

THE JETTIES



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

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FLOTILLA 38 TALL SHIP CAPTAINS MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME



Dave Stickney (*above-left*) and Richard "Red" Shannon, Flotilla 38's two tall ship captains, recently met for the first time. Most everyone knows Dave, he spends most of the year with us, but spends his summers serving as a tall ship captain. His summer 2003 command was the Schooner A. J. Meerwald, official tall ship of the state of New Jersey (*bottom left photo*). Red isn't as well known to our membership since he spends most of his time at sea. His last assignment before retirement from the Coast Guard was sailing master of the USCG Cutter EAGLE. Since then he has been serving as captain aboard commercial sailing vessels (photo of the EAGLE at dusk, *top left*).

UPCOMING FLOTILLA MEETINGS

**Thursday 3 June 04
Plum Island Boathouse at 1900 &
Friday 16 July 04
Cookout - Plum Island Boathouse at 1800**

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

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



JUNE

14 Jun Flag Day
20 Jun Father's Day
26 Jun District qualification runoffs for International Search & Rescue Competitions (CGSTA Merrimack River, Newburyport)

JULY

4 Jul Independence Day
9 Jul Change of Command USCGC RELIANCE
16 Jul Flotilla Cookout in lieu of regular meeting
31 Jul Start of Yankee Homecoming week

AUGUST

7 Aug Coast Guard Birthday Cookout & Lobster Fest (CGSTA Merrimack River, Newburyport)

FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT

Charlie Grossimon, FC 38

What can I say? Along with everyone else, I was completely surprised when Flotilla 38 was named as the recipient of the **Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award** at the District Awards Conference this past April. As the award was given for the 2003 year, Ron Booth, IPFC went up to the podium to receive the award from CDR Christopher Alexander, USCG, Director of Auxiliary. In addition to the award presented by CDR Alexander, Commodore Robert Johnson, DCO, 1NR presented Ron with medals and ribbons for every member of the flotilla. Everyone who was a member during 2003 is entitled to wear the ribbon and medal, which signifies the award.

Quite an achievement! Out of 65 flotillas in four states, the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard chose us as the best all-around flotilla in the district. While I was surprised at that moment, as I think about it, I am not really surprised at all. It doesn't take much looking around to realize what a super flotilla we have!

We have an award winning PE program and publications staff, members who serve on the division and district staff, members qualified on Coast Guard cutters and motor life boats, members who are coxswains, boat crew, CG Cutter Ombudsman, vessel examiners, marine dealer visitors, career counselors and just about everything else the Auxiliary offers.

As a flotilla, we put in many, many hours to these endeavors. We have many members who have put in decades of service

to the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard, and we keep growing! Soon, we will have a group of new boat crew as they are undergoing training right now. By the way, the Democratic National Convention will be upon us in July, and Flotilla 38 will have a good-sized representation in various aspects of the Coast Guard security mission for that event.

This award belongs to all of us; I really can't say that any one of us did anything individually to put us in position to receive it. It was truly the culmination of a team effort and that's what we're all about. However, I would be remiss if I didn't again mention the fact that this award represents achievements while Ron Booth was our flotilla commander. I'm sure Ron is especially proud of this award and well he should be.



NOTICE: Your publications officer will be away cruising for the entire summer, therefore *The Jetties* will not be published in August. The deadline for the next edition is 15 September.

ASSORTED “PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES”



BMC Ron Batchelor, Command Chief, USCG Cutter RELIANCE recently retired from the Coast Guard. The command chief has been a friend and mentor to Flotilla 38 members training aboard the cutter and we will miss his presence. Members of FL 38 were in attendance at his retirement ceremony and presented him with a gift. In the photo above, the chief accepts a pennant on behalf of the cutter, representing the unit commendation earned during his last patrol. The commendation is being presented by RADM Vivien Crea, USCG, Commander, 1st CG District.



