

THE JETTIES



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

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THE JANUARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE NEWTON MARIOTT HOTEL



(Above) Rear Admiral Vivien Crea, USCG, Commander 1st Coast Guard District, with Charlie Grossimon, Flotilla Commander 38. We learned at the conference that Admiral Crea is receiving her third star and her next command, as a Vice Admiral, will be the USCG - Atlantic Area, which is headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia.



A gathering of Flotilla 38 folks at the commodore's ball. (L to R) Lil Booth; Scott Crocker, Flotilla Staff Officer-Personnel Services; Charlie Grossimon, Flotilla Commander; Ron Booth, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander.



The Division 3 Bridge (L to R): FL 38 member Frank Keslof, Vice Captain; Dick Lemar; Immediate Past Division Captain; Joe Antanavich, Division Captain.

UPCOMING FLOTILLA MEETINGS

Thur 5 Feb 04 dinner meeting
Starboard Galley

1830 attitude adjustment - 1900 dinner

&

Friday 5 Mar 04

St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner

Plum Island Boathouse 1900

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Unless noted otherwise, at right

3rd Friday of the month - District 1NR Board & Staff Meetings.

Last Thursday of the month - DIV 3 Board & Staff Meetings.

Regularly Scheduled Training Sessions

AUXSAR - Auxiliary speciality course/search & rescue;
Wednesdays 1900-2100 (January through February)
at Lawrence Police Department classroom facility.

Boatcrew & Coxswain Training - Saturdays 0900-1100;
ongoing until the boating season starts in the spring
at USCG Station Merrimack River, Newburyport.

FEBRUARY

- 5 Feb Dinner meeting at Starboard Galley
Restaurant instead of Boathouse
- 16 Feb President's Day Holiday

MARCH

- 5 Mar Corned Beef Dinner Celebration
in lieu of regular flotilla meeting.
- 17 Mar St. Patrick's Day Holiday

APRIL

- 4 Apr Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 5 Apr Passover begins at sundown
- 11 Apr Easter Sunday
- 17-18 Apr District Conference and
Annual Awards Ceremonies
Marriott Hotel, Burlington, Mass.
- 24 Apr DIV 3 Operations workshop
Plum Island Boathouse 0900

THIS MONTH'S NAUTICAL WEATHER TIP

*Matt McDonald, FSO-Publications
(and amateur meteorologist)*

With all the snow I have been looking at over recent weeks in the Green Mountain State, I decided that this weather tip should be about snow and snowflakes. It's not really a "nautical" weather tip, but given the season, let's start your snowflake education. To begin, we have all heard that no two snowflakes are exactly alike, this is true. While not exactly alike, all snowflakes have in common the fact that they are six sided crystals. Some snow can appear to the eye as long needles, bullets, or capped columns as well as the six-sided star variety.

It should come as no surprise that one of the first people to study this question was a Vermonter by the name of W. A. Bentley. Mr. Bentley spent nearly 50 years of his life making microphotographs of snowflakes. The American Meteorological Society published over 2000 of his photos in 1931. The specific shape of a given flake is determined by temperature, and at times, snowflakes are made up of more than one type of crystal. Here is breakdown on shapes: *Columns* and *Capped Columns* occur when it is colder than 12F; *Needles* occur at warmer temperatures 21-25F; *Plates* and *Stellar Crystals* occur under special weather conditions; *Spatial Dendrites* occur in high-moisture clouds 3-10F.

The largest snowflake on record was over 15" in diameter and fell on 28 January 1887 in Ft. Keough, Montana. We don't get them that big here, but what we lack in size we sure make up in volume.

GREETINGS FROM A FLOTILLA 38 MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY

AIC Jason Esposito, USAF

Hello from Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. How is everyone doing, I am doing fine. I finished boot camp on December 26, 2003 and my family came down for the graduation. I am now getting ready to start tech training on Jan 5, 2004 for my job of air transportation. It is a 5-week course taught 4 days a week here at Lackland AFB.

Sorry that I was not able to say goodbye to everyone in the flotilla. Things happened so quickly, but I did let Charlie Grossimon know I was leaving and asked him to wish everyone well until I return. In fact I will be arriving home in February 2004 for 22 days to help my recruiter and take some leave. That will allow me to attend the March 2004 flotilla meeting.

Boot camp went fine. I was known by fellow flight members and T.I. (drill SGT.) as "Boston" or "JFK" due to my Boston accent. Because of my R.O.T.C in high school I am an Airman First Class or E-3, which is better than having no chevrons. I already have 2 chevrons, I thought that was cool. I learned how to fire an M-16 and experienced tear gas as part of gas mask training.

I will see everyone at the March flotilla meeting. Tell everyone I was asking about them and miss them. Keep in touch; see you in March.

