

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary



District 13

Washington • Oregon • Idaho •
Montana

Volume XXVII - 2

Summer 2005



2004 Auxilarist of the Year

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DCO Fred Bell

VCP Division 6 Dean Wimer -- D13 2004 Auxiliarist of the Year

CAPT Mark Ashley

CAPT Barry Smith - CHDIRAUX (G-OCX)

LCDR Kelly Boodell - DIRAUX.

Buoy 13

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U.S. Coast Guard

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Charles W. Lindenberg, DSO-PB-13
 59 Tarte Road
 Friday Harbor, WA 98250
 cwlinenberg@interisland.net
 360-378-6855

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Fred Bell
DISTRICT 13
COMMODORE

It's summer, where has the time gone? It is often said that time flies when you are having fun, I must be having a ball.

I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you, having made the circuit of Area Conferences. I am amazed at your efforts and the achievements that you continue to put forward. You have redefined the word "Volunteer." Thanks to your activities, recruiting is on the rise, public affairs activity is smoking and I am pleased with the number of award nominations that are coming forth. Thank you. As a follow-up to recruiting, I am looking for a recruiting plan targeted toward the 17 to 25 age bracket. Do you have any ideas?

The Fall District Conference is on the horizon. A key activity at that function will be the election of three Rear Commodores. Then you will have the opportunity to follow up with the elections for your Division Captain, Vice Division Captain, Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander. Choose your leaders wisely. Remember, "The success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will depend upon the extent of your participation and upon the quality of the Auxiliary leaders that you, the member, select."

To those seeking an elected office, you must realize that there will be demands on you in terms of time, travel and dedication. You are expected to maintain high standards in all Auxiliary activities and not compromise honesty or integrity. This is a big step. You

are to be a role model. Others will look to you for direction. In order to assure success you are expected to be in lock step with Auxiliary programs and set the example as a team player. Since you will be in a position of greater responsibility, you must be prepared and willing to accept certain obligations, including the promotion of authorized Auxiliary activities.

One of our major emphasis programs has been education. We have been encouraging your District Staff members to seek out opportunities to meet with you and exchange information and solicit ideas. As you come up with new programs, share the knowledge so that we can all advance. There is no quota on new ideas. In spite of a few bumps in the road, I have noticed an increased willingness toward cooperation. It is becoming increasingly necessary to look beyond our local unit when seeking resources for assignments. As much as we attempt to develop in-house talent, not all flotillas or divisions are fortunate enough to accomplish this. We are one Auxiliary, share the skills.

As you continue your mission, the seas may get a bit rough. You will have a much smoother voyage if you used your energies to adjust your sails rather than attempting to change the wind.



Wanted: A few good lawyers!
By: J. Bradley Meagher, DSO-LP

Due to job change and subsequent relocation, I will be unable to continue as DSO-LP after my appointment expires this coming December. The District will need a new DSO-LP. To all the lawyers out there, please consider applying for the job. The time commitment is minimal, mainly due to the fact we have the best DIRAUX in the nation. Besides, it's fun!

The AUXMAN requires the DSO-LP to be a licensed attorney. A few hours of training (with me) will be required. We can schedule a training session for the fall district meeting. Please let DCO Fred Bell or me know by the end of the summer. Interested applicants can call me at 360-740-7787.





VCO
Dennis Miller

Summer 2005 - VCO Thoughts

This time's article is just a collection of thoughts, needs, requests, and kudo's.

Help Wanted:

We are seeking candidates for the staff positions of DSO-FN and DSO-LP.

The qualifications for the DSO-FN position requires a strong accounting background with experience in managing multiple funds, preparing a budget, monitoring progress against that budget, and advising the District Bridge on financial matters. Our current DSO-FN, Chuck Krona, has served in this position many years and has asked for relief at the end of this year. We would like to find someone to begin working with Chuck as soon as possible so we will have an orderly transition. Please send your resume or questions regarding this position to vco@d13cgaux.org.

A similar situation exists with our District Legal Officer. Brad Meagher has asked for relief at the end of this year. The ideal candidate for this position is a licensed attorney with a few extra hours a month to help advise the District Bridge, review contracts for events and meeting space, and work with the National Staff on interpretations of AUX Policy. If interested, please contact COMO Fred Bell or Brad at 360-740-7787. We would like to have someone begin working with Brad as soon as possible.

Feedback Needed:

At the beginning of the year, the District staff was requested to aggressively work with the Division and Flotilla Staff officers to provide the support needed for our Flotillas. I'm requesting feedback from you, the member (who might also be a staff officer at some level). How is the District staff doing? Are you getting the information you need in support of our Auxiliary programs? Please contact me at vco@d13cgaux.org and let me know what we are doing right, wrong, or just so-so.

