

# THE MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1, WINTER 2023



## SCHEDULE OF FLOTILLA MEETINGS

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

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Flotilla Meeting Schedule	2
Division Officers	3
Division Commander's Notes	4
Change of Watch	5-6
Diversity Message	7
What we should know	8-9
Awards Banquet	10

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

**Opinions expressed herein are  
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**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 .....Douglas Eubanks  
 Division Vice Commander .....James Westcott  
 Immediate Past Commander .....Barbara Westcott  
 Flotilla Commander 33-1, District 8WR.....Barclay Stebbins  
 Flotilla Commander 33-2, District 8WR.....Constance Walters  
 Flotilla Commander 33-3, District 8WR ..... Daniel Smith  
 Flotilla Commander 33-4, District 8WR.....Alan Dykens  
 Finance (SO-FN) .....George McNary  
 Secretary of Records (SO-SR) .....Barbara Westcott

**Chief of Logistics** ..... Douglas Eubanks  
 Auxiliary Scout (SO-AS).....Patrick Rezac  
 Communication Services (SO-CS) ..... Douglas Eubanks  
 Diversity (SO-DV) .....Barbara Westcott  
 Human Resources (SO-HR) .....Constance Walters  
 Information Services (SO-IS).....Doug Eubanks  
 Materials (SO-MA) .....George McNary  
 Public Affairs (SO-PA) ..... Randal Evans  
 Publications (SO-PB) ..... Barbara Westcott

**Chief of Prevention** ..... Daniel Smith  
 Marine Safety (SO-MS) .....Randy Evans  
 Member Training (SO-MT) ..... Alan Dykens  
 Navigation Systems (SO-NS) .....Daniel Smith  
 Public Education (SO-PE) .....Cannon Kinchelow  
 Public Visitation (SO-PV) .....Daniel Smith  
 Vessel Examination (SO-VE) .....Daniel Smith

**Chief of Response** ..... George McNary  
 Communications (SO-CM) .....James Westcott  
 Operations (SO-OP) .....George McNary

### Other Appointments

Liaison to Iowa .....Brandon Butters  
 Liaison to Nebraska ..... Constance Walters  
 Liaison to Coast Guard..... Barclay Stebbins  
 Liaison to Corps of Engineers..... James Westcott  
 Liaison to Bass Pro Council Bluff..... OPEN  
 Liaison to Bass Pro Des Moines ..... OPEN  
 Liaison to Cabela's ..... James Westcott

## DIVISION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE WINTER 2022



Shipmates,

We are off to a great start on a fresh, new year. While the weather is still not favorable for thoughts of the upcoming boating season, there are still many things we can do to prepare. Each of us has the responsibility to track our individual qualifications and to know the requirements that must be met in order for the certification to remain current. Some require workshops be done prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, and almost all have minimum participation levels that will need to be fulfilled prior to the end of the current year. If you are not sure, ask your IS officer to help you with the requirements.

On January 28<sup>th</sup> the first, in-person, Change of Watch and Lantern Ceremony in two years was held at Cascio's in Omaha. The event was well attended with distinguished guests BOSN Garver and Boating Law Administrator of Iowa, Susan Stoecker in attendance. A good time was had by all attendees and the fellowship we experienced was a welcome, refreshing change.

Looking forward on the calendar, D-Train is fast approaching March 30 to April 2 in St. Louis. There is a full slate of exciting activities taking place. A full rundown can be found on the 8WR Website under "Spring D-Train 2023" in the menu on the left side of the page.

Division 33 will have its Spring meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> with the Division Awards dinner that evening at Cascio's in Omaha. This is always a joyous time with the distribution of awards earned by our members the previous year. Look for more information to come.

Let's all get involved and help make this another great year for Division 33.

Semper Paratus

Doug Eubanks, DCDR



## **DIVISION 33 CHANGE OF WATCH**

Article by Warren Koehler, FSO-VE, 33-1, AND Colleen Dawson, both members of  
American Legion Post 374  
Pictures by Colleen Dawson

Two members of the American Legion Post 374, Millard, had the unique opportunity to observe the Change of Watch and Passing of the Lantern Ceremony on January 28, 2023, for the Eighth Western River Region's Division 33 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Division 33's area of responsibility includes most of Nebraska and Iowa and the lower half of South Dakota, and has flotillas in Omaha, Lincoln, and Des Moines. The ceremony facilitates the update of the functions, service, and passing of office responsibilities to newly elected officers of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, which is an official part of Homeland Security.

Doug Eubanks, Division Commander, served as Master of Ceremonies for Division 33's Change of Watch. He awarded certificates of recognition and led the "Passing of the Lantern" to each of the new officers. The "Passing of the Lantern" signifies "Light through Education" representing the handing of leadership to the newly elected officers. BOSN Dan Garver with the US Coast Guard stationed in St. Louis, Missouri, opened as the Guest of Honor, and was first speaker for the ceremonies.

The second speaker of the night was Susan Stocker, Iowa Boating Law Administrator Education Coordinator, who gave a presentation on Boating Safety and previewed changes for the upcoming year. Iowa and Nebraska have reciprocity due to sharing the Missouri River for boating laws and safety. Susan also happens to be Chairperson for NASBLA, National Association of State Boating Law Administration.

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary offers the opportunity for veterans to serve their community and use their various skills. It is also unique, as anyone 17 years of age, with parental permission, or older can join as long as they pass the requirements. Opportunities include patrolling, boat safety, education, and rendering aid on the various rivers and lakes. One can also work with radio communications, public relations, newsletters, and public education. UNO, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, has a Degree in Emergency Management through the Auxiliary University Program (AUP), as well as several other courses that can be part of a career in the US Coast Guard. If one is involved with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, they may qualify for education assistance for other courses as well. More information can be found at: <https://www.cgauxedu.us>.

