



THE CUTTER

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 08W-11-02

November, 2007

www.8wrdiv11.org/flotilla2/



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov.	14	Division Meeting
	15	Flotilla Meeting 1900 Richfield Am. Legion
	22	Happy Thanksgiving
Dec	6	Winter Holiday Party

FC UPDATE

My mother always says, "The older you get, the faster the years go." I realized this is true when I reflect back on the past 11 months and noting the watch year has really gone quickly. Last November VFC Burck and I were unveiling our 2007 flotilla goals and now we can report you all did very well in making them a reality. Briefly, here's the recap.

Membership growth and retention along with member involvement initiatives were a key focus during our watch. We have added five new members and retention has been excellent. Both PE and MT educational goals were aggressive but we managed to meet them both. In addition to conducting five ABC classes, we offered the Advanced Coastal Navigation class. Over the past year, all AUXOP courses were offered to members of our flotilla as well as other division 11 flotillas. We qualified five members for AUXOP, again exceeding our goal. One member earned Boat Crew Certification.

Our DSAR team was successful and took 1st place for 8WR and two members were selected to attend the ISAR competition in Toronto where the team won two of eight events. In June, we conducted a well-attended Operations Training Exercise (OPTEX) in Red Wing. Our Vessel Examiners did nearly 300 VSC's and the Program Visitors made nearly 500 partner visits! We managed several MDA Safety Patrols this summer despite having only two Operational Facilities. The PA Program with the Kid's Water Safety Team was busy at several events including the Minneapolis Boat Show, Buffalo Days, Anderson Windows Safety Day and Minnesota Zoo. Lastly, we had a July Steak Fry fel-

lowship event and our proposed Winter Holiday Party is scheduled for December 6th.

So there is a quick snapshot of a busy year and indeed, we all had fun doing what we enjoy. Thank you to all the staff officers for your commitment to the Auxiliary. And thanks to all members who permitted me to serve this year and allowed me the opportunity to do so again in 2008 by the show of support at the October election.. VFC Burck and I have already begun plans for the coming watch year and will share our vision and flotilla goals at the November meeting. Meanwhile, if you have ideas and suggestions for next year, the bridge would welcome your thoughts.

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the following 11-02 Auxliarist who received awards at the 18 October Flotilla meeting:

Craig Campbell – Boat Crew Certification



Neil McMillin watches on as RCO-N Bob Smekta presents Craig Campbell his Boat Crew Certificate

Stand by for information on our December Holiday Party scheduled for Thursday December 6th. A separate mailing will be forthcoming. Until next month, we'll continue and try to stay on course. See you at the 15 November Flotilla meeting.

Neil McMillin – Flotilla Commander



ISAR Team members Clif Brochman and Neil McMillin received recognition at the last Flotilla meeting with a cake.

Comments from the SR

As we are entering the last quarter of 2007 and renewing our commitment for 2008, I would like to give you a status report on our membership and attendance to date:

We currently have 39 BQ and 5 AX members, 3 Social/Traveling members and 2 Retired members on our active Membership Roster.

Throughout the year we have averaged 19 members in attendance at the monthly Flotilla meetings.

We have also entertained 22 guests so far this year at our meetings and events.

It has been my personal observation that our Flotilla has excelled in every area of the Auxiliary and we are committed to continuing that goal.

In order to continue to attract quality individuals to our Flotilla, we need to renew our commitment to excellence for the coming year.

One way that we can accomplish this is by increasing our attendance at the monthly meetings. If you have not been to a Flotilla meeting lately, you are missing out on a lot of fun and also excellent training. Yes, we do conduct the business of the Flotilla as every organization must do, but there is a lot of fun and fellowship that takes place at each meeting. There is also quality training that takes place at almost every meeting that you are missing out on if you don't attend. This year alone we have had training sessions on sexual harassment, proper wearing of the Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform, AUXDATA, Tait radios, mentoring for Boat Crew and Coxswain, military protocol and practices, and of course our annual Steak Fry with 26 persons in attendance.

I can also report that my position as Secretary/Records has become a lot easier because of the support of our Staff Officers. Each month prior to the Flotilla meeting I receive written reports from the Staff Officers by email in Word format. That allows me to copy and paste them directly into the monthly minutes. This makes the Secretary's job much less time consuming and also increases the accuracy of the minutes.

