

# “THE MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER”

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2, SUMMER 2019



## SCHEDULE OF FLOTILLA MEETINGS

085-33-01	Omaha	3rd Monday
085-33-02	Lincoln	2nd Tuesday
085-33-03	NP Dodge Park	3rd Tuesday
085-33-04	Des Monies	2nd Saturday
085-33-06	Johnston IA	3rd Sunday

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Flotilla Meeting Schedule .....	2
Division Officers .....	3
Division Commander's Notes .....	4
Diversity Message .....	5-6
Storage Update .....	7-8

**Published by and for members of  
The Great Plains Division,  
8th Western Rivers Region,  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Auxiliary**

**Opinions expressed herein are  
not necessarily those of the U.S.  
Coast Guard or U.S. Coast  
Guard Auxiliary.**



### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE-PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

The disclosure of the personal information contained in this publication is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. The subject Act, with certain exceptions, prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination or copying of any material containing the home addresses, home telephone number, spouses names and social security numbers, except for official business. Violations may result in disciplinary action by the Coast Guard and/or civilian criminal sanctions.

**Want to see more pictures?**

**Please remember to check out the website at:**

**[http://wow.uscgaux.info/WOW\\_signin.php?unit=](http://wow.uscgaux.info/WOW_signin.php?unit=)**

## Staff Roster

Division Commander ..... Brandon Butters  
 Vice Division Commander ..... Barbara Westcott  
 Immediate Past Commander ..... George McNary  
 Flotilla Commander 01 ..... James Westcott  
 Flotilla Commander 02 ..... Constance Walters  
 Flotilla Commander 03 ..... Douglas Eubanks  
 Flotilla Commander 04 ..... Roland Newton  
 Flotilla Commander 06 ..... John Hawkinson  
 Finance (SO-FN) ..... Randal Evans  
 Secretary of Records (SO-SR) ..... Barclay Stebbins

**Chief of Logistics** ..... Douglas Eubanks  
 Communication Services (SO-CS) ..... Douglas Eubanks  
 Human Resources (SO-HR) ..... Constance Walters  
 Information Services ..... Doug Eubanks  
 Materials (SO-MA) ..... Bernie McNary  
 Public Affairs (SO-PA) ..... James Westcott  
 Publications (SO-PB) ..... Barbara Westcott  
 Diversity (SO-DV) ..... James Westcott

**Chief of Prevention** ..... OPEN  
 Member Services (SO-MS) ..... Roland Newton  
 Member Training (SO-MT) ..... James Wolfe  
 Navigation Systems (SO-NS) ..... OPEN  
 Public Education (SO-PE) ..... OPEN  
 Public Visitation (SO-PV) ..... OPEN  
 Vessel Examination (SO-VE) ..... OPEN

**Chief of Response** ..... George McNary  
 Communications (SO-CM) ..... Roland Newton  
 Operations (SO-OP) ..... Norma Newton

Liaison to Iowa ..... OPEN  
 Liaison to Nebraska ..... Constance Walters  
 Liaison to Gasconade ..... Barclay Stebbins  
 Liaison to Bass Pro Council Bluff ..... Jim Westcott  
 Liaison to Bass Pro Des Moines ..... OPEN  
 Liaison to Cabela's ..... James Wolfe

## **DIVISION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE SUMMER 2019**



2019 has been another low year for patrol activity in our Division as we recover from record flooding. Thank you to Flotilla 4 for hosting some of your Great Plains Division neighbors letting us get some needed patrol hours. We had members representing every one of our Flotillas at Saylorville Lake the weekend of August 10th! I am truly blessed to work with a group of such dedicated and knowledgeable individuals. At the end of the boating season is when we begin to think about our participation in the Auxiliary (and for many, when we start adding up the receipts from all the \$\$\$ spent on Auxiliary activities).

For those of you with many years under your belt, I encourage you to think about branching out into an area that you may have some interest in but never took the time to explore. For those new to the Auxiliary, I challenge you to find an area that interests you and become involved. I was in the Auxiliary just under five years before I ran for elected position at my Flotilla. I have enjoyed working with all of the current Elected Flotilla Officers and hope to that you all will run for office next year. For those that say “an elected position is not for me”—that’s okay! There are plenty of other ways to become involved. Become a mentor to a junior member. Request to serve as a staff officer in a position that you have not held before. Work with others to obtain a new qualification or obtaining your AUXOP status. Work at recruiting members or a public affairs event. Participate in a division meeting and training (remember the meetings are open to all Division members!). Just become involved.

As far as next Division in-person meeting, per the survey of the Division members, we will have a meeting (election at the meeting), lunch, followed by some training. It looks like the number one topic for training requested is TCT/Risk Management. Second is Best Uniform Practices. Third is a tie between Coast Guard/Auxiliary Administration and TTX/Boat Crew/ICS. Thank you to all that participated in the survey. I look forward to seeing you on November 9th at our meeting. Details will be coming!

