

MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER

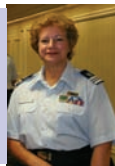
VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 4, FALL 2008

Fall Conference



Photos taken by Jill Reiss

DIVISION CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE CONNIE WALTERS



Seems like our summer was slow to arrive and early to leave. All in all we managed to get some training completed and mission hours logged. I have noticed that mission forms have not been completed. Members please complete your mission forms so that you can be accredited to the hours you have put in. This is especially important if you are a coxswain. Your crew does not get the hours they need to stay current unless you fill out the paper work. Please fill out the forms and send to your IS officers ASAP. There is less paper work to do if we can keep everyone out of reyr. The fall conference in Dubuque, Iowa was fabulous. The food at this conference was the best ever. Thank you Division 9 for a wonderful conference. You did a great job.

On October 7, the Captain of the Port SUMR, Captain Hudson visited the Omaha area. He first visited with Master Chief Heye of the Gasconade. Then met with Council Bluffs Fire Chief, Douglas County Sheriff and Herb Angell, Nebraska Boating Law Administrator. He then had a cruise on the Missouri and had a tour of Auxiliary Station Omaha.

Division 33's election dinner is October 25 at Anthony's Steak House. On November 18, Division 1 will be chartering a new flotilla in Ogallala, Nebraska. On November 22, Division 33 will be chartering a new Flotilla 33-6 in Des Moines, Iowa. The Change of Watch dinner will be hosted by Flotilla 33-4 on January 10, 2009 in Des Moines, Iowa. Good luck to all who are running for offices. Thank you for stepping forward and offering your time and talents.

DIVISION VICE CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE JEAN GOBLE



As I reflect back over the year, this has been a challenging boating season with the extreme variation in water levels in the Missouri River! However, we managed to complete our missions and our members were able to stay out of REYR. This required a lot of teamwork, and our members provided that.

Safe boating classes have been held for the boating public as well as training courses for our members. Several members are planning to have completed AUXOP by the end of the year.

Various PA events have been held around the division with members staffing the booths and distributing safe boating literature. These events have provided information and activities for all ages of the boating public – from young children to adults!

Social events during the year as well as these activities have provided opportunities for fellowship. Members have worked hard to complete our missions! You are all to be commended on working so hard this year to further the missions of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary!

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 Wieczorek	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
.....	VE
Larry Wieczorek	PV

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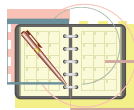
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July 15, 2008 for Summer issue

October 15, 2008 for Fall issue

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Jill C. Reiss—Editor



DATES TO REMEMBER

November 18, Ogallala flotilla charter
November 20, Division Meeting
November 22, Flotilla 6 charter
December 20, Division Christmas Social
January 10, Change of Watch Dinner
January 9-11, Omaha Boat Show
January 16-18, River City Hunting, Fishing, RV
and Boat Expo
February 26-March 1, Omaha Boat, Sports &
Travel Show

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CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE—PRIVACY ACT OF 1974:

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FLOTILLA 33-01

Flotilla 33-1 conducted a VSC day on 9 August at the Bellevue Marina. Four VSCs were completed before bad weather ended the ramp day. All members who needed VSCs to be current are finished.

VFC Goble and members Warren Koehler and Barclay Stebbins attended the division picnic in Sioux City. Their report was a good time was had by all. Thank you to the Sioux City flotilla for a job well done.

Dues notices are out, and we have collected from most of the flotilla at this time.

All Flotilla 33-1 members are now current after the stand down. Special thanks to coxswain Tom Spieker for covering all the patrols until all flotilla coxswains had completed the stand down training. All flotilla members have completed their hours to stay current. All currency maintenance has been completed as well as one new Coxswain qualified. Congratulations to Warren Koehler!! Special thanks to QE Pauline Longnecker for all of her help.

Flotilla 33-1 coxswain Spieker and crew Stebbins participated at the dedication of the Bob Kerry Bridge and conducted two SARs later that evening.

At the request of Flotilla 33-3, VFC Goble volunteered from Flotilla 33-1 to participate in the Freedom Walk on 11 September.