Kudos:

A key to our success in fulfilling our missions is how well we build relationships with the people we serve. A classic example of how this can work to our benefit is the support from Division 8 to Kootenai County, ID during the recent Amber Alert. The participation of the local Auxiliary members did not happen by accident. It was the result of a long-range effort to build a working partnership based on understanding the needs of the local community and matching up Auxiliary resources to meet those needs. You can do the same thing in your community. Get to know the people in the Marine Patrol, Parks Department, Fish/Wildlife programs. Attend public meetings they have, invite them to your Flotilla meeting. Find out what they need to do their job better and work with them to help. They will appreciate it and it will benefit your Flotilla by getting variety into your programs, and new contacts that can translate into new members.

I hope everyone is enjoying a safe summer. We are looking forward to our September meeting and an opportunity to meet the new 13th District Commander. Watch your email and mailboxes for more information.





**RCO-N
John Thoma**

The Great Northern Area Training Session 03/04/05 June

The Northern Area held its annual training session known as GNATS on the weekend of 3/4/5 June at Fort Worden, Port Townsend WA. This was a repeat performance at Port Townsend, as it was again selected to host the conference. A BBQ was held on Friday night that was enjoyed by all!

The Saturday session was opened by the presentation of the colors by a local group of Sea Scouts, and after a few words from the Rear Commodore the first session was kicked off by Bonnie Harding who brought the attendees up to date on the just-passed Mandatory Boater Education law. It was noted that the Northern Area has the greatest number of registered boats in District 13, and would require quite a training plan to get all of these boaters through the required classes.

Next on the agenda was Frank Ramer (DSO-Ops) who reviewed the requirements for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for operations. Frank walked everyone through the maze of charts to show what levels of PPE are required under each circumstance encountered on the water.

After a short break, our DCO, Fred Bell and the VCO, Bruce Miller, reviewed the need for a District Business Plan. At the National level the NACO developed a business plan for Auxiliary and tasked each DCO to do the same for their areas and to cascade it down so that each member of the auxiliary would see it. The reason for the business plan is simple, you need to have a plan to work to instead of acting like a vessel that has lost its

rudder, and to have all the districts working to the same plan. Fred also spoke about the need to get our story out to the public.

Debbie (DSO-PA) and Joe Engel spoke on Public Affairs and strongly presented the case for all Flotilla Commanders to make sure they appoint a good and energetic FSO-PA. They also showed some great strategies for public affairs officers.

Mary Ann Chapman (DSO-MDA) showed a presentation that updated the attendees on the new Trident PQS's, the transition to Sector Seattle, and updates to the Direct Support Program. We also introduced Lou Herrick as the new DSO-MS replacing Tom Liebert, who is going sailing for a while.

After a break for lunch there was a choice of activities, a scavenger hunt hosted by John Warner, a QE session led by Garrison Bromwell and an overview class on ICS 100/200 and IS 700/800 hosted by Dr. Fred Wolf from Flotilla 33.

The ICS 100/200 level training session was a great hit! In fact, most of the conference attendees did stay inside for this session. Dr. Wolf has great experience in the use of the Incident Command System as was quite evident from his presentation. When he completed the ICS 100/200 training he went into IS 700/800 (Introduction to NIIMS, and Introduction to the National Response Plan), this proved so popular that when the room was needed to be cleared to allow the staff to set up for the evening dinner, the class reconvened in the lobby to make sure it was finished!

Our two dinner speakers were Lt. Sam Teague from Sector Seattle, and BMCS Cliff Hohl, the OIC from Station Bellingham. Lt. Teague spoke about the incorporation of VTS, MSO Puget Sound, ANT Puget Sound and Station Seattle into the entity we now know as "Sector Seattle." After all is said and done with the incorporation into sector there is very little that changes for each of the many members of the Auxiliary that serve there, but for the active duty side there is a combining of departments that will drive some unique training opportunities.

Senior Chief Hohl, who is very informative as well as entertaining, showed a great photo presentation on the activities of Station Bellingham and how the station works with other federal agencies within the area. He also spoke about the SEA ARK program and how it is utilized at the station.

The Northern Area conference was attended by just over one hundred people. We had a good time and I believe we each walked away with some good training! I am looking forward to next year's conference!





