

THE MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3, SUMMER 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

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**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 check out the website at:
http://wow.uscgaux.info/WOW_signin.php?unit=**

Staff Roster

Division CommanderDouglas Eubanks
 Division Vice CommanderJames Westcott
 Immediate Past CommanderBarbara 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 IowaDoug Ives
 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



Shipmates,

The subtle signs that the end of another boating season is near are starting to show their colors. Schools are back in session, State Fairs are bustling with crowds, fall festivals are in abundance, and----It's Labor Day!

Oh boy, now your brain is working so hard you are getting a headache. Your thoughts: Did I get enough hours, vessel exams, visits, or whatever it is I needed to get done, done? When the leaves start to fall, and the ground turns white with the first frost of the season is usually too late in the season and you will have extra work to do in the spring to reclaim your qualifications. The nip in the air is heralding the arrival of winter and the sounds of another successful boating season are fading fast in the distance. Don't let another day go by without answering those questions in your mind and make sure you have done your duty to maintain your qualifications so when the next boating season arrives you can hit the ground running.

To everyone who attended the Division meeting and picnic on August 5th, THANK YOU! It would have been great to have more members attend but summer vacations, and the heat and humidity, took its toll on attendance. There is always next year.

My last article indicated Fall D-Train was to be August 24-27, but due to unforeseen problems, it has been moved to September 15-17 and is a Business Meeting only! Anyone is welcome to attend on their own dime, but there will not be any training offered. Virtual training dates and topics are in the works but nothing definite yet has been announced.

Upcoming dates to decorate your calendar:

- Sept 15-17 – Fall Business Meeting, St Louis
- Sept 30 – Division Election meeting and dinner
- Jan 27 – Division Meeting and Change of Watch
- April should be Spring D-Train, but no dates announced yet
- May 4 – Division Meeting and Awards Dinner
- Aug 3 – Division Meeting and Picnic

Remember, we are noticed by the Active Duty and the public!
Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty

Semper Paratus

Doug Eubanks, DCDR

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
8th Western Rivers Region
Division 33
Invites YOU to our fall
2023 Election Meeting
& Dinner**

ELECTION MEETING

will be held at the
Auxiliary Station Omaha
located at 9800 John J Pershing Drive, Omaha NE.
On the 30th of September, 2023
and will start promptly at 10:00 Hrs. (local time).

Uniform will be “Trops” or business attire.

ELECTION DINNER

will be held at the
LaMesa Restaurant
Located at 1405 Fort Road S, Bellevue at 1800
Hrs.

Casual dress is suggested.

We will order off the menu

RSVP to Barb Westcott for a dinner count

Diversity and Inclusion

How to Boost Diversity and Inclusion in Volunteer Programs **(linkedin.com)**

Last updated on Aug 25, 2023

How do you increase diversity and inclusion in volunteer programs?

Powered by AI and the LinkedIn community

Diversity and inclusion are important values for any organization, especially for those that rely on volunteers to achieve their mission. However, creating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive volunteer program can be challenging, especially in times of social change and uncertainty. In this article, you will learn some practical tips on how to increase diversity and inclusion in your volunteer programs, from recruitment to retention, and from training to recognition.

Why diversity and inclusion matter

Diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords, they are essential for the success and sustainability of your volunteer program. Diversity means having volunteers from different backgrounds, identities, experiences, and perspectives, who can bring their unique skills, talents, and insights to your work. Inclusion means creating a culture of belonging, respect, and empowerment, where every volunteer feels valued, supported, and engaged. The advantages of a diverse and inclusive volunteer program are vast - it can help you reach more communities and beneficiaries by reflecting and understanding their needs; it can boost creativity and innovation through the diverse ideas and opinions of your volunteers; it can improve your performance and impact by leveraging the skills, knowledge, and abilities of your volunteers; and it can bolster your reputation by displaying your commitment to social justice, equity, and inclusion.



How to measure diversity and inclusion

Measuring diversity and inclusion in your volunteer program is the fourth step to increasing it. This involves collecting and analyzing data and information to assess the progress and outcomes of your efforts, and reporting and communicating your results to demonstrate accountability and transparency. To do this, you should define and track diversity and inclusion indicators and metrics, such as the number, demographics, satisfaction, retention, and impact of your volunteers. Additionally, use diverse methods of data collection, such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, and testimonials to capture both quantitative and qualitative aspects of your performance. Analyze the data to identify strengths and weaknesses in your practices, compare results with goals and standards, and generate insights for improvement. Lastly, report and communicate findings to share with stakeholders, showcase achievements and impacts, and solicit feedback for future actions.

How to improve diversity and inclusion

The final step to increasing diversity and inclusion in your volunteer program is to improve diversity and inclusion. This involves implementing and monitoring changes and improvements, as well as reviewing and updating your strategies and plans. To do this, you should create an action plan that outlines the specific actions, responsibilities, timelines, and resources for improving your performance. Additionally, you should review and update policies and procedures that reflect your commitment to diversity and inclusion. Engaging stakeholders such as volunteers, staff, beneficiaries, partners, and donors is also important. Invite them to participate in decision making and implementation, seek their opinions, ideas, and feedback, and acknowledge their contributions. Lastly, it is important to learn from experiences by celebrating successes, acknowledging challenges and failures, seeking best practices and lessons learned, and embracing continuous learning.





WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW

The information for this article was found at:
hello@interestingfacts.com
And forwarded by Jean Goble, retired, 85-33-1

Royal Air Force WWII uniforms included a pants button that served as a compass.

Tiny, hidden survival tools packed into the waistband of your pants may sound like something fantastical from a spy movie, but in the case of British wartime pilots, they were a reality. During World War II, the Royal Air Force sent its aviators skyward with all the tools they'd need to complete a mission, along with a few that could help them find their way home if they crash-landed behind enemy lines. One of the smallest pieces of survival gear pilots carried was a compass built into the button of their trousers.

Three months after entering World War II, the British military launched its MI9 division, a secret intelligence department tasked with helping service members evade enemy forces or escape capture. Between 1939 and 1945, masterminds at MI9 created a variety of intelligence-gathering and survival tools for troops, such as uniform-camouflaging dye shaped like candy almonds, ultra-compressed medications packed inside pens, and button compasses. The discreet navigational tools were typically made from two buttons, the bottom featuring a tiny needle. When balanced on the spike, the top button acted as a compass that rotated with the Earth's poles; two dots painted on the metal with luminous paint represented north, and one indicated south.

MI9 distributed more than 2.3 million of its button compasses during the war. They could be paired with secretive maps that were smuggled to captured service members inside care packages delivered to prisoner-of-war camps. Often printed on silk for durability and waterproofing, the 44 different maps (sent to different camps based on location) were tucked discreetly into boot heels and board games. The ingenuity worked — by the war's end, MI9 was credited with helping more than 35,000 Allied soldiers escape and make their way home.

