

MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 3, SUMMER 2008

Optex



Photos taken by Pauline Longnecker

DIVISION CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

CONNIE WALTERS



Our Patrol season has gotten off to a rocky start. Rains and snow melt had caused flooding around the Midwest with the worst flooding in Iowa and along the Mississippi. "Sector UMR's part in the disaster relief effort was the preservation of lives only." Sector utilized the DARTs, AuxAir photo reconnaissance and ICS trained Auxiliarists in the SEOCs and Sector UMR Command center. The DARTs and AuxAir were utilized. Members of 33-4 helped the Army Corps of Engineers with traffic control to the Saylorville Lake. They also assisted various state and federal agencies in the SEOC, in Des Moines, Iowa.

The purpose of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is to assist the Coast Guard as authorized by the Commandant in performing any Coast Guard function, power, duty, role, mission or operation. (Auxman A.2. chp. 1-4) Our primary missions are VSC, PE, Operations and the 4th corner stone Fellowship. Our mission statement can be read on the District website.

If you need answers to questions the best way to accomplish this is by using the Chain of Leadership and Management. You will receive the correct information backed by facts and not someone's version about the subject.

We had a great turnout for our OPTEX. OTO Doug Leavell joined us for our mini DSAR. Afterwards we had supper at the Pink Poodle with a grand meal and fellowship. Division picnic plans are coming along and the FCs are getting the preliminary information now to forward to members. By the time of the Division meeting we should have the loose ends wrapped up. The Fall conference is September 26 and 27. Please plan to attend. This is a great opportunity to experience first hand how the Auxiliary does business and how the Auxiliary has fun and fellowship. Information is now on the District website. Looks like our next Division meeting will be during the fall conference so the September meeting will be moved forward to September the 18th. Have a safe rest of the Summer.

DIVISION VICE CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

JEAN GOBLE



Summer is upon us and there will be various activities for Auxiliarists to participate in. The weather and high water has affected patrols with several patrols being cancelled.

Members have been active in attending member training sessions. Various topics have been covered in these sessions, e.g. boat crew and coxswain, IT workshop, VE workshop, diversity, blood borne pathogens, sexual harassment, communications and several other areas.

The annual Division 33 picnic is being planned for later this summer. This will be a time for lots of fun, fellowship, and good food. More information will be available soon so that everyone can mark their calendars and attend. Flotilla 7 in Sioux City will be the host Flotilla for this event.

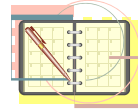
Division 33 Officers

Connie Walters	DCP
Jean Goble	VCP
Ron Longnecker	IPDCP
Mary Poe	PE
Jim Sitzman	PA
Pauline Longnecker	OP
Cathy Taylor	SR
Liz Wiczorek	FN
Doug Eubanks	CM
Barclay Stebbins	CS
Karl Rasmussen	MA
Pauline Longnecker	MT
Frank Reiss	IS
Virginia Stone	PS
Skip Wolff	AN
Bill Montz	MS
Jill Reiss	PB
Julian Lachendro	VE
Larry Wiczorek	PV

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Deadlines Midnight on
January 15, 2008 for Winter issue
April 15, 2008 for Spring issue
July 15, 2008 for Summer issue
October 15, 2008 for Fall issue



DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 24, Division Meeting
- August 16, Division Picnic
- August 23, Omaha Royals Public Service Appreciation Day
- August 28, Board Meeting, if needed
- September 25, Division Meeting
- September 26-27, Fall Conference, Dubuque
- October 15, Skipper deadline

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Division Captain’s Message.....	2
Division Vice Captain’s Message.....	2
Dates to Remember	3
Flotilla 1	4
Flotilla 3	4
Flotilla 5	5
Public Education.....	6
Marine Dealer Visitor	6
Communications.....	7
For Sale	7
Our Shipmates	7
Marine Safety	8
Optex	8
Operations	9
Optex	9
Information Services	10
Division Awards	11

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FLOTILLA 33-01

Flotilla members G. McNary, FC; R. Goble, VFC; W. Koehler, B. McNary and B. Stebbins and their guests who attended the Awards Dinner enjoyed the evening and fellowship.

The Sexual Harassment Seminar was given at the April meeting by FC McNary.

All Flotilla 33 Coxswain and Crew have the new patrol shirt, and all Flotilla 33-1 members have completed the Operations Workshop and one hour TCT Training.

