



Port of Brookings Harbor

CHETCO RIVER WATCH



Web Page: <http://a1300506.uscgaux.info/>

Newsletter for the Members of Flotilla 56, Division 5, District 13, Brookings, OR

Volume V

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June, 2009

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[Howard Tingley-FC](#)

Vice Flotilla Commander
Vacant-VFC

Immediate Past Commander
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Detachment OinC
[Dennis Standish](#)

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[June Feather-FSO FN / MA](#)

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[Mitch Danforth-FSO OP](#)

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To contact Editor:
fso-pb@a1300506.uscgaux.info
Phone 541-412-8080



From the Pen of the Flotilla Commander June 2009

Wishing all veterans and their families a belated Happy and Blessed Memorial Day

I also express my appreciation to Flotilla members who stepped forward and made National Safe Boating week a learning experience. Our Flotilla operations assisted with some training and moored the facility PEGRIN II near the boardwalk, Saturday & Sunday the 23rd & 24th, giving the boating public an opportunity to see and explore the vessel. (Hoo Hah)

I am sorry to report the retirement of Rocky Jones and the resignation of Richard Heap, our VFC. It will be impossible to replace the knowledge and dedication of these two and I can only hope that motivated members will step forward and try to fill the gap left. In this regard, I express my appreciation to the Past Commander's committee for their suggestions and honest endeavor helping the Flotilla meet its responsibility.

If you get the opportunity visit the VE shed, note the public warning and photos taken by Marty Martin. This is the proper role of the Flotilla and the effort to educate and warn the public regarding safe boating practices is job number one. Marty deserves an attaboy for his concern and action.



Finally, I can't thank enough our FSO-IS/PB and ombudsperson for all she does, not only for the Flotilla but for Station Chetco River as well. As the only bonafide photo/journalist on board (reference the photo) I offer my heart felt condolences (with reason) and appreciation.



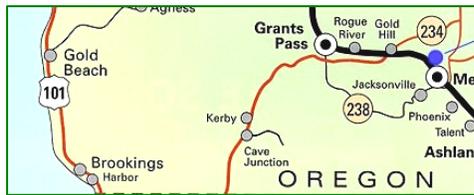
Howard Tingley FC

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
America's Volunteer Lifesaverssm



56 Detachment Report (AKA over the hill gang)

The "Over the Hill Gang" held their first "Rocky-less" meeting this evening at Mike and Cindy's house. All current members were in attendance: Tim Burke, Mike and Cindy Mrkvicka, and Dennis Standish.

First of all we wish to thank Rocky Jones for all the time and energy he put in to make all of us to be where we are at this time. We hope he really enjoys retirement. Were it not for his **relentless** "mother hen" work, we would not have "the detachment."

After the formalities of the pledge and minutes we got right to work on the topic of the evening, "what will the detachment do now?"

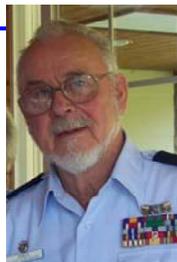
Tim being the senior member present was given the floor first. He stated that he was for continuing the detachment but could not fill the job of OIC. He felt that Dennis would be better suited for the job since he was already the liaison and had a more fluid contact with the flotilla. Mike and Cindy were in agreement with Tim and after a short discussion of goals and purpose; Dennis agreed to be the new OIC.

We feel we have the ability to become well versed in our abilities and duties, and should any adverse situation ever arise, we will be available to help in the event.

Dennis Standish OIC

Rocky Jones retirement from the CG Auxiliary will leave an empty spot in our Flotilla. We will truly miss you Rocky! Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Retire, now it is your time to:
experience all that life has to offer,
take time to smell the roses,
investigate your hobbies,
reitalize your dreams, and,
embark on a new way of life



H1N1 Flu Outbreak (Swine Flu)

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

- **Stay informed.** This website will be updated regularly as information becomes available.
- Influenza is thought to **spread mainly person-to-person** through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- **Take everyday actions to stay healthy.**
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
 - Stay home if you get sick. CDC ([Center for Disease Control](http://www.cdc.gov)) recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- Find healthy ways to **deal with stress and anxiety.**
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information.

Coast Guard Headquarters has set up an Internet page at www.uscg.mil/h1n1 to post Coast Guard specific H1N1 Flu Outbreak information so that it can be accessed by Reservists, Auxiliary, and families.



INFORMATION TIDBITS.....

✚ Dues increases were discussed at the May meeting. District 13 has raised our dues by \$15 dollars for 2010. It was discussed as to how much our flotilla will raise the dues with a suggestion to raise to \$46 or \$48 dollars. Discussion was tabled until the June meeting.