**RCO-S
Bob Mell**

We in the Southern Area have just completed a very successful Area Conference at Driftwood Shores in Florence, Oregon. Thanks very much to all the people who attended and to those who made it happen. Friday morning Nicki Milliken, our new DSO-MA and husband Michael (Sailor), with some help from Joan Gallup and me, set up the District Store and it was a big success. Thirty people attended the Leadership for Elected and Appointed Officers seminar that Jack Feather, DSO-VE and AUXOP Coordinator put on Friday afternoon. Friday evening forty-six people stuffed themselves on a fabulous seafood buffet followed by a shopping spree in the District Store, which Nicki opened up after dinner. Saturday morning, Peter Kirschner, DSO-IS presented a brand new update on Auxdata/AuxInfo.

After lunch, Frank Ramer, DSO-OP and our OTO, CWO-4 Paul Bellona, put on a super "PPE and How To Use It" presentation, followed by a PA/PS program by DSO-PA Debbie Engel and Joe Engel, Awards Writing Team Chairman. Everything was so well done and aimed at recruitment, retention and development of membership. A form of these presentations could easily be used for flotilla and division training and would definitely contribute to a stronger, more active and growing unit. We are just not doing a good enough job of developing leaders to follow us as we move on. We must work at building membership that is comfortable with unit management and staff officer duties. If you are a flotilla or division staff officer, start now with training your back-up. If you are a FC or VFC, start working on your successor now. When

we lose a flotilla or detachment, it is always due to a lack of leadership. No one wants to accept responsibility and that is generally due to a lack of training and understanding of the job(s), so let's start now to build a trained leadership succession. We have lost too many units in the last few years. A very bright star is that we seem to be doing very well in recruiting new members. Just remember to keep them busy while waiting for their applications to clear.

Once more—thanks to all who made our SAC such a success and come join us for some great seafood and training 16-18 June, 2006.



Southern Area Conference by Debbie Engel, DSO-PA

If you missed the Southern Area Conference this year in Florence over the Memorial Day weekend, you missed a lot of fun and fellowship.

On Friday the weather in Portland, OR was in the 90's so a ride to the coast in an air-conditioned car was welcomed. We were glad to escape the heat in the Willamette Valley.

At the Driftwood Shores Hotel, all of the rooms have an ocean view, and the view was spectacular this weekend. Friday was beautiful, Saturday it rained in the afternoon but we were in trainings anyway, and Sunday was sunny and beautiful as well.

Friday afternoon Jack Feather held one of his famous Elected and Appointed Officer Training. From the comments, it was another good presentation.

Friday night after some words from our DCO and VCO and RCO, we finally got to dig into Driftwood Shore's fabulous seafood buffet. The room was buzzing with conversation and laughter. In fact I wonder if anyone knows about the problem Bob Mell kept having with the microphone.

Saturday morning started with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation by Div 7 Capt Ken Anderson. We also paid a 2-minute tribute to Kevin Wessel, an Auxiliarist killed in Iraq while with the Army.

Then Peter Kirschner DSO-IS thoroughly detailed the reports we can pull out of AuxData, and how valuable the information can be to all of us. This was valuable as we always need current information on missions performed by Auxiliary members.

Next, Frank Ramer – Div 5 Capt and CW0-4 Paul Bellona put on a great presentation of "Personal Protection Equipment – What and When to Wear It" and there were Aux members receiving SAR vests from Paul during the breaks. Paul also explained to us how



RCO-E Dennis Hoppman

Summer greetings to you all. Kind of hard to think about the days getting shorter already, but it's here and we still have a lot to do. Not to mention all that has taken place.

So far we have had a busy and productive year with a lot of travel to meet with leadership and active members across the Eastern area.

The Meeting at Kalispell, Montana was a great success and attended by nearly 50% of Division 10, DCP 10 Bob Berge knows how to organize and conduct a great meeting.

Past RCO-E Katy Zundel graciously offered her home for the meeting space and was a gracious hostess. We were treated with great accommodations; great food and we have a healthy respect for the Montana contingent in dealing with the mileage issues.

VCO Miller, Stan Walthall and myself were there to lend support and listen and enjoy all the presented information. A meeting well done.

Just a few short days later and on to Sandpoint, Idaho for the Division 8 summer meeting and the infamous Rogatta.

FC Ted Lane, PDCP 8 Rich Crettol, VFC Al Kremer and DCP 8 JoAnn Hall carried out a generous helping of hospitality and training.

DCO Fred Bell had the opportunity to first hand experience the Tradition of Super Eight and its members.

The afternoon "Rogatta" was kicked off and seven 3-person teams were on their way to history, having to compete for coveted trophies made in Rich Crettol's workshop. The testing was strict, the pace was fast and furious, the weather perfect, did I mention fast and furious? P2 pump, cardinal points of the compass, navigational skills, first aid, knot tying and great camaraderie were the order of the day.

