

Around The Horn

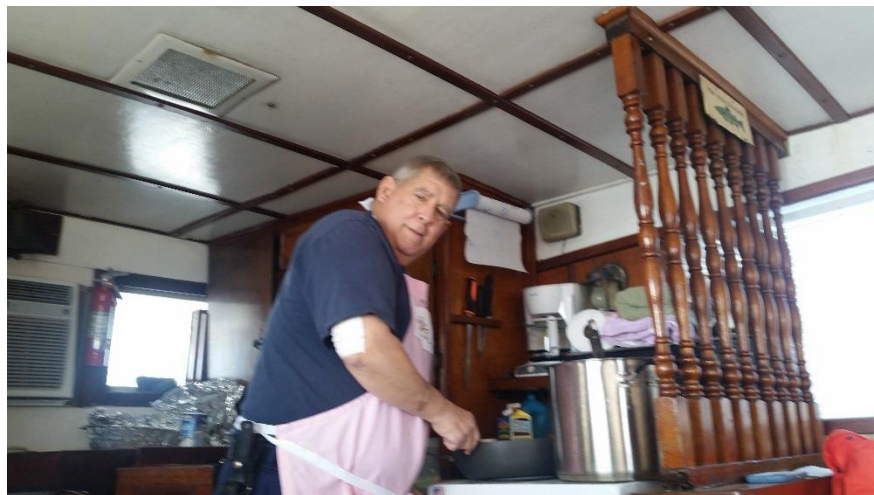
Flotilla 37 Newsletter

May 2017

Doug Wells moving to Alaska



A picture for us all to remember, as Doug relaxes in his self-assigned seating position



Doug on the Ring-Dang-Doo cooking our favorite breakfast, Sausage gravy, biscuits and eggs

Doug Wells moving to Alaska

Doug will be truly missed by everyone on the Ring-Dang-Doo crew. Doug has brought so much encouragement, guidance and assistance to everyone on the boat, especially new arrivals who needed his expert guidance.

Doug is always ready to lend a hand to complete any task required to make each and every Flotilla 37 mission a success. Doug has provided storage space for all the Flotilla 37 equipment such as float coats, PFD's, life preservers, used uniforms and many other materials needed for the daily operations of Flotilla 37. Thank you Doug from all of us in Flotilla 37 and crewmembers of the Ring-Dang-Doo for your dedication and generosity.

But Doug doesn't stop there, he is an excellent chef and on occasion provides a breakfast for the Doo crew that beats any restaurant in town. I am sure we will all miss his famous sausage gravy, biscuits and scrambled egg breakfast delights. Thanks, you'll always be remembered for the great friend you are.

I know that I can speak for everyone in Flotilla 37 and the crewmembers of the Ring-Dang-Doo that if and when you decide to return to our beautiful and WARM State of Mississippi, we will once again welcome you home to the 37 and the Doo crew.

Richard Sass
Editor of the Flotilla 37
Newsletter

But now a little farewell note from Doug himself

Douglas C. Wells

For years I would go to boat shows in Biloxi, Mobile, Pensacola and New Orleans and would always see the Coast Guard Auxiliary booth and would talk with them about boats and boating.

In 2012 I went to the boat show in Biloxi, Mississippi and began talking with Jim McReynolds (Mac) about the Auxiliary and what they all do for the Coast Guard and the boating community in general. Mac told me all about the air drops conducted by the Coast Guard Aircraft based in Mobile Alabama and how the Ring Dang Doo worked with them retrieving the simulated emergency equipment dropped by the aircraft. Mac asked if I would like to come out and see the boat crew in action as they picked up the equipment. I thought it would be a great experience and sounded interesting so on a Tuesday met him and the crew at the boat.

I talked with a number of crewmembers and found them all to be friendly helpful and informative, so on the following Thursday I went out on the Doo again. After receiving another warm welcome and further discussions with Rick, Mac and other crewmembers I decided that this was something I would enjoy doing. I found some people I would really enjoy working with and an organization that was doing a lot of good teaching new boaters how to enjoy the water and do it safely, so I joined up. Ever since joining Flotilla 37, I have been going out on the Doo every Tuesday and Thursday and have enjoyed every trip.

In July of 2012 I really caught the boating bug and purchased a 24 foot Sea Fox bay boat. I decided that I would like to set my new boat up as a Coast Guard Auxiliary facility and use it not only for my own boating and fishing pleasure, but also to perform a service to the Auxiliary by using it crew training, search and rescue and any other operations required by the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

As I continued as a member of Flotilla 37, I found many duties to perform for the good of the Auxiliary and Flotilla 37 and I found myself involved in more and more of its activities. In 2013 I helped Mac set up for the boat show in Biloxi, MS and after finishing up with all the details Mac turned to me and said, this is your job now if you are willing, without hesitation I told Mac that I would be happy to, and that I would do my best. I had just recently taken over the job of Flotilla 37's Materials Officer and the finger print tech for Flotilla 37.

As I continued to serve, I was asked to take the position of Division 3, Materials Staff Officer and was latter elected as Flotilla 37's Vice Commander, I have enjoyed the responsibility and the opportunity to serve.

Throughout my time with the Auxiliary I have continued to study and have been qualified as crew member, instructor and Coxswain. I have continued my studies to achieve my Aux Quals.

In July of 2001 I retired from the Ocean Springs Police department as a Lieutenant. I also retired from the U.S. Navy reserves as a Chief Boatswain mate last based in Gulfport Mississippi, with the (MIUW) Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare unit 212.

I am going to miss working with the Doo crew and Flotilla 37. I have really enjoyed working on boats and going fishing with the Doo's small boats and having the Doo as the mother boat and base of operations. I will also miss the great fellowship and comradery of the men and women of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

May the sea's always be fair and the winds at your back, good luck and good sailing.

Thank you for the great memories

Doug "Bear" Wells