

THE MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 1, WINTER 2024



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
Lincoln Boat Show Pictures	5
Chang of Watch Pictures	6
Diversity and Inclusion	7
What You should Know	8
Awards Invite	9

**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=**

Staff Roster

Division CommanderJames Westcott
 Division Vice CommanderBarbara Westcott
 Immediate Past CommanderDouglas Eubanks
 Flotilla Commander 33-1, District 8WR.....Barclay Stebbins
 Flotilla Commander 33-2, District 8WR.....Constance Walters
 Flotilla Commander 33-3, District 8WR Randal Evans
 Flotilla Commander 33-4, District 8WR.....Christopher Shade
 Finance (SO-FN)George McNary
 Secretary of Records (SO-SR)Cannon Kinchelow

Chief of LogisticsDouglas 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)Bernard McNary
 Public Affairs (SO-PA) Randal Evans
 Publications (SO-PB) Barbara Westcott

Chief of Prevention **OPEN**
 Marine Safety (SO-MS)Randy Evans
 Member Training (SO-MT) **OPEN**
 Navigation Systems (SO-NS)George McNary
 Public Education (SO-PE)Cannon Kinchelow
 Public Visitation (SO-PV)**OPEN**
 Vessel Examination (SO-VE)Warren Koehler

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

Other Appointments

Liaison to IowaBrandon Butters
 Liaison to Nebraska Constance Walters
 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 Marie Carsey

DIVISION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE WINTER 2024



R&R - - - Nope I'm not talking about the dangers of Rail Road Crossings, which as we all know are a real danger here in the Great Plains, but a rather sneaky, albeit far more dangerous to our Auxiliary. What is it you ask? Well, I'm glad you asked, as it is the sneaky (and sometimes fatal) recruitment and retention of our members. Any member who has been around prior to the "background check, post 9-11 through the double whammy of the Pandemic, to say nothing of many of our older and brighter members just plain getting older, can tell us that our members have taken a giant leap towards extinction. I would also point out that it is not only membership that has suffered, but also all across the board we have been losing facilities, marinas, fuel docks, and the list goes on and on. So what can we do about all of this? Well, just talking about it is about as effective as trying to kill a mosquito with a hammer. It may be satisfying in the here and now, but in the long run it just doesn't work. So - - -

I would suggest that every flotilla challenge each of their members recruit at a minimum of one member each in next 12 months (that is 2024). For each member that brings in an active member there will be a Certificate of Appreciation in their name along with a "Shiny New Penny" affixed to the award. Should a member, or flotilla, bring in 100+ new members in 2024, an equally impressive award will be presented.

That takes care of Recruitment, now what about the other **R**, that is retention? How do you keep members who have joined and then just dropped off the face of the earth. These members have been called by many names, paper members, ghost members etc. Some advocate dropping them as they do not contribute to the "cause!" I say horse feathers. They do contribute, perhaps not as much as I would like to see, but they are on the rolls and allow some of us to be of assistance in the greater good of RBS and other viable activities. So try to urge them into a more active roll if you can, but do all you can to retain them. While talking to them see if they could recommend anybody for membership, friends-coworkers-relatives etc. Perhaps that will bring them back "into the fold" and become more active. However once you get a new member don't rush to make them a flotilla officer right away. Invite them onboard a facilitated vessel for a "familiarization tour." Find out what they are interested in and what they are NOT interested in. Work with them and keep them active in the day to day operations of your flotilla. We have almost an unlimited list of opportunities for anybody to choose from. Remind your student of that old adage that says "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" is most appropriate in our Auxiliary.

Semper Paratus,

Jim Westcott, DCDR

LINCOLN BOAT SHOW 2024

Division 33, of the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY came together in February 2024 and staffed an informational booth at the “Sandhills Global Event Center” located in Lincoln Nebraska. Our ‘point of contact’ for the event was FC Connie Walters of 085-33-02, with the assistance of FC Randy Evans of 085-33-03. Fliers, hand-outs, coloring books, crayons, tables, chairs, signage etc. were all loaded up and transported the 50+ miles (one-way) to the venue by various members on the designated set-up Thursday of the Friday / Saturday / Sunday event.

A listing of the members assisting at this cooperative endeavor, along with their flotilla designation is as follows: from 33-01, Omaha NE – Jim Westcott. Barb Westcott, Barclay Stebbins George McNary, Justin Stoffolano, and Cannon Kinchelow. From 33-02, Lincoln NE – Connie Walters & Mason Youngman. From 33-03, NP Dodge Park – Randy Evans. These Auxiliarists put in several hundred ‘man hours’ at the event, engaging with the public, answering questions about RBS as well as the Nebraska State Statutes regarding boat operation on our waterways. Bravo-Zulu to these members that once again proved that we are all members of one fine and proud organization, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.



