



THE CUTTER

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Flotilla 11-2, Twin Cities Metro South, Minnesota
Division 11, 8th Coast Guard District Western Rivers

December, 2009

www.8wrdiv11.org/flotilla2/

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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| Dec | 5 | 8 Hour TCT 0830
Lehman's Garage Bloomington |
| | 9 | Division Meeting 1900
Bishop Whipple Bldg. |
| | 17 | Flotilla Meeting/Holiday Party 1800
Khoury's Restaurant
Inver Grove Heights, MN |
| | 25 | Merry Christmas |
| Jan | 1 | Happy New Year |
| | 2 | Division Change of Watch
Jimmy's Conference and Catering
Vadnais Heights, MN |
| | 5&7 | Boat Crew Academy-COMMS Class
Maplewood Fire #7 |
| | 13 | Division Meeting 1900
Bishop Whipple Bldg. |
| | 13-17 | Sportsman's Show
River Center St. Paul, MN |
| | 20-24 | Minneapolis Boat Show
Minneapolis Convention Center |
| | 21 | Flotilla Meeting 1900
133rd Air Lift |
| | 22-24 | N-Train St Louis, MO |
| | 25 | ACN PE Class
Lehman's Garage Bloomington |
| | 26&28 | Boat Crew Academy-1st Aid Class |
| | 27 | AUXDATA Training 1830 |

FC UPDATE

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL Thanksgiving Day and weekend. That weekend for me is the transition from summer to winter. The yard work is done and the lawn mowers swapped out for the snow blower. All that was left was the storm windows and holiday lights.

The storm windows and holiday lights didn't happen this year. Sue and I spent Thanksgiving in Illinois with our daughter, son in law, and grandson.

Those four days gave me time to reflect on priorities. As committed Auxiliarist our springs, summers, and falls are driven by Public Education, Public Affairs events, Vessel exams, Auxiliary training, Auxiliary workshops, 3yr and 5yr currency maintenance, Operations Training Exercises, and on the water missions. All of these tasks are important to public safe boating and maintaining our safety as we execute our tasks.

All of these activities need to be balanced with our individual personal life. We are all single, married, or in a relationship - retired, working full time, or unemployed - no children, children at home, adult children, grandkids, and extended families. All of these relationships also require our time and commitment. Without their support it would be difficult to impossible for us to do what we do as Auxiliarists.

This past weekend has re-enforced my commitment to my family, and to make sure their needs are met.

If you will be traveling over Christmas, as I will be, drive safely. Give all of your families my best wishes.

Craig Campbell, Flotilla Commander



MT

Why Do I Do It?

A prospective member asked me that at our last flotilla meeting. He also asked what I liked best. Those are tough questions to answer when I've enjoyed so many things and done so many things.

This is my last Cutter story as FSO-MT. In my so far seventeen year career I think the only staff position I've not held is IS. Shirley, your position is secure from me. Any claim I might make for the IS job would indicate I've lost all sense of reason and am ready to be committed. That job is definitely beyond my capabilities.

Earlier this year I indicated to our Bridge that in my opinion it was time for me to step aside so some other member with a fresh perspective can bring fresh ideas to the post. That's what will happen. For me I'm going to temporarily sit in for Bob Burck as PE Officer for 2010. Hopefully he'll relieve me for 2011. In my new temporary post I'll be calling on you all for help and support.

After the questions were asked and I have had time to reflect, the people I have had the opportunity to serve with are the greatest part of being in the Auxiliary. The picture of my knot tying experience teaching a Cub



Scout Den ranks at the top. Why...two of the Cubs are my grandsons, Thomas age 8 and Andrew age 6. Andrew is reading the knot book while one of his friends is tying a knot. What a great experience. Even several of the parents said they had learned some things.

We really have unlimited opportunities to serve our Nation, the Coast Guard, and our Community.

If you missed the TCT class on the 21st there is another chance on December 5th with the reserve at Lehman's at 0830.

