

The Scuttlebutt



Newsletter for Flotilla 12-01
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Fifth Northern Region
April, 2013

Flotilla 12-01's New Logo

At a recent Flotilla meeting, it was suggested that our Flotilla might want to look into creating our own logo. A suggestion was made to use the Indian River Inlet Bridge as the centerpiece for the logo. Our main patrol area is the Indian River Bay, so using the bridge just seemed logical.



Some members said that another Flotilla is geographically closer to the bridge and that we might use the Bethany Beach Totem Pole, since we are based in South Bethany.



The following have been created as possible logos for 12-01. At the April Flotilla meeting, we would like to have a vote of which one the members would prefer. If there isn't one we prefer we can mix the pictures with the different basic designs. Our thanks go out to Ed Esposito who designed and created these samples. Ed did a wonderful job, and we thank him for his efforts.



Once we have made a selection, that logo will be used for this newsletter and possibly incorporated into the Flotilla website. Having our own logo will give us some individually and pride.

Flotilla High School Membership Drive

On 20 March, 2013, members from Flotilla 12-01 visited Indian River High School in Dagsboro. FSO-PA Tom Bailor made arrangements with the school's Guidance Office for our visit. Tom, along with Dave Ritondo and Joe Harris, met with interested students during their three lunch periods. While just a few showed interest, it was an effort that can be refined for future visits to other schools. It is hoped that another event like this will be at Sussex Tech in the near future.



Dave Ritondo and Tom Bailor at Flotilla 12-01's display at Indian River High School.

Safe Boating Courses

With the spring season comes the time of the year to begin to think about boating. Flotilla 12-01 has begun the Delaware Safe Boating courses for this year. The first was held on 2 March at Millville Fire Department. There were 7 attendees with everyone passing the test. The next was on 16 March and was held at the Brandywine Assisted Living

Community in Fenwick. For this course there were 13 attendees, with all passing the test.

If you have any neighbors, relatives, or friends that have boats and have not taken this course, please encourage them to do so. Even if they have taken a course before, a lot has changed and a refresher course would be most beneficial.

Additional courses will be held as follows:

20 APR at South Bethany Town Hall
4 MAY at Treasure Beach Campground
8 JUN at Gull's Way Campground

All courses begin at 8:00am and end at about 4:00pm.



Fran Doyle (above) and Bob Lesperance (below) instruct students at the Delaware Safe Boating Course at Brandywine Assisted Living Community on 20 March 2013.

New Flotilla 12-01 Web Site

In recent weeks Bruce White has been working on converting Flotilla 12-01's web site to the new WOW II format. On 30 March, the final version was submitted to DSO-CS for final review. The URL for the new web site will be a0531201.wow.uscgaux.info.

Our thanks go out to Bruce for his time and effort and the great work he did on this transition.

Bob Lesperance Award

At the 28 February Division meeting, Bob Lesperance received a Sustain Service Award from DCDR Mark Letavish. Congratulation Bob!



Upcoming Events

- 18 APR – Flotilla 12-01 meeting
- 25 APR – Division 12 meeting
- 16 MAY – Flotilla 12-01 meeting
- 23 MAY – Division 12 meeting
- 20 JUN – Flotilla 12-01 meeting
- 27 JUN – Division 12 meeting

Regular Flotilla meetings are held at the South Bethany Town Hall, and begin promptly at 1900 hrs. Division meetings are held at Milford Parks and Recreation at 1900 hrs.

VE Events

As the boating season approaches, Flotilla 12-01 has scheduled events at local marinas. As of now, we have been asked to be at Tuckahoe Acres on the Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 25th and 26th. Additionally, Vines Creek Marina has requested that we be there on May 18th and June 8th. The owner of the marina has said that this year they have 100% of their slips rented. They will put up notices that we will be available as well as have an article in their newsletter.



Commanders Comments

By Michael J. Geletej

As I write this message there is a slight smile on my face. Why you ask....because boating season is just around the corner. To us as members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary this presents a double-edged sword. It means that we get the opportunity to get our boats back on the water, but on the other hand, it means that our busiest season will be upon us. As a matter of fact it has already started with the completion of two safe

boating courses. It will continue with safety patrols, vessel examinations, program visits, and public affairs presentations. Although there are specific FSO's for these particular functions for any of them to be successful takes the involvement of ALL of us. We need to do everything that we can to make this boating season even more successful than last year. This may be more of a challenge this year because of the current financial situation the Federal Government is in. It has already been made public that there will be no Coast Guard participation in "non-mission" activities. Nothing has been said about the monies being cut for patrols but it may happen. If that were to happen, I think we, as a Flotilla, should come up with some way to fund our own patrols. I am aware that our hands are tied with regards on how we can provide income for the Flotilla. But in this case I am hoping that some of those roadblocks may be either removed or lessened. In any regard we are going to do all that we can to provide the best service available to make our boating community feel safe on the waterways. This Flotilla has a history of coming together when the going gets rough and I see nothing changing in the future. I wish you all a safe boating season.

Semper Paratus

USCG and Carnival

There has been a lot of news recently about Carnival Cruise Lines ships having problems. The following article describes how the Coast Guard

assisted when the Triumph lost power in the Gulf of Mexico.

Apr 02 2013 11:20 PM - The Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous stationed out of Cape May Training Station played an integral role in transporting the disabled Carnival cruise "Triumph" to safety.

Its crew returned home on Monday and spoke to NBC10's Doug Shimell who reports the details:

After a two-month journey, the Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous finally came home on Monday, returning to its training center in Cape May, NJ.

For 60 days, the crew of the 270 foot coast guard cutter patrolled the Atlantic seaboard, the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Originally, the crew's mission was to assist the Colombian Navy for a drug interdiction. In early February however, the crew was called in for a much bigger task.

"On the way we were informed about the cruise ship Triumph that was disabled and adrift," said Captain Greg Magee, the commander of the Vigorous.

A fire broke out in the engine room of the Carnival Triumph, leaving the ship dead in the water and over 3,000 passengers stranded in the Gulf of Mexico.

The crew quickly learned of the poor conditions on the Triumph and immediately sprang into action, helping to transport desperately needed supplies to the passengers on board.

"We were concerned to make sure the ship was safe and that it had emergency power at least," said Magee. "That it was stable and that they had enough food and water on board to last for the transit."

The Vigorous crew also used one of their small boats designed for drug intercepts to transfer a dialysis patient from the crippled cruise ship to another vessel. Finally, they helped escort the ship to Mobile, Alabama.

Aside from helping with the Triumph and the drug interdiction, the Vigorous crew also helped restore a nursing home in Boca Del Toro, Panama during their time at sea.

Now that they're home, Magee says they've received nothing but gratitude for their heroic efforts.

"We have gotten some feedback from several passengers that were on board," said Magee. "They felt better and knew things were going to be okay with us being on the scene."

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