Please plan on attending so we can all participate in this decision.

✚ Our summer picnic was also discussed at the May meeting. Plans are to hold it at the CG station again with anticipation of the end of August as a target date. Jack Feather has announced that he will not be cooking this year. We want to thank Jack for all the years he has sweated over the BBQ cooking our hamburgers, dogs and corn on the cob. You rock Jack! Again, this will be discussed at the June meeting in regards to date and other pertinent information.



✚ Retirement and resignation announcements:

- ~Rocky Jones has retired with 20 years service
- ~Richard Heap has tendered his resignation
- ~Marty Martin has tendered his resignation
- ~Larry Manning has tendered his resignation

✚ The Flotilla welcomes new member (by transfer from D11) Raymond Forsberg. Ray has a wealth of hands-on experience and has expressed interest in both operations and education. We welcome his addition.

✚ The Coast Guard ATON group just recently secured a buoy near the damaged and downed #9 day beacon and the Flotilla posted a warning notice and pictures of the wash rocks that are so dangerous, especially to out of town and unaware boaters. We trust this will help maintain safe transiting of the entrance to Brookings-Harbor marina.

RISK MANAGEMENT TEAM TRAINING

The District's TCT coordinator, Jeanette Wells, gave active and auxiliary personnel training in RMTT, Risk Management Team Training, during the last week of May. RMTT has replaced TCT (team coordination training) and has been streamlined towards more operational risk management process. Auxiliarists in attendance:



June Feather, Jack Feather, Bob Pratt, Roland Ono, Gray Ambrose, Howard Tingley, Peter Dumat, Andrea Dumat, Dick Laskey, Bill Rogers and Barbara Rockfort.



Station Chetco River's new Mascot

Meet Bailey Rose Clemens!
You will find her busy learning the ropes (and how to handle the lines as well!)



National Safe Boating Week

Flotilla 56 kick-off

H.E. Tingley, FC-56



Petty Officer Brian Swope

In conjunction with Station Chetco River the Flotilla completed a VDS training exercise Saturday morning. Although we had very good intentions, Mother Nature and her dense fog eliminated most of the visual effects of this exercise. PO Swope, Coxswain aboard the 47' MLB, did his very best to position the platform for maximum exposure. Still the fog would roll in and out completely obliterating the vessel at times. Our Flotilla crew with FSO-OP Danforth in charge of operating the smokes, red hand held flare, meteor flare and Solis flare, did all possible for display. FSO-PB Rockfort was aboard with appropriate credentials to document the event. Although the flares were somewhat indistinguishable, the fog bank worked as an additional training opportunity; verifying how important it is to have proper radio equipment to contact the C.G. for assistance and the proper navigation aids to assist with getting safely back to port.



With all the fog, it's hard to tell that the beach is located beyond the bow of the 47 MLB!

Meanwhile back ashore, PO Davies and PO Bradford located the 25' safe boat near the east jetty for public viewing and information. FC Tingley set up his Leisure Van with a table and display materials. VFC Heap provided all the VDS equipment, brought life vests out for demonstration and display, and set up a fire pot where he demonstrated the proper use of a fire extinguisher and how to approach for fire fighting. Rich Heap managed the shore side presentation and gave KBSC TV a very good dialogue on boating safety and how important proper use of flares, fire extinguishers, life vests and use of good common sense is to the boating public.



Mitch Danforth holding flare
From right: Marty Martin, Gray Ambrose and a CG crewmember observe



KBSC TV took a video of the whole affair but advised that the fog would certainly compromise the flare demonstration exercise. We trust they were able to get some good video of the SAFE boat and the knowledge and demonstration that Rich Heap provided.

Following the flare exercise aboard the 47' MLB, our boat crews were able to conduct a burial at sea (without guests) and to conduct some additional on-the-water training using two Flotilla facilities, Foxfire and Legal Limit.



From the **Silver Side:**

Richard "Gray" Ambrose is one of Flotilla 56's newest members. The following is some personal information as told by Gray:

Born in San Diego to an ex-Marine/businessman/jazz musician/ fishing-addicted father, my earliest memories are of the beach, the harbor, and the open ocean. As soon as I could lift a board, I learned to surf on the reef where SD's Ocean Beach Pier now sits. Continuing on through my teens, I traveled California and Mexico's coast surfing, sailing, prowling, and amassing stories usually told by Navy cooks. Then, after barely graduating from high school, I was drafted and made it to a Navy recruiter just ahead of the Marines who had first dibs. In the Navy I was an Aviation Machinist's Mate serving in four squadrons on five bases as plane captain, line, and shop mechanic but never set foot aboard a carrier.

