



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
FLOTILLA 085-02-08
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WISCONSIN

Serving the Recreational Boating Community of the Upper Mississippi Valley

Comments from Our Flotilla Commander

Smooth sailing to us all....

Well I think it is safe to say we have had the best of the summer, and now we are headed into fall and all of its beautiful color.

As I look back at our summer I see so many activities, so many accomplishments. I want you to know how proud I am of our Flotilla, our Fellowship, our Attitude, and our Friendship. I want to thank you for all the time and talent you gave this year! Just think of the things we achieved...

- > Finally we have a presence on the water.
 - > The numerous RBS visits
 - > The number of boaters we spoke to about safe boating
 - > The good fortune to be in the right place at the right time to prevent a person from drowning
 - > To have the skill set to take another boat into tow
 - > To conduct the most VSC's in the Division
- That my friends is a lot to be proud of!
We have had a great history and great leadership

Wednesday, October 21,

over the last 5 years, and it is clear that we have improved our Flotilla each and every year. Our accomplishments were not done by just ONE person they have been done by ALL of us. However I do need to mention and say thank you for the efforts of one of us, and that is our guy Sully....by his efforts and talents we have gained a lot of press coverage this past summer. Due to this exposure and the contributions of all of our members we are truly becoming a recognized entity in our community.

Thank you for being part of....02-08 Prairie du Chien!

Steve

Flotilla Members Save a Life

Sept 12, 2015 - US Coast Guard Auxiliary crewmembers Steve Gress and Joannie Dickerson, returning from patrol, observed a man fall from a dock at the Winneshiek Marina, and disappear beneath the water. Quick action by the crew of the Kaylee-Annie located the man who was still beneath the surface and pulled him onto the dock preventing his drowning.

Coxswain Steve Gress stated that he reached under the water trying to locate the man and finally found him still submerged and being pulled beneath the dock by the current. Gress pulled him to the surface and with crewmember Joanie Dickerson pulled the gentleman from the water onto the dock. The victim, wet but otherwise fine, declined

medical attention and after a slight rest thanked the Auxiliarists who came to his rescue and departed.

A dock can be a dangerous place. The motion of the water affects one's equilibrium and tosses the dock about. Add to that the normal rough and weathered construction and you have a situation requiring careful and attentive walking. At the water's edge the result of one misstep can be disastrous.

Auxiliarists are required to wear a PFD whenever operating dockside.

Member Training

Member training for this fall has already kicked off with a series intended to get everyone up-to-date on the mandatory classes. While the classes are available online many do not have access to that venue but may take the classes via the classroom.

If you need any of these classes be sure to avail yourself of this opportunity. Most of the classes are one time only and entail attendance only, no exam.

The schedule follows:

10/21: #810015 Protect Personal Info and #502319 Civil Rights.

11/4: #502290 Preventing Suicide.

11/18 : #810045 Sexual Assault Prevention and #81000 Sexual Harassment.

My 2 Cents Worth

by A J Sullivan

Well, summer has come to that proverbial end for another year. That doesn't mean however, that our activities end. Those of us who own boats must begin the annual winterizing and maintenance procedures for our boats. As you go over your boat don't forget to look after all those things we spend the summer checking for other members of the boating community. As you place your equipment into storage inspect each item. Repair or replace now so it will be ready for service next spring. Do so now while you have the time because come spring you will be chomping at the bit to get on the water. For the larger boats that have electrical systems, particularly shore power. Inspect thoroughly your grounding systems, each and every screw