

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary



Buoy 13

District 13

Washington • Oregon • Idaho •
Montana

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Rear Admiral Richard R. Houck

District Commander 13th District

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Keith Harding receives the 2004 Outstanding Flotilla Award for Public Education, from Boating Federation.



Mary Ann Chapman receives the Auxiliary Achievement Award

More Awards photos at the September District Conference on, page 17.

**Fred Bell****DISTRICT 13 COMMODORE****THIRTEENTH CG DISTRICT AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION**A New Look

The Executive Committee has evaluated the staff organization of the Thirteenth CG District Auxiliary and we have decided to adopt a District Staff organization based on Auxiliary Missions. This new organization will take effect on 1 January 2006.

An initial assumption was that any organization adopted must satisfy these four objectives:

1. The organization must provide value to flotillas. Change for the sake of change is not acceptable. Each change must increase benefits to the essence of the Auxiliary and the flotilla.
2. The organization must provide effective services to flotilla commanders;
3. The organization must reduce the span of control for the Vice Commodore; and
4. The organization must improve internal staff communications.

We have created a Department for each function and have assigned Department Heads reporting directly to the Vice Commodore. The Organizational Development Department is intended to change the prevailing culture to encourage fellowship, esprit de corps, professionalism and pride; to help flotillas work as an integrated whole; to improve flotilla and intra flotilla communications and to serve as a resource to other district staff departments, divisions and flotillas.

Our New Organization Based on Auxiliary Missions:

Section A, Chapter 2 of the Auxiliary Manual says the Four Cornerstones of the Auxiliary are:

Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety and Fellowship.



VCO
Bruce L. Miller

The most important message I have for this issue is to keep you and your family safe during the holidays. There are lots of demands for our time and lots of travel we find ourselves engaged in during the holiday season and having fun and staying safe needs to be your top priority.

Elections are going on as I write this. We have some great leaders throughout the District. Support your Flotilla leaders, nurture them, assist them and most of all, develop an understanding of what it takes to volunteer your time to lead and organization. It is not an easy task to lead a group of people that care deeply about what we do and show it in many varied ways. Working together as a team to meet our missions is an important skill that your leaders will be trying to make more a part of our culture.

I look back on this first year as your VCO. I hope our desire to help improve the strength of the Flotillas is showing results. As Danny Dail, the outgoing Division Captain of Division 6 recently said, the most important person in the organization is a member, giving of their time and resources, freely and willingly.

My closing thought is to remember our core values. Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty. I ask that when we interact with each other, we do so as if there

is a new member standing next to us, listening to the way we speak to each other (or about others). If after listening to the conversation, that new member feels inspired to volunteer more, then we are behaving as we need to. If, on the other hand, the new person wonders why they are here, feeling badly about the flavor of the exchange, we have done a disservice to them, ourselves, and to the Coast Guard.

Happy Holidays and please extend my thanks to your family and friends that don't see as much of you as they might want to. Your service is valued and respected.



SECTOR SEATTLE NEWS

**Mary Ann Chapman (FL 24), Auxiliary
Coordinator, Sector Seattle**

Last May's awaited, and by some, dreaded "Sector stand-up" was followed in June by a complete change in command. CAPT Steve Metruck (CO) and his top staff joined longer-term unit members, ready to roll as an integrated unit. On CAPT Metruck's first day on base, COMO Fred Bell, VCO Bruce Miller and I met him for lunch to discuss the extensive role the Auxiliary had played with MSO Puget Sound, now expanded to serve all of Sector Seattle. The CO was excited to hear our story and had more ideas he wanted to implement.

Tall Ships, Seafair, MARSEC 2 for the ferry system, a JLOTS exercise, the Gig Harbor fire, and a Marine Terrorism Exercise soon followed. Auxiliarists were integrally involved in all these events and were instrumental in identifying salvaged vessels at Gig Harbor. When the Northwest Airlift helicopter crashed just off Edmonds, WA, auxiliary facilities were on-scene within 1-1/2 hours of being called. After two days, the Aux team assumed complete responsibility for the scene.

The Auxiliary's Sector Seattle Point of Contact (POC) team is building and expanding old roles and defining new ones throughout Sector Seattle, and an AUXPAL-13 will be available for use throughout the District.





**RCO-N
John Thoma**

2005, What a year!

It has been an exciting year as your Rear Commodore. There has been quite a variety of activities that the Northern Area has participated in such as, Tall Ships, Seafair, Seahawk, GNATS III, MTR 2005 (Maritime Terrorism Response), the Unmanned Underwater Vehicle testing support given to the U.S. Navy as well as response exercises in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Also there have been some significant changes such as the move by the Coast Guard into Sectors. None of these activities could have happened successfully without the dedication of the members of all the divisions within the Northern Area and their ability to accept change. Where cross-divisional cooperation was required there was absolutely no hesitation to get the mission accomplished and of that we can all be proud!

Now with a new year coming up there will be more changes coming into effect. You will have a new Rear Commodore, Ted Schiesswohl, who is currently serving as the

Division Captain of Division 2. You will be well served by Ted. I will miss my position as Rear Commodore, it was possibly the best position I have served in during my Auxiliary career. I believe the best part of that position was being able to get out to the various division meetings and meet the members who have made the Northern Area as great as it is.