Now that our boating season is at an end, this is the perfect time to review the goals we set this past year and set new goals for the upcoming season. Fall and winter does not have to be a time to just sit and wait for the spring thaw. It is the perfect time to take classes toward additional certifications, volunteering to serve the Flotilla in our Public Affairs programs, join the Flotilla 2 Color Guard, contribute articles of interest to our monthly publication, "The Cutter", and bring potential members to our monthly meetings.



AND before you know it, the hard water will be soft again and you will be ready for another fun season on the water.

John Peterson, FSO-AN/SR

Information Services

For those of you who have participated in member activities and reports have been submitted, you have received a re-cap of the events as of October 22. Great job!

I know there are more members who have spent a great deal of their time doing things for the Auxiliary and I would like to see them get credit for their hard work. The only way that can happen is to send in the paper work. Take a few minutes to fill out your reports and send them in, there is still time to get the credit you deserve.

Shirley Nelson FSO-IS

IPFC Ted Whitten Heads for Warm WX

The long planned trip south finally happened to our IPFC and good friend Ted Whitten. The long awaited trip to Fort Meyers, Florida and his dream of being a live-aboard in a warm climate came true a few days later after leaving his Minnesota friends and family on October 13th.

Chuck Woodward and I had lunch with Ted on the eve of his departure and it was a bittersweet experience. Ted's new home, "Sunny Girl" was being loaded the next day on a lowboy trailer and heading to Fort Meyers City Marina. Ted was leaving the following day, heading to Texas and then on to rendezvous with the hauler in Ft. Meyers. Ted sent the accompanying photos of the marina and "Sunny Girl" in her new slip. He obviously made it and so did his 33 foot Cruisers Inc.

Ted was a great asset to our flotilla. He served two years as Flotilla Commander and participated on two DSAR teams. One of his major accomplishments was he finally learned to tie the bowline correctly – not easily done for a southpaw. We'll miss his cajoling and sense of humor and his tales as a retired sheriff deputy.

Good luck and fair winds, Ted. Enjoy your new home and Auxiliary opportunities in a new climate. Ted can be reached via his former cell number and e-mail address – I'm sure he would like to hear from his Minnesota friends.

Neil McMillin, FC

Leaving North Country



Hey everybody, the dream is coming to life. Heading south today 10/12/1007 and the boat and myself should be in the warm Gulf of Mexico (Ft. Myers, FL) by next Tuesday afternoon. I did manage to say "goodbye" to some, but not all. I will be keeping the same phone #

and E-mail, in case any of you want to come down to visit. Anyways, it has a down side and that is I am leaving a lot of friends and family behind, but it is not that far away. Take care and I will keep you posted.

Ted

The Southern Saga



First day going up the Caloosahatchee river to my marina, I had dolphin's swimming alongside. The marina is located on the river mouth just north of the Gulf. Go to the City of Fort Myers Yacht Basin to see the satellite view. It is very nice down here, but I do miss you guy's. Hope to see you again soon...Ted



Member Training

There is a new address for the Chief Directors web site. You should now use: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/eg3/eg3pcx>. The old web site shuts down at the end of October.

If you are a Coxswain you must complete ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 700, and ICS 800 by December 31, 2007 to retain your qualification. Boat Crew members need only 100 and 700. Members needing this can complete it on line by going to the FEMA site. If you need help call me at 612-201-3719.

The AUXWEA course is progress nicely. Our instructor corpse is again proving to be more than competent.

Dan Forby FSO MT



Happy Thanksgiving

**¿Got Questions?
We'll find the Answers**

How do you know that you are the over-taking vessel?

At night, you can see her sternlight but not her sidelights



November 1– Mary Kaess
November 3—Barry Berg
November 8– Rex Stearns
November 19– Mac Stevens

December 21—Terry Hanson

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Suggestions, comments and articles you may have to this publication should be directed to FSO-PB Shirley Nelson at 9733 Russell Ave. S. - Bloomington MN 55431-2468 or email to condogulf@aol.com

Please submit articles for the next CUTTER no later than **0900 –Wednesday November 28, 2007.**