

# THE JETTIES



**U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

Vol. 22 Issue 3, A publication of Flotilla 38, 1NR, Newburyport, Mass. June - July 03

## OPEN HOUSE AT COAST GUARD STATION MERRIMACK RIVER



National Safe Boating Week received a jump-start in Division 3 with a weekend of vessel safety checks at USCG Station Merrimack River as well as an open house at the station on Sunday 18 May. One popular display at the station was a yellow submarine designed and built by Wally Lesynski of Flotilla 38. The first to get a look at the sub were station crewmembers (*seen with Wally in photo above*), who also heard tales of submarine searches for shipwrecks off Plum Island. Dick Muir, SO-VE3 declared that the sub probably could have passed a VSC, at least as a unique personal watercraft. However, the VSC manual does not sanction official inspections of "submersible or experimental" craft. *(Photo by Frank Keslof, DSO-PB 1NR)*

**UPCOMING  
FLOTILLA MEETINGS**  
at the Plum Island Boathouse

**THUR 5 June 03 at 1930  
&  
Annual Family Cookout  
FRI 11 July 03 at 1830**

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

---

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JUNE

- ⚓ 5 Jun Flotilla meeting
- ⚓ 15 Jun Father's Day

### JULY

- ⚓ 4 Jul Independence Day
- ⚓ 11 Jul Flotilla meeting & family picnic  
Note change of day & time
- ⚓ 26 July Coast Guard Ball (sponsored by FL 38)  
Newburyport Lodge of Elks

### AUGUST

- ⚓ 2 Aug Coast Guard Birthday Picnic  
CGSTA Merrimack River 1100-1800
- ⚓ 7 Aug Flotilla meeting

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- ⚓ 3rd Friday of the month - District 1NR Board & Staff Meetings.
- ⚓ Last Thursday of the month - DIV 3 Board & Staff Meetings.

## Chain Bridge to Reopen ?

Good news for Auxiliarists whose drive to Station Merrimack River or Newburyport is more convenient via the Chain Bridge. According to the Massachusetts State Highway Department, the bridge will reopen by 4 July this summer. This should also help with traffic over the Gillis (Route 1) Bridge further downriver.

The bridge closed a year ago for a \$3.2 million overhaul. The reopening was delayed due to a mishap at the entrance of the Merrimack. The Division 3 newsletter *Tidal Waves* reported on the grounding of a barge during a storm last December. That barge was carrying a crane for work on the Chain Bridge and its loss set back the work schedule for the bridge. A Coast Guard helicopter hoisted five barge crewmembers to safety in a dramatic rescue. However, the barge and crane were a total loss, the remains washed ashore on Plum Island and were dismantled and hauled away.

---

## *UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BALL 2003*

*Saturday 26 July 2003 ⚓ 7:30pm to midnight  
Elks Lodge - 25 Low St, Newburyport, Massachusetts*

*Dancing to music by "The Compaq, 21-piece Big Band"*

*Light Buffet will be served ⚓ Cash Bar will be available  
Attire: Military - Dinner Dress White Jacket (or) Dinner Dress Blue  
Civilian - Semi-formal (or) "black tie" optional*

*Tickets are \$30 per person ⚓ Tables for 8 or 10 may be reserved*

**To reserve tickets, contact Ron Booth, Flotilla Commander at:**

978-462-0275 (daytime) ⚓ 978-465-3870 (evenings/weekends)  
On-line info and e-mail inquiries go to: [www.flotilla38.homestead.com](http://www.flotilla38.homestead.com)

Fees are payable to USCGAUX Flotilla 38  
Mail to: Ronald Booth, 9 Phillips Drive, Newburyport, MA 01950

Tickets may also be picked up in person at  
Clipper Trophies, 141 Bridge Road (Route 1) Salisbury, MA  
Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9AM-5PM; Wed & Sat 9AM-11AM

*Space is limited, early reservations are urged  
Please telephone Ron Booth by **10 June 2003** if you wish to reserve a full-table.  
To guaranty all other reservations, tickets must be paid for by **1 July 2003***

---

## FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT

*Ron Booth, FC*

Last month's flotilla meeting provided an opportunity for our flotilla to look back on the accomplishments of the past through the presentation of awards to Bill Hurley, for 10 years of service and Frank Keslof DSO-PB for 20 years of service, both members are still going strong. Like any organization that wishes to remain viable we must continue to grow and bring in new members and this month we welcomed Robert Gaudet aboard and look forward to him bringing all his talents and perspective to the organization. In short, more hands on deck are always a positive thing.

As a reminder to members, last month we had a photo session at the flotilla meeting for members to get new Coast Guard Auxiliary identification cards, which list the Coast Guard as being part of the Department of Homeland Security instead of the Department of Transportation. We will do the same at the next two flotilla meetings and this provides a good chance to get your new ID's so that they will be there when you need them.