Also, speaking about the ability to change, you will see in this issue an announcement of a new organizational structure for the District. I see this as an opportunity to bring more effective leadership down to the Flotilla level by revising the span of control to a much more manageable level. In that new structure I have been offered and have accepted the position of head of Member Services. Member Services will be responsible for Communication Services, Materials, Public Affairs, Personnel Services and the Awards Writing Team. Personnel Services also includes the District Historian and the management of the 3 Star Diversity Award (something every Flotilla should be striving for)! This is quite a plate full and I am looking forward to serving you, the membership in this capacity.

Semper Paratus!



Ginger West receives Aux Letter of Commendation Award



**RCO-S
Bob Mell**

At the risk of being repetitious, PLEASE!, get those security forms in. It's really not that hard to do, our new recruits do it as a matter of course—so can you. At Fall Conference time there was still almost half our members that had yet to send in their "86" or "85" forms. Since you already have yours in, give your friends at the flotilla a little nudge to finish theirs, we don't want to lose them at the end of next year. It is easy to do on the computer, doesn't take much time and we now have just a little over a year to get them all completed. If you haven't done yours yet, won't you please sit down now and get with the program? If you don't have a computer, get with your PS officer or a trusted friend to help.

Now, on a less "naggie" note, after nearly a year of attending meetings in the Southern Area, I am so proud to serve as your RCO-S this year. The activities and accomplishments of each division are terrific. As with any organization, we have some problems that could mostly be eliminated by just observing "Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty". Let's "Honor" our Service and uniform, "Respect" each individual for their desire to serve and "Devote ourselves" to do the job we all agreed to, with responsibility and reliability, and without rumor mongering and backbiting.

We have some changes and additions coming to the Southern Area. Flotilla 69, at Yaquina Bay, will

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move to Division 5 and become Flotilla 54 on January 1st to align it more closely to Sector/Air Station North Bend, whose AOR the flotilla operates in. Also, we have chartered a new flotilla, also in the North Bend AOR, at Pacific City, as Flotilla 5-10. Flotilla 65, Corvallis/Albany, is building a detachment in Central Oregon at Bend, and Flotilla 73, in East Portland, is in process of establishing detachments at Oregon City and Hood River. Congratulations everyone!

More kudos to all the award recipients at Seatac. That can only happen when the information is sent in, and there was a bunch this time. Don't wait 'til conference time to push for awards. Anyone can submit a name and information, even for yourself, to set up the recognition for outstanding performance, for a single event, or for longstanding service in an office or operation. Our Southern Area did very well, but I know we can do even better. While on the subject of awards, our Awards Writing Team leader, Joe Engel, could sure use some help, especially if you all follow through and swamp him with those well-deserved award submissions. If you are good with words and writing, please contact Joe today and offer your assistance.

Keep up the recruiting. We are definitely growing again with a lot of very good new members. Just remember to mentor them and keep them busy so that they don't get bored or lose interest.

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful reception you have given Evelyn and me at your division meetings this past year and thanks so much to Evelyn for putting up with me. Now that Frank Ramer is set to take over the RCO-S job for next year, perhaps we will get to do some traveling that is not Aux related, and I can get out on the water and in the classroom a bit more. Thank you so very much for the good work that you all do and keep those new members coming in. Bravo, Zulu everyone!





RCO-E Dennis Hoppman

That time is here again, to prepare words of wisdom and share them with the members of D13. I'm supposed to do this in 750 words or less and therein lay a problem, because when I get started I just don't know where to stop.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Mell RCO S and John Thoma RCO N for their service to the Auxiliary, their community and their country. I will miss them at the EXCOM table.

Congratulations to Frank Ramer RCO S elect and Ted Schiesswohl RCO N elect, I look forward to working with these very capable and dedicated gentlemen.

I am sorry, also, to see our D13 Finance master Chuck Krona leave our staff and wish him well in his next ventures.

You have heard this before, the only thing constant in any organization is change and we are no different, changes are coming. There will be changes in staff positions as some retire, opt out or are just replaced by those that are more capable of fulfilling the mission. There will be policy changes as missions become more demanding and more demands are placed on the auxiliary. My friend Bruce Miller hit the nail on the head when he said, "Pre 9/11 planning and thinking won't work in a post 9/11 world." He is so right and that is exactly why change will always be a factor for all of us.

I have been a busy RCO this year, traveling and participating in meetings at District, Division and Flotilla levels. This isn't to bad if you're in a metropolitan area and just covering a small area but I don't consider four states a small area.

I have been to meetings with sheriffs and marine LE officials in Idaho, Montana and Washington, either to their conferences or one-on-one. I'm not surprised

that we are a very well kept secret. Every one has heard of the USCG but not the USCG Auxiliary.

My message is to let them know that we are out there and they should avail themselves of our services, where else can they get trained, mature, specialized people with security checks already complete? And where can they get them for free? To have them think outside the box and off the water, to look at our folks as a valuable resource to assist in any number of ways. The message has a real impact when I can assign dollar values to their needs and liken it to a boost in their budget. When you ask them if they can use an extra 50,000 dollars in their budget, it's an eye opener, and then show them how it can happen.

