



# USCGAUX



## Flotilla 11-4 District 8ER

Percy Priest, Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Flotilla Commander: Michael Simpson

Flotilla Vice Commander: James Mayo

### March - Volume 17, Issue 3

## NEXT FLOTILLA BUSINESS MEETING MONDAY 20 MAR, 19:00

Paul B. Huff Army Reserve Center  
3598 Bell Road Nashville, TN 37214  
Contact Phone: (615)-346-5362

## DATES AND EVENTS. Boating Safety Class Sunday, March 19, 0900-1600 Metro Nashville Police West Precinct, 5500 Charlotte Pike, Nashville, TN

Flotilla 11-04 will be delivering a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Approved Boating Safety Class. This class is appropriate for anyone who would like to obtain a certificate of completion for Basic Qualification requirements, those who would like to review the course, or those who are striking for the Instructor Qualification and needs assistant instructor hours.



## Boat Crew Qualification The weekend of April 8th and 9th, location to be announced at a later date

This is the initial classroom portion of Boat Crew Qualification.

If you have any questions concerning the above training events, please contact:  
Phil Mammano, SO-MT 11, 8ER

Editor Ramon Llorens, Jr. FSO-PB 11-4, 8ER. Submit Stories, Photos or Ideas to: [ramon.llorens@dhsctgaux.net](mailto:ramon.llorens@dhsctgaux.net)

## EIGHT EASTERN REGION SPRING 2017 D-TRAIN APRIL 20TH - 22ND

**Activities Include:**

**Fun Night Friday April 21**  
(Antebellum theme)

casual or period theme dress

**Commodores Banquet Sat Apr 22**

Dinner Dress White Jacket, Dinner Dress Blue, Business Attire (Coat & Tie).

Women Business Attire (semi-formal, pants suit)

Also - Flower tours, Golfing, Huntsville Ghost Walk Tours, along with shopping opportunities for the spouses are being planned.

**Ships Store Items will also be Available**  
**Four Points by Sheraton Hotel**  
**Huntsville, AL (256) 772-9661**

2017 Spring D-Train Hotel registrations need to be made before 10 April 2017 to guarantee room availability. If you check out the Four Points by Sheraton on-line, the hotel shows to be sold out. Be sure to call and tell the hotel receptionist that you are with the Coast Guard Auxiliary for D-Train. Meals are prepaid only and the cutoff date is the 18th of April 2017. Absolutely no meal reservations will be accepted after that date.

Saturday, 22 April is the portion most relevant to all members, with a full day of training opportunities, followed by the Commodore's Banquet and Award Ceremony. The training schedule is now posted on the District website. Further information and registration forms may be obtained and downloaded there also.



Story By Angie Perrault  
ADSO-HR

# Disaster On K-Dock

**W**ednesday March 1st started like any other day. I woke up around 5:30 a.m. and saw my fiancé off to work with our two dogs. I knew they were talking about possible severe weather in the mid-state all throughout the day and I said, "Its days like today I sure am glad you are able to take our dogs to work with you. I wouldn't want them on the house-boat by themselves with potential severe weather threats in the area."

I plopped down in the recliner chair, flipped on the news and went about my normal routine of checking emails, texts, etc. One of my closest friends shot me a text to say "**Crazy weather. Be safe.**" I repeated to her what I'd said earlier about the dogs. I kept glancing up at the images of the radar on the TV and thought, "Looks like the worst of it is going to be in the Cool Springs area, it might just miss us."

Then the rain started coming down. The satellite went out as it normally would in a heavy rain. Suddenly I could hear the tornado sirens off in the distance. So, I got up and turned on my Standard Horizon hand-held VHF radio. I was impressed it had any juice left in it at all; it had been months since I used or charged it last. I tuned in to one of the NOAA weather channels and watched the rain come down harder and harder from the front door. The wind started to pick up, and the rain came down even harder. I thought, "This is going to be a pretty heavy storm!" I started recording some video on my phone. Suddenly the boat jolted pretty hard against the finger and I could tell things were getting serious fast. Not knowing what to expect, I backed away from the door and crouched down

on the floor holding onto the recliner chair I sat in so peacefully just minutes before. Then suddenly the wind picked up again, this time it was like nothing I'd ever seen or heard. I saw the dock in front of my boat moving in a snake-like pattern up and down. There was nothing I could do at that point but hold on and hope for the best. My heart started racing. I heard something that sounded like a few pellets of hail hitting the boat. Then, after only a few seconds that felt like an eternity, the wind and rain died down.

My heart still beating fast, I called my fiancé while still kneeling on the floor, and said, "Wow. That was crazy!" I got up, turned around and saw what the noise was that I thought was hail. The bi-fold pantry drawer had come open and a few items fell out and hit the hardwood floor. I looked further back beyond the galley to the master stateroom. All the dresser drawers were open. Clearly the boat rocked more than I felt from the position I was in. My 1st instinct was to look out the back door. A-Dock sits on the other side of the boat ramp from my dock which is K-Dock. A-Dock has a history of breaking loose and moving towards K-Dock after bad storms. In fact, they were in the middle of replacing A-Dock. I knew there was no way it didn't break loose again after all that craziness. I did not expect to open the door and see it only a few feet from the back of my boat and moving closer.