A PE Class was put on at Bass Pro May 17 by R. Goble, VFC and T. Spieker. The PA booth at the same event was manned by FC McNary.

Awards received at the Awards Dinner were handed out, and the Blood Borne Pathogens Seminar was given at the May meeting by FC McNary.

Several Patrols have been completed, but more have been cancelled due to the weather and high water in our AOR. In addition, VSC days have been scheduled but were cancelled due to rainy conditions.

One new member is in the process of completing the initial paperwork, and the Flotilla looks forward to welcoming him in as soon as that process is completed.

Submitted by George McNary

FLOTILLA 33-03

33-03 members continued to busy themselves with member training. The sexual harassment workshop was conducted May 20th and the blood borne pathogens workshop was conducted June 17th. A diversity workshop is scheduled for August 19th and other member training is in the planning stages for October and November. On May 17th and May 19th several members participated in crew training. June 21st was the OPTEX where several members participated in the land events and the SAREX on the water. Besides refining a variety of skills the event was a great opportunity for fellowship. A picnic style lunch along with an evening dinner at the Pink Poodle was enjoyed by all.

Fellowship remains a core component of Flotilla activity. On July 19th a social meeting will be held at Tish's in Council Bluffs. Flotilla members will welcome Commodore Jack Gumb as he presents the Commodore's Honor Streamer and swears in our newest member Allan Romesser who just recently received his favorable PSI determination. Several members are looking forward to attending the Division Picnic in Sioux City August 16th and the District Fall Conference September 26th and 27th in Dubuque. Additional flotilla social events are in the planning stages for September and December.

It's not all fun and games in 03, the members do work occasionally. Nebraska Boating Safety classes were held May 6th & 7th and July 12th at Iowa Western Community College, May 17th at Nebraska Water Sports, and June 3rd & 4th and June 6th & 9th at the Bennington Public Library. Additional classes are scheduled at Iowa Western August 2nd, and for dates to be determined at Bennington Public Library. A Canoe Safety class was held for the Girl Scouts on May 30th. 30+ students completed the class then participated in on the water training with Herb Angell. A BS&S course will be offered in the fall, dates yet to be determined.

FLOTILLA 33-03 (CONT.)

Vessel examiners have been busy logging 135 vessel safety checks to date. VSC days at Lake Manawa May 24th, June 14th and July 5th have certainly helped those numbers. According to the FSO-VE there are always boaters standing in line to get their VSC at Lake Manawa. One additional VSC day is scheduled for August 23rd at Dodge Park. Program visitors have been hard at it as well completing 53 visits to 21 locations and one member is currently working towards his PV qualification which will bring the total number of visitors to 4.

On the Public Affairs front it has been relatively quiet with just two appearances in the last three months. On June 18th members manned an information booth at Mutual of Omaha's Health and Safety fair and on July 5th Frank Reiss, FC was interviewed by KPTM on boating safety. Life jacket wear was the core message of both appearances. On September 13th the flotilla will host a Freedom Walk at Heartland of America Park. All division members are welcome to participate; contact Jim Sitzman for additional information. On October 5th members will man an information booth at the Family Safety Day. This event has outgrown its location the last two years and will once again prove a great opportunity to stress the importance of wearing a life jacket to children.

Lastly members are in the process of planning the 2009 Election Dinner. A variety of locations are being considered for the October 25th dinner. The locations along with other particulars will be presented at the July 24th division meeting.

Submitted by Frank Reiss

FLOTILLA 33-05

On June 13, our flotilla had a Vessel Safety Check day at Haworth Park in Bellevue. Bill Smock, Mike Peterson, Larry Wiczorek and Martin Eisenman all did enough vessel safety checks to maintain their certification as vessel examiners. The flotilla had a late start this summer in getting vessel safety checks completed, but are now underway.

The Bellevue Flotilla will be having a picnic behind the Beaver Lake Clubhouse at Beaver Lake on the 26th of August. Members will be sharing a dish they bring as well as fellowship.

Will everyone please welcome George Frye III. George joined the Bellevue Flotilla in June. George is 24 years old and works for the Department of Interior. George intends on pursuing the qualifications and certification for boat crewmember.

Submitted by Martin Eisenman



PUBLIC EDUCATION

What a year it has been with most of our classes over with. As of to date the division has conducted 24 classes in the Lincoln and Omaha area, with the possibility of 4-5 more classes. Things start slowing down with most of our students taking the classes before the season starts, but there are always those that wait and never seem to find a class date that works for them.