When I speak to these folks I have a nagging thought in the back of my mind, "what if they don't come? What will the message be to the person or persons if we don't show up?"

The same is true with anything we do in this organization, we make commitments and sadly there are a few who just don't keep them. This is the time of the year when flotilla commanders have the opportunity to make changes in their staff. If you have someone that is just sitting there and accomplishing nothing, appoint someone who will. And, if your flotilla commander is not doing the job, elect someone who will. If you think you can do a better job then step up to the plate and do it or at least become an active involved member to help get things and keep things moving.

I speak with FC's, DCP's, and they all tell the same story — no one wants to assume any responsibility! "I can't get my members to accept any positions."

There are flotillas that are on the verge of closing down, not for the lack of members, but for the lack of leadership. No one wants to be a leader. That is a dilemma that is ever increasing and we need to reverse this problem. Leadership should be something we all strive for and should be proud to accept. When your fellow members think enough of you to nominate and consider you as a potential leader, I can only find that as a positive thing.

I am fast running out of space and I have much more to say, and somewhere sometime I'll get another chance to do just that.

It's election time and you are needed, you joined, now join in, become one of those leaders.

I can't believe I'm already saying this, Have a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the fall weather.





**DIRECTOR OF
AUXILIARY**

LCDR Kelly A. Boodell

FRIENDSHIP

“Don’t walk in front of me, I may not follow.

Don’t walk behind me, I may not lead.

Walk beside me and be my friend.”

Albert Camus

A friendship will be different with each relationship we have. We can all agree that a friendship can be an extremely powerful force. From the beginning of one’s life, until they expire, people develop friendships. Everyone leans on a friend from time to time, we learn from friends; we laugh with friends and we cry with friends. We have all had experiences where we haven’t heard from a friend for a long time but when we do, it is as if no time has lapsed since that last conversation. I think the reason that friendships survive time is because of the intensity of the bond established as the foundation of that friendship. The way we care for and respect that bond of friendship, will chart that friendship’s course.

When does a friendship begin? Is it when a stranger holds out their hand and introduces them self to you? Is it when an acquaintance does something out of the ordinary that appeals to you, catching your attention? Or, is it when you sit down at your first flotilla meeting and watch a group of people genuinely laughing, intently discussing and respectfully listening to one another?

From the cashier at the grocery store to the newest auxiliariest, I can say that I am a lucky person because my life is filled with the richness and rewards of friendship. While the depth of every friendship that I have varies with each friend, one thing that repeatedly stands out to me is that friendship often comes from unexpected places and it is always very real.

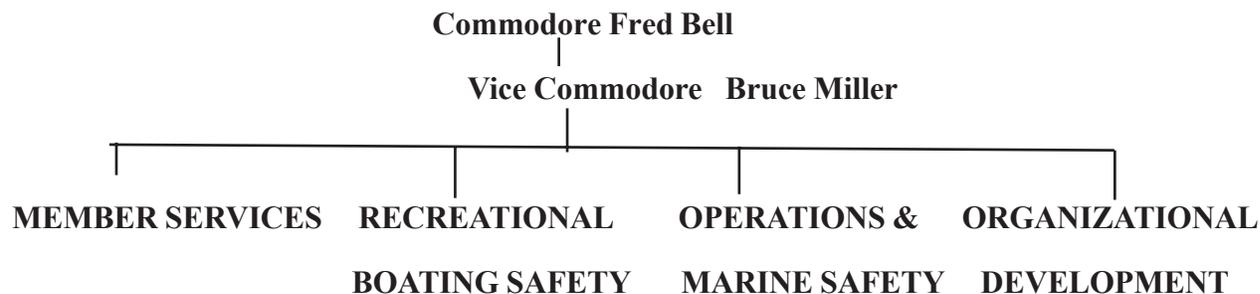
The auxiliary is a place where fellowship is highly regarded. It is one of the four cornerstones. I believe fellowship was made a cornerstone because long ago the value of a friend was highly regarded and understood. Friendship is something that should be nurtured. When an investment is made in a friendship, the returns on that friendship are exponential.

Many of you know that this last year has been pretty rough for me personally. I am sure that many of you can reflect upon your own experiences and note that during those difficult times (and we all have had them), they were easier to get through because we did not have to face those struggles alone. Our friends were always there for us. When I took a deep breath and looked about me, I saw many faces, your faces and I saw your hearts. To me I couldn’t have survived my personal struggles if it weren’t for your friendship. Today, I am going to attend the funeral of a young man, a friend who took his life. He was a father of a sweet young child. I wish I had slowed down to talk to him that last time I saw him.

We are friends, we are family. Be a good friend and be good to one another — you never know when you may need a friend. Thank you for your friendship, and have a safe and happy holiday season.