Who won? We all did. Jim Grimes, I took your advice and did a refresher on navigation. When Jim saw me

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fumbling with the lack of skills in navigation, he suggested, "don't go in the woods alone."

All in all the Division 8 meeting was a great success.

The Eastern Area Conference was of great concern to me, I worried and I fretted over it up until the last minute and when it was over, I wondered what I was concerned about.

The meeting, the training and the fellowship were about all you could ask for. The hotel accommodations, the use of the ANT station and the cooperation of the weather made for a perfect weekend.

We had our EXCOM meeting Friday and concluded a great deal of business, then went on to a Beach BBQ that was very well attended and enjoyed by most. (Some folks don't like ribs).

Saturday was a busy day with great presentations. Lou Herrick, our new DSO-MS discussed the Marine Safety and Environmental Protection program in District 13. He also discussed how we could involve inland members in areas other than direct support at the MSOs. He mentioned the newly approved PQSs, and talked about the DAPI program.

Pam Meacham from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) training, emphasizing on identification and action that we can take with the knowledge and tools we need to include in our PE and VSC programs.

The final speaker, Stan Walthall presented information about the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Plan (NRP) and the importance of getting us all ICS trained. Hopefully motivating people to take ICS courses.

The annual currency training for PWC was conducted by Paul Bellona, Ron Fritz and assisted by Mary Bellona, their son and new member Shawn. Rich Rolland provided his boat to help and also to carry folks to the locks on Sunday.

The trip to the locks was a great adventure and I thank Rich Rolland and the USCG ANT station for providing crew and facilities to take members through the locks.

I thank JoAnn Hall, Dan Thomas, Stan Walthall and Leroy Gamble for all their help in making this a successful meeting. Team Coast Guard working well.

Once again I want to thank all of the Eastern area for your contributions, your attendance and your great support to the USCG, your local area and your country.

Be sure to read the articles in this issue concerning the Amber alert and the support provided by the members of Div 8 flotilla 84, also the great article about Dean Culwell Division 10.

Continue to be the best and have a great summer season.





**DIRECTOR OF
AUXILIARY
LCDR Kelly A. Boodell**

TEAM WORK ... "TEAM COAST GUARD"

Everyone reading this article has heard the expression "Team Coast Guard." There are probably many of you who are not quite sure what that means. As members of the Auxiliary, each and every one of you is part of a team, or rather many smaller sub-teams that strive towards common goals. Have you ever considered what your role on that team really means? I recently came across an unauthored article whose major points I have incorporated below; they are appropriate and applicable to every person who comprises a team ... TEAM COAST GUARD!

We are social beings; we need to interact with people. Almost every individual has experienced working in a group or on a team at some point during their life. In order for the Team or Group to reach their goals, everyone must work as a group and not as individuals independently working for their own advantage.

How can a person work as part of a TEAM? It's actually easy; just remember the word TEAMWORK as a guideline. Remember these concepts should work together — hand in hand from the conception of the team to the achievement of its final goal. The better these concepts are integrated into the ethos of the team, and practiced, the more successful the team will be!

T is for Talent

Talent is a person's knowledge and capabilities. It is necessary for a member of a team to be knowledgeable about the work that their team is going to perform. This knowledge

can explicitly be learned from mentors, manuals, other members of the organization, and life's experiences.

E is for Enthusiasm

Talent alone is not enough. A knowledgeable team member must also be enthusiastic. He must seek responsibility; he must find ways to make the talents he has useful. He must always have the energy and the drive to work. Eventually, this enthusiasm will naturally come out of him and he will realize that by his example he has become so inspiring and motivating, that his teammates will be motivated to work — without having to ask for it.

A is for Accountability

Every member is accountable not only to their team but to all of their other team-mates. We are not only responsible for ourselves, but for the team. It is everyone's responsibility to keep others informed. Whenever someone fails to communicate effectively, or fails to do what they have agreed to, it is the Team's responsibility to keep them reminded. Accountability means following through on your commitments.

M is for Management

Every member must know his specialization relative to what his other teammates can do. When we agree to participate as a member of a team it is important to know where to go for help, and when we need help, to ask for it. Ultimately, it is every group member's responsibility to ensure that everyone has work to do and that the most appropriate person to perform a task has been assigned. That person must possess the right skills, commitment, and enthusiasm for that particular task.

W is for Work-able

When a person has all the talents and the enthusiasm in the world and yet lacks the time to commit to a project, their participation as a member of the team can be disastrous. Availability of every member is necessary if the team is going to function as a team. This work-ability is not just about free time, it is about being available to perform what the other members of the team are expecting from that member. Every member must be able to expect different possibilities and must be flexible in order to appropriately respond to them when they arise.

