

MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER

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SPRING SYMPOSIUM



Photos taken by Jill & Justin Reiss

DIVISION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

JEAN GOBLE



Several members from Division 33 attended the Spring Business Symposium in Plymouth, Minn. The facilities at the conference center were exceptional in the way in which they accommodated the needs of the Auxiliary for space and comfort. The meeting and banquet rooms were sufficient in size for both the meetings, workshops and dining.

The business meeting was held on Friday and there was a visit from the new mascot, Sammy Otter. Sammy is cute and was a big hit with the members at the symposium. It was obvious that otters like water -- he knocked over a container of water on the dais which elicited laughter from those attending, and he acted so embarrassed. (see photo on page 8.)

There was much discussion about the cuts in funding that the Coast Guard is experiencing and ways in which the district could continue to conduct business and provide activities which are important to our members. Members of the gold side who attended discussed ways in which the Auxiliary and the active duty were working side by side to conduct missions. The Auxiliary is changing, and it is anticipated that we will be working more and more closely with the active duty.

There were some division boundary changes announced at the symposium with some divisions getting smaller and some larger. Division 33 now includes the bottom half of South Dakota which will put the Yankton Flotilla in our Division.

The Friday Fun Night was very entertaining. Please ask Frank Reiss about his role in it!

Saturday was filled with various workshops. Jill Reiss and Skip Wolff were instructors for a workshop on photography which was very well attended. Great job Jill & Skip!

There were many awards presented to members of Division 33, and these will all be announced at the Awards Banquet on April 24, 2010.

Perhaps the most important and enjoyable part of any business symposium is the opportunity to talk with old friends and make new ones. I would encourage all of our members to attend these symposiums. I think that everyone would find them worthwhile and enjoyable.

DIVISION VICE COMANDER'S MESSAGE

FRANK REISS



The Spring Business Symposium is a fading memory, but as those of you who attended know there were many awards presented to Division 33 members. Those members will be recognized for their accomplishments at our upcoming Awards Weekend at Mahoney State Park, April 23 – April 25. Each of you should have received your invitation and schedule of events, but there is no harm in repetition. Friday night we will again be honored to have a presentation by Nebraska State Boating Law Administrator Herb Angell with fellowship

(cont. from page 2)

to follow. Saturday we'll start the day with the division meeting, followed by the information services, communications, and operations workshops as well as the 1 hour annual TCT and a POMS workshop. The day will conclude with fellowship beginning at 1830 hours, dinner to follow at 1900, and the awards program to conclude the evening. The weekend will wrap up with a Dutch treat breakfast at Peter Kiewit Lodge Sunday morning. I hope to see all of you there.

As you all know the Skipper is an award winning newsletter, and it is because of you. I'd like to remind each member that your pictures and articles pertaining to the missions of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are most wanted and needed. Whether a bio of a new member, an experience you had as an instructor or working a PA exhibit, a hint or tip you have for doing paperwork or maintaining your facility; share your successes with all of us by getting those articles and pictures to our SO-PB. For that matter share your failures as well; you may save someone else from making the same mistake! Ok you don't write or take photographs, so send your ideas of what you would like to see in your newsletter. Maybe you saw an interesting article in the newspaper or on the internet; reference the source and send it to Jill. The bottom line being don't leave it up to your elected and appointed leaders to come up with articles and pictures for each edition; that is not to say that those folks are off the hook. I challenge each of you to submit something to be published in the Skipper sometime this year; who knows there might even be a little something for your efforts.



Nebraska Boating Safety Course at Cabela's

In an effort to promote safer boating practices, the Nebraska Boating Basics Course will be offered May 22 and 23. An excellent way for the "whole crew" to learn more about boating, this course covers all aspects of boating. All students who pass this course (an exam is given) will be issued a Certificate of Completion. A number of insurance companies offer discounts on boat insurance for those who successfully complete this course. Registration Fee is \$10. To register contact Chris Hadden at 402-861-4804 or chadden@cabelas.com. Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Location: Conference Center.