DCO Bell -- continued from page 4



Existing District Staff Officers (DSO), Liaison Officers and Project Officers were assigned as follows:

MEMBER SERVICES: Dept Head John A. Thoma: Communication Systems (DSO-CS) ;Information Systems (DSO-IS): Materials (DSO-MA): Member Training (DSO-MT): ADSO-MA (3): ADSO-MT (2): Public Affairs (DSO-PA): Publications (DSO-PB): Personnel Services (DSO-PS): CG Mutual Assistance: ADSO – Historian: 3 Star Diversity Award: Awards Writing Team.

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY: Dept. Head Anthony B. Ford: Public Education (DSO-PE): Vessel Examination (DSO-VE): Idaho State Liaison: Montana State Liaison: Oregon State Liaison: Washington State Liaison: Program Visitor (DSO-PV): US Power Squadrons Liaison

OPERATIONS & MARINE SAFETY: Dept Head Ralph Nicolas: Aids to Navigation (DSO-AN): Aviation(DSO-AV): Communications (DSO-CM): Marine Safety (DSO-MS): ADSO (3): ADSO (2): Operations (DSO-OP): Lewis & Clark Trail: ADSO (2)

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: (Fellowship) Dept Head Penny Dustin: Incentive Cruise

COMMODORE’S STAFF: Administrative Assistant (D-AA): DCO Aide (D-AD): DCO Aide (D-AD): Finance (DSO-FN): Legal Programs (DSO-LP): Secretary (DSO-SR): Civil Rights Officer (CRC): Flight Safety Officer (DFSO): Canadian CG Auxiliary Liaison

DIRECT SUPPORT TO CCGDTHIRTEEN (oax): AUXOP Exam Coordinator: Personnel Security: District Directory: QE Examiners



RDML Richard R. Houck New District Commander



Rear Admiral Richard R. Houck comes to the Thirteenth District from Coast Guard Headquarters, where he served as the U.S. Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Planning, Resources & Procurement (CG-8). He was responsible for the Coast Guard's budget, programming, long range planning and policy development processes. RDML Houck was selected for flag rank in 2002.

Upon graduating from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1975, RDML Houck was assigned to the high endurance cutter USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715) as a student engineer. RDML Houck subsequently served as Engineer Officer on the medium endurance cutter USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC

904) and as Executive Officer on the high endurance cutter USCGC JARVIS (WHEC 725).

RDML Houck's shore assignments include Chief of Staff, Seventeenth Coast Guard District in Juneau, Alaska; Commanding Officer, Integrated Support Command, Portsmouth, Virginia; Program Reviewer for Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters; Chief Engineer at Resident Inspector Offices Seattle and Tacoma; Industrial Manager at Coast Guard Base Honolulu and 378' WHEC Naval Engineering Type Desk in Honolulu. He served as a member of the Coast Guard Health Care Delivery System Study, the Reserve Policy Board, and the Commandant's Leadership Advisory Committee. He was the first Coast Guard Fellow at the Center for Naval Analyses in Alexandria, Virginia. RDML Houck earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He also earned master degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and in Business Administration from Pepperdine University and is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College. RDML Houck was Executive Director of the Coast Guard's DHS Transition Team, when the Coast Guard moved from the Department of Transportation to the new Department of Homeland Security.

RDML Houck's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, and Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

RDML Houck is married to Dr. Lani Leary formerly of Kaneohe, Hawaii. Their daughter Whitney is a Lieutenant is assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.



Thirteenth District USCG Commander a Zealot for Excellence

Bonnie J. Schiesswohl SO-PB 13-02

Rear Admiral Richard R. "Rick" Houck assumed command of the 13th Coast Guard District 22 July 2005 in a time-honored ceremony of tradition and circumstance after being called out from Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.

As the Assistant Commandant for Planning, Resources & Procurement, Admiral Houck carried responsibility for long range Coast Guard planning and policy development, while guiding programming and crunching numbers on the U.S. Coast Guard budget.

His gifts, skills and experience are so diversified that there would seem to be little that he cannot do. He is the best advertisement for his philosophy.

"Love your work. Be passionate. Take pride in your contribution to our Coast Guard – and have fun every day," he says. This charge has become the Admiral's rallying punch slogan for Operational Excellence.

A long-range planner-developer, it would be a mistake to underestimate this astute man of charm and wit. He is, after all, a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree at the Coast Guard Academy and later topped off that off with Master's Degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration.

The Admiral is amazingly modest. When it was suggested that he may profile as 'a hero' to those now serving under him, he immediately rejected the notion. "No," he promptly retorted, "You (meaning the collective Auxiliary) are the heroes. You go out there and do vessel checks and teach boating classes. You're the heroes!" On a further note, he added, "You do tons of things to contribute to the nation as well as to the Service."

No matter what the area of interest, volunteer participation should be marked by zeal. "The important thing for all the members of the Auxiliary is to be passionate about everything you do," he said. On "Prevention versus Response" he said, "response (SARs and other operations) is 'the sexy side' of participation, but prevention is better. When you think about it, the emphasis of Homeland Security itself is weighted on prevention."

Planning ahead, then, intertwines with our preventive actions and choices. With the deadline for Auxiliarist security clearances looming next fall 2006, it is now time to get that paperwork finished. "The

deadline is set," said the Admiral, "and there has been no word that there are any intentions to make an extension."

