Change of Command

Marine Safety Unit Active Duty, Reservists and Auxiliary taking part in the Change of Command practice. Gregg McKee, Geri McKee and members from MSU at the Center of Excellence with MSU personnel.

CDR Mark Sawyer standing with LCDR Heather Stratton and CAPT Rob McLellan back to us to the left middle photo, Jim Hufnagle, FSO-VE, Gregg McKee FC and Geri McKee, D-AA to the right.

John Crivello member 08-11 standing with CAPT Timme and Geri McKee to the left. John Crivello with LCDR Stratton and LT Coleman in the background above.

Photos taken by USCGAUX
**The Ship’s Log: Second Watch**

**Flotilla 08E-08-11 Events for 2015**

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<th>Flotilla Meetings 2015</th>
<th>Other Dates:</th>
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<tr>
<td>20AUG2015</td>
<td>12SEP2015 ABS Class Eddy Creek Marina</td>
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<td>17SEP2015</td>
<td>19SEP2015 Dragon Boat Races (need crew and members for a PA booth — Coastie will be there.)</td>
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<td>15OCT2015</td>
<td>24-27SEP2015 D-Train Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>19NOV2015</td>
<td>26SEP2015 Maritime Day PA booth</td>
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<td>DEC will be Announced</td>
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**Float Your Boat**

During the summer Division meeting on August 8th, Paul Memmer, FSO-MT gave the ‘Float Your Boat” award to Gregg and Geri McKee for all the time they have spent volunteering for the United States Coast Guard.

**MSU Paducah Change of Command**

As the farewell to Captain Rob McLellan took place there were many mixed emotions in the crowd that attended the Change of Command. Captain McLellan has been such a huge part of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary during his three (3) years at Marine Safety Unit Paducah. The day’s ceremonies were filled with pomp and circumstance. The Captain ensured that the active duty, reserve and auxiliary were all a part of every aspect of all ceremonies. So let us begin with the history of the change of command:

The change of Command ceremony is rooted in Military history dating back to the 18th century during the reign of Frederick the Great of Prussia. At that time, organizational flags were developed with color arrangements and symbols unique to each particular unit. To this flag and its commander, the soldiers of the unit would dedicate their loyalty and trust. When a change of command was to take place, the flag was passed to the individual assuming the command. This gesture was accomplished in front of the unit so that all could see and witness their new leader assuming their dutiful position. They who held the flag also held the soldier’s allegiance. This symbolic tradition has survived throughout military history. The Change of Command Ceremony is a time-honored tradition that formally confirms to the people assigned to a unit the continuity of the authority of the commander. It is a unique ceremony: it is a total transfer of responsibility, authority and accountability for an entire command from one individual to another. It is a ritual wholly without parallel in any but the seagoing services – the United States Coast Guard, the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps. The heart of the ceremony is the reading of the orders by the relieving officer and the officer to be
Command passes upon utterance by the relieving officer “I relieve you sir!” and the response by the officer being relieved of, “I stand relieved!”

The strengths and supremacy of the coast Guard stems in large measure from the observance of customs and traditions, each founded on need, each contributing its share of stability, mission effectiveness, and the smooth transfer of authority.

Today the ceremony was attended by members of industry, commerce, federal – state and local government, family, friends, army corp. of engineers, law enforcement, EMS, four (4) branches of the United States Military, business owners, citizens of the United States, Active Duty Coast Guard, Reserve Coast Guard and Auxiliary Coast Guard. There was not an empty seat in the room.

The planning of ceremony was done by the Executive Officer of MSU Paducah, LCDR Heather Stratton. She was also the Master of Ceremonies. From the beginning of the planning stages the members of the Auxiliary were to be part of the service. She had asked Coast Guard Auxiliarist David Michaels; FSO-PB a member from 082-05-05 to be the official photographer for the event. LCDR Stratton was stationed in Cincinnati, OH on one of her tours where she met, and then became good friends with Mr. Michaels. She saw potential in a person who could be a rogue and convinced him to join the auxiliary and be productive.