Brandon Butters, DCDR  
Great Plains Division, 8 Western Rivers District  
Cell: (515) 229-3542



# THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

By Jim Westcott, SO-DV/PA

and

Barb Westcott, VCDR

The author of this is Unknown and it can be found at the following Facebook site:  
"Thru Call it Disabilities, I Call it Downright Perfect"

## How God Chooses Special Needs Parents

Most people become parents by accident, some by choice, a few by social pressures and a couple by habit. This year, nearly 100,000 couples will become parents of handicapped children. Did you ever wonder how parents of handicapped children are chosen?

Somehow I visualize God hovering over Earth selecting his instruments for propagation with great care and deliberation. As he observes, he instructs his angels to make notes in a giant ledger.

"Armstrong, Beth, son, patron saint, Matthew.  
Forrest, Michael, daughter, patron saint, Cecilia. "Rudledge, Carrie and Adam, twins, patron saint, give her Gerard. He's used to profanity."

Finally, he passes two names to an angel and smiles, "Give them a special needs child."

The angel is curious. "Why this one, God? They're so happy."

"Exactly," says God. "Could I give a special needs child to parents who do not know laughter? That would be cruel."

"But have they patience?" asks the angel.

"I don't want them to have too much patience or they will drown in a sea of self-pity and despair. Once the shock and resentment wear off, they'll handle it."

"I watched them today. They have that feeling of self and dependence that is so rare and so necessary in a mother and father. You see, the child I'm going to give them has his own world. They have to make it live in her world, and that's not going to be easy."

"But, Lord, I don't think they even believe in you."

Continued on the next page

God smiles. "No matter. I can fix that. These two are perfect. They have just enough selfishness."

The angel gasps, "Selfishness? Is that a virtue?"

God nods. "If they can't separate themselves from the child occasionally, they'll never survive. Yes, here is a woman and a man whom I will bless with a child less than perfect. They don't realize it yet, but they are going to be envied. They will never take for granted a 'spoken word.' They will never consider a 'step' ordinary. When their child says 'Momma' for the first time, they will be present at a miracle and know it! When they describe a tree or a sunset to their blind child, they will see it as few people ever see my creations.

"I will permit them to see clearly the things I see . . . ignorance, cruelty, prejudice . . . and allow them to rise above them. They will never be alone. I will be at their side every minute of every day of their life, because they are doing my work as surely as they are here by my side."

"And what about their patron saint?" asks the angel, pen poised midair.

God smiles. "A mirror will suffice."





# SURPLUS EQUIPMENT STORAGE

Remember the old saying, One for the money, Two for the show, Three to get ready and Four to GO !

ONE) At the last Division Meeting it was decided that there was a need for a place to store surplus equipment that has accumulated over the years. It was unfair to those members who we “blessed” with the task of storing the un-needed equipment.

TWO) So as some of you are aware a storage unit at a local Dinos was obtained. It was decided that a unit measuring 5’ wide by 8’ deep and 10’ tall should be large enough to adequately hold the equipment that had accumulated over the years. Boy Oh Boy, were we in error (not wrong, just in error).

THREE) With the storage unit located, and after discussion with current Division leadership, past Division leaders and various flotilla members it was decided that some form of shelving was needed to ensure the best use of the space allocated. Remember that while 5’ x 8’ x 10’ at first may seem to be a large space, installing shelving will multiply the useful storage several-fold. And so it was decided. A special thanks for Flotilla One (the “Fun One”) for their generous purchase of the four shelving units.

GO) On the 2nd of June, George McNary, Past Division Commander; Barb Westcott, Vice-Division Commander; and Jim Westcott, Flotilla Commander of the Omaha Flotilla, met at the selected Dino’s location and surveyed the storage unit, and came up with a plan. Shelving was scouted, selected and transported back to the storage unit, where it was assembled and installed. It was a warm humid day and even with a positive G-A-R score the mission was successful.

EXCEPT) The darn unit is full.

AND) Remember the flood in March? Remember all the equipment in storage at the Moorings in North Omaha? Guess what? It is all in a trailer, covered, and in a garage with no place “in the Inn” as it were, for it to be stored.

NO I am NOT advocating getting a larger storage unit. With the dwindling numbers of Auxiliarists in the Great Plains Division equipment becomes surplus, and needs to (as ET so properly put it) “Go Home.”



Continued on the next page

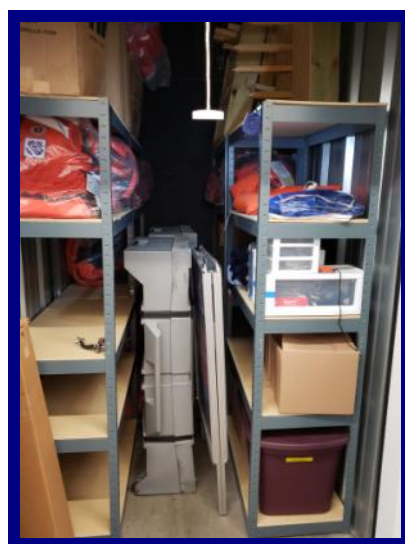


## Pictures of Our Storage

Pictures by Barb Westcott



**Shelving installed**



**Rapidly filling up!**



**Going, going, gone!**