For a person of such accomplishment, the current Auxiliarist procrastination phenomena of dragging heels on security paperwork poses at least some curiosity. It does seem to puzzle the Admiral. Seemingly bewildered by the delays Auxiliarists have made in getting in their security paperwork "It's only paperwork. We have known about this for two years. Auxiliarists who fail to get their SECCEN paperwork submitted in time to get it through the system by then (September 2006) must be dropped due to security concerns" he said.

Admiral Houck graduated from the CG Academy in 1975 and was sent to the high endurance cutter USCGC Hamilton (WHEC 715) as a student engineer, then served as Engineer Officer on the USCGC Northland (WMEC 904) and the high endurance cutter USCGC Jarvis (WHEC 725.) In 1995 the USCGC Jarvis crew — Wardroom, CPO Mess and Others — heard his "How to Excel" dissertation in support of his tongue-in-cheek honorary degree Doctorate of Philosophy in XO-ology. (True North News, the Division Two newsletter, has been running the point excerpts in recent issues.)

His career has taken him back and forth between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for numerous afloat and ashore assignments, e.g., ISCs at Portsmouth, Virginia, Honolulu and Washington, DC; Chief Engineer at Resident Inspector offices in Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.; and Juneau, Alaska where he was Chief of Staff in the 17th Coast Guard District.

The Admiral was Industrial Manager at CG Base Honolulu, Hawaii as well as a WHEC Naval Engineering Type Desk in Honolulu.

His wife, Dr. Lani Leary, is formerly of Kaneohe, Hawaii. They have a daughter, Lieutenant Whitney Houck, USCG, currently stationed in Washington, DC.

The Admiral was the first CG Fellow at Alexandria, Virginia's Center for Naval Analyses. He has earned his share of military honors, including Coast Guard Meritorious Service, Commendation and Achievement Medals, and the Legion of Merit. Richard R. Houck was selected to RDML flag rank in 2002 as Rear Admiral (lower half).



New Chief of Prevention Invites Participation

By Bonnie J. Schiesswohl SO-PB 13-02

Captain Myles S. "Chip" Boothe (Jr.) is a consummate professional whose own focus is clearly not 'all about him.

As a past Captain of the Port (COTP) 1996-1999, and as Chief of the Marine Safety Division, Thirteenth Coast Guard District when Group Seattle was still extant, Captain Boothe is no stranger to Northwest waters. He has familiarized himself with many of the challenging issues currently before him as Chief of Prevention, under our new Thirteenth District Commander, Rear Admiral Richard R. Houck.

"I came to Seattle in 1996 as 'the field guy,'" he said. By that time he had accrued 22 years of Coast Guard experience that began with the CG Cutter Midgett as an engineer. His apparent proclivities for information, organization and performance protocol, coupled with his people-oriented personality led to his five-year stationing at Port Arthur, Texas. "I learned just about all the JO (Junior Officer) positions," he said, "I became Trainee Inspector." In 1981 he was assigned shipboard duty in Florida where he trained in counter-drug interdictions, preparing him for the next four years' service as a Marine Safety Instructor at Yorktown.

Captain Boothe says his knowledge of the Coast Guard Auxiliary was minimal to this point in his career. Like many other Coast Guardsmen, his exposure to Auxiliarists was limited; he viewed Auxiliarists mainly as assets in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. But that changed when he was re-assigned to St. Louis, Missouri to supervise the Regional Exam Center. During four years there a series of activities related to events on the Mississippi River drew his attention to the diverse human resource capabilities of Auxiliary volunteers. He was promoted to Commander in 1989 and in 1991 was sent to the Personnel Division at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC where he focused on Merchant Vessels. But it was his exposure in the Programs Division where he gained his knowledge of finances. His learning about funding for the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) programs and

other areas culminated that period of monetary revelation when in 1996 the Coast Guard became a streamlined team. There was a huge \$400 million cut and a 4,000 personnel cut. "We became leaner and meaner."

Captain Boothe came to Seattle in 1996 to take charge as Captain of the Port for three years before going East again in 1999 following his promotion to Commanding Officer of the National Maritime Center, Arlington, Virginia (until 2001.) During that tenure he was said to have given "blunt counsel" on a major issue of that time.

As Auxiliarists, it has been said at unit meetings that we need blunt counsel, too. Many of us welcome defined expectations and defined boundaries, especially in Coast Guard direct support.

Captain Boothe is amenable to Auxiliary support. He has stated that his concepts of potential Auxiliarist participation have greatly developed over the years. "We could have done a lot better in some of those situations if we had used Auxiliarists."

So, what can Auxiliarists expect in terms of participation now? Captain Boothe, being Chief of Prevention, had been unaware that 80 percent of the nation's Auxiliarists do not own boats. That there are numerous Auxiliarists offering backup and direct support in areas other than Operations was new information. "I am absolutely open to receiving a list of Auxiliary personnel," he said, and has indicated his curiosity in seeing Auxiliarist resumes that reflect specific expertise of possible use. Off the top of his head, Captain Boothe said he knows "the Thirteenth District Coast Guard can use more Fishing Vessel Examiners." (Auxiliarists are advised to contact the AUX-C in their particular regions for acquiring information on that valuable program.)