Dan Forby former FSO MT now FSO PE

Communications

by Barry Berg, FSO-C M 11-02

Communications Member training was held during the month of October. Flotilla 11-2 held a class designed to create entry level Ham Radio Operators to augment Auxiliary Communications capability. Five Auxiliaries signed up for the class, and three existing radio operators planned for a license upgrade. There are currently three Amateur Radio License Classes (from low to high) technician, general, and extra class. Como Robert Heinz, Mr. Neil McMillin, Mr. Steve Putnoki, Mr. Trent Jensen and myself, all licensed amateur Radio Operators, were the instructors for the course, aided by Mr. Lee Driggs, a future Auxiliary Member, we hope. Mr. Driggs who graciously worked with the existing hams that were seeking license upgrades, while the remainder taught the candidates. Many thanks to our FSO-MT, Mr. Dan Forby for arranging for Lehman's as a training location and for opening up and closing the place down for us as well.

While having a general class license is of the most use to the Auxiliary, since it allows us long distance Communication when most circuits were knocked out, it was felt by the 11-2 bridge, that just getting new hams would augment our communications capability, and they could upgrade at a later time to general class. The importance of Ham Radio to Auxiliary Communications cannot be emphasized enough. The two top disasters (actually most disasters) in recent times, 9/11 and Katrina, saw our fragile communications systems in disarray. The cell network was overloaded, and communications was all but non-existent. When called to respond to Katrina even our Coast Guard Communications systems were inadequate. Mr. McMillin (085-11-02) played a major role in securing adequate communications equipment for the USCG to respond to Katrina. However two hours after the winds subsided Amateur Radio Operators had an emergency communications network up on-line and operating. You can see why having a core group of highly trained operators not only capable of organizing the passing traffic, but in setting up and maintaining emergency communications networks is vital to the Auxiliary Mission.

A 2 hour orientation and general introduction was held on October 2nd, with three students, Mr. Harris 11-5, Mr. Keene 11-8, Mr. Burck 11-2. Mr. Peterson 11-2 was planning on taking the class, but personal circumstances prevented him from attending. We have agreed to work with him privately in the future to assist him with obtaining a license. Also in attendance was Ms. Janet Heinz 11-8, and Ms Gwen Harris 11.5. Study materials were handed out, and the students were in-

structed to self study and return in 3 weeks for two weekends of intensive training, culminating in an Federal Communications Authorized test supervised by at least three Certified Volunteer Examiners, Mr. Heinz, Mr. Berg, and Mr. Driggs. Mr. McMillin's certification was pending approval from the Volunteer Examination Coordinator (VEC) at the time.

On 23 OCT training began. At that time we were joined by Ms. Heinz 11-8. A civilian, Mr. Richard More was allowed to attend the class after remitting a fee of \$40 for himself, and \$30 for his son. The instructors decided that we would not give just a Technician course but attempt to present General class Material, to speed up the transition from Technician to General at a later time. Como Heinz, Mr. McMillin, Mr. Putnoki, and Mr. Jensen spent many hours developing course materials to teach class sessions that were scripted well beyond the ARRL provided PowerPoint presentations. I cannot offer enough BZ's to these fine gentlemen for the incredible quality of their presentations. Mr. Jensen having passed his AUX Instructor's written did an exceptional job performing his practicum, and I know the flotilla will be well served by him as an instructor.

The students were extremely well prepared, and were passing sample FCC tests, from the beginning. Because the class was doing so well on the sample FCC tests, on Sunday they were questioned if we should drop a lab to be held the next Friday evening. The class overwhelmingly responded that they wanted to try for the General Exam, and the instructors agreed to accommodate them, and use the lab to help prepare them. Through the diligence of the above instructors, not only was in depth Technician Class materials presented, but General Class as well. An amazing shift in the focus of the class was not only done, but done well !

Sunday, 1 NOV the class ended, and a FCC Exam was administered by ARRL Certified VE's Mr. Woodward as registrar, Como Heinz, Mr. Driggs, Mr. McMillin, and myself a certifying examiners. Verbal Authorization of Mr. McMillin's credential were obtained in time to allow him to act as a VE. The test a 35 question multiple choice exam required 26 correct answers to pass. All candidates took element 2 (Technician), and if they passed could sit for Element 3 (General).