Royal Roulston of Flotilla 33 (*above-left*) was recently honored for his 50-years of service to the Auxiliary. One of the presentations was made by his long time friend Wally Lesynski, a member of Flotilla 38 and veteran of 54-years of service in the Auxiliary.



Flotilla 38 member Steve Noyes (*above right*) provides welding lessons to MK3 Adam Hoffman, USCG, at Station Merrimack River. Steve is a fully qualified engineer for the station's vessels, but he has many other talents he lends to the active duty side of our organization.



BMC Rob Craighead, USCG, Officer-in-Charge, USCGSTA Merrimack River, presents the Meritorious Team Commendation to FL 38 member Fran Hunt. Fran received the award for his work with the Auxiliary National Staff, developing the latest Power Point programs for member training and public education.

HAPPENINGS AT THE COAST GUARD CUTTER RELIANCE

Charlie Grossimon, FC

On the morning of 30 April 2004, on the flight deck of USCGC RELIANCE, Flotilla 38 member Ron Booth, IPFC, received his letters of qualification as a watchstander from CDR Sandra L. Stosz, Commanding Officer of the cutter. *(Photo, top right)* This culminated months of work training as a gangway petty officer of the watch and completing DCPQS (the Damage Control Personnel Qualification Standard).

Attaining this qualification means that Ron can fully relieve one of the crewmembers of RELIANCE in homeport watchstanding. He has been working on this qualification for about a year, both in port and at sea aboard RELIANCE. Ron had to master fire fighting, damage control, first aid, security, communications and a host of other maritime skills.

Next, Ron presented CDR Stosz an Auxiliary Ensign that will fly when an Auxiliarist is on board. *(Photo, center-right)* The new ensign replaces the one that flew from RELIANCE's mast last August when Ron Booth, Bob Gaudette and Charlie Grossimon were on patrol with the vessel. The old ensign turned a strange shade of pink after going through a thunderstorm somewhere off the coast of New Jersey; we're not sure what this signifies regarding the air quality emanating from that state.

Finally, Charlie Grossimon, FC, presented CDR Stosz with a framed certificate that enclosed a miniature medal representing the Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award. *(Photo, bottom-right)* At the April District 1 NR conference in Burlington, Massachusetts, Flotilla 38 received this prestigious award for its accomplishments, amongst them, our participation in the Adopt-a-Cutter program with RELIANCE. Since RELIANCE is part of our Flotilla 38 family, it was quite appropriate to share this award with them. CDR Stosz offered her congratulations to us and commented how much she and the crew appreciated all the things we, as a flotilla, do for them.

The plan was then to depart for a patrol with two Flotilla 38 members aboard, Bob Gaudet and myself, Charlie Grossimon. We were to serve as additional crew aboard the cutter on route to Little Creek, Virginia, a two and a half day transit. However, as RELIANCE left the pier, a sheen of oil was spotted off the port side. The order was immediately given by CDR Stosz to return the ship to the pier. It wouldn't be until the next day, Saturday, when divers would be able to come at slack tide to inspect the source of the potential leak.

The problem was solved but the departure delay was cause for Bob and myself to cancel our trip. The delay meant we would not be able to connect with our return flights home that following Monday. Naturally, it was a very disappointing moment. However, we know that there will be future opportunities and we both look forward to RELIANCE's return to homeport so we can resume our training and watchstanding.



RESCUE ON THE MERRIMACK RIVER

While cruising in the Merrimack River on Saturday 15 May, the Mathews family of Newton, New Hampshire saw a small outboard motor boat sinking near buoy 13. They sent a distress call to the Coast Guard and quickly maneuvered to pull the two victims from the water, a man and a woman. A vessel responded quickly from Coast Guard Station Merrimack River and came aboard the Mathews' vessel to examine the occupants of the sunken motorboat. Due to the quick action of the Mathews family, there were no injuries.