The open house at Coast Guard Station Merrimack River on Sunday 18 May was a success. A contingent of Auxiliarists from all the flotillas in Division 3 assisted with the event, which included vessel safety checks. In addition to myself, our own Flotilla 38 was represented at the event by Fred Beaulieu, Wayne Cedres, Jason Esposito, Terry Kalil, Frank Keslof, Wally Lesynski and Dolly Thomas. We had a steady flow of visitors throughout the day, 71 people visited the station according to our tally, about an equal number of children and adults.

The Coast Guard ball is right around the corner (26 July 2003) and this year help is needed to set up the hall and various other projects. Let's get organized and make this the best ball yet. Please call me if you would like to help out, and of course, call me for tickets!

## THE WEATHER TIP

*Matt McDonald, FSO-PB*

In this weather tip we will discuss sun safety. Although we all enjoy the warm rays of the sun during the boating season it is important to remember that too much sun exposure can be dangerous. In fact the American Cancer Society reports that one or two blistering sunburns before age 18 dramatically increases the risk of skin cancer, so make sure the kids wear sunblock and play in the shade when practical.

Sun safety is of particular importance to boaters because the sunrays reflect off the water making them more intense. Here are some basic sun safety tips for you to consider this season.

1. Use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. In addition, make sure that the sunscreen provides protection against UVA and UVB rays, as they will help provide more total protection. Also keep in mind that the sunscreen must be reapplied frequently particularly after activities such as swimming, drying off, or perspiring.

2. Wear a hat preferably one with a 4-inch brim like the Tilley Hat approved for patrol use. Dark colored clothing also provides a higher SPF when compared to light colored clothing and the tighter the weave the better.

3. Wear sunglasses that provide protection against 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation. A good pair of sunglasses is expensive, but in addition to protecting your eyes if you purchase a pair with polarized lenses you will be able to see what is just below the water. This will enable you to see "the one that got away" and may help in seeing submerged objects which could pose a hazard to your vessel.

4. Don't forget to button your lips. Use lip protectors that contain a SPF of 15 or higher.

---

## CLAM FLATS MAY REOPEN

Clamming may soon return to the Newburyport/Salisbury area as early as this summer. These beds were once home to some of the most productive clamming in the area. However, due to bacteria from the towns up stream and the dozens of tributaries that flow into it the Merrimack flats were closed to shellfishing in 1986. With the river now becoming cleaner, due in part to the Coast Guard's pollution control efforts, bacteria levels are down. Studies are now underway to see if the shellfish are safe to eat a prospect about which state officials are optimistic. However, don't get your clam rake out of the closet just yet. Even if the beds are reopened the harvest from them must be flushed with fresh clean ocean water using a process called depuration, this is done at the shellfish plant just across the parking lot from Flotilla 38's Plum Island headquarters. This means that the beds will only be open to commercial interests. There is also mixed opinion about how the harvest will be. Some say that it should be robust because the beds have not been dug for so long. Other officials make the point that the mussels that live on top of the beds will have to be removed to facilitate clamming.

---

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Frank Keslof, DSO-PB 1NR & VCP 3

*Interview by Matt McDonald, FSO-PB*

Time again to feature someone from Flotilla 38 in a member profile. We started a couple of years ago with our most senior members and worked our way down through those with 20-plus years of service in the Auxiliary. In this issue we come to the latest member to reach that milestone. Frank Keslof just received his Membership Service Award last month for 20 years of service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Frank is yet another member recruited into Flotilla 38 by Wally Lesynski. He recalls that when he finished graduate school in 1983, he decided to reward himself by purchasing a boat. Frank admits he was one of those fearless yet hapless new boat owners with limited experience, none of it on the ocean. Fortunately, as luck would have it, he started his first boating season docked at Wally's marina, the Merri-Mar Yacht Basin in Newburyport. According to Frank, the first time he pulled into the dock, Wally was watching and then came over and said "You need help and I have an organization that I think can help you" and the rest is history.

Frank has been involved in the emergency medical services field for 32 years as a provider, administrator, state regulator and instructor, so these talents have been supporting Auxiliary missions since he became a member. He regularly conducts boat-crew first aid courses and CPR training for Auxiliary, reserve and active duty members of the Coast Guard. There is always a need in this area, and according to Frank, there are always new things coming up. For instance, the CPR courses in the past year now include training for Coast Guard personnel in cardiac defibrillation. And just within the past week a new challenge was met when Frank conducted training for the boarding teams on the Coast Guard Cutter RELIANCE. This new training was infection control procedures for SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). This disease could be a threat to boarding officers entering confined spaces on vessels coming from countries with SARS outbreaks.

In the early part of his membership, Frank was very active in operations and became crew qualified. He said it was great being on the water with such knowledgeable people, you learned more every time you went out. He also served in various staff positions and worked up to the position of flotilla commander. He notes that he was very fortunate to have



Susan Keslof and Frank Keslof  
at the Coast Guard Ball 2002

served as commander during the bicentennial celebrations of the Coast Guard. It was an exciting time that included major events in Newburyport the birthplace of the Coast Guard. Flotilla 38 played host to the commandant of the Coast Guard who brought along the Coast Guard Band and many other dignitaries to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the place where the first revenue cutter was launched.