Several Auxiliarists attended the ceremonies. Three (3) were asked to be part of the inspection group. During the ceremony it is tradition to have the relieving commander and the new commander inspect the troops. Members of the Active Duty, Reserve and Auxiliary were asked to stand for the inspection. This was the first time that any outgoing commander at MSU Paducah made sure all three contributing members were represented. Auxiliarists, Gregg McKee, Geri McKee and Jim Hufnagel represented the Auxiliary proudly.

Captain Richard Timme, Commander, Sector Ohio was the honored guest speaker for the COC. His remarks were full of praise for CAPT McLellan and all of his accomplishments during his three (3) years at MSU Paducah.

As everyone wished CAPT McLellan a fond farewell, and best of wishes at his new assignment in Houston Texas, Commander Mark C. Sawyer was introduced as the new Commanding officer at Marine Safety Unit Paducah Kentucky. He reports to Paducah after serving as the Chief of the Prevention Department at MSU Savannah, GA.

District Eighth Eastern will miss Captain McLellan as he attended three (3) of our D-Trains as a guest speaker, instructor and friend. He has been a leader and example to many working towards the Trident program. The Captain has been a big supporter and friend to the USCGAUX for all of his time served in our AOR. Everyone wishes him well in his new assignment, but we all know he will be missed by all members in the Eighth Eastern District.
Commander Mark C. Sawyer, MSU Paducah

Commander Sawyer reported to Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Paducah after serving as Chief of the Prevention Department at MSU Savannah, GA. In this capacity, he oversaw homeland security, and U.S. and international inspection operations, investigations and waterways management in the State of Georgia’s two Economic Strategic Ports generating over $67 billion in revenue. These ports include the nation’s fourth busiest container terminal, second leading auto export facility, second most active Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import facility, a Strategic Port of Embarkation for Military Outloads, and receives 4,000 annual vessel arrivals.

Prior to MSU Savannah, Commander Sawyer served as a Liaison Instructor to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) chartered World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmo, Sweden. As the only Coast Guard representative serving in this capacity and in the region, he taught graduate students consisting of maritime professionals from 62 different countries. He also facilitated exportable professional development courses and IMO and European Union research projects and conferences, and established a Coast Guard Academy-SMU Professor Exchange Program, fulfilling the charter of developing maritime leaders and creating solutions to safety, security and environmental issues facing global shipping.

Commander Sawyer received his commission from Officer Candidate School in 2000, and holds a Master of Science in Safety from Marshall University and a Master of Business Administration from South Alabama University. He also received a diploma for completing the Air Command and General Staff College Distance Learning Program. Furthermore, he previously served as an adjunct professor for the Maritime Affairs Department at Texas A&M University.

He has earned the Marine Safety Insignia and was awarded five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, a Coast Guard Achievement Medal, four Letters of Commendation, and various other unit and team awards.

Commander Sawyer is a native Texan and is married to the former Mollie Houston from Mt. Pleasant, TX. They have two children, Brooklyn and Zachary.

**Division Meeting**

Division 08E08 held the summer meeting at Eddy Creek Marina on 08AUG2015. Representing Flotilla 08-11 was Gregg McKee, FC, Paul Memmer VCDR, Elinor Stacy, SO-FN, Nick Schull, member 08-11 and Geri McKee, SO-PB. During the meeting the decision to pay for a recently purchased pop up shade cover for the Coastie Team was made, There was no other business.

**Pisgah Bay Boat Races**

The Pisgah Bay Boat Races are officially over for 2015. The joint effort of all available Coxswain and Crew from the division was a success. This year there was a lot of support from MSU coasties. Each weekend there was a PATCOM on board facility vessel 38743, every Saturday and 1 Sunday MSU sent one of their RBS’s (Response Boat Small). Facility 743 was available for all persons to use the head (bathroom), cool off and enjoy lunch or a snack. These regatta missions have been covered by Auxiliary members for over 15 years, Jerry Turley, retired member, was the first to be contacted to provide a safety zone ensuring no wakes could be made that would cause one of the racing boats to crash. This year members from 08-07 Mary and Bill Husfield, Rob Sorg, Shelly Torok and Edward Black participated. Flotilla 08-05 had Kelly and Steve Emery participate and 08-11 had Jim Hufnagel, Paul Memmer and Gregg and Geri McKee. The Cape Girardeau detachment had Mike Heid, William Keene, Hugh Protzel and Kevin McMeel assist. If anyone is interested in becoming crew or coxswain let operations know, we needs more qualified people to help out for the events.
Sometimes when our members get together for patrols or missions other ideas emerge. While on patrol over the 4th of July many patrols, Mike Heid, BC-AKR came up with a way to say thank you to the Active Duty Coast Guard men and women from MSU Paducah. The discussion began with all the time and effort they give us for training, education, and simply answering our sometimes not so smart questions.