The World of Water was held 12 September at Wehrspann Lake. FC McNary, VFC Goble, and members Warren Koehler, Tom Spieker, Barclay Stebbins and Greg Tunink participated from Flotilla 33-1. Vice Division Commander Jean Goble also participated from Flotilla 33-3.

Flotilla 33-1 has a new flotilla polo, which was distributed at the September meeting.

FC McNary and VFC Goble attended the FALCON in Dubuque, Iowa.

Flotilla members will be attending the election dinner in October.

The flotilla expresses its sadness to the Auxiliary and the family of Vice Commodore Ron Allen on his recent passing.

Submitted by George McNary



**KEEP OMAHA
BEAUTIFUL** in

FLOTILLA 33-02

The members of 33-02 take pride in having successfully completed many projects and missions and projects during the 2008 Summer operations season.

Thanks to FSO-PE Officer Mary Poe, 153 students successfully completed our PE classes and are now prepared to be safe boaters. We all know educated boaters save lives and property, so as Auxiliarists our members take pride in making our small contribution to the safety of the recreational boating community in our district.

Several members attended our annual currency maintenance workshop and met their requalification requirements. Despite the unexpected suspension of operations this season our coxswains have all successfully completed the required training and have been relieved from the stand down. Coxswains successfully completed their patrol operations. Our members also took an active role as radio watch standers at Aux Station Omaha.

Members were hosts at the Nebraska Game and Parks public safety exhibit booth at the Nebraska State Fair in August. Both booth workers and members of the public who visited the booth expressed regret that the state fair grounds is going to move.

Our flotilla changed its monthly meeting location to the State Game and Parks offices in northeast Lincoln in September. We want to thank Herb Angel for his gracious invitation to cooperate with the Game and Parks Department in fulfillment of our shared mission to promote safety of the Nebraska recreational boating community through education.

Members of our flotilla attended the division picnic in Sioux City in August. We noticed that there has been a lot of new riverfront development that now makes Sioux City a tourist destination in Nebraska. Located on the riverfront, the Sioux City Auxiliary Flotilla operations station has been asked to progress up the river along with the waterfront development. We want to thank the Sioux City flotilla for hosting this year's division picnic.

One of our members has been active in the Boy Scouts since he was a Boy Scout. The storm devastation at the Little Sioux Boy Scout camp in June came as a particular personal blow to him. He went to the camp in the wake of the storm to do what he could to help. As Nebraskans we can all take pride in the way these young men responded to this horrible event with courage and self sacrifice. We may all hope that some day we will have the opportunity to serve with some of those fine young men.

Connie Walters and Claire Coleman attended the fall conference in September.

We would also like to recognize the work of our FSO--CM Phil Ward who volunteered to join the American Red Cross relief effort on the Gulf Coast following hurricane Ike. Phil got the opportunity to fly for the first time in his life while traveling to Houston. Phil spent three weeks sleeping on an air mattress on the gymnasium floor in the Houston Southern Baptist Church for three weeks. He spent most of his time supporting the logistics of emergency relief food distribution effort directed toward victims of the storm who had lost their homes or had been forced to flee their homes in advance of the hurricane.



Photographer unknown

FLOTILLA 33-02 (CONT.)



Although Phil spent most of his time in support of food relief effort he was able to take advantage of his communication specialty knowledge when he spent a couple days standing radio watch on the Red Cross radio network.

Phil said he even had the chance to have breakfast with two Auxiliarists from the northern California area while he was in Houston. He did visit Galveston, Texas, one of the hardest hit areas during the storm and said the damage there was indeed extensive, but that a small town north of Galveston was hit even harder and had been wiped out completely. The last known report was that 25 souls had lost their lives in the storm.

Phil said it was long hard (16 hour) days while he was there, but he worked with some really good people and he said it was very satisfying work. He has already signed up as a volunteer to join future disaster relief teams. He said working with many other generous volunteers in their effort to help other Americans in need made him even more proud to be an American.

Our flotilla has expressed our deep appreciation to Phil Ward for his service in this relief effort in Texas.

