

The Scuttlebutt



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

Flotilla 12-01 & Indian River Lifesaving Station Team Up

At a recent Flotilla meeting, Laura Baldwin, Site Manager of the Indian River Lifesaving Station made a presentation to encourage flotilla members to volunteer for various positions. She is in need of docents for the station museum, as well as ramp attendants at the Indian River Marina.

The Life Saving Station was built in 1876, by the United States Life-Saving Service (USLSS). Stations were positioned at intervals along the coastline to rescue sailors and cargo from shipwrecks. The Service was in operation until 1915 when it was merged with the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service to form the U.S. Coast Guard. The station was used by the USCG until 1962. The Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation restored the building and the Delaware Seashore State Park began operating the station in 2004. A complete history of the Service, as well as the building, is available to those visiting the Station.

On 15 June, FSO-MS Dave Ritondo attended training at the Station, along with members of the United Coast Guard to operate the Breeches Buoy for their demonstration reenactments

held at various times each summer. These demonstrations were held on 29 June, 6 July and will also be held on 21 July and 17 August, all at 1300 hours. The Breeches Buoy device was part of a system used to rescue mariners in distress on vessels off shore.



FSO-MS Dave Ritondo checking specifications while building a device to aid in line retrieval during Breeches Buoy demonstrations at Indian River Life Saving Station Museum.

On the afternoon of 18 June, Mike Geletej, Bob Adams, Bruce White, Bob Lesperance and Joe Harris attended Docent Training at the Station. After a short video, Ms. Baldwin took the trainees on a tour of the Life Saving Station.



Laura Baldwin, Site Manager of the Indian River Lifesaving Station, demonstrates the Faking Box, a device used to prevent tangling of the shot line. The shot line was attached to a projectile and fired from the Lyle Gun to ships in distress.

The building appears much as it did in 1905. There are several rooms in the station where the crew members, called surfmen, lived and worked while on duty. While life as a surfman was very difficult, the station tried to make the crews feel as comfortable as possible.

The history of the museum is too lengthy for this newsletter. A visit to the station is both worthwhile and informative. The station is currently operated by the Delaware State Parks System and located about one mile north of the Indian River Inlet.

Flotilla 12-01 Adopts Second Road

Flotilla 12-01 recently adopted its second stretch of road. The new area is on Route 54, west of Fenwick Island. It begins where Routes 54 and 20 intersects and continues west. FSO-MS Dave Ritondo was responsible

for securing this area for clean-up. This is addition to the other area we adopted, which is located on Williamsville Road at Route 54.



Dave Ritondo stands in front of Adopt-a-Highway sign along Route 54.

Bob's Marine Event

The follow pictures were taken during the Bob's Marine Event on 14 and 15 June, 2013.

For the past several years, Flotilla 12-01 has been invited to participate in the Bob's Marine Boat Show. This year it was held during the busy Father's Day weekend. There was good attendance, in spite of the period of

stormy weather. Thanks to all members who participated.



Left to right; Doug Deiss, Tom Bailor, Bob Lesperance, Bruce White, Bob Adams and Dave Ritondo.



Flotilla 12-01's display area.



Doug Deiss conducts a VE for a Bob's Marine customer.

Flotilla 12-01 New Member

We would like to welcome Fred Zikas as Flotilla 12-01's newest member. Fred is listed on the USCGA Members website. Fred is now available to begin training for positions, as well as participate in Auxiliary activities. Welcome Aboard, Fred!

Upcoming Events

18 JUL – Flotilla 12-01 meeting

25 JUL – Division 12 meeting

15 AUG – Flotilla 12-01 meeting

22 AUG – Division 12 meeting

19 SEP – Flotilla 12-01 meeting

26 SEP – 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.

PE News

All the scheduled PE classes for 2013 have been completed. A total of five Delaware Safe Boating classes were conducted over the course of about three months. Of the 119 persons attending the classes, 116 passed the test.

Our thanks to FSO-PE Bob Adams and the other instructors for doing an excellent job in the area of Public Education.

Change of Watch

Our annual Change of Watch will be held 14 December at The Cottage Café, in South Bethany. The menu, along with pricing will be discussed at the July Flotilla Meeting.

MS News

FSO-MS Dave Ritondo recently created a sign to remind people the importance of recycling. The sign was first displayed at the VE event at Vines Creek Marina and was subsequently displayed at other Auxiliary events.



Dave Ritondo at Vines Creek Marina displaying "Stop, Please Recycle" sign that we created.

park, with PE classes, PV visits and the normal everyday routine. Now, however, the waterways are buzzing with activity which requires patrols to help keep our boaters safe. To do the best job of keeping those enjoying the waterways safe we need to do what we can to keep ourselves safe. If we are scheduled for a patrol it is important that you get plenty of rest the night before. Once on the water it is important to be aware of everything that is going on around and to also keep a watchful eye on your fellow crew members. Water, water everywhere and you better have more than a drop to drink!!! It is important to keep hydrated while working on these hot days but even more so out on the water. So, I ask all of you to do everything you can to keep yourself safe and those around you safe. If we do that we can all enjoy this beautiful area we live in. Have a great summer.

Semper Paratus



Commanders Comments

By Michael J. Geletej

Summer is finally here and with that comes busy season for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This is not to say that the rest of the year is a walk in the

Bud Noe
1939-2013

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of James "Bud" Noe, Commander of Flotilla 12-09. Bud was an active member of the Auxiliary for many years and he will be greatly missed. Our sympathies and prayers go out to his family and friends.