LATEST NEWS ON A GOOD FRIEND

An e-mail letter received from:

Liza Cronin

(EDITORIAL COMMENT: Prior to his current duty assignment in Florida, HSI Kevin "Doc" Cronin was the corpsman on the USCG Cutter RELIANCE. While on the RELIANCE, he was the principal liaison between the cutter and Flotilla 38. He personally coordinated our training and orientation and was a good friend. It was a very pleasant surprise to receive this e-mail and photos from his wife over the holidays.)

Kevin recently spent a weekend doing something a bit unique, serving as a member of the Coast Guard SMART team (Special Maritime Armed Response Team). He worked with the Secret Service to "protect" the Bush family while on their vacation in Boca Grande, Gasparilla Island Florida. Bush family members included the former President and Barbara Bush, the current President's twin daughters, plus Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his family. The current Mr. Pres and his wife had returned to Texas for either a quiet vacation or business, not sure. So anytime a Bush family member went fishing, on a boat ride etc., the Coast Guard SMART team followed along to "protect and serve." The team had a photo opportunity with George Bush Sr. and Jeb... kinda neat experience for Kev. Over the 3 days they also saved a pelican who was wrapped up in fishing line and had a hook in its chest, saw first hand some of the best fishing grounds in the area, and met lots of interesting wealthy folk who vacation or live in the area.

Finally I can tell more about this SMART team Kev is on, their group is the first. If they are successful, and the President and admirals up the Coast Guard chain of command approve, they may create more of these teams. The Special Maritime Armed Response Team is like a swat team; except maritime specialists being Coast Guard dudes and all! They've attended a bomb and terrorist school, they've trained in the so-called "kill houses" and created mock terrorist attacks on local ships in the harbor and practiced repelling out of helicopters onto moving vessels. The "kill houses" are where police, FBI etc. go to train. Kinda like those video games where you search a building and shoot at targets, then they practice with live folks and paint-pellet guns.

The team can storm a ship at sea, or one entering a harbor. They are not only trained to

"clear" it for terrorists, explosives, dirty bombs, immigrants, drugs, etc. but they can actually "DRIVE" the ship if need be. The FBI, ATF, US Customs teams, etc. can storm a large ship, but they're not trained to completely take over operations of the ship if the crew were killed or wounded. That's where the Coast Guard know-how becomes important!

Because of his role on this team, Kev is the first corpsman (medic/"doc") in the Coast Guard to have permission to carry firearms in a "non-war" type situation. His previous duty in Scituate, Massachusetts as a boarding team member also had to do with his selection for the team. They have been training with the FBI, ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms) local Sheriff's departments, Customs etc. for the last six months. It's been pretty intense, very interesting, plus a real honor, and a rush for Kev!

Well, hope ya'll had a wonderful holiday season, and began the New Year in a jolly way... MAKE 2004 a good one!



"Doc" Cronin underway in the bow of a RHIB in warm Florida waters.



Kevin "Doc" Cronin (2nd from right) with his CG "SMART" Team. The gentlemen in civilian clothes are Florida Governor Jeb Bush and the governor's father, Former President George Bush.

FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT

Charlie Grossimon, FC 38

With the coming of the New Year, Charlie Pencinger, our VFC and I have assumed our new roles. Hopefully we're off to a good start. Charlie P. has been very active in assisting Dolly Thomas, FSO-Public Education in the signing up of students for our first Boating Skills and Seamanship class that began on January 13. A Bravo-Zulu also goes out to Phil Sirois who assumed the position of FSO-Public Affairs, he really put in some time and mileage advertising the public education program.

Meanwhile, Ron Booth, IPFC who wears many hats, including that of FSO-Member Training, has been very busy coordinating the start of various training classes. Among those are a SAR (search and rescue) class being held in Lawrence. Boat crew and coxswain shore side classes have also begun at CG Station Merrimack River. Flotilla 38 is well represented in the division wide class. Among those in attendance are a lot of our newer members who are eager to get started in the operations program areas.

Security has never been a bigger word in the Auxiliary as it is right now. The deadline to return your Security Questionnaires was January 7. However, if you haven't done so, I encourage you to mail them immediately to Joe Antanavich, our division captain, his mailing address is 8 Oak Street, Andover, MA 01810. Everyone in the Auxiliary is now subject to a basic background check, which will include obtaining a set of fingerprints. For those who are involved in direct operations with the active duty Coast Guard, more thorough background investigation and security clearance is required. This process has been already started for our members currently involved in boat crew, coxswain, CGC RELIANCE, and Station Merrimack River missions.

Auxiliarists with at least 15 years of membership may choose "retired status," no background checks are required for those members. Note that those in "retired status" are still members of the Auxiliary. Retired members may still attend meetings, functions, wear the uniform and fly the Auxiliary ensign (but no longer have to pay dues).

