

MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 1, WINTER 2011

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Frank Reiss, DCDR
Connie Walters, VCDR
Randy Evans, SO-101
Frank Reiss, DCDR

Frank Reiss, DCDR
Barclay Simmons, FC
Mary Fise, FVC
Jill Reiss, FC
Wendy Fagnone, FC

CDR Todd Campbell

CDR Todd Campbell
CDR Todd Campbell

Susan Stocker, IA BIA
Herb Angell, NE BIA
Connie Walters, VCDR
Laney Bernstein, DCAPT-N
Gail Redin, DCAPT-N
COMO Robert Simelza
CDR Todd Campbell



Change of Watch



Photos taken by Jill Reiss & Gail Redin

DIVISION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

FRANK REISS



I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season! It was good to see those of you who attended the division meeting, training sessions and Change of Watch. It is fellowship, the fourth cornerstone that is the glue to what we do.

Looking forward to the coming year, I ask each of you to remember to educate our members, evolve our process and excel in our missions. It is through member education and process evolution, we will excel in the missions outlined by the four cornerstones of the Auxiliary: vessel safety checks, public education, USCG operations and fellowship.

A hefty set of goals were approved by the board to support our mission statement. I challenged each FC during Change of Watch with the presentation of a challenge coin to evaluate flotilla goals and adjust as necessary to support division goals. I now challenge each of you to support flotilla goals by setting and adjusting your own personal goals. Remember goals need to be achievable, measurable and further the mission.

In 2011 Division 33, Eighth Western Rivers Region, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has set forth the following goals:

In order to educate our members we strive to:

- Deliver division member orientation training
- Have 100% of our membership attend member orientation training
- Increase program visitors by 10%
- Increase vessel examiners by 10%
- Increase instructors by 10%
- Increase BCCREW, BCCOX, PWO, and Watchstanders by 10%

In order to evolve our processes we strive to:

- Document recruiting practices and introduce a division recruiting program
- Document existing operations training programs and introduce a division program
- Document public affairs opportunities, focus our efforts, and explore one new way in which to reach the public
- Utilize social media both internally and externally
- Stand up division 33 color guard

And in order to excel in our missions we strive to:

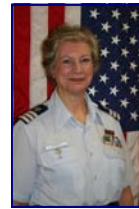
- Increase membership by 10%
- Increase first time vessel safety checks by 10%
- Increase the number of public education classes and students by 10%
- Increase operational hours by 10%
- Increase social opportunities and function attendance by 10%

(cont. from page 2)

Remember that leadership works for you and if you need something to achieve your goals, utilize the chain of leadership and management to satisfy that need. If you have ideas on how to reach our goals, share those ideas with your flotilla commander or the appropriate staff officer. If you have questions, pose those questions to your flotilla commander or appropriate staff officer, but don't be willing to take "that is the way we've always done it" as an answer. It very well may be the "only" way to do it, but ask for clarification; whether it is by commandant instruction, standing rules or policy, you deserve a better answer. Most importantly always keep Team Coast Guard's core values at the root of all we do – Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. You are the Guardians of the Heartland. Semper Paratus!

DIVISION VICE COMANDER'S MESSAGE

CONNIE WALTERS



Happy New Year! Congratulations to the newly elected flotilla commanders and appointed staff for 2011. I am very excited to be working with the staff of Division 33 for 2011. Reports for our division meetings are being requested one week before the division meetings are to take place. This will give the DCDR and the SO-SR time to prepare binders for the flotilla commanders prior to the meetings. Reports are to be written in a Word document and sent to DCDR, VCDR, SO-SR and your respective chiefs.

With the weather being so frigid, it is very hard to think about the area boat shows that will be starting very soon. But this will be a great opportunity to let the boating public know the dates of our upcoming PE classes. Be sure to let the SO-PB and SO-PA know the dates as they can then be published in the Skipper and be placed on the Division calendar.