O is for Openness

Understanding among team members is a necessity in every team for every member to be able to work utilizing the best of her abilities. Everyone must be open to new ideas and suggestions. Everyone must have the capability to understand people. When differences of opinions are not taken personally, but discussed professionally, it is that communication which allows the team to more effectively reach its goal.

R is for Respect

Every team member must be able to practice respect so that they can expect to be respected in return. A team should

LCDR Boodell -- Continued from page 9

be able to discuss freely and openly. Every member should be able to verbalize their opinion on whatever matter is being discussed without feeling degraded or degrading another teammate's suggestion regardless of its lack of merit. Being a team member requires that each member demonstrates their respect of their other team members by listening and if necessary, humbly objecting to that opinion. Whenever a team is brainstorming, everyone must be able to articulate their opinion without fear of ramifications later.

K is for Keeness

Keeness is the final key in working as a part of a team. It is more than enthusiasm. Enthusiasm comes before doing the actual work. This keenness – this intensity, is manifested while going through the work itself. It is what pushes us to move on and keep on working until we are finally done. It is what keeps us on track and allows us to push through discouraging setbacks. Keeness is that focus which is never lost.

You may define the team that you belong to because it is a physical entity, such as your flotilla, your division, your district, your group, station, sector, or your group may be defined because it is formed by subject matter, such as QE's or recruiting, public education, public affairs or member training. The point is the majority of you are here for similar reasons. It is because you believe. You believe in the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary, your team mates and your country. Be safe out there as you teach our fellow Americans about recreational boating safety, about being vigilant on our waters and the many other important objectives that we share. SEMPER PARATUS! You are each, as individuals and as group the most fantastic, dedicated, motivated of people I have ever had the honor of serving with.



Auxiliarist Memorialized at Alki Point Lighthouse

by Bonnie J. Schiesswohl SO-PB 130-02-02

They came to benchmark the accomplishments of a remarkable Auxiliarist. In an unprecedented northwestern demonstration of respect and gratitude, the late Elizabeth J. "Betty" Hamilton (1921-2004) was posthumously honored at an intimate gathering of family and old Auxiliary acquaintances in West Seattle, Washington. On the sunny afternoon of May 1, 2005 a widely diversified collective of active duty Coast Guard, Auxiliarists, and family members gathered on the lawn which fronts the 'keeper's office' of the Alki Point Lighthouse. Among the many distinguished Coast Guard and Auxiliary guests were former Director of the Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Captain Ted Nutting, USCG (retired); current DIRAUX Kelley A. Boodell, LCDR, USCG;

former National Commodore (NACO) Viggo Bertelsen Jr.; former District 13 Commodore William L. "Bill" Houger and current District 13 Commodore Fred D. Bell.

In a pleasant reminiscence session front led by Commodore Bill Houger (PDCO 13), COMO Houger cited the weighty contributions Betty Hamilton had made during her three decades as a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA). He said she was "one of the most active Auxiliarists of all time" and called her "a devoted lady with fantastic talents and of clear vision."

Hamilton, whose skills and strategies were undeniably appreciable, and probably unmatched, wore numerous hats of responsibility on a continuous basis. She was tough and true tempered, forged by life's fiery experiences into a driving force so far above the common mill of humanity that we can scarcely comprehend her steady vigor. (Betty Hamilton had known the hellish ravages of war. As a newly graduated Navy nurse, she was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands when the sneak attack on American Forces took place 7 December 1941. Not yet 21, she had nursed wounded military personnel in gut-wrenching circumstances and the unspeakable memories of those days remained privately undisclosed to most, if not all, inquirers.)

Hamilton joined the Auxiliary in August of 1971 and was soon actively engaged with her husband in boater safety missions. It was not long before she, together with her husband John, responded to a literal call to "come over and help us." Together they assisted in the establishment of three flotillas in the Greater Seattle and Islands areas and held countless boating classes, all the while doing regular weekend patrols in their 26-foot Chris Craft. Hamilton once said that making their perpetual round trips across the waters of Puget Sound to Vashon Island to Flotilla 38 was exhausting. This, she recalled, was because she was still working as a registered nurse and all the while was still raising their family. She did not work tirelessly. She worked beyond tired.

Then came the trips to Lake Forest Park Flotilla 37 where she and her husband John became active members. Then they moved to Flotilla 39 because it needed strengthening. And so it went over the years. In 1976 she and husband John founded Flotilla 25. By her own past account, supportable by DIRAUX records, Betty Hamilton made several more flotilla transfers in her latter years and overall earned thousands of service hours fulfilling Coast Guard missions.