Fellowship being one of the four cornerstones of the Auxiliary, Flotilla 38 held a holiday party at the Plum Island Boathouse on 13 December 2003. The food was provided by Phil Sirois who is a Master Chef, and was outstanding. Phil has agreed to put on a corned beef and cabbage supper for our meeting in March. Since the corned beef dinner is a fellowship event, we will hold it on a Friday evening instead of a Thursday (5 March 2004 at 1900 at the boathouse).

Given the extremely cold weather, the 5 February 2004 meeting will be held at the Starboard Galley Restaurant, next to Station Merrimack River in Newburyport. The meeting will begin at 1900 with attitude adjustment starting around 1800-1830. The flotilla will pay \$5.00 towards each member's meal. Dress is casual with no uniforms.

I would encourage members who have not obtained a uniform, to think about doing so. There are many exciting mission opportunities available in the Auxiliary and each one of them requires a uniform. In order to take classes or learn boat crew skills, a member is required to be in uniform. Please, take the plunge, get the proper uniforms and start having fun! If you have any questions or concerns on uniforms, please ask Charlie Pencinger or myself for advice on getting what you need.

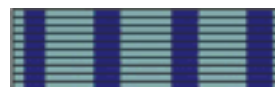
In fact, if you have any questions at all, or need advice, help or direction on any matter, please call on me, Charlie P., or any of our veteran members, and we will do our utmost to help you. Let's have a great year !!

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Fred Beaulieu, FSO-Communications

I will be offering AUXCOM (the Auxiliary specialty training course in communications) in March if there is enough interest from the membership. The minimum participation would be four candidates. My schedule will allow me to offer this class on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, whichever day works best for those who sign up. The class will be at the Newburyport Emergency Management Agency (civil defense) facility. Class times would be 1900-2100 and I anticipate 4 sessions followed by the test. I have some copies of the required text on hand. Contact me (or Ron Booth, member training officer) as soon as possible if you are interested and we will plan accordingly.

An AUXCOM course will also be offered (tentatively) on the Saturday of the Spring Conference, 14-16 April. Since that is only a one-day class, those interested in that session should plan on self-study in advance. The conference AUXCOM session is essentially designed as a capstone class to answer questions you had during self-study and prepare you for the test. Naturally you will need the study materials in advance, again, contact Ron Booth or me if you wish to go that route.



CG Auxiliary Specialty Training Ribbon

MORE FLOTILLA 38 “PHOTO-OPS” AT THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE



During the conference, Scott Crocker (*above-right*) of Flotilla 38 taught fingerprint techniques to selected Auxiliaries from around the district. His students will be responsible for collecting fingerprints in their local divisions and flotillas as part of the new personnel security initiative by the Coast Guard. Scott will continue to work with the 1st CG District Security Manager to coordinate this program.



At the commodore's ball, Frank and Susan Keslof. Frank is district staff officer-publications and our division vice captain.



Kirsten Johnson concentrating very hard during the vessel examiner training session at the conference. Kirsten and her fiancé Mike Dumaresq (both Flotilla 38 members) said they also plan to start training for duty at the Boston Light. At the last flotilla meeting, they mentioned that their wedding is approaching and that might be a good place for a honeymoon!

At the conference, Kirsten also attended the train-the-trainer session for sexual harassment prevention taught by the district civil rights counselor. She will in turn be conducting this training in the future for Flotilla 38.



Charlie Grossimon, Flotilla Commander 38 with COMO Robert Johnson, District Commodore 1NR



Also working hard at the vessel examiner training session, Mike Dumaresq and Tim Downs (*seated, 2nd & 3rd from left*).

PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE

Now hear this... ! The winter public education season is underway with an 8-week *BS&S (Boating Skills & Seamanship)* course. Classes are being held Tuesday evenings from 1900-2100 at the Pentucket Middle School, which is on Route 113 at the West Newbury-Groveland town line. Classes started on 13 January and will end on 9 March (there is no class on 17 February since the building is closed for school vacation week).

There is a primary instructor assigned for each class but additional flotilla members are needed to help out as instructor aides. There are two topics where extra "hands-on" assistance is needed. The class sessions on piloting will be held 10 & 24 February. Auxiliarists are needed at these sessions to circulate among the students and coach them on the charting problems demonstrated by the primary instructor. Also, similar coaching is needed on 2 March when the students have to practice tying knots.

So brush up on your chart work and marlinspike skills and come on down to help out. The regular crew could also use help correcting tests on the final evening, 9 March. The spring classes will start right up again in April. We will be offering another *BS&S* course and a *Youth Boating Course* will be offered concurrently.

By the way, if you are interested in officially qualifying as an *Auxiliary Instructor*, speak to Ron Booth, the member training officer. He can provide you with a manual and then you can take the open-book test on-line. Part of the qualification involves preparing a lesson and teaching. This can be worked in during the public education program where you can get your feet wet helping out as an aide and then working up by co-instructing with an experienced instructor.



Wayne Cedres helps a BS&S student with a chart exercise.



Bill Graham helps a BS&S student master knot tying.

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