George McNary, 85-33-01
Photos by Barclay Stebbins, 85-33-1



Pictured left to right
Mason Youngman, 85-33-2
Justin Stoffolano, 85-33-1

Pictures of the January 27, 2024 Change of Watch for Division 85-33 And Lantern Ceremony

Pictures by Bonnie Stebbins



Pictured left to right
LTJG LaDuque,
Barclay Stebbins, FC 85-33-01,
Connie Walters, FC 85-33-02,
Randy Evans, FC 85-33-03,
Jim Westcott, DCDR 85-33

The Lantern Ceremony

Pictured left to right:
LTJG LaDuque,
Jim Westcott, DCDR
Barb Westcott, VCDR
Barclay Stebbins, FC 85-33-01
Connie Walters, FC 85-33-02
Randy Evans, FC 85-33-03



LTJG LaDuque, addressing the attending
members of the Division.

DCAPT-W Doug Eubanks. IPDCDR,
was presented a serving tray decorated
with Auxiliary memorabilia for a job
well done by Jim Westcott, DCDR



Diversity and Inclusion

USCG Auxiliary Diversity Moment

February 2024

Prepare For Your Breakthrough

"Eliminating barriers is just good for the workforce. It makes it easier for everyone to serve honorably and support their families. We recruit an individual, we retain families."

~ADM Linda Fagan

Admiral Fagan became the Coast Guard's 27th commandant on June 1st, 2022, an achievement hard-earned for anyone. Joining the CG Academy only five years after the first group of women had been granted admission, she graduated in 1985. Her success is attributed not only to building upon the accomplishments of those who preceded her, but also to her personal determination to strive for excellence. She has proven to be unbeatable.

In our nation today, most barriers are as thin as tissue paper, where desire acts as the iron, and opportunity as the magnet, separated only by this thin barrier. Changing attitudes and laws have fostered more opportunity for individuals who genuinely and sincerely aspire to succeed. The United States has led this effort, especially through the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Eliminating barriers not only promotes fairness but also brings tangible benefits to individuals and organizations. Doing so sets a positive cycle in motion where a supportive environment leads to increased productivity, success, and satisfaction for everyone involved. The result? People want to stay and continue to contribute.

Eliminating barriers has been a crucial approach that not only promotes fairness but also brings numerous tangible benefits to both individuals and organizations. It creates a positive cycle where a supportive environment leads to increased productivity, success, and satisfaction for everyone involved. The result? People want to stay and continue to contribute. We need to always be willing to help our shipmates prepare for success to give them reasons to stay. Part of this equation is preparing ourselves and each other through training.

When people feel that their organization values and supports them, they are more likely to stay with their institution for the long term, in other words--retention. Makes sense: Diversity in a team, such as our Auxiliary, will result in a richer pool of ideas, talents, and skills, contributing to leading progress for ourselves and within our organization. People like success. Others notice that success, especially families. Families in turn, support us in carrying out our mission. All this is to prepare us for a chance at something worthwhile to be proud of. If we show each other that we genuinely care, encourage and celebrate excellence, then we are unbeatable.

Michael Brown, BC-DUP Outreach (Diversity & Inclusion Directorate)



WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW

Submitted by Retired Member, Jean Goble

Born Christian Ludolf Ebsen, Jr. on April 2, 1908, in Belleville, Illinois, Buddy's family moved to Orlando, Florida in 1920 where his father became the manager of a dance studio, and it was in this dance studio that Buddy learned to dance. Initially after graduating high school in 1926, he attended college with the intention of entering into a career in medicine, but family financial troubles soon after put an end to those dreams and he was forced to drop out of college. In search of a career, he moved to New York City in 1928 in order to try his luck as a dancer.

In 1936, he got a chance to dance with America's sweetheart, Shirley Temple, in "Captain January" and the following year he danced with Judy Garland, in "Broadway Melody of 1938". Buddy's career was in full swing when he was cast as the Tin Man in MGM's production of "The Wizard of Oz" in 1939. Due to an allergy to the aluminum dust used in the makeup for the character Ebsen had to step away from the role as he was hospitalized for an extended period of time.

Upon recovery Ebsen sought an officer's commission in the US Navy but was turned down. He then applied to the Coast Guard and was awarded a commission with the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade. During the war he served as Executive Officer on the Coast Guard manned Navy frigate USS Pocatello which recorded weather 1500 miles west of Seattle, Washington. Lieutenant Junior Grade Ebsen served through 1946. (TCM Archive)
After the war Buddy Ebsen would go on to work in both television and film. Some of his more notable film/television credits include "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and the character of George Russell in Disney's "Davy Crockett."

He would star for nine seasons or 274 episodes in the CBS sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies" and then in January of 1973 Buddy would go on to play the title role in "Barnaby Jones" for eight seasons. Ebsen's career would span over 70 years.

Buddy Ebsen passed away on July 6, 2003, at the age of 95 years old. His ashes were scattered at sea. Lest We Forget.



SAVE THE DATE OF MAY 4, 2024

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
Lunch to be determined later

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 MENU 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 2024.

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 kc0h1b@cox.net

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