It is important for us to fill out our 7029 forms each day we volunteer and turn in our reports monthly. Quoting from Commodore Voss's article in the Navigator "Auxiliary data is included in the Coast Guard's performance report that congress uses to decide our appropriations." We know that D 8WR budget was not cut because we had strong data that showed how valuable we are to the Coast Guard. The article also stated the rise in boating accidents since 2009. Hundreds of people lose their lives every year because they do not wear a life jacket, or they are boating under the influence. Life jackets save lives.

Our division meeting was held January 22, 2011. There were opportunities for member training that day. After the meeting the Change of Watch took place at the River Side Grille with social hour beginning at 1800 hrs.

The spring symposium will be held March 4-5 2011 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. February 9 is the cutoff date for registration to the hotel. Friday fun night will be spent with Will Rogers, a great American humorist.

Lastly, please embrace our DCDR's watchwords: Educate, Evolve and Excel. Together working as a team, we can make this happen for Division 33.

Division 33 Officers

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

Send articles for the *Missouri River Skipper*

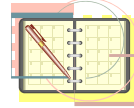
to:

Jill C. Reiss at 8111 Vernon Avenue
 Omaha, NE 68134
 Fax: 571-5422

Email: jreiss@comcorent.com

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

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 Auxiliary.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 3-4, Spring Business Symposium, Tulsa
- March 19, Awards Dinner, Mahoney State Park
- April 17, 1 HR TCT/OPS Workshop, Des Moines
- June 25, OPTEx
- August 6, Division Picnic/Coast Guard Day celebration
- August 24-28, NACON Charlotte, North Carolina
- October 15, Election Dinner

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FLOTILLA 33-1

First, as I take the helm of this flotilla as not only a new FC but a first time FC, we had our first meeting 17 Jan 11. Although I was a little nervous and made a few little mistakes, I was corrected by my senior members and vice so I just want to say thank you to them and all the staff for their understanding and support.

I was proud to have 8 members and 2 guests whom attended the Change of Watch, 22 Jan 11. Mother Nature tried to challenge us; however, as in all missions, we excelled. For 4 of them this was their first time, they really enjoyed the meal, traditions and fellowship of Division 33. Great job to the division staff!

I am greatly encouraged by the participation of the five new members into the Boat Crew Program, their continued work and attendance at the classes, completing their ICS courses and actively participating in the fellowship activities as well.

We have a lot to accomplish this year, and I think we have a good start. Many of you that attended the Change of Watch heard Division Commander Frank

Reiss spell out our watch words and mission statement for the upcoming year. They are:

- Educate – Educate the membership whether formal or informal
- Evolve – Evolve processes or help to develop new ones
- Excel – Let's excel in all of our missions.

When we look at these watch words, start within your program area, whether it's marine safety, public affairs, etc. Start a small binder, put in the copy of your job description. Start taking some notes of anything that comes to mind and references that you have found, jot them down and see where it goes. Enlist other members of the flotilla for some guidance. We have some very good resources that have a lot of experience, so don't hesitate to ask.

Again, thank you all for your hard work and dedication to support the missions that have been asked of us. This will be a very exciting year!

Submitted by Barclay Stebbins

FLOTILLA 33-2

Flotilla 33-2 ended 2010 with a holiday feast and fellowship party at the Jensen's.

Now as the new staff officers have been appointed and sworn in at the January flotilla meeting, FC Poe has tasked each to set a 2011 goal for their office.

Director of Public Affairs, Thomas Nunes, would like all PA/PB staff officers to be familiar with boating issues and resources and share them with our flotilla members. So, as my PB goal has already been defined, there will be many things to forward at our upcoming meetings.

Congratulations to Vern Jansky for receiving his 20-year Membership Service Certificate!

Flotilla 33-2's newest member, Lance Kolb, has recharged our PV and VE programs which will benefit the boating public and patrol areas in Lancaster and Gage Counties. Lance has done some research about vessel examinations and presented it to the flotilla at

the January meeting. As reported by Lance from the VE portion of the web; of the 100,650 total VE safety checks, 74.87% passed, while 25.12% failed. The top five reasons for failure are:

1. Visual Distress Signals
2. State and Local Regulations
3. Navigation Lights
4. Registration Documentation
5. Display of Numbers

Let's make sure all of our facilities pass with flying colors and are ready.