Captain Boothe's responsibilities cover the Departments of Marine Safety, Recreational Boating Safety (RBS), Auxiliary, VTS & ATONS and Homeland Security Policy.



TRAINING FOR NOW—FLOTILLA

33

By Michael S. Sealfon, FSO-MT, CM

Did you ever make a wish for something and then realize that you were not fully prepared for the consequences? This happened to Flotilla 33 when they wished to increase their membership — 50 percent over a 12-month period. This was a very good thing — the only problem was how to train all these enthusiastic new members to USCG Auxiliary standards?

The FC and VFC took the lead and developed staff training priorities for Training Year 2005. The first priority was to boat-qualify all new members. First things first; instructors had to be selected, trained and certified. Six members stepped-up and became Instructor qualified. An American Boat Council program was modified to fit into an eight-hour Saturday class, and was repeated twice for all members. Twenty members attended either of the two classes and all successfully passed their exams.

Though Flotilla 33 had no shortage of vessel facilities and coxswains, there was an acute shortage of boat crew-certified personnel, which made official boat missions difficult to accomplish. A staff decision was made to design and implement a Boat Crew School as soon as possible. The logistical, personnel, and time requirements proved to be quite challenging, but...not impossible. Flotilla members unanimously decided to have multiple Saturday classes. A suitable training site, the Tacoma Naval Reserve Training Center, was selected as an appropriate facility, and both the Naval Reserve Command Staff and the members of the Coast Guard Reserve 623 Port Security unit under the command of LT Neumann went the “extra mile” to make it all fall into place. Actual on-the-water training required extensive planning and coordination from facility owners, crew, and trainees as a total of six facilities were utilized for the afternoon and evening training event. All participants agreed that the night navigation exercise on South Puget Sound was an unforgettable experience. A few short weeks later, a bevy of QEs descended upon the Gig Harbor marina and put the remaining 15 trainees to the test. All 15 individuals successfully passed all phases of the examination and became official USCG Auxiliary Boat Crew members. Two other members had exam day conflicts and plan

on taking their practical exam at a later date. This program would not have been successful had it not been for the dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm of the Course Coordinator, Norm Nyhuis. He truly led by example, and meticulously planned each training event, whether in the classroom or on-the-water, to insure that all training objective were completed. Almost all Flotilla 33 members participated in one form or another to make the Boat Crew School Program a gratifying and rewarding experience.

Once the Boat Crew challenge was successfully handled, Flotilla 33 resources were directed to the initial training of six new USCG Auxiliary Aviation member pilots and the facilitizing of their respective aircraft. There were training missions to be scheduled and flown, and study time to prepare for the two computerized Auxiliary Aviation exams. In addition, Michael Sealfon, a Certified Flight Instructor, prepared a PowerPoint ground school program to train these individuals in Search and Rescue techniques and USCG Auxiliary Aviation regulations. Two Aircraft Commanders, John Mensonides and Michael Sealfon volunteered to undergo Instructor Pilot training which was given by the District Aviation Chief IP, George Luck. Lastly, both individuals had to receive a Gold-side check-ride such that they could fly VIP active duty Coast Guard members on missions throughout the district.

To successfully meet the security and marine environmental challenges facing Flotilla members in the Puget Sound area, the VFC, Fred Wolf volunteered to prepare and present multiple weekend workshops for ICS 100 and 200 courses. Over 20 Flotilla 33 members attended both workshops and successfully passed the computer-generated exams. District 13 now has a pool of ICS-trained individuals to use in disaster or emergency situations. Many Flotilla members subsequently participated in the Dalco Passage oil spill situation in October 2004.

Flotilla 33 has demonstrated what can be accomplished when its members are inspired by enthusiastic leadership, provided the necessary training tools, and are given a clear picture of current and future USCG missions in their district. A special note of gratitude to CWO Paul Bellona, USCG, who provided special assistance in obtaining critical training supplies.

See photos on following page



Survival Suit Training



Docking Techniques



Tom Abbott -- Coxswain



Examination Day -- On the water



"Professor" Norm Nyhus teaching Marine Navigation



Air Crew after successful mission

D13 Change of Command



Admirals Garrett and Collins

By Bonnie J. Schiesswohl SO-PB 13-02

Consummating a trilogy of significant command changes in the Thirteenth District this past summer, Rear Admiral Jeffrey M. Garrett concluded his stellar U.S. Coast Guard career as the 33rd Commander of the Thirteenth District.

The Admiral’s elegant Retirement Ceremony, held in a huge tent outside Building 1, began with a procession led by his replacement, Commander of the Thirteenth Coast Guard District, Rear Admiral Richard R. Houck. RADM Garrett and Vice Admiral Harvey E. Johnson Jr., Commander of the USCG Pacific Area followed RDML Houck. As a light rain fell, an honorary 19-gun salute was fired as the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Thomas H. Collins, proceeded down the asphalt isle to the platform. Semaphore flags, fluttering softly across the back of the platform, spelled out “Garrett”— further display of the value the Coast Guard places on protocol, tradition and recognition. Two Navy chaplains in crisp service dress whites like the flag officers, sat like bookends at either end of the platform.