Results of the examination are as follows:

Mr. Burck passed Element 2 and Element 3 and received his General Class License. Mr. Harris passed Element 2 and Element 3 and received his General Class License. Ms. Heinz Passed Element 2 and Element 3 and received her General Class License. Mr. Jensen passed Element 3 and upgraded to a General Class. Mr. Keen passed Element 2 and received his Technical Class License.



L-R: Richard Moore & Son, Janet Heinz, Tom Keene, Bob Burck, Trent Jensen, Bill Harris, Bob Heinz, Barry Berg Photo courtesy Neil McMillin

Flotilla Finance

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED FOR FLOTILLA BUSINESS.

As we approach the end of the 2009 Calendar year, I am sending this request that any member who may have claims for reimbursement of expenses from the Flotilla. Submit them ASAP so that we will be able to close out the books for the year at the earliest possible moment. The claim reimbursement form is posted on our Flotilla web site. You will need to submit this form along with all appropriate receipts verifying the amount of the expenditures incurred. **Without the receipts & without timely filing for reimbursement—no payments can be made !** Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATIONS: Please remember that the checks and reservation notices for the Flotilla Holiday ("Christmas") Party are due to be in by 7 December, ("A date which will live in infamy", and) which is less than one week away. The cost is \$24.72 per person (\$49.44 per couple). As of this writing only two reservations are in. **Please send your payments and numbers to: Charles Woodward FSO-FN, 104 Arbor Lane, Burnsville MN 55337-2682**

Information Services

The deadline for submitting your 2009 Mission Reports is **Monday, 04 January 2010**. This will give me enough time to input the information into AUXDATA and forward it on to the SO-IS for his approval before the District cutoff date. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Shirley Nelson FSO-IS

MATERIAL MATTERS

As of this date I have not received any information on the number of sew-on insignia that we should order for the Flotilla for the ODU uniforms. The current sew-on devices will no be legal as of 1 January 2010. Instead of waiting for a Flotilla order to be gathered and sent to me - if you wish to order some devices please send me a list of which ones you will need and the quantity of each and I will process the orders directly. You may e-mail me your requests at cdmwoodward@comcast.net. (Please ensure that you describe the items you wish as well as the numbers of each and identify yourself.

Operations

“Tis the season that our water starts to turn into a solid. We have put away the boats and equipment. I thank all of you that gave of your time in the 2009 Operations season.

Now is a good time to make a list (check it twice) on what equipment was use in the past season and what needs repair or maintenance. I suggest the Coxswains ask crewmembers for ideas on what would make their patrols safer and more efficient, i.e. location and use of equipment, communications and procedures. Next spring you will be productive in preparing for operations. Please contact one of our vessel examiners with any questions concerning required Facility equipment.

I am asking all members participating in operations to notify me of (PPE) Personal Protection Equipment needs. Annually a wish list is made and sent up the chain of leadership to DIRAUX. If funding is available, purchases are made and new equipment is assigned at the spring Operations workshops. Members that are interested in becoming active in operations have a great opportunity in training with the Boat Crew Academy starting this January. Contact our Flotilla Commander or COMO Robert Heinz for more info.

One last item I want to thank the 2009 bridge and all the Staff members for a great 2009.

Clif Brochman
ADSO-PA, ADSO-CM, SO-CM, FSO-OP

SNOOK KO's Stowaways & Debris

By Barry Berg (085-11-02)

Photographs by C. D. Woodward (085-11-02) and Trent Jensen (085-11-02)

One of the most important missions that the USCG Auxiliary performs is Augmentation of the Gold Side Missions. We all know that the USCG is the small force with the big mission. How small? Well you can put the entire Active Duty Force (Officers & Enlisted), the entire USCG Reserve, and every member of the USCG Auxiliary into the Silver Dome in Michigan. Another way of looking at it is the City of New York Police Force has more members than the entire Coast Guard. So when the Auxiliary can assist the USCG in its missions it is acting as a force multiplier, or augmentation.