Hamilton was four times elected a Captain in Divisions Two and Three and was elected Flotilla Commander



Continued on page 12

Southern Area Conference -- Continued from page 7

not to engage hecklers when we are in parades or public events. Ignore them and let the authorities handle these problems.

Debbie Engel – DSO-PA and Joe Engel – Dist Awards had the stage for 2-½ hours to thoroughly engage the Aux attendees with “Tell the Auxiliary Story” and “Public Affairs in Local Units – A Unit Leader’s Perspective”. Now that we have the Public Affair tools, let’s spread the word about how great it is to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary! We extend a big Thank You to Dean Wimer, Doug Balkema and Paul Bellona for playing along with us.

Then we were on to dinner and of course, the raffle. There were many wonderful prizes. You might ask Fred how many million candlepower he has now!

Saturday night, the hospitality suite was hopping and I know Joe and I did not get to bed until Midnight. We exchanged many good ideas and the conversation was lively and loud. We also had the pleasure of hearing Oregon State Marine Board’s Cole Hughes give us an update on OSMB’s latest plans. It just happened to be Cole’s birthday so we sang Happy Birthday as well.

Sunday morning Division 5, 6 and 7 Captains gave their reports and answered questions. It was a fairly brief session as everyone wanted to enjoy the beautiful weather or head home.

All in all, it was a good weekend and an excellent reminder that we continually work to improve our organization and ourselves.

It was announced that Group Astoria had awarded a Team Commendation to those Auxiliary members involved in 2004 Buoy 10 Program. Members from Flotilla 22, 48, 62, 64, 66, 68, 69, 73 and 81 were involved. 10,000 safety packets were handed out, 490 Vessel Safety Checks were performed and 190 Safety Boardings were performed.

Bravo Zulu to all those Auxiliary members involved!

However, we did miss you, Kelly!



Division 8 Answers the Calls
By Bob Kesson - ADSO-CM (Eastern)

“Kootenai County Sheriff’s Department Groene Amber Alert Call Center, may I help you.” That’s what you will hear if you call the Groene Amber Alert Hot Line.

At 1000 hrs, Tuesday 17 May 2005, the Director of the Office Emergency Management was requested to activate the Kootenai County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the purpose of establishing the Hot Line call bank and supporting the field investigative operations. The EOC is organized to function utilizing



Flotilla 84 members from left to right: Jay Walden, Myrna Walden, Kathy Goodwin, Irene Connor taking calls. Bob Kesson, ICS Logistics Section Chief standing behind

the Incident Command System (ICS) and was modified, in this case, because of special circumstances. Unified Command was established and Operations and Logistics Sections were established with Logistics including Planning and Finance functions.

A bank of 10 phone lines were set up as two Groups within a Branch with the capability of expanding to more as needed.

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is one of several organizations that are staffing the Hot Lines. Members of Flotilla 81, 82, 84 and 87 are all manning the Call Center at the Kootenai County Sheriff’s office in connection with the Groene Amber Alert for the two missing children, nine-year-old Dylan and eight-year-old Shasta Groene after a brutal triple homicide.

The following Auxiliary members have been working or are scheduled to work in the Call Center with more volunteering every day: From Flotilla 84, Tom Osborn, Vern Decker, Marilyn Anders, Jay Anders, Tom Conner, Jan Tucker, and Bonnie Kesson; from Flotilla 82, Joann Hall, Shirley Swingley; from Flotilla 81, Dennis Hoppman, RCO-E and Gloria Hellard; from Flotilla 87, Al Kremer and Ramona Bailey.

The Auxiliarists’ shifts were from 1900 to 2400 Monday night, 0700 to 1200 Tuesday morning, and 1800 to 2400 Tuesday night. They worked out of the Emergency Operations Center located in the basement at the Kootenai Sheriff’s office. Their job is to answer phone calls, record them on a form and pass along to a data specialist for input into a database that is then passed along to the FBI for review and follow up.

Continued from page10

numerous times. As an AUXOP qualified member, she not only taught the AUXOP specialty courses but also provided proctor services. But her great strength of character was perhaps best demonstrated when gales of change struck the heartland of the Thirteenth District during the 1980's. At that time an assortment of USCGA policy infractions had brought about the restructuring of Division Three. Some units were renumbered and placed into Division Two. The stalwart ex-Navy nurse 'stayed the course' at a time when some local units experienced the loss of more than half of their members.