Our flotilla is looking forward to election dinner and to the holidays now. Our flotilla has a tradition of reaching out to those members of our community who appreciate some personal attention during the Christmas season. We plan to continue this tradition this year. We also plan to enjoy holiday fellowship at our Christmas potluck dinner party in December.

We are now planning for the annual sports shows in January. We look forward to the holidays and the opportunity to serve in 2009.

Reported by Mason Youngman

FLOTILLA 33-05

The Bellevue flotilla would like to congratulate Bob Goetschkes in obtaining his boat crew member certification this summer. Bob started studying for the boat crew program at the beginning of the year. This fall he was certified as a boat crew member. Congratulations Bob!

It is with sadness and gratitude that I announce that Phil and Mary Labadie will be retiring from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at the end of the year. I have feelings of sadness because I will miss them. However, I have gratitude for their years of service they have given to the Auxiliary. Phil joined the Auxiliary in May of 1986, and Mary followed in July of 1986. They both have over 22 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary!

Everyone should welcome our newest member, John Cotton. John lives in Nebraska City and joined our flotilla just last month. At one time, John was in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary in Orlando, Florida. John will be working toward certification in the boat crew program. If you meet John, please introduce yourself and give him a warm welcome.

Reported by Martin Eisenman

FLOTILLA 33-04



(l to r) Norma Newton, Trevor Henderson & Dave Ellis

(photo taken by Nick Critelli)

Three young adults were rescued from the Des Moines River on Saturday, August 16, thanks to the teamwork of Flotilla 4. Shore patrol, composed of Auxiliarists Dave Ellis, Norma Newton and Trevor Henderson, spotted a capsized boat and three boaters in the water. They were able to radio Birdland Base who relayed to our two patrol vessels. Pauline and Ron Longnecker on their Personal Watercraft were able to rescue one while David Mote, Jim Berry, Gary Neel and Jose Medina secured the other two. Communication was handed off to Mission Base at Sycamore access who coordinated the SAR with Sector Upper Mississippi River.

Teamwork involving all four mission elements (shore or ground patrol, surface patrol, communications and mission management) was necessary to make this a success. Other members involved included: Tony Crandell, Nick Critelli, Travis Daniels, John

Hawkinson, Gene Kellogg, Roland Newton, Ralph Tomlinson, Suzanne Tomlinson and Jeff Towle.

Submitted by Travis Daniels

FLOTILLA 33-03

33-03 continues to busy itself as the operational season draws to a close. To date flotilla vessel examiners have conducted 328 VSCs, while program visitors have conducted 92 visits at 28 partners. Eight more visits and flotilla PV and VSC goals will have been met. Public education goals have not fared as well due to numerous class cancellations; however, the flotilla has conducted 11 state classes, 1 children's class and a BS&S course.

Although flotilla instructors have not been as busy with PE as they have in the past, they have been busy with member training. A diversity workshop was held at the August meeting and a knot tying workshop at the September meeting. Additional workshops are scheduled for our October and November meetings. There is also CPR training scheduled for November. Jill Reiss was qualified as an instructor and assisted the DSO-PB with a publications workshop at fall conference.

Five members attended fall conference and took advantage of the training and fellowship. Another fellowship opportunity included a pizza party at the conclusion of the BS&S course mentioned above. Several instructors, along with students, and Richard Goble from 33-01, who also assisted as an instructor with the course, joined us at Schettler's in Bennington for pizza. Upcoming fellowship opportunities include the election dinner October 25 and our annual Christmas social. This year our social will be held at the Garden Café in Rockbrook.

Deadline for dinner reservations for the election dinner is October 20 as FCs need to have their final count to me by October 21. The election dinner committee along with members have been working hard on dinner details, along with securing some cool raffle items. Flotilla elections will be held at our November meeting. Good luck to all candidates around the division.

FLOTILLA 33-03 (CONT.)