On 20-21 November 2009 members of Division 11 did just that at the Minnesota Zoo. In conjunction with the National Geographic Society, the Zoo hosted “Geography Days”. The USCG Marine Safety Detachment, St. Paul, MN (MSD-St Paul) was invited to participate. MSD-St Paul led by LT Brian Zekus, USCG



chose to participate in this event because it emphasizes one of the Coast Guard's key missions. As the lead federal agency chartered to protect the Marine Environment for the 92 million miles of US Coast Line the Coast Guard emphasizes Pre-

vention to stop damage to the sensitive marine environment it is duty bound to protect. Lt Zekus, is no stranger to this mission, having served at USCG Headquarters (CG-5441) immediately prior to his current posting. While at USCGHQ, LT Zekus was instrumental in advancing the Sea Partners Program, the Coast Guard's Outreach program stressing Public Education (PE) to achieve the mission goals. “There was not much of a Sea Partners Program here in St Paul, the need was recognized for one, and so we set about starting a program.” Auxiliarist Barry Berg (085-11-02) was tasked with starting up the program. MSD-St Paul is a very small unit, consisting of 6 active duty Guardians. Lt Zekus knew that with out the Auxiliary to assist the USCG in this mission, it would have very little impact.

When the dates were confirmed, and arrangements were being made it was decided that we would request the “Officer Snook” character costume from USCG



HQ. Officer Snook is the character associated with the Sea Partners Program, as the Snook is a unique fish. It can live in both salt and fresh water, and is on the endangered species list, making it a natural for the Sea Partners Program.

On hearing that we would need someone to wear the snook costume, Chief J. Kelly Dentry (USCG MSTC, MSD-St Paul) immediately and enthusiastically volunteered to be Snook. Later at the event, Auxiliarist Neil McMillin actually found a snook in the shark tank. One of the most interesting events that occurred was when MSTC Dentry had changed into his costume, and came out in the general area where our display was. It aroused the curiosity of two of the dolphins that had to “Check him out.” Conjecture was they were wondering if he was a playmate or food. HG Regulations regarding using the snook costume requires a handler because visibility is very restrictive in the costume. Actually, we had to have two handlers, because snook was constantly besieged by a mob of little ones. You could see their eyes light up when they saw him, and watch the parents running to keep up as they made a bee-line for the character.

Sea partners is a very broad outreach program, encompassing most anything dealing with education/prevention in the environmental area. The Zoo had us set up our exhibit in Discovery Bay, which couldn't have been a better venue for our presentation. Discovery Bay has 4 tanks, a Shark Tank, a Dolphin Tank, a shallows tank, containing Rays, Nurse Sharks, urchins that may be petted, and a Reef Tank with Urchins, and hard and soft Coral that also may be petted, with some care.

Our theme for this event was “where do they come from, and where does it go.” We had specimens of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) in specimen jars, that were labeled, and contained a colored dot on the top. There was also a laminated map of the world with corresponding colored dots showing where the species originated from, and some laminated cards that contained maps of the Continental United States showing where the ANS Species had infested. We also created a sign board explaining what ballast water is, and how it is a vector for infecting new regions. Our biggest problem was that everyone wanted to pick up the specimens, especially the Sea Lamprey, and it was hard on the specimens.



Our other display highlighted marine debris (Garbage). Staff at the booth started calling it the “Garbage Game.” On a large map of the Continental United States, the drainage

system of the Mississippi River was highlighted in blue. Many of the visitors were surprised to learn that the Mississippi River and its Tributaries drain two thirds of the continent. On this we had laminated cards with the amount of time it takes for the debris to decompose in the environment, and on the other side the item in question. These cards were laid out on the table in chronological order, with samples of the debris that they would try and place on the correct card. This was a very popular game, and many were surprised how long common items of everyday life take to decompose in the environment.

Friday, November 20, 2009 saw the event mostly attended by school children. We also made some contacts with educators, to be able to send trained Auxiliarists into the classroom to make Sea Partners Presentations in the near future.