Frank barely finished his term as flotilla commander when he was activated with his Army Reserve unit for Operation Desert Storm, the first Persian Gulf conflict. He spent the better part of a year on active duty but fortunately the duty was all in Washington at the Pentagon. Frank noted that it was an excellent cap to a 30-year career in the Army and Army Reserve. During his Desert Storm tour of duty he worked for the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, serving as a watchstander in the National Military Command Center on the counter-terrorism desk. This assignment was due to the fact that his military intelligence reserve unit was attached for many years to the terrorism analysis branch of the US Defense Intelligence Agency.

His final years of military service following Desert Storm were extremely busy. There were also civilian job changes that curtailed Auxiliary participation for a time, including letting his boat crew quals slide. However, after retirement from the Army, Frank said he missed the camaraderie and the satisfaction you get from serving. Therefore he re-doubled his efforts in the one service branch where he still belonged, the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

*(Continued, next page)*



---

## MEMBER PROFILE

*(Continued)*

Frank's broadened activities include serving on the District 1NR staff as the publications officer and editor of the district newsletter the *Nor'easter*. He is also currently serving as the Vice-Captain of Division 3. Much of his effort has been directed at bringing the active duty and Auxiliary components closer together. He drafted the "Adopt A Cutter" memorandum of understanding between the CG Cutter RELIANCE and Flotilla 38 and a similar MOU between Division 3 and CG Station Merrimack River. Besides his publication duties, much of Frank's efforts are directed at encouraging and developing the working relationships between the aforementioned active duty and Auxiliary units.

Keeping things in the family, Frank recruited his son Mike into the Auxiliary and this brought Flotilla 38 into the cyber-age. Mike designed, built and maintains our website and serves as flotilla staff officer-communications services and webmaster. Finally, it must be said that I am publishing this newsletter you're now reading because Frank also recruited yours truly, Matt McDonald, as well as my father John McDonald into Flotilla 38.

---

## IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM THE MATERIALS OFFICER

⚓ **Closing For June Inventory.**

⚓ **Buy Now Avoid Price Hike!**

The district materials store will be closed the last week of June for inventory. Orders received during that week will be held until July.

Also be advised that a new price list may be published in July by the National Auxiliary Supply Center. Since this is the main source of items sold in the district materials store, expect prices on many items to increase. I have no definite word as to when such a new price list will actually take effect. Hopefully we will have time to print a new catalog and get it distributed before the price increase takes effect. New catalogs will be distributed by e-mail and hard copies will be available at flotilla meetings.

The bottom line message is: **to avoid the price increase, order now!**

## THE LIGHTHOUSE REPORT

*Matt McDonald, FSO-PB*

In this issue we will continue with our look at some of the lighthouses that dot the East Coast. Can you identify this one? Here are a couple of hints to help you out. If you study the photo closely you can see that the tower height is very low, this indicates a harbor light or perhaps a harbor light on an island. The second bit of information that may help you guess the identity is that it is the second oldest lighthouse in America having been originally constructed in 1746 for a cost of 200 British pounds. The town where it still sits paid the original cost of construction. If you haven't guessed it's Nantucket's Brant Point Light. Of course it is not the original, the present light was built in 1901.

During this time Nantucket was a busy whaling port and wrecks on the rocks where Brant Point Light now sits were an all too common occurrence. The original tower was made of wood and washed away by wind and wave action. However, the people of Nantucket rebuilt it. In fact they have rebuilt the tower a total of ten times making it the most frequently rebuilt lighthouse in the United States. The present structure at 26 feet high may be one of the shortest lighthouses in the country. That fact makes it no less historically significant. Today Brant Point welcomes hundreds of visitors a year who visit the island by ferry and private boats. According to legend, throwing two pennies overboard as you round the lighthouse will ensure a safe crossing.



Photo by Barbara McDonald



### **CATCHING A CHILL!**

Yes, its often been said, this guy “will give you the shirt off his back.” Yet here was an occasion where he actually did just that. At the last flotilla meeting, Steve Noyes took photos of members for their new Coast Guard Auxiliary I.D. cards. Of course you had to be in uniform and some folks weren’t, so Bill McGoldrick loaned out his shirt for some of the member photos. It was a bit chilly that night so he was definitely going above and beyond the call of duty. There will be another opportunity for I.D. photos at the next meeting, but please come in uniform, Bill is out of clean t-shirts.

---

*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](mailto:mcd@vermontel.net).

Members are protected from the dissemination of personal information by the Privacy Act of 1974.

**Submission deadline for the next issue is 15 July 2003**

**NOTE: *The Jetties* will only be distributed electronically to those members with e-mail addresses, members with e-mail addresses requiring print copies must specifically request them from the editor. Members lacking e-mail capability will continue to receive print copies.**