Admiral Garrett left a thirty-one-year legacy of applied integrity and intelligence, and depicted by Admiral Collins and Chaplain Swanson as being “grounded in common sense,” and optimistic; a “respector and builder of partnerships” with a “huge long list of significant accomplishments.”

As the Retirement Ceremony neared a close, an honorary gun salute again sounded. This time the canon boomed 13 reports for his Admiral Garrett’s Two-Star Flag Officer status. Other recognitions included reading a Letter of Appreciation from President George W.

Bush. Moreover, guests seemed pleased when Admiral Garrett’s family was called forward to receive praise — Sally Diane (Moore) Garrett for being a “stalwart partner” and his “great trooper” children, Krista and Carl, for enduring the many absences of their father.

The retiring Admiral’s career had begun aboard the 399-foot icebreaker, USCGC *Polar Star* (WAGB-10), shortly after graduation from the CG Academy. During his long career, he made multiple deployments to the Arctic, Antarctic and other polar regions and some short stints on the Great Lakes. After a later commission to command the 399-foot USCGC *Polar Sea* (WAGB-11), he made three more polar deployments to the Western Arctic and Antarctica. The ‘afloat’ portion of his career culminated as the first Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard’s largest and newest cutter, (WAGB-20) USCGC *Healy*. He brought the 420-foot icebreaker to its Seattle homeport in early 2000.

The Change of Command was a grand event that July morning at Sector Seattle, but we can only guess that it was grander still for the family of Jeffrey A. Garrett, Rear Admiral, USCG, Retired.



Admiral T.H. Collins reminds, “Take care of our people.”



COC ushers Wendell Brunk and Jack Grubb

Reception was held aboard USCGC *Polar Sea*



Fall District Meeting Seattle

By Charles Lindenberg

The Radisson Hotel, near the north end of Seattle Tacoma Airport, was the site of the fall district meeting of the 13th Coast Guard District. The hotel offered a swimming pool, hot tub and a very good restaurant as well as courteous service.

Friday, 16 September, was the “schmoozing” night. After checking in, and still wearing civies, members visited, then enjoyed “Fun Night” accompanied by a western-style singer. Some awards were presented along with many photo ops.

Early the next morning, after a good breakfast, the formal meeting began with the presentation of colors, the pledge and the reading of those who had crossed the bar, accompanied by the striking of eight bells, signifying the end of their watch.



DCO Fred Bell’s daughter, Sharon Armstrong, sang the National Anthem followed by the Navy Hymn. It’s always a pleasure to hear her sing.

Elections followed. RCO-N John Thoma stepped down and Ted Schiesswohl was elected to take his place. Replacing RCO-S Bob Mell, who had also stepped down, was Frank Ramer. RCO-E Dennis Hoppman stayed aboard as did VCO Bruce Miller and DCO Fred Bell. Congratulations to our new RCO’s Elect.

Following lunch the breakout sessions began and lasted well into the afternoon. There was something for everyone. And of course, the district store was open for business — folks coming and going, hauling home new treasures. Our district store helps support us; we should support it as well.

Following a scrumptious banquet Admiral Houck addressed the assembled members. The admiral has a

knack of combining seriousness with humor and generalities with details. He replaces Admiral Garrett who recently retired.

DCO Bell opened his suite for additional visiting Saturday evening and it was well attended.

Sunday morning’s offering was a communications workshop, also well attended.

The next district meeting’s information is on the next page of this *Buoy 13*. Help make Jo Ann’s job a little easier and get your registration form in to her before the deadline.

Finally, a Bravo Zulu to all those who worked hard to make this function informative, inspirational and fun.



Kelly Loves Growth! New members are welcomed.



Kevin A. Flynn
Lucy Jones
Donald A. Ramberg
Donald J. Steen
Ronald Verschuyt
Kevin Wessel



Awards presented at September District Conference

Photos by Scott Dittberner, provided by Debbie Engel

Top Row: Daren Lewis, Best of Web Award: Jo Ann Grubb, Meritorious Service Medal. Second Row: Bob Mell, Aux Commendation Award: Ken Anderson, Meritorious Service Medal. Bottom Row: Bonnie Schiesswohl, D13 Golden Quill Award: Debbie Engel, Meritorious Service Medal

**DISTRICT TRAINING
CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 17, 18,
19, 2006**

Jo Ann Grubb, DSO-AA

Division 7 will host the winter District 13 Training Conference. The dates are 17, 18, 19 February. Come join in the fellowship and training. Come dressed in your best Gypsy clothing for Friday Fun Night. The theme will be "Gypsies".

The Conference will be held at the Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE Ninety-Third Avenue, Clackamas, Oregon.

The hotel is located just off I-205. The Clackamas Town Center, a large shopping center is located just across the street. The Hotel provides free shuttle service to and from the mall as well as Portland International Airport. The Hotel is offering the same room rate for us for three days before and three days after the Conference, depending on availability. Besides the in house restaurant there are several restaurants within walking distance. There is also another strip mall within walking distance.