On the PA front we sponsored a Freedom Walk in Heartland Park September 13, attended the annual Family Safety Day October 5, and we are in the process of planning for the 2009 Midwest Boat Show. The Family Safety Day this year was held at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in LaVista. An awesome venue, super planning, and excellent participation resulted in a spectacular event. Members stickered, tattooed, and handed out bags full of goodies to eager children. I look forward to the 2009 Midwest Boat Show as it is a great time to spread the recreational boating safety message. As in the past we welcome division members to assist in staffing the booth.

Lastly I'd like to congratulate Kathleen Drawl for earning her boat crew qualification this year.

Submitted by Frank Reiss



PUBLIC EDUCATION

It is that time of the year when boating and classes are coming to a halt. Soon, but not soon enough we will need to start thinking about class dates and ways of promoting those classes. Start looking at the calendar for dates that will work for prospective students and work around holidays and other activities in a Coast Guard Auxiliarist's busy schedule. Try to get some of those classes out of the way before our busy patrol schedule starts. Let's see if we can out do our attendance from this year. Have a restful off season and see everyone in the spring

Submitted by Mary Poe

Retirement Party

In August, Ron & Pauline Longnecker, Connie Walters and Jill & Frank Reiss traveled to Atlantic, Iowa for Dale Anderson's retirement party. He was a Recreational Safety Officer for the Iowa DNR. Connie presented a plaque on behalf of the Auxiliary.

(Photographer unknown)



Well, another season of patrols is in the books! Although water patrols are over for the season, marine safety and communications missions know no season. I would like to see our division continue their involvement in the Auxiliary by becoming involved in marine safety and environmental protection missions as well as homeland security and communications missions. These missions not only can fill the "void" members may have when the boats cannot be put in the water, but these can also complement your existing areas of interest within the Auxiliary as well throughout the year. Please contact me directly at nspmonster@yahoo.com if I can assist you in this endeavor in any way.

In closing.....Do you know what to do in case of a winter weather emergency? Now's the time to find out and renew and review your winter weather safety plans! Please feel free to contact me or your local county EMA if you'd like some ideas to peruse.

Stay SAFE!

Submitted by Bill Montz

MEMBER TRAINING

We have a couple of additional crew and a coxswain now. Congratulations to Kathleen Drawl and Robert Goetschikes on becoming crew qualified and Warren Koehler as Division 33's newest coxswain. It was a long process due to the high water and low water conditions we experienced this summer. We also have several Flotilla 4 members who are working on crew and coxswain. We should see some new qualifications once boating season begins next year.

An ICS 300 class will be put on by the Johnston Fire Department on November 22-23, 2008 that is open to any agency. John Halbrook jhalbrook@flotilla4.org is the POC for that November class.

Several members of the Division attended the ICS210 class at the fall conference. We now have about half of our coxswain trained in ICS210. If you are interested in taking a specialty course, please let me know so I can make some arrangements during the colder months for the training.

Submitted by Pauline Longnecker



There is an ICS 300 class being hosted in Johnston, Iowa on 22-23 November 2008. Flotilla 4 has been invited to send interested members, who meet the prerequisites, and the flotilla has extended this invitation to Division 33. Flotilla 4 will also be hosting an ICS 300 class on 10-11 January which will have even more slots available for Auxiliary members to attend. To attend either event please contact Mr. John Halbrook at jhalbrook@flotilla4.org for pre-registration and lodging information.



Flotilla 4 will be sponsoring ICS 300 training on January 10 - 11, 2009 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. It will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is TBD. Lodging is available for \$10/night at Camp Dodge or at local hotels. For registration information, e-mail jhalbrook@flotilla4.org. UOD is ODU or Trop Blue Long. More information will be forthcoming. This date coincides with the Division 33 Change of Watch in Des Moines.

OPERATIONS

This was a very short boating season this year. It seems like we just got the boats in the water, when in fact we are winterizing them now. Division 33 has done an excellent job of working patrolling this year and stepping up to the plate when needed for regattas and last minute requests. A couple of our marinas have been a challenge to tow into due to the low water and the silting that took place after the water was higher in April and May. Then, of course, our low water in August. Thank you coxswains and crew for your dedication in making the season so far very successful. Division 33 has assisted with over 15 regattas this year.