About four dozen Coast Guard associates and family members were in attendance at the Alki Lighthouse memorial ceremony for Betty Hamilton. Some of her family had traveled from as far as Pennsylvania. Those who chose to offer comment embraced the past with poignant memories or candid recollections, but she was not placed on a pedestal; commentary tended toward realistic expressions of appreciation for her remarkable record of services rendered to the Auxiliary and to the boating public. The freshest memories regarded her final decade of volunteer service when as a 73-year-old widow, by Coast Guard appointment, she became the Project Manager of Alki Lighthouse.

It seems that Hamilton was serving the third of her four Division Captain terms when Thirteenth District Coast Guard authorities approached her with their dilemma. They wanted to provide public touring access to the Alki Point Lighthouse. Alki Light had been fully automated in 1984 and the final resident keeper had retired. The Coast Guard could not spare personnel to cover this desired public affairs mission. By lifelong habit, Betty Hamilton stepped to the plate and said, "I'll do it." In seemingly natural order, she became liaison with the Coast Guard and from 1993 to 2003 and the little building that was once the keeper's office became her 'command post' as Alki Lighthouse Project Officer.

For ten years Hamilton relentlessly recruited tour guides from among the sometimes reluctant flotilla members so as to provide tour guides on weekends during the 'lighthouse season.' Her own weekends were spent there as overseer and she managed occasional weddings and group tours by appointment as well. Throughout this time she wore several division and flotilla appointed and elected officer hats and conducted classes. It was not until she began a long battle with cancer that she finally slowed down. She retired from the Auxiliary not long before her death on 28 June 2004. She was nearing her 83rd birthday.

Did you know that there are several 'unofficial' Auxiliary songs? It appears that one of them is Joseph Drexler's "The Coast Guard Auxiliary." The old sheet music was found among Betty Hamilton's memorabilia and provided for perusal by the family, along with a collection of photos and certificates. Keith Harding DSO-PE, FSO-PE 130-02-05 and Bonnie Harding SO-PE 13-02 worked for months to coordinate the event and arrange for the creation of a

memorial plaque which bears Betty Hamilton's photograph. The beautiful plaque was revealed at the ceremony and later taken down the path to the lighthouse's workroom where it was permanently mounted on a prominent wall.



Current Director of the Auxiliary, LCDR Kelley A. Boodell, USCG, Thirteenth District, further added to the unprecedented memorialization event by presenting Betty Hamilton's daughter, Cathy, with a traditionally tri-folded American flag; one of the national ensigns previously flown at Alki Lighthouse.

Early in the ceremony Division Two Captain Ted Schiesswohl read Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar." Eyes were brimming with tears by the time he finished the final line, *I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.* Hamilton's great granddaughter, Gabrielle, spoke up, saying in a way that only a precocious nine-year-old could, "I was really impressed with her!" But Gabrielle's welled up emotions quickly brought her capability to talk about her beloved "GG" to a halt. It was a bittersweet moment.

Betty Hamilton's full impact on behalf of the boating community and within the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary can only be left for time to reveal but it is clear and presently evident that there may never be another person who could ever fill her shoes in terms of sustained contribution.



(For more pictures of the ceremony, go to page 15)

D-13 Presents Three Plaque of Merit Awards, 2nd Time Ever

by Drew West, SO-PB

04 June 2005 Fort Worden, Washington — District 13 presented three Plaque of Merit Awards. This is the second time District 13 has ever presented the Plaque of Merit Award. The first time the award was presented in District 13 was on 29 June 2002. Two awards were presented.

During the Great Northern Area Training Seminar (GNATS), LCDR Kelly Boodell, Director of the Auxiliary (DIRAUX) for District 13 presented the Plaque of Merit Award to Coxswain Jeremiah Ray, Crewmen Terry Minton and Thomas Shook for outstanding performance in assisting those in distress. The three Auxiliarist are members of Flotilla 18 (130-01-08),

Auxiliarists Ray, Minton, and Shook were the crew aboard Auxiliary Facility 282093 who rescued three people from a pleasure craft that ran aground on the Snohomish River mud flats on the evening of 15 January 2005.

The 1950s saw the creation of the Coast Guard Bronze Plaque of Merit. Known informally as the “A” Award, it is presented by order of the Commandant of the Coast Guard to Auxiliarists who save lives at the risk of their own.

The heroic Auxiliarists were asked to share personal thoughts as recipients of the Plaque of Merit.

Jeremiah Ray wrote, “It is difficult for me to be recognized by my peers, as it has never happened before. All my life I have wanted to give something back to the country. As a boy during World War II, I felt I could never match up to them and moreover, the opportunity never arose. My time in the Navy was not remarkable and I left a seaman. In 2000, when I turned 60, I figured my life was over for all intents and purposes. I was going to live here on my farm with my family to the end of my life. On September 11, 2001 my life changed.