Those manning the display included (left to Right) Bill Harris (085-11-05), Neil McMillin (085-11-02), MSTC Kelly Dentry (USCG), Barry Berg (085-11-02), Chad Nordling (085-11-02), Trent

Jensen (085-11-02), Abdul Ali (085-11-08), not shown Matt Stokes (085-11-02) and Photograph by Chuck Woodward (085-11-02). Following good TCT practices, a “Hot Wash” was held, and several good ideas were proffered by the crew. Mr. Harris contributed a plastic box for Saturday to hold the “Garbage” which worked out exceptionally well.

Saturday, 21 November 2009 Geography Days was open to the general public. In addition to MSTC Dentry, Ms. Heather Dentry, and their three boys lent a much needed hand. Auxiliarist Matt Stokes (085-11-02) and Don Garvey (085-11-08), Bill Harris (085-11-05), and Barry Berg (085-11-02) filled out the staffing from the Auxiliary Side. Things were so hectic that no photos were taken on Saturday regrettably.

Each child meeting Officer Snook, got an “Officer Snook” coloring Book. The zoo estimated that we would see at least 500 children on Friday, and attendance of at least 1,000 on Saturday. Chief Dentry displaying good “Semper Paratus” form ordered 5,000 copies of each published material. Before the end of the session on Saturday we ran out of “Officer Snook and His Friends” coloring books. Everyone who participated



not only had a good time, but found it gratifying in augmenting the U.S. Coast Guard on the mission. In fact, Comments among the Auxiliarists often reflected that we should be doing more Sea Partners efforts. MSD-St Paul has been invited back to the zoo in the spring for its observance of Earth Day. In fact, an educational partnership has been forged with US Fish & Wildlife for the 40th Earth Day Celebration in April, and initial talks are scheduled to be held with the Minnesota DNR & US Army Corps of Engineers concerning their joining us for that event.

The materials used for this event are available from ANSC, USCG HQ and MSD-St Paul. To quote Mr. Harris, our SDO-MS, "there is no reason there can not be a Sea



Partners component, for any Auxiliary PA Event." For Auxiliarists who desire to learn more about the USCG Environmental Programs, achieving the Marine Safety Training Ribbon would be a great place to start. In this day of increased environmental awareness, taking part in a Sea Partners event can be a very gratifying experience. Also, it is one area where we as Auxiliarists can augment the "Gold Side" in their Mission.

Awards



Trent Jensen received Instructor Ribbon Presented by VFC John Peterson & FC Craig Campbell



NATIONAL IT SCHOOL, FORT KNOX KENTUCK

OR

HOW I BACAME AN INSTRUCTOR

by: Lloyd Fanum

Part 10

You will recall in last month's article, Jack and I arrived at Fort Knox on August 27, 1977 and my first day as a student in the Coast Guard advanced Instructor Training School would be the next day.

Well, The big day arrived, it's now Monday and I'm ready to fake-it as a student in the In-student Training school. As we entered class, we were handed our week's schedule. Our first hour would be used for comments by the base staff, followed by the course layout.

At 0900, we saw a taped reading assignment and video playback. Next at 1000 hours was the importance of the Auxiliary Instructor, which brought us to the lunch break from 1130 to 1300 hours.

After lunch we learned the qualities of a good instructor followed by a lecture and demonstration method of teaching / instruction and how to open and close a presentation. The instructor then handed out a form for us to complete with Name, I.D. #, District, Division and Flotilla. He then told us to list the three favorite Boating Skills and Seamanship classes we liked best to teach.

I thought to myself- - - this should be easy enough. Since I was a seaman in the Merchant Marine during WW2, Lines and Knots for your boat will be easy. After all, I can tie a bowline in three seconds flat. Weather and Boating- - -I've sailed in rain, snow, fog and rough weather, another easy one. Trailering your Boat- - -since I have pulled my travel trailer all over Canada fishing and hunting, should be a piece of cake. SO- - -there you have it, my three favorite topics to teach.

—-to be continued next month—-

INPUT

Suggestions, comments and articles you may have to this publication should be directed to the FSO-PB email to condogulf@aol.com Please submit articles for the next CUTTER no later than 0900—Tuesday, 29 December 2009.