Our youth of today have so many activities going on that it makes it difficult for them to schedule a date to take a class. There is always the excuse of a game, prom or being out of town when classes are being held. Sometimes priorities need to be set and operating a boat is not on their mind before the season starts. We can say that at least we have offered plenty of opportunities for them to attend a class. Look at dates when scheduling classes and take into consideration what activities our youth have going on that weekend. Add a lot of variety of dates, some on weekends, some during the week or summer when they are out of school and boating is on their minds.

We know that we can't please everyone, but look at the benefits that everyone gets out of attending a boating class. Suggest that they make it a family activity for the day. By doing so it will not only make their boating season safer but will make it more enjoyable if they share a common interest. Let them know that being safe is a priority. Have a safe and fun filled summer; attend a boating class in your area.

Submitted by Mary Poe

MARINE DEALER VISITOR

	District			Division		
	Visits	Total Visitors	New Visitors	Visits	Total Visitors	New Visitors
2003	1885	48	11	93	4	1
2004	3058	58	10	153	6	2
2005	3501	75	17	100	8	2
2006	4321	93	18	166	11	3
2007	4932	116	23	254	13	2
2008	1458	119	13	166	14	1

The code for Public Education is 14.

The code for Public Affairs is 10.

The codes for Legislative Outreach are 65A or 65B.

The code for State Recreational Boat Safety Outreach is 65C.

It is critical that you submit your time on the appropriate reporting forms for your contribution and the primary purpose that you are supporting in the Auxiliary. Remember the project, task and purpose is never complete until all paperwork is completed.

Submitted by Larry Wiczorek

COMMUNICATIONS

After much talk and lots of work, the Telecommunications PQS is a reality! The new standard will take effect on August 1, 2008. Anyone who is currently qualified under the AUXCOM standard will be grandfathered under the new PQS, but are highly encouraged to complete the new PQS. This new Telecommunications PQS does *not* replace the AUXCOM course used in the AUXOP Specialty Course series.

This new telecommunications standard is not just an improved AUXCOM course. It has been written from the ground up to reflect the current tasks and duties for which AUXCOM no longer provides adequate training or guidance and is a completely new standard. The qualification of Auxiliary communicators must be more closely related to actual communications operations with a minimum standard for such operations.

This new standard will allow for better operations with active duty Coast Guard and allow for better response capabilities during contingency operations.

This Telecommunications PQS is structured in the same fashion as the boat crew and coxswain programs. There are tasks that must be completed and signed of by a mentor, to be followed by a qualifications examination given by a qualified Communications Staff Officer to complete the process.

The complete *Auxiliary Telecommunications Qualification Standard* may be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg3/cg3pcx/missions/MSG-ALAUX-TCPQS.pdf> . It can also be reached through the Operations Division webpage of the National website.

Remember, the AUXCOM test can be taken through the end of July and the new standard and examinations take effect on August 1, 2008.

Happy reading and Good Luck!

Submitted by Doug Eubanks

FOR SALE

Sweater size 44L, call Michelle Burger at 895-2150 (h).

15 1/2" men's dress shirts; one short sleeved, one long sleeved, call Frank Reiss at 573-6915 (h).



OUR SHIPMATES

33-03:

Randy Evans has two email addresses, work: randal.evans@aciworldwide.com; home: evansran7@hotmail.com. Please use his home address for normal day to day email.

New Member:

Allan E. Romesser (Marinda)
1704 AVENUE E
COUNCIL BLUFFS IA 51501-8392
(H) 712-256-9098
aromesser1@yahoo.com

MARINE SAFETY

It seems as if our AOR has definitely had our share of severe thunderstorms, tornadic activity and flooding this year. With the increased number of severe weather incidents already this year, it is more important than ever for our members to remain ever alert and properly trained to be able to mitigate and respond to such events, not only for Team Coast Guard, but for their families and neighbors as well. Here are some thoughts to peruse:

- Do you have an action plan for your family in the event of flooding, severe thunderstorm warning, or tornado warning? These are similar in concept to a "home fire escape plan" in case of a house fire, and every bit as important! I know it's hard to imagine right now in the heat and humidity of summer, but it's never too early to create and review an action plan for severe winter weather as well. Encourage your friends and neighbors as well as the public to create action plans also.