The idea was to give them something for Coast Guard Day which is August 4th every year. The conversation ended with let’s smoke some meat for their already planned morale event. The members in the division would be asked to help purchase the meat. So Mike and Gregg McKee purchased the meat. Seven sides of pork ribs and four pork shoulder roasts.

Soooooo on July 31 around 1400 Gregg and Geri McKee set up the smoker at Kentucky Dam Marina’s paddle boat park. With the full moon at play the evening was going to be very enjoyable. At 1530 Paul Memmer arrived with a rank or cord of wood, depending on where you live. It was all hickory. Next to arrive was CWO3 Thomas Cole from MSU. The crew was ready to spend the night smoking meat.

Geri was assigned the duties of gofor, several trips back to her boat were made to get food, cooking items, liquid refreshments and such, Gregg and Thomas were in charge of keeping the fire going and Paul was in charge of the wood. Everything was set the pork shoulders went on around 2030 with the ribs to go on at 0300 Friday morning. Paul was the first to leave at around 2200, Geri left around 1200 and Thomas laid down around 1245. That left Gregg—Paul came back around 430 Geri came back around 0715 and Thomas got up around 0700. Gregg did get a couple of naps and a couple of hours sleep off on and throughout the night.

John Crivello showed up around 0730 and helped fry the bacon and eggs. Geri brought the coffee so all was good. Thomas made his own coffee.

Gregg, Thomas and Paul Smoking the meat, — Gregg and Thomas turning the meat, — The meat.

Thomas and his wife along with CDR Sawyer pulling the port — Everyone enjoying the day.
Saying Good Bye

As I began this newsletter with celebration of the ‘Change of Command’ I was reminded of everything we lost that day. CAPT Rob McLellan was a friend, a mentor and a huge supporter of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He did not miss a D-Train while in command at MSU Paducah. He also was an honored speaker for all of our ‘Change of Watch’ He helped 2 members begin and accomplish earning their tridents. He was able to get many of our division members meritorious team awards, MOM’s ribbons, individual accomplishment ribbons, Commandants awards and much more.

No matter what we were doing he wanted to be involved. Personally I will miss him. His advice to me on such things as working along side the active duty, writing awards and working with the gold side using proper etiquette and protocols was endless. He never seemed to busy to help anyone. At times he pushed us hard but it was worth it.

The Division presented him with a plaque after the Change of Command ceremony. Gregg McKee presented CAPT McLellan with the plaque, Gregg also made the plaque. It is a wooden board with a metal cut out of Coast Guard Auxiliary emblem with a placard stating who it is from and our gratitude for all he did with us and for us.

Commanders Corner

Summer has flown by at a faster rate than ever. The snow will be blowing before you know it.

We have had a very busy boating season with many safety, regatta, and training patrols. I'm sure everyone has their crew maintenance in. If not, let me know and I will find you a boat.

We have the Dragon boat races coming up 19 September, which looks to be a great time.

We will also be setting up a PA booth at the same event and again for the Bar-B-Que on the River the next weekend of September. Many of us will be in Pittsburg at D-Train so we will need all available hands to help out with the booths and also do some recruiting.

Many of you may not know, but Dick Wiening will be standing down as FN and Maggie Gammon will be stepping up in his place. Please let Maggie know how much we all appreciate her taking on the office and Please let Dick know how much he will be missed in that office. We all hope Dick a speedy recovery of his medical problems and a quick return to the Flotilla. We miss him at the meetings.

Once again, I can't thank you all enough for your support and service to the Flotilla and the CG Auxiliary.

Be safe, Semper Paratus and Stay the Course. Gregg