Since our stand down of July 23, all Division 33 coxswains who want to stay qualified attended the mandatory training. The feedback from participants and instructors was that it was, in fact, a good training. There is a possibility that this training will become part of the operation workshop in the future. However, since we have already had the training, we will not need to hold the training. We have been getting a few calls from 911 and with approval from Sector, we have been able to assist.

Division 33 was honored to have Steven Hudson, Captain of the Port in Omaha in October. Several agencies were invited; however, those who met the Captain of the Port were Council Bluffs Fire Chief, Douglas County Sheriffs, and Herb Angel. It was a great meeting with a lot of knowledge exchanged regarding regattas, problems on the river and other various topics. After the meeting, Captain Hudson was given a river tour of our local area and some of the problems that exist.

We need to remember that we represent the Coast Guard at all times. This means the operation of our facilities while under orders, anytime we have signboards up, and anytime we are in uniform. As coxswains, we need to use situational awareness at all times.

Also be very sure of the ATON that you are reporting. Be sure it is not correct and not just looks off. When reporting the ATON, make sure you are using the correct description, i.e., right descending bank, downstream channel, etc. Remember we are the professionals on the river and anytime we make mistakes like not describing a day mark correctly, we lose creditability.

If you have heard some different voices from the Auxiliary Station Omaha, we had several members from Flotilla 33-4 trained and are staffing the communication station. They are a great addition to the comms team and work the radio very well. Thank you for stepping up to the plate. It really helps those that contribute many hours monthly staffing the station.

As you store your equipment for the winter, give it a good look to see if you need to replace line or improve something in your boat for the patrol season.

Submitted by Pauline Longnecker

INFORMATION SERVICES

If you are having a problem with CITRIX, the name of the Client link we use to connect has changed. This is due to a name change of the product by Citrix; in the past it was called "Presentation Server 4.0" and is now "XenApp". On the Auxdata webpage there are two links for Citrix downloads, 1) Common Link: For all Citrix supported Operating Systems (i.e., Windows, Linux, Mac, IBM OS/2, etc), and 2) Quick Link: Specifically for Microsoft Vista, XP, 2000 or 2003.

The Election Eligibility report and the Annual Member letters are once again available and they seem to work very nicely. One thing I noticed with the Election Eligibility reports is that if you want to run the report for both FC/FVC or DCP/VCP you have to go back to the report menu after running the first then back into the report. Election Eligibility reports should be helpful in the upcoming elections, while the Annual letters should not be run or be distributed until after 01/12/09. More info will be forthcoming on the Annual Letters but now might be a good time for the FSO-IS officers to get familiar with them.

A revised form was posted 10-01-08 on the National Forms Site. The Activity Report-Mission, ANSC-7030 (10-08) is revised. Added is mission 06C - AUXSCE Reporting - A class taught by a certified SCEET. The previous edition may be used until the supply is exhausted. The National Forms site can be found at <http://forms.cgaux.org/forms.html>.

A problem was found with a process that notifies members who need to take the NavRules 95 exam. The process was designed to notify members needing to take the exam 45 days prior to being set to REYR. The process was not working, was corrected, and manually ran 10/06/08. Going forward the script should work as expected. If however you are uncertain or do not have email have your FSO-IS check for you. If they do not have AUXDATA access or are uncertain of how to check this ask them to contact me and I will assist them.

There were four members whose IT qualification was set to REYR on 10/15/08 for not having completed the 2008 IT workshop which was mandatory. These members were set to REWK previously and email notices sent out in July, and again 10/09/08. Lead instructor hours cannot be posted for these members until the workshop is completed and they are removed from REYR. The workshop can be found on the web at <http://www.auxtdept.org/Instructor.htm> or by following the Member Training links on the district web site.

While on the subject of REYR there are a number of members already in REYR for a variety of qualifications due to lack of hours, missed workshops, etc. If you do not wish to remain in a program, please take the time to complete an LOI to be removed from the program. If you are a coxswain, remember you are responsible for turning in your crew hours. All entries need to be made by 12/31/08 or those short of hours will be placed into REYR. Once placed in REYR there is a lot more work to get you out than it is to stay out to begin with.

