



April 2024

# Castleton Flotilla

## 082-01-07

FC – Bob Fiers  
VFC - Richard Friedman



*Walt Guntharp Teaching Boater Safety Training  
(photo by: Skip Nunweiler)*

*Jeff Vail Teaching Boat America Course  
(photo by: Skip Nunweiler)*

### Commander's Column

Dear Shipmates:

We have several new applications and inquiries. Some have been in the pipeline for a few months and others have some from the Boat, Sport and Travel show. We are continuing to grow our Flotilla. Currently we have about thirty members and are the largest Flotilla in our Division. With our own Michael Richardt as Division Commander and Erol Cetinok as Vice Division Commander, our growth can help support them in their work.

We have several activities coming up in the next two months:

- 6 April - AUXDATA II Training this will help new and old members alike with how to navigate the system
- 20 April - Boat Crew Academy.
- 17-19 May - Armed Forces Day at the Track
- 22 June - Boating Safety Day at Morse Reservoir

Our Flotilla meetings have started having educational items for 5-15 minutes to keep us up to date on assorted items of interest to our members. Come join us and continue to grow in your knowledge of the Auxiliary. The more we know, the better we are!

Semper Paratus,  
Bob Fiers  
Flotilla Commander

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### Boat America

Boat America is about an eight (8) hours about ***A Course on Responsible Boating***. It was held on 23 March at Southport Masonic Lodge No. 270. Once you submit your paperwork of completion you will move your classification from Initially Qualified (IQ) to Basically Qualified (BQ).

The goal of this course is to make boaters safe when they are on all waters. They also must be ready for



*Heather and Mark Keith at Training  
(photo by: Skip Nunweiler)*



*If Training - Need Donuts  
(photo by: Skip Nunweiler)*

Situational Awareness. This is the what if scenario.

Very important points were discussed including knots you must know and demonstrate. Equipment in and on your Personal Flotation Device (PFD or life vest). Know the sound signals and visual signals during day-light and night. The difference in sound signals (attend class to find out). You must know we are considered first responders and should know first aid and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

There are also courses required such as ICS-100 and ICS-700 and are taken on-line from FEMA (ICS is Incident Command System).

The course started at 0900 and finished near 1700 with a total of 12 attending including instructors. Walt Guntharp was the lead instructor with the help of Jeff Vail. Both are well versed in operating facilities with utmost skill. We want to thank Richard Friedman for following up by calling those expressing an interest in the course Boat America. His follow-up made the course very successful. This was a team effort making the course a success.

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## **A Word About D-Train**

No matter what D-Train you attend whether the Spring D-Train or Fall D-Train, it is a spot to sign-up for high class training. If you decide to attend, you cannot help learning any of the subjects offered or you may meet new members from across Eighth District Eastern Region and have fun and entertainment.

D-TRAIN is a vital component to the U.S. Coast

Guard Auxiliaries' ability to remain ready, relevant, and able (quoted from 8th Eastern Region website).

Spring D-Train is in Knoxville, TN beginning 18 April and ending 21 April 2024. You register on-line or on or before 18 April and 19 and 20 April are full of a variety of training. Some subjects this spring are Legal, Finance, VE Workshop, Uniforms and Ribbons, Knot Tying, Risk Management - TCT, Operations Workshop, Program Visitation - Marine Dealer Visitor and Flotilla Leadership Course.

There is also Friday night buffet with a theme of "I Love the 80's" and Saturday evening is the Commodore's Dinner and special program.

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## **Coming Events**

- Division 1 meeting - 1900 hrs. - 1 April 2024.
- AUXDATA II and TCT/Risk Management training - American Legion Post 3 - 0900-1400 - 6 April 2024.
- **Ramadan Ends - 9 April 2024.**
- Flotilla 01-07 meeting - 1900 hrs. - 17 April 2024.
- 8th Eastern Region Spring D-Train-Knoxville, TN 18-21 April 2024.
- Boat Crew Academy - American Legion Post 3 - 0900-1400 - 20 April 2024.
- **Passover Begins - 22 April 2024.**
- **Passover Ends - 30 April 2024.**
- Division 1 meeting - 1900 hrs. - 6 May 2024.

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