Life Jackets and PFDs

Safety first. Learn how to keep your friends and family safe in or around the water while having fun. Saturday & Sunday, 11:30 p.m.; Location: Marine Department.

Boat Safety Equipment

Join the U.S Coast Guard Auxiliary as they show you the equipment needed for a safe and enjoyable boating experience. Saturday & Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; Location: Marine Department.

For your information: Doug Jansen has been appointed as the new POC for USACE.



Division 33 Officers

- Division Commander (DCDR) – Jean Goble
- Division Vice Commander (DVCDR) – Frank Reiss
- Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR) –
Connie Walters
- Secretary – Paul Faganel (SO-SR)
- Finance – Skip Wolff (SO-FN)
- Chief of Prevention – Richard S. Goble
 - Navigation Services (SO-NS) – George McNary
 - Public Education (SO-PE) – Annette Rasmussen
 - Member Training (SO-MT) – Ralph Tomlinson
 - Program Visitor (SO-PV) – Richard S. Goble
 - Vessel Examiner (SO-VE) – Richard S. Goble
 - Marine Safety (SO-MS) – Doug Potts
- Chief of Logistics – Barclay Stebbins
 - Human Resources (SO-HR) - Bernard McNary
 - Information Services (SO-IS) – Barclay Stebbins
 - Communication Services (SO-CS) – Trevor
Henderson
 - Public Affairs (SO-PA) – Randy Evans
 - Materials – (SO-MA) Karl Rasmussen
 - Publications (SO-PB) – Jill Reiss
- Chief of Response – Frank Reiss
 - Communications (SO-CM) – Roland Newton
 - Operations – (SO-OP) Frank Reiss

Send articles for the *Missouri River Skipper*

to:

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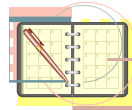
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Deadlines Midnight on
January 15 for Winter issue
April 15 for Spring issue
July 15 for Summer issue
October 15 for Fall issue

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Jill C. Reiss—Editor



DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 22 & 23, boating safety class, Cabela's
- June 19, Optex
- July 15, Skipper deadline
- August 7, Picnic
- October 9, Election dinner
- October 15, Skipper deadline

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FLOTILLA 33-01

Jean Goble, FSO-PB has resurrected our flotilla newsletter the "Fun One."

We have completed the first BS&S class that we have taught in a few years and two Nebraska boating safety classes. We have six more boating safety classes scheduled.

We have enrolled one new member, Thomas Correll, and four more individuals are considering becoming members of our flotilla.

Richard and Jean Goble attended the Spring Business Symposium, The accommodations were first class. Flotilla 33-01 received several district awards which will be presented at the Division Awards Banquet.

We are just about to conclude securing ODUs for all members that are involved in operations and doing VSCs. We hope to have this project completed in another 30 days.

Submitted by Richard Goble

FLOTILLA 33-04

A busy first quarter for Flotilla 4 is the start of a great year.

The end of 2009 and beginning of 2010 had a number of flotilla members completing the Advanced Coastal Navigation course with successful tests for both A and B portions.

February saw an airboat on a frozen lake, with Flotillas 2, 3, and 4 members teaming up for training in preparation for possible spring flood needs. A number of members are now qualified airboat crew members or coxswain.

March began with a pleasant change of weather - melting snow and warmer temperatures awoke in us an awareness of spring approaching. However, the rapidly rising rivers and lakes also brought an awareness of flooding potential. Numerous flotilla members were ready to deploy for flood support in North Dakota and Iowa, with planning and liaison activities ongoing. Three members were deployed to Bismarck and Fargo. Thankfully the flood support planned for Iowa with Flotillas 4 and 6 personnel was stood down when weather conditions were more favorable than initially expected and the pool level at Saylorville Lake was effectively controlled.

