(note there is no class on 19 February)

You will be working with the public, so you must be in proper uniform. If you can help, please, please call Dolly Thomas at 978-346-8408 or Ron Booth at 978-465-3870 or e-mail Ron at sealily@mediaone.net

MAYBE ONE LESS HARBORMASTER NEXT SEASON?

When on-the-water operations start next boating season, it appears that there will be one less municipal SAR resource out there. Local news media outlets are all reporting that the Town of Salisbury Harbormaster position has been vacated due to lack of funding. There has been extensive news reporting on a serious fiscal crisis in Salisbury impacting numerous town departments. Voters at a special town meeting declined to approve measures that would have raised taxes to deal with the financial shortfalls in the municipal budget.

Reportedly, harbormaster is a state-mandated position, so the town will have to appoint someone to hold the post, if in title only. It is expected that this would be a member of the harbor commission or the police chief. It seems however that such an appointment would not mean an active on-the-water search and rescue or enforcement program.

SOME NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS BY TWO OF OUR MEMBERS: DOLLY THOMAS & MATT MCDONALD

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Award was presented to H. Eugenia “Dolly” Thomas at the division change of watch. This significant award cited Dolly for outstanding achievements over the past 10 years while serving in a number of positions at the flotilla, division and district levels.

Dolly has been the mainstay of Flotilla 38’s public education mission every year, coordinating Boating Skills and Seamanship programs, Basic Coastal Navigation, and youth programs Boating Safely and “Water and Kids.” Under her leadership as the Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Education, classes were of high quality and had record attendance. Her sustained efforts have led to numerous district public education awards presented to Flotilla 38 over many years. She also serves on the district staff as the assistant district staff officer for youth public education.

In addition to Dolly’s professional achievements in the area of public education, she has been active for many years as the Staff Officer-Career Candidates for Division 3. She has aggressively recruited students for the US Coast Guard Academy Introduction Mission (AIM). Either personally or by coordinating the efforts of FSO-CCs in the division, she assured an Auxiliary presence in 30 high schools throughout the region.

Congratulations Dolly, we are proud to have you in Flotilla 38! When we think of your hard work, all those words ring true: devotion, sustained leadership, dedication, duty, and as they say, the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Matthew McDonald FSO-PB & SO-PB3 was awarded the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Commandant Letter of Commendation at the District 1 NR winter conference for his hard work and dedication to duty in reviving *The Jetties* and the division publication *Tidal Waves*. Matt would like to thank everybody in Flotilla 38 and Division 3 for their efforts on his behalf and commented that publications must be a team effort between the publication staff and the readers/contributors.

The part of the work Matt finds most gratifying is being able to keep Auxiliarists involved and informed in the Auxiliary community. Another aspect of the job he enjoys is getting the opportunity to interview Auxiliary members and active-duty personnel. “The major thing I have discovered here is that everybody has an interesting story to tell or a point of view that is worth expressing.” As our publications officer Matt stated he considers it his responsibility to put other people’s ideas, thoughts, and images forward, and allow them to share their perspective with the rest of Team Coast Guard.

Matt said he would like to especially thank Frank Keslof DSO-PB and John McDonald DSO-SR for their help in putting the publications together. No one person can do this job by himself or herself. Also, he wished to convey special thanks to Mary E. Holmes, who got him started as a publications officer when she was the Flotilla 38 Commander. “She had faith in me and allowed me to grow into and learn on the job.”



Dolly Thomas receives the Auxiliary Achievement Award from CAPT George Matthews, USCG, DIRAUX INR.



Left to right; CAPT George Matthews, USCG presents the Commandant Letter of Commendation Award to Matt McDonald as the citation is read by COMO Ed MacKenzie, DCO INR.

FLOTILLA 38 MEMBERS BEGIN TRAINING ABOARD US COAST GUARD CUTTER RELIANCE



The first group of Flotilla 38 members began training in DCQP (Damage Control Qualification Program) this month, as part of our “adopt-a-cutter” program. Two more groups will be phased into training cycles soon.