Speaking of deadlines, data present in AUXINFO as of 01/12/09 will be used to calculate district awards. This means all paperwork has to be turned in and entered prior to 1/11/09 when AUXDATA dumps to AUXINFO. Please turn your paperwork in ASAP allowing your FSO-IS plenty of time to make the entries.



INFORMATION SERVICES (cont.)

Lastly awards are the only compensation besides the good feeling of a job well done that a member receives. Check out the district awards web site at <http://www.trlmo.com/cgaux8wr/awards/> and see if you can “make somebody’s day” by recommending an award. Don’t forget about the Division Awards program, those are listed in the Appendix to the Standing Rules. Don’t have a copy; ask your FC where you can get a copy.

Submitted by Frank Reiss

QE Check off



On October 10, 2008, Pauline Longnecker conducted a QE check off for Barclay Stebbins, Warren Koehler, George McNary, Jill and Frank Reiss and Norma Newton.

Photos taken by Jill Reiss

Fall Conference



Richard S. Goble was a flag carrier at Fall Conference.

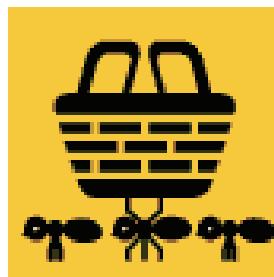
Photos taken by Skip Wolff

Division Picnic



On August 16, Flotilla 7 welcomed the Division to a potluck picnic. Their emergency response vehicle was available for touring as well Auxiliary station Sioux City.

Photos taken by Jill Reiss



At Fall Conference at the Saturday night dinner, we had a very similar ceremony. See photos on front cover.

MISSING MAN TABLE & HONORS CEREMONY

Moderator:

As you entered the dining area, you may have noticed a table at the front, raised to call your attention to its purpose -- it is reserved to honor our missing loved ones [or missing comrades in arms, for veterans].

Set for six, the empty places represent Americans still [our men] missing from each of the five services -- Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard - and civilians. This Honors Ceremony symbolizes that they are with us, here in spirit.

Some [here] in this room were very young when they were sent into combat; however, all Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call [to serve] and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

I would like to ask you to stand, and remain standing for a moment of silent prayer, as the Honor Guard places the five service covers and a civilian cap on each empty plate.

Honor Guard:

(In silence or with dignified, quiet music as background, the Honor Guard moves into position around the table and simultaneously places the covers of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, and a civilian hat, on the dinner plate at each table setting. The Honor Guard then departs.)

Moderator:

Please be seated I would like to explain the meaning of the items on this special table.

- The table is round -- to show our everlasting concern for our missing men.
- The tablecloth is white -- symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.
- The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing, and the[ir] loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers.
- The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.
- A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.
- A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.
- The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.
- The glass is inverted -- to symbolize their inability to share this evening's [morning's/day's] toast.
- The chairs are empty -- they are missing.

Let us now raise our water glasses in a toast to honor America's POW/MIAs and to the success of our efforts to account for them.

<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/missingman.htm>

FLOTILLA 6 OFFICERS 2009

Flotilla Commander (FC)	James Berry	
V Flotilla Commander (VFC)	Pat Jesse	
Operations Officer (OP)	David Mote	
Finance Officer (FN)	David Mote	
Information Officer (IS)	Jim Anderson	
Member Training Officer (MT)	Jim Anderson	
Aid To Navigation Officer (AN)	Jose Medina	
Marine Safety Officer (MS)	Steve Johnson	
Materials Officer (MA)	Jerry Leahy	
Publications Officer (PB)	Jerry Leahy	djleahy@mchsi.com
Public Affairs Officer (PA)	Virginia Stone	
Personnel Services Officer (PS)	Virginia Stone	
Public Education Officer (PE)	Pat Jesse	
Vessel Examination Officer (VE)	Vic Voskans	
Communications Officer (CM)	Gary Neel	
Secretary / Records Officer (SR)	Francis Meyarat	
Boating Safety Visitation Officer (PV)	Tim Rurodern	
Communication Services Officer (CS)		