Professionally, I was a depot level aircraft mechanic for the Air Force for twenty-two years. I was cockpit and line qualified on several aircraft including the C-5 Galaxy. Living inland because that's where the Air Force always is, my first love was still the ocean, surfing, and sailing. I learned to fly but found it to be three-dimensional sailing but less fun than the wet type. After I retired, my wife Dot (for 25 years) and I moved to Brookings four years ago to be on the West Coast and closer to our families.

I was introduced to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 56 and immediately recognized it as a terrific group. Membership in it is a rare opportunity to learn from, participate, and serve with an amazing collection of colorfully accomplished, dedicated, and really smart people. Add to it the boats, the ocean, sea stories, coffee and cookies, and it's practically perfect. My personal goals in the Auxiliary are Crew, Aux-ops, and Coxswain qualifications, and eventually teaching.



Howard Tingley, FC formally swearing in Richard Ambrose as a member of Flotilla 56

From the **Gold Side:** **Sailor of the Quarter**



From left: Schulgen receiving plaque from BMCM Clemens

Ryan Schulen was selected Station Chetco River Sailor of the Quarter for the period of 01 January 2009 to 30 March 2009.

Ryan was selected over several other well deserving shipmates as a result of the invaluable contributions he made to the unit as a productive member of the Galley and Station Chetco River.

After completing his small boat certifications, Ryan chose to strike to become a Food Service Specialist. As he gained experience in the Food Service Field the department became short handed and he requested to fill in as Duty Cook. He has done nothing but excel in rate and has been providing the Hughes quality of meals to his shipmates. Through hard work and dedication Ryan quickly acquired the skills necessary to assume the role of duty cook. His positive attitude and carefully prepared meals have contributed greatly to the overall morale at the unit.

BRAVO ZULU RYAN!

Next Flotilla Meeting: Thursday, June 11 – 1900 @ Station Chetco River

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
Coast Guard Auxiliary 1300506
FSO-PB FLOTILLA 56
17105 MOUNTAIN DR
BROOKINGS, OR 97415

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

FIRST CLASS



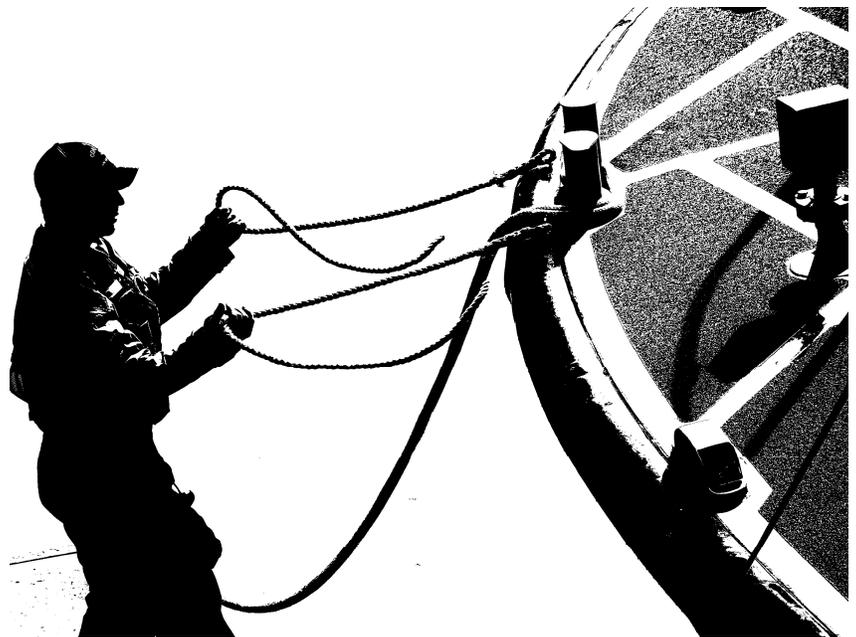
2009 CALENDAR

JUNE

- 6th *Scott Bakker's Birthday*
- 8th *Frank Meccia's Birthday*
- 11th **Flotilla Meeting 1900 @ station**
- 14th **FLAG DAY**
- 17th *Steve Grave's Birthday*
- 24th *June Feather's Birthday*
- 28th *Rockey Rockfort's Birthday*
- 29th *Ron Griswold's Birthday*
- 30th *Roland Ono's Birthday*

JULY

- 4th **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 9th **Flotilla Meeting 1900 @ Station**
- 31st *Cindy Mrkvicka's Birthday*



For more information be sure to check out the
Flotilla calendar on line!
<http://a1300506.uscgaux.info/Calendar.htm>

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