Rooms are \$67.00 single, \$77.00 double occupancy, plus tax. Hotel reservations must be made by 16 January 2006. Calling 1-800-492-8700 for reservations. This is a direct line to the hotel. Check in time is 1500. This is a no pet hotel. There is free wireless hook up and DSL. You must have your Auxiliary ID with you when you register at the hotel or you will not receive the \$67.00/\$77.00 room rate.

Jo Ann Grubb MUST receive your registration and meal choices NO LATER THAN 11 FEBRUARY. Tickets must be paid for by check when mailing your registration. No tickets will be given out at the registration desk unless paid for in full at the time of pick up. This means if you sent your registration late and Jo Ann has not received it, you will have to pay for the registration and meals before you will receive tickets. If your check is in my mailbox when I return from the meeting, it will be returned. All registrations received after 11 February are subject to a \$2.00 late fee. E-mail registrations will be accepted through 11 February.

Please, if you are unable to attend any of the meals after you have purchased tickets, let me know. After the meal count is given to the hotel it cannot be changed or refunded. Possibly, cancelled tickets can be sold and you will receive a refund.

If you choose to fly into Portland International Airport the hotel offers you free shuttle service. They ask that you pick up your luggage first and then call the toll free 1-800-492-8700 for a shuttle van.

There is an agenda and registration form in this edition of Buoy 13. Please note the deadline for hotel reservations, 16 January. Jo Ann Grubb, D-AA, must receive all registrations no later than 11 February.

Any one giving a presentation at the meeting must either bring your own audio/video equipment or let Jo Ann know no later than 8 February, what equipment you need. The hotel does not have this equipment on site so it has to be rented and is too costly.

The hotel will have a Breakfast Buffet Saturday morning. It will open at 0600. This will give everyone ample time to have a leisurely breakfast and be at the meeting on time.

As I write this article it is the month of "Happy Halloween." By the time we gather for our next conference, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be behind us. "Happy Holidays to you and your family. I am looking forward to seeing you at Clackamas in February.

Come join the training and fellowship. DCO Fred Bell, VCO Bruce Miller and some DSOs will have just returned from N-Train.

Driving directions to the Monarch Hotel:

1. Traveling North on Hwy I-205: Take Sunnyside Road Exit #14. Turn left onto Sunnyside Road at the top of the off-ramp. Merge into the far left lane. Go to the second stop light and turn left. This is 93rd Avenue, stay in the left lane this will lead you to the entrance of the Monarch Hotel parking lot.

2. Traveling South on Hwy I-205: Take the Sunnyside Road Exit #14. Turn right onto Sunnyside Road at the top of the off-ramp, merging into the far left lane. Turn left at the first stoplight. This is 93rd Avenue, stay in the left lane. Turn left into the entrance of the Monarch parking lot.



I am enclosing my check for \$_____made payable to "13th Coast Guard Auxiliary". Mail to:Jo Ann Grubb, D-AA, 327 Logger Ct. SE, Olympia, WA 98503. Questions? Please call 360-438-6848 or e-mail joann2427@comcast.net

Registration Fee: (Anyone attending: Members, spouses, guests) \$5.00 per person x _____ = _____

Late registrations subject to a late fee of \$2.00

"Fun Night"

Pork Medallions \$22.50 x _____ = _____

Sautéed Medallions of Pork with an Apple Glace.

Served with garlic mashed potatoes

Seafood & Pasta Sauté \$22.50 x _____ = _____

Prawns, Salmon, Halibut Scallops and Bay Shrimp

With Penne Pasta and Alfredo Sauce

"Saturday Luncheon"

Monarch Clubhouse Sandwich \$13.00 x _____ = _____

Roasted Turkey, Smoked Ham, Crisp Bacon With Swiss Cheese on Sour Dough Bread and Potato Salad

Includes Dessert and Drink

"Saturday Banquet"

London Broil \$22.00 x _____ = _____

Topped with Hunter Sauce, served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Butter, Served with Rice Pilaf \$23.75 x _____ = _____

"Past Captains Breakfast"

Eggs Benedict \$11.00 x _____ = _____

Two Eggs Served on an English Muffin with Canadian Bacon, Sauce and Fried Potatoes Includes Orange Juice, Coffee and Tea

TOTAL _____

All dinners include Salad, Fresh Seasonal Vegetable, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee and Tea. If you have special dietary needs please indicate below:

Reservations and meal choices, with payment must be received by February 11, 2006. Please send your registration early. NOTE: There will be very limited tickets for sale at the meeting.

Name _____ Flotilla # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # (____) _____ Email _____

Make hotel reservation with: Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE Ninety-Third Avenue, Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Phone: Toll Free 1-800-492-8700. This is a direct line to the hotel. Our Group Name is "Coast Guard Auxiliary District Thirteen". Be sure you mention this when making reservations. Room rates are \$67.00 Single; \$77.00 Double Occupancy. Hotel reservation deadline: January 16, 2006 After that date rooms may not be available or rates may change.



U. S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

DSO-PB 13th District
59 Tarte Road
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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