Flotilla 38 Auxiliarist Frank Keslof, VCP 3, was aboard the Coast Guard vessel serving as the Emergency Medical Technician. Frank assessed the condition of the two boaters and then contacted FL 38 member Fred Beaulieu via Nextel phone (Fred just happened to be staffing the local ambulance on duty in the City of Newburyport that day). One of the boaters had a pre-existing medical condition that warranted further evaluation with equipment that Fred had available on the ambulance. After transport to the Coast Guard Station and re-evaluation, both boaters declined further medical attention. The whole event provided additional excitement for the members of the public who were attending open house festivities at the station that day.



(Photo - above)

After the excitement of performing a rescue, Kerri, Kyle and Todd Mathews relax at Coast Guard Station Merrimack River. With them is the family dog "Pilot," who demonstrates one of the most important rules of safe boating, always wear your life jacket.

COMMUNICATIONS NOTES

Fred Beaulieu, FSO-CM 38; ADSO-CM 1NR

I've been monitoring VHF channel 16 at home on my scanner and at the fire station on the back up radio. With the boating season underway, I am constantly hearing calls for radio checks on channel 16. This practice is illegal. The only authorized radio checks on channel 16 are by the FCC and licensed radio technicians.

Radio checks should be conducted on a working channel with a station that is known to be monitoring that channel. An example is a facility starting a patrol that signs on with the Coast Guard station on the station's working channel. Recreational boaters should check with a marina or test with another boater on a non-commercial channel, for example channel 68. When you are interacting with the boating public, remind them that channel 16 is for hailing and distress only. For routine communication, advise them to move to a working channel after contact is made. Distress traffic may stay on 16 or be directed to another channel (usually 22A) by the USCG unit handling the SAR case. Remember that channel 9 can also be used as a calling channel. It is not monitored by the Coast Guard in most districts, however it is still a non-commercial, non-emergency calling channel.

GREETINGS FROM A MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY

Greetings from a Flotilla 38 member who just wants to say hello from Dover Air Force Base, Dover, Delaware. In a couple of weeks I will start training for the base honor guard, I can hardly wait. Everything is great here, keep in touch and thank you for keeping me updated with all the Auxiliary information.

By the way, I was at a recent air show here at the base and there was a flotilla from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary in attendance. They had set up a booth to provide boating safety information to the public. Of course I talked to them and let them know that I am a member of Flotilla 38. I also proudly explained that my flotilla is based in Newburyport, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard.

I am going to try to come to the BBQ in July, hope to see you all then.

Regards,
AIC Jason Esposito, USAF

A MESSAGE FROM THE USCG CUTTER RELIANCE (ON PATROL) RECEIVED 20 MAY 04

We have some news for you. Yesterday, 19 May, we successfully completed our Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT). This is a two and a half week program that every cutter goes through once a year. We participate in the program at the Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Virginia. We are evaluated by the Afloat Training Group (Navy and Coast Guard ship riders). The riders evaluate our onboard training teams on their ability to train the crew. We train in navigation, seamanship, damage control, communications electronics, gunshoot, towing, and engineering casualty control.

We passed the training with an overall score of 97%, earning the Operational Excellence award, which is a ribbon that the entire crew will be able to wear. A ship only needs to achieve 90% to earn this ribbon, so we well exceeded the criteria. The crew performed in an outstanding manner, demonstrating excellent planning, organization and teamwork to achieve the aggressive goals of the program. We got in a lot of great training, and even had some fun along the way. The weather down here was awesome, which allowed us to focus on training every single day.

We depart this afternoon for the second leg of our 61 day patrol. That leg will be to represent the Coast Guard at Fleet Week in New York City next week. We are scheduled to arrive with the Parade of Ships on Wednesday, 26 May and remain at the Intrepid Pier until 1 June. It should be a great time and the crew looks forward to showcasing RELIANCE. They have painted and prepped while here in Little Creek and the cutter is ready for public display.

We are 1/3 of the way through this long patrol already. We look forward to getting back home to our families after so much time away this past year. My Change of Command is scheduled for 1030 on 9 JULY. Invites will be going out within a couple of weeks.

Fair Winds,
CDR Sandra Stosz, USCG, Commanding Officer

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