April brings boat crew training, public affairs events, planned boating safety classes and more training. It will be a busy season.

Submitted by Norma Newton

PROGRAM VISITOR/VESSEL EXAMINATION

I have often heard VEs state they do not understand why we worry about registration numbers and letters when doing a VSC as they do not have anything to do with a vessel's safety.

I would like VEs to consider this. The registration numbers do not have much to do with the safety of the vessel displaying them, but in a back door sort of way they have a lot to do with the safety of other boats they encounter. A properly displayed registration number on a boat enables other boaters to easily read it. If a boat creates problems for other boaters, causes damage to other boats, or property, its registration number can be easily read. The boat can then be reported to law enforcement, and damage claims filed against its owner.

Badly displayed registration numbers are somewhat akin to a criminal who covers up his vehicle's license plate during a crime with mud so that it cannot be read. Of course most boaters are not setting out to commit a crime when they do not properly display their registration numbers, but if they do break a boating law others need to be able to easily read the boats registration number.

Now having approached boat numbering from the back door, let's take a look at it from the front door. One thing that good readable registration numbers do for the boat owner is to make their boat easier to spot and pick out of a crowd if they are in distress and have reported that fact along with their registration number.

Submitted by Richard Goble

TCT



Several members participated in TCT training at Eppley Fire Department. Instructors were Ralph Tomlinson and Pauline Longnecker. The group participated in communication activities. Far left, John Cotton thinks "mine doesn't look like that."

Photos taken by Jill Reiss and Suzanne Tomlinson

OPERATIONS

I think it is safe to say that spring has finally sprung with the blossoming flowers, buds on the trees, and the smell of fresh cut grass. It won't be long before ramps and docks are in place and another operations season is underway. This coming weekend will be the annual awards weekend during which the mandatory OPs workshop and 1 hour TCT refresher will be conducted. We'll also hear from communications and information services. Aside from our annual workshops take these next several weeks and prepare yourself for the upcoming season. Check that you have the required uniform, your PPE equipment is up to snuff, and brush up on any of those policies and procedures that may have become rusty over the winter months. Facility owners, it's time for the spring fit out; once your vessel is fitted out, schedule that yearly facility inspection with a qualified VE. I've received a total of 11 notifications of inspections due, but I have only seen a single offer for use to date. I would like to thank all the facility owners who provided their facility photos once again. I am pleased to say that all but one facility has a picture in POMS. Thanks to all of you for working with me to get this accomplished.

Submitted by Frank Reiss

AIRBOAT EXERCISE

By Nancy Gumb

(original article printed in the Western Rivers)

On February 3, 2010, seven United States Coast Guard Auxiliaries from Eight Western Rivers, three active duty U.S. Coast Guard from Sector Upper and DIRAUX met in Des Moines, Iowa at Saylorville Lake for an exciting adventure.

These ten brave souls volunteered for airboat, ice, flood and coldwater rescue training. This bold undertaking was the first training of its kind in Eighth Western Rivers, and we believe in the United States for Auxiliaries. It was made possible thanks to John Cotton, a new Auxiliary to Eighth Western from the Seventh District, who volunteered his airboat for this ground breaking event. Division 33-3 now has a new airboat coxswain: Ron Longnecker. We also have new air boat crew: Wendy Faganel, Norma Newton, Phil Patterson and John Cotton.



Commodore Jack Gumb, John Cotton, OTO Doug Leavell (in warmer times). Photo taken by Nancy Gumb.

GASCONADE

On Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010 at 1030 brunch was delivered to the Moorings for the Guardians on duty. We were met by Guardian Stephenson who assisted in transporting the food into the kitchen area while his shipmates were still in their bunks! Brunch consisted of an egg, sausage & hash brown casserole, cinnamon bubble bread and strawberries. An Easter basket was also provided for each Guardian on duty.



Jean Goble, author and photographer

Spring Symposium



Photos taken by Bill Coby