"Ideals are like the stars; we never reach them, but . . . we chart our course by them." Flotilla 33-2 is rejuvenating, reenergizing and reevaluating to chart our course for 2011!

Submitted by Jeanie Deiml

FLOTILLA 33-3

Several members and their guests attended the Change of Watch dinner at Riverside Grille. Pauline Longnecker received an Auxiliary Achievement Award. Randy Evans received a Sustained Service Award. Skip Wolff and I were sworn in as incoming officers.

We are currently working on our 2011 budget and goals as well as changes to our standing rules. Our January meeting was a social outing at McKenna's. We presented the 2010 awards.

We will be swearing in our officers at our February meeting.

We are currently scheduling public education classes. As we get closer to warmer weather and the boating season, our operations activities will pick up.

Submitted by Jill Reiss



Punt exercise. Photos submitted by Norma Newton

What RSVP Means

The term RSVP comes from the French expression "répondez s'il vous plaît", meaning "please respond". If RSVP is written on an invitation it means the invited guest must tell the host whether or not they plan to attend the event. It does not mean to respond only if you're coming, and it does not mean respond only if you're not coming (the expression "regrets only" is reserved for that instance). It means the host needs a definite head count for the planned event, and needs it by the date specified on the invitation.

PROGRAM VISITOR/VESSEL EXAMINATION

For the last few years, we have done a reasonable job in this AOR. However, we have lost a few PVs in the last year. I want to encourage members to consider becoming qualified as PV. It is not a difficult qualification to obtain nor is it a difficult or time-consuming one to remain current in. This qualification which used to be called "Marine Dealer Visitor" is no longer limited to contacts with boat dealers and boat manufactures. It is wide open to utilizing any source that the public has contact with directly or indirectly about boating.

In 2011 we are nationally using the same VSC Decal distribution procedure that was implemented in 2010. I solved the problem of ANSC running out of decals due to over ordering by flotillas. This means that each flotilla FC or FSO-MA needs to place their initial order for decals with ANSC as soon as they can. They will receive a distribution based on the number of VSCs that were reported in the prior year which ran from 07/01/2009 to 06/30/2010. If a flotilla exhausts their VSC, decals they can request more from the SO-VE; NOT FROM ANSC.

Submitted by Richard Goble



Launching the punt. Photo submitted by Norma Newton.

COMMUNICATIONS

The new year finds a new District Communication Officer (DSO-CM) in the person of Mr. Edward Menard from Leavenworth, Kansas (85-31-9). Mr. Menard's goals and objectives have been sent to all flotilla communication officers. Mr. Menard's goals are to increase the professionalism of communication and the number of trained effective communicators in the district. If you are interested in the details, please contact your FSO-CM for a copy of the document.

There will be a district FROGEx in late February in Division 33 that will provide some training and an opportunity for evaluation of flood response personnel and improvement prior to flooding in the district. If you have an interest in participating, please let your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLAM) know so that it can be passed to the planning team.

The 7004 submission protocol that was established under Mr. Sykes will continue as Mr. Sykes will be serving as ADSO-CM and will continue to deal with facilitization. All 7004s will be forward to me as SO-CM for review prior to submission to Mr. Sykes to, hopefully, insure that all information that is required for facilitization is included. The current 7004 has not been updated to request the information to determine the acceptability of a radio.

Submitted by Roland Newton

OPERATIONS

Just because there is snow on the ground doesn't mean we shouldn't be thinking about operations. This time of year when the water is hard, it is an opportunity to dust off all those operations manuals, curl up by the fire, and refresh the gray matter or begin the journey for a new qualification. It is also a wonderful time to participate in or self study the specialty courses. For those of you who are vigilant about reading our OTO's quarterly newsletter, you already know there have been significant changes to the AUXOP program. Mr. Leavell's newsletter also contains tons of useful stuff. If you haven't read it yet, visit the district web site and have a read.