It took me three months to decide what I was going to do. It was silly of me to think of trying to go into active service, as I would only get the young guys killed trying to cover for me. As a matter of fact the only military-like service that would have me was the Coast Guard Auxiliary. There I found men to serve with who matched in bravery any man facing the enemy. These men will stand with you no matter how ominous the situation appears. On the night of the rescue there was never a moment of hesitation by anyone in spite of the obvious difficulties. I believe my crew would have gone with me no matter what danger we had to deal with.

There is something else that everyone should know. Thomas Shook sat on the bow of the boat during a storm and used a flashlight to steer us around deadheads. Terry Minton repaired my engine underway in a storm. He was a rock to depend on. I feel proud to have served with heroes and to be recognized by the Auxiliary is the high point of my life.

Terry Minton wrote, “All I can say is I’m glad I was able to be there when needed. Thanks.”

Thomas Shook wrote, “[I am] proud to be recognized by our peers [who can appreciate] what it took to accomplish this.

We all train for search and rescue (SAR) and towing, many do night operations in their regular patrol area, and many do poor weather training. This was a good chance to put it all together. There was nothing that happened that night that hadn’t happened at least once in practice. To put it all together when it counts, with good probability of success, and limited probability of a mishap, takes practice.

This should help recruitment into the Auxiliary, Flotilla 18, and operations. Most recruits want to help do something real.”

Flotilla 18 Commander Dale Ross wrote, “While I was not a party to the excellent adventure of Jeremiah and company, I do remember the night in question. Weather wise it was one of, if not the, nastiest nights of our past winter. We had snow, rain, sleet, and hail all mixed with a stiff wind. It was a most excellent night to be home by a warm fire. My hat is off to Jeremiah, Tom and Terry it was a very good rescue under truly horrible conditions.”

Congratulations and a heartfelt salute to the men of Flotilla 18, Division 1, District 13



Drew West

Bonnie Kesson is also a member of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Auxiliary and was working at the crime scene with the Mobile Kitchen from 0600 to 2200 hrs daily for four days, then in the EOC on the call desk and in the Logistics Section.

Bob Kesson, an Auxiliarist who also works for the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management in Coeur d'Alene, was tasked with the implementation of an Emergency Operations Plan. Bob asked his local flotilla if they would be interested in participating and Flotilla 84 said "YES." A call-out plan was established and was used to contact Auxiliarists for this emergency. Kootenai County Sheriff's Department and Auxiliary Flotilla 84 have an excellent working relationship that was formed on the water. When it appeared this would be a long-term effort and the call was expanded to the next further Flotillas, 81, 82 and 87 answered "YES!"

"It makes me so proud to be a part of an organization that has the caliber of people that the Coast Guard Auxiliary has. They are here at midnight and back again at 0645 the next morning. When we hit a rush in the call bank and get overloaded, one call gets additional staffing reporting in 15 minutes from home. Instead of us calling them to ask if they can stand watch on an upcoming shift, they are calling my staff to schedule more time. It will be interesting to see just how much time the auxiliary will have on this project when it is over. My boss is impressed, BIG TIME! BRAVO ZULU."

May 21st through the 27th, 2005 was the start of National Safe Boating Week and they planned to take the local media and teach them boating safety. For now though the auxiliary is working to help the Kootenai Sheriff's Office find the two missing children. As Kathy Goodwin puts it "This reminds us of 9/11, everyone is doing what they can to help out and the community is really working together."

Founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the non-military, volunteer branch of the US Coast Guard. The Auxiliary assists the Coast Guard in all of its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement. The men and women of the Auxiliary serve on our nation's waterways, in the air, in classrooms and on the dock, performing Search and Rescue, safety patrols, vessel safety checks and public education. The 30,000+ members of the Auxiliary donate millions of hours annually in support of Coast Guard missions. For more information on the Coast Guard Auxiliary visit our website at www.cgaux.org.



Dean Culwell (center) receives his award from the State Boating Administrators for Montana, Ron Jendro (on left) and for Nevada, Fred Messmann (on right).



Alki Point Lighthouse



More photos of Betty Hamilton's ceremony at Alki Point Lighthouse



I. to r., Current Alki Light Project Manager Roman Taifel, FC 130-02-05, Keith Harding DSO-PE 13-02 (holding plaque) and Ted Schiesswohl DCP 13-02



Betty Hamilton's great granddaughter Gabrielle reminisces about the woman who impressed her



Ceremony Guests

Family, Coast Guard and old Auxiliary acquaintances gathered in remembrance.



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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