- Your best defense in the event of an emergency is proper planning and training BEFORE the emergency as well as proper notification DURING an emergency. Do you have a WORKING "all hazards" weather alert? Do you change the backup battery once a year or more often if required? This device receives radio signals from the National Weather Service when severe weather or other emergency watches, warnings, or notices are posted. The newer receivers can even receive Amber Alerts! Think of your weather alert receiver as a vital part of your weather and emergency action plan as much as a working smoke detector would be to your home fire escape plan

- MT and PE Officers - NOW is a great time to both train our members and educate the public on the topics of severe weather safety. Please contact me if you would like to conduct public and/or member education on severe weather or ANY other marine or public safety topic.

Finally, I send a heartfelt BZ to our members in Division 33 who have responded to the recent flooding, tornadic activity, and severe weather in our AOR. Although many members reported moderate to severe damage to their homes and property, Division 33 continued to remain SEMPER PARATUS in the mitigation and response to these incidents.

Bill Montz, SO-MS



Optex



Photos taken by Connie Walters

OPERATIONS

Division 33 has had an interesting spring so far. First, we had very cold weather, then water and more water, now we have low water. But, through it all, Division 33 has been involved with numerous activities and truly showed the Flag. We participated in Regattas over the 4th of July.

Flotilla 33-7 in Sioux City took part in a river clean up day on Saturday, June 7th. The Sioux City Journal had several positive things to say about the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary demonstrating partnership in the community.

Flotilla 33-4 in Des Moines was requested to assist with traffic crossing the Saylorville Dam during the high water levels prior to the flooding in the Capital city. Once Flooding began, members of the Flotilla assisted for several days with communication watches with the local agencies.

On June 21, a Seamanship rodeo was held where participants tried their hands at several boating seamanship skills. Participants did not have to be qualified crew, coxswain or PWC. It was all in fun and tested their skills against time and each other. The timed tasks included using a P-1 pump, Heaving line, floating a P-1 Pump from one location to another along with other skill related tasks. Prizes were provided for the fastest times for each event. There was also one award for the participant who demonstrated the most motivation and team player. In the afternoon, Division 33 held an OPTEX with the Douglas County Sheriff boat. The drill seemed to be a learning experience for everyone involved. Another will be planned for later in the summer. CWO Doug Leavell visited Division that same weekend and assisted with the days training. Later that evening, everyone was invited to go to dinner with Mr. Leavell.

Remember to schedule your currency maintenance with the SO OP and also a QE.

Submitted by Pauline Longnecker



Opetex



INFORMATION SERVICES

Paperwork is one of the necessary evils. You’ve all heard the cliché “it’s all done but the paperwork”; well unfortunately it isn’t done until the paperwork is done. It is important to realize that as Auxiliaries it is not only important that we do our paperwork, but that we do it correctly and in a timely manner. Others throughout the organization and the Coast Guard rely on the data set that is created by the paperwork. Hopefully you will find a tip or two that will make it easier to do your paperwork accurately.

Send your 5132s (Orders) to the SO-OP, not your FSO-IS or SO-IS.

Think green and use less paper by recording a month’s worth of activity on a single 7029. If you fill it up before the month ends send it in and start another one. Submitting a 7029 for every activity makes more work for the IS officer doing your data input and creates excess waste.

Use either quarter hours (00, 15, 30, 45) or tenths of hours (00, 06, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48, 54) when completing 7030 mission cards. This prevents obnoxious decimals in AUXDATA.

Use your FACID, aka your boat registration (eg. NB 014 UGL) or document number (eg. 230681) when completing 7030 mission cards for operations. This makes data entry much easier on the IS officer doing your data input.

Vessel Examiners remember to fill in each of the boxes (given, passed, high focus, 1st time, hours) on the 7038.

SECTION II - EXAM/VISIT INFORMATION					
	GIVEN	PASSED	HIGH FOCUS	1 ST TIME	HOURS
Vessel Safety Checks	1	1	1	0	1
Vessel Facility Inspections			OPCON CFV, UPV, LTV ONLY		
Commercial Fishing Vessel Exams				▼	
Uninspected Passenger Vessel Exams				▼	
Uninspected Towing Vessel Exams				▼	

Program visitors when recording multiple visits for a single day on your 7046 you should record zeros for the hours on all but the last visit of the day where you record the total time of your visits not including travel time. Travel time is recorded on your 7029.

	Visit Date DDMMM	Business Name	Location	Hours
1	31JAN	370 Express	HWY 370, Omaha NE	0
2	31JAN	Kum &Go	HWY 370, Omaha NE	1

Submitted by Frank Reiss