Clockwise from above left: USCGC RELIANCE dockside in Portsmouth Harbor; EM2 Scott Henk assists Mike Keslof, FSO-CS, with OBA (oxygen breathing apparatus); Ron Booth, FC, straps on the OBA; in the wardroom, EM2 Henk begins signing off skills in the qualification manual as training wraps up for the night; HS2 Kevin “Doc” Cronin, the ship’s corpsman stands by as John McDonald, DSO-SR 1NR, decides whether or not he can breath in that contraption.

(Photos by Frank Keslof, DSO-PB 1NR)



HELP WANTED BOSTON LIGHT

The First Coast Guard District is looking for Auxiliaries interested in lighthouse duty at the Boston Light. There are two levels of participation, the first is interpreter (tour guide) the second is watchstander (lighthouse keeper). Boston Light is the oldest light station, first established in 1716 and continues to be the only U.S. Coast Guard staffed lighthouse in the nation. It is located on Little Brewster Island in outer Boston Harbor. By water, that's one mile from the town of Hull and eight miles from downtown Boston. Volunteers are sought to augment the National Park Service Rangers efforts in providing tours to the visitors during the summer tour season. Last year, 54 qualified Auxiliary interpreters gave tours to over 3,000 visitors from around the world!

Auxiliaries desiring to participate as an interpreter only need a willingness to be trained and the appropriate Auxiliary uniform (undress blue- summer/bravo). There are two interpreter training opportunities scheduled:

Saturday 30 March 02, 0900 – 1500 at USCG Group Boston, 427 Commercial Street, Boston; Saturday 20 April 02, 0900 – 1500 at the district conference in Nashua, New Hampshire at the Marriott Hotel.

Interpreter training consists of three parts: (1) classroom training providing details about the program and how it works, historical information about Boston Light past to the present, and an explanation of the "partnership" the Coast Guard has with the Boston Harbor National Park area. A Boston Light Interpreter Guide will be provided. (2) on-site follow-up orientation on the island to experience each of the "stations." (3) "shadow" a qualified interpreter the first time out on interpreter duty.

Commitment being sought: Auxiliary Interpreters are asked to schedule themselves for a minimum of three (3) interpreter duty days per season (June to Mid-October).

For those interested in watchstanding (assistant lightkeeper), interpreter qualification is required first. At the conclusion of both interpreter training sessions, an overview of the watchstander program will be provided. Note: Auxiliaries also need to be boat crew qualified as well to go on to the watchstander level of the program.

If you wish to participate in the interpreter training, inquiries should be directed to: Sally Snowman, 6 Carver Street, Plymouth, MA 02360. Phone: 508-746-5993; fax: 508-746-8097; e-mail: s.snowman.ph.d@worldnet.att.net



Left; Light Station Boston and Little Brewster Island. (Official USCG photo.)



Above right; The Boston skyline as seen from the lantern room of Boston Light. (Photo by John McDonald, DSO-SR INR.)

THE "NEW" METHOD OF DETERMINING WINDCHILL

Matt McDonald, FSO-PB

With the unusually warm weather so far this winter, you may not have noticed that those in the weather business have changed the wind chill formula. Wind chill is defined as a combination of winds and cold temperatures. It is how cold the air *appears/feels* to be, when the wind is blowing. Two Arctic explorers promulgated the old wind chill formula in 1945. There are some important caveats to the use of the wind chill index; the first is that it is not a scientific measure. However, it is widely used by media outlets because it gives you a rough idea of how cold it actually feels. Second is that the wind chill index applies only to humans, because it is a measure of heat loss, and our furry friends that live with us have a different body type and other adaptations that allow them to more effectively cope with cold temperatures.

The new formula measures wind speed at five feet from the ground, which is the height of the average human face. The face is most often exposed to the cold and this gives us a more accurate measure of what it is going to feel like at our level. The old formula measured the wind speed at 33 feet from the ground. The newer formula takes the new ideas about heat transfer theory into consideration. There are several other changes which space does not permit me to go into here. Opposite, is a table that computes wind chill with a given wind speed and a temperature using the new formula. The experts hope that the new formula will result in an accurate picture of just how cold it feels. It is believed that the new wind chill formula will result in fewer advisories and warnings, however if you do hear of a wind chill advisory or warning it is more important than ever that you take heed.