Photo by Angie Perrault

That was a huge shock. I thought, "Umm, we have a problem." I tried to think of someone I could call to help me keep the corner of A Dock from hitting my boat. I knew our dock mom, as I like to think of her, Kim Spencer, was for sure out there as



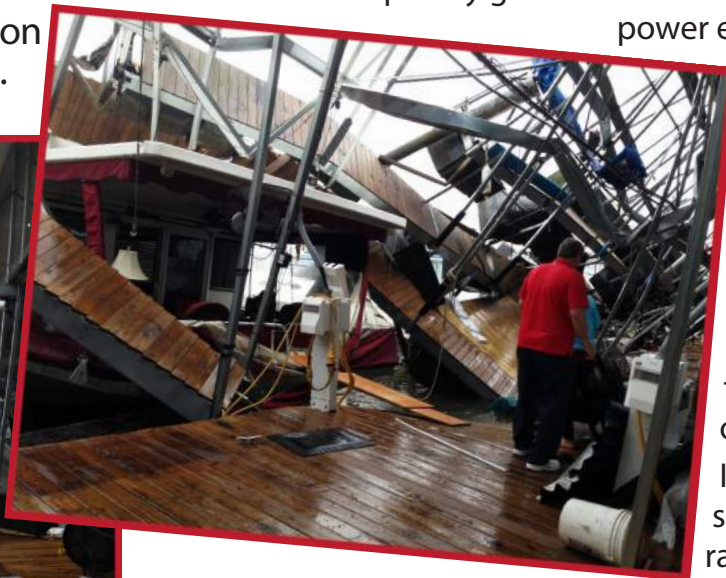
the Spencer's had just upgraded to a new houseboat they brought down from Indiana and were still in the process of moving in. She answered in a panic, I repeated my earlier thought to her saying, "We have a problem." All I could make out in return was, "The dock is on top of Freida's boat!" It sounded like she was crying. I immediately hung up the phone, put on some shoes and went out to the front of my boat.

I'll never forget the image I saw as I stepped onto K-Dock. It was total devastation. Half of the roof was completely gone.

Fingers were sitting on top of several boats. It was a mess of



Photos by Angie Perrault



**twisted metal  
wood and debris.**

Freida works at Four Corners Marina. She's had a boat out there for 20+ years. Normally on A-Dock, she was on temporarily moored our dock due to the construction. Kim was right. Freida's boat, "The Cajun Lady," along with many other boats were now sitting underneath a mess of metal and dockage. The Spencer's new boat was listing badly to port. Kim was on the phone with her husband Chuck, worried they might be taking on water. We quickly determined the listing was due to the weight of the dock and part of the roof that was now resting on their hardtop over the party deck.

Most of my dock family was there, wandering around trying to comprehend what just happened. That was the only sense of comfort I felt at that moment. We all went through this together. In the short time I've been out there (since July), we've seen each other through a many highs and lows. We were all here for each other. Everyone was accounted for. No one was seriously injured. That was the important thing, and I knew we would get through this.

After I knew everyone was OK, I went back to my boat to survey any damage. Thankfully, I couldn't see any at all. The hull was bone dry. All the furniture on the party deck had been blown to stern, a couple buttons popped open on my enclosure. That was about it. I felt extremely relieved and blessed.

There was no way off the dock at that point except by boat. So I started planning what things I would absolutely need to take with me. I went about packing a small duffel bag. Not knowing how long it would be until we could return. I emptied the contents of the freezer to the sink except for the meat which I put in a trash bag. I cut all the power except for my bilge pumps. Still

raining pretty hard, I put on my rain gear. We boarded the rescue pontoon and they took us to the ship store/restaurant area.

The parking lot for K-Dock is on the other side by the boat ramp, so I made the trek across the bridge to the other parking lot toting my duffel bag and a couple other items I was able to grab.

I saw News Channel 5 already setting up to take footage from the ramp and passed by a man who looked awfully familiar. I said, "Hi" as

we passed. He quickly turned around and said, "Angie?" I looked at him and he continued, "Angie! I'm Jim Grant, from the Auxiliary. We were just talking about you!"



Photo by Angie Perrault



**“That made me feel really appreciative of our organization and the comradery of my fellow shipmates”.**



Photo by Angie Perrault

**“He Made Sure I Was Ok”**

After he made sure I was OK and I gave him a quick rundown of what happened, he was very quick to offer up his home, which is very close to the marina, for shelter if I needed it. Throughout the rest of the morning, several Auxiliarists called, Facebooked and texted to make sure I was OK as well. All of that made me feel really appreciative of our organization and the comradery of my fellow shipmates. At this point we are still gathering information as to how the cleanup and rebuilding process is going to be handled. Right now I'm just trying to look at this experience in the most positive light possible.

**“I Survived An F1 Tornado”  
and have a pretty good story to tell for years to come!**

# Crossing The Bar

## Jackie Neil Wood

We are greatly saddened to announce that Jackie Neil “Jack Daddy” Wood crossed the bar at 00:00 hours 03 March 2017. We have lost a great friend and valued shipmate. One can immediately see by the array of ribbons on his uniform and the adornments on his cover. Jack was a dedicated and active member of the Auxiliary. Jackie served as Division Commander (DCDR) in 2015 and also served Flotilla 11-04 as FSO-IS 2016. He was also a Vessel Examiner (VE), Recreational Boating Safety Visitor (MDV), Certified CPR Provider (CPR) and was current on all Mandated Training.

Jackie passed away after a struggle with cancer, but those who visited with him in his last days said he was in good spirits and was enjoyed watching the birds outside of his window and spring unfolding once again.

A memorial service will be held, however a date has yet to be determined.