Recently I sent an email to each of the FSO-OPs announcing the availability of the 8WR OPS Workshop. The division will be presenting that workshop at Awards Weekend at Mahoney State Park March 19, 2011 as well as in Des Moines at Camp Dodge April 17, 2011. The 1-hour TCT refresher will also be delivered at those times and locations. If you are currently operations qualified, and you have not seen the email or are interested in becoming operations qualified, contact your FSO-OP. If by chance your interest falls in the watchstander side, contact your FSO-CM.

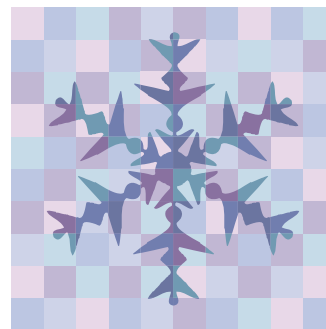
Looking forward to the operational season, I'd like to remind facility owners that you receive an email reminder that your facility is due for inspection. If you are not receiving that notice, check the Auxiliary Directory to insure your correct email address is there. It is your responsibility to solicit a qualified vessel examiner to conduct the inspection. If it is the first time a facility is offered for use, a photograph of the facility with sign boards and ensigns affixed per commandant instruction is required. Contact your FSO-OP if you have questions regarding facilities.

Thanks to high water, last year was not a very

active operations season until the end when we were in a crunch to satisfy our annual currency requirements. High water also washed out our SAREX which was planned to coincide with the Seamanship Rodeo and continued high water didn't allow for a reschedule. This year's Seamanship Rodeo is planned for June 25 at the Moorings. Conditions permitting, we'll again solicit active duty to participate in the rodeo and get on the water for a training exercise to include the usual check off tasks. SAREX, on the other hand, will not be a "scheduled" event this year. Don't worry; we're planning for it, but it will occur without participants' prior knowledge. I've removed myself from the planning as well so that I can fully participate. More information on both events will be forthcoming as the season approaches.

Lastly, I was asked the question as to how we can increase operations by 10% if we have a repeat of last year's water conditions. Quite frankly, it is a simple answer, if we increase our BCCREW, BCCOX, PWO, and watchstanders by 10%, we'll increase our operational hours by 10%. Not to mention our AUXAIR folks; high water would most certainly see more missions for them. That being said, it is a good time to order the training materials and start the process of obtaining a qualification. It seems I ended where I started; feel free to funnel any questions you might have to me via your FSO-OP.

Submitted by Frank Reiss



SALVATORE GIUNTA—MEDAL OF HONOR

On November 16, Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta received the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House.

Staff Sergeant Giunta is the first living recipient to be awarded the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. He was honored for his heroism and bravery during combat operations in Afghanistan in 2007.

Staff Sergeant Giunta earned the medal by charging a group of Taliban who were trying to take off with a wounded comrade during a battle. His actions stopped the Taliban's attack and allowed him to regain control of his wounded comrade. He also saved the lives of the many other members of his unit who had been caught in an ambush by the Taliban.

His hometown of Hiawatha, Iowa had a parade and gathering to welcome SSG Giunta home. Flotilla 4 members Wendy Faganel, Gene Kellogg and Nick Critelli represented the Coast Guard Auxiliary during the parade and ceremony. These Auxiliarists were able to meet SSG Giunta and thank him for his service and congratulate him for earning the Medal of Honor.

Submitted by Doug Jansen



Auxiliarists Wendy Faganel, Gene Kellogg and Nick Critelli meet SSG Salvatore Giunta during a reception in Hiawatha. (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo of Mrs. Carmela Chiafos)

Photo of Aux Station Omaha taken in November 2010 by Doug Jansen



CPR TRAINING



Division 33 members Jim Sitzman, Ron & Pauline Longnecker, Jill & Frank Reiss, Bar Stebbins, Kathleen Drawl and Trevor Henderson renewed their CPR certificates on January 22 at Eppley Fire Department. Photo by Jill Reiss

CHANGE OF WATCH

Jean Goble, Connie Walters, Frank Reiss (right).

Skip & Sandra Wolff (below)



Warren Koehler (above)



Frank Reiss presented challenge coins to incoming FCs Jill Reiss, Barclay Stebbins, Wendy Faganel and Mary Poe representing Bob Poe.