TAKING STOCK OF OUR NEW MEMBERS THAT CAME ABOARD IN 2001

Your publications staff thought it would be worthwhile to give you a little background on new members for 2001. All members interviewed, as well as most of our membership express similar reasons for joining. There are common threads or themes that hold us together. Among these are a desire to learn more about the water, marine environment, and boating, plus a desire to help others and the nation, especially since the events of 11 September. They are listed in the order in which the Coast Guard issued their member numbers in calendar year 2001.

Paul Hazel is a retired school teacher who lives in Hampstead, New Hampshire. Paul completed the BS&S course, attended some flotilla meetings and then officially came aboard as our first new member of 2001. His interest in boating includes consideration of a trip on the inter-coastal waterway.

Richard Heath is from Newton, New Hampshire and made contact with Flotilla 38 in a way shared by many members. That is, he knows Wally Lesynski. Wally told him the way to learn about boating is from the Auxiliary and, after signing up for a BS&S class, the rest, as the old adage says, is history. Rich is now a crane operator and has a background in sign painting.

David Stickney is a licensed captain who has sailed all up and down the east coast and through the Great Lakes. Dave operates a bed & breakfast establishment in Newbury most of the year. In the summer he usually signs on as the captain of a sailing vessel somewhere in the world and spends the whole boating season at sea.

Mike Keslof is one of our younger members, he came aboard as a high school student and is now a student at Northern Essex Community College. A whiz on computers, particularly web design, Mike jumped right into the newly created position of Flotilla Staff Officer-Communication Services (Webmaster). In a short time he has built our website and had it approved by district and national. Mike is one of our two father-son teams, his dad Frank Keslof is a flotilla member and the district staff officer for publications.

Jim Cate comes to us from Londonderry, New Hampshire and is employed by the Veterans Administration. As a side line he enjoys working in entertainment, you may remember him providing the entertainment at the lobster fest last summer at USCG Station Merrimack River. Jim also played Santa Claus at our last two flotilla holiday parties.

William Ford of Hampton, New Hampshire comes to us from New York where he was an EMT in Yonkers. Unfortunately Bill was injured on the job as is no longer able to continue with this type of work. However, fortunately for us, he can pass on some of those skills to the membership. Bill is interested in the Auxiliary as a way to continue with his work of helping others. He is currently enrolled in college studying for a degree in computer application.

Peter Connery is also lives in Hampton and became involved in boating three years ago. He felt his knowledge was lacking and decided to improve it by taking the Auxiliary BS&S course. He was impressed by our instructors and their knowledge and dedication so that led him to join us.

Cheryl Clancy is a criminal justice student at Northern Essex Community College. She came to us through the recruiting efforts of one of her professors, Flotilla 38 member Terry Kalil. Cheryl is interested in public service as a career and sees the Auxiliary as another way of expanding her knowledge and experience in that area.

Charles Grossimon and **Eric Grossimon** are a father and son team that found us through our internet site. Charlie is a pharmacy technician and lives in Amesbury, his son Eric is a high school student. Civil War reenacting is another hobby of Charlie's, he is a member of the 25th Massachusetts Infantry. Charlie and Eric were affected by the tragedy of 9/11 and when President Bush called for volunteers they remembered seeing the Auxiliary in action at Sail Boston and "a light bulb went off."

WINDCHILL CHART

Source,
US Weather Service

Windspeed	Temperature (F)																		
	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
5	38	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	-68
10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	-77
15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	-81
20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	-84
25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	-87
30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	-89
35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	-91
40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	-93
45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	-95
50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	-97
55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	-99
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-99	-100

Frostbite occurs in 15 minutes or less



At the district conference, Matt McDonald, FSO-PB lines up dates for the Commodore's banquet. It turned out that a whole busload of airline attendants from Virgin Atlantic Airways was staying at the conference hotel.

Yes, Matt did have his medals on the wrong side, we fixed them after the photo was taken. Actually, this was a test. How many of you were admiring Matt's companions and how many focused more on the error with the medals first?

The Jetties is the official publication of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 38, 1NR, Newburyport, Massachusetts.

The Jetties is published by Matthew McDonald, FSO-PB, 90 Kirk Meadow Rd., Chester, VT 01543.

Articles or letters to the editor may be submitted by mail or via e-mail: mcd@vermontel.net.

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Submission deadline for the next issue is 15 March 2002