It's a great opportunity for our American Legion veterans to find worthwhile community services to use their inherent skills by working in conjunction with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary can then utilize the skill base for community service. If this has caught your attention please go to: <https://cgaux.org/units.php> to find out more.





Doug Eubanks, DCDR,  
Division Commander,  
Master of Ceremonies



Dan Garver, BOSN2



Susan Stocker, Iowa Boating Law  
Administrator/Education Coordinator



Jim Westcott, Division Vice Commander,  
passing the ceremonial change of watch  
lantern to Barclay Stebbins, New Flotilla

# Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity: the art of  
thinking  
independently  
together.

Malcolm Forbes

BrainyQuote

**"DIVERSITY**  
drives innovation -  
when we limit who can  
contribute, we in turn  
limit what  
**PROBLEMS**  
we can solve"

- Telle Whitney

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# WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW

[https://www.waterwayguide.com/knowledge-center/news-post/12054/boats-sink-at-the-dock-is-4x-more-than-underway?utm\\_source=iContact&utm\\_medium=em](https://www.waterwayguide.com/knowledge-center/news-post/12054/boats-sink-at-the-dock-is-4x-more-than-underway?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=em)

## Boats Sinking at the Dock is 4x More Than Underway

**Date Posted:** February 15, 2023

**Source:** COMO Vincent Pica, 1st District, Southern Region (D1SR) USC



If I told you that statistics on boats sinking showed that the dock is four times more dangerous than the open waters, you might tell me to check my calculator, amongst other things. But study after study show that four times as many boats sink at the dock than underway! Why is that?

**Real-Time Reactions** Well, candidly, there are lies, damn lies and statistics. If you are underway and you see water coming up from below, you are going to do something about it right away. Thus, the underway problems are going to be dealt with in real time and the odds are way in your favor that you can save the vessel, even if you have to drive her on to the beach to do so. But why do so many boats sink at their docks? Why didn't the bilge pump save her, to start with? Many people believe "big boat, big bilge pump. Little boat, little bilge pump." Wrong! Big boat, LOTS of bilge pumps. Little boat, BIG bilge pump. You need to get the water OUT of your 17' Seahunt as fast as possible. 500 gallons per minute isn't half as good as 1,000 GPM. It is less than half as good because, once she goes down, no bilge pump can re-float her. And experts estimate that it costs 40% of the original value of the boat to re-wire her and restore the engine. Oh, and throw out the radio, GPS and fish finder. So, your \$20,000 17' Seahunt will cost you as much as \$8,000 to repair/restore versus the \$200 1,000 GPM bilge pump. Is she worth that much today?

Continued on the next page



Buying Time And remember, bilge pumps don't save boats. They buy you time. Time from what? Well, again, the statistics say that boats sink at the dock for 2 major reasons. Half the time, a thru-hull fitting gives up the ghost and water eventually overwhelms the battery/bilge pump arrangement. So, check the thru-hulls with every lay-up. And check the screws around them. If the screws "rot\*" away, it is another source of water to enter that isn't so obvious. But it will add up.

The second most common source of sinking at the dock is snow and rain (30%). I had one happen to one of my boats because the self-bailing scuppers clogged from leaves. Rain followed – and followed – and followed – until I had a submarine. Also, many skippers believe that biminis and canvas covers prevent water from entering the boat. Wrong again. They slow it but don't stop it. In the winter, stow them someplace dry and shrink-wrap the boat. So, over 80% of the boats sink for two reasons – all of which adds up to checking the boat from time to time. Or paying the dock hand to – or your teenager that wants some extra spending money to go with his or her new driver's license – but check it. Would you leave a box with \$20,000 unattended on your lawn for months at a time?

So, if 4 out of 5 boats sink at the dock, what about that other boat? Well, that is a story for another time – and soon.

As a side note, marine screws don't rot. They get eaten away by electrical charges in the water. This is due to poor "galvanic isolation". More on that in the weeks ahead!



# ***SAVE THE DATE OF APRIL 29, 2023***

***DIVISION 33 OF THE 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION  
WILL HOLD THEIR SPRING BUSINESS MEETING  
STARTING PROMPTLY AT 1000 HRS  
THE LOCATION WILL BE THE AUXILIARY STATION OMAHA  
LOCATED AT 9800 JOHN J PEERSHING DR. OMAHA***

***We will be serving beef hot dogs, brownies and  
any side dish you may wish to bring to share***

***THE DIVISION AWARDS CERMONEY WILL BE HELD AT  
CASCIO'S RESTAURANT LOCATED AT  
1620 S 10TH St. , OMAHA***

***SOCIAL HOUR WILL START AT 1800 HRS.***

***PLEASE CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING MENUE ITEMS:***

***8OZ Top Sirloin - \$38.00***

***Atlantic Salmon - \$38.00***

***Chicken Parmesan - \$ 30.00***

***Tax and gratuity are included in the above prices,  
payment via cash or check will be collected prior to the dinner.***

***Your family is invited to attend.***

***ADULT BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA A CASH BAR***

***Please advise me of your dinner choice and the number attending.***

***RSVP to me by April 20th 2023.***

***With your intention to attend the meeting, lunch and  
training, the dinner or all three.***

***You may call or text me at 402-510-0308,***

***Or email me at [kc0hlb@cox.net](mailto:kc0hlb@cox.net)***

***The uniform of the day will be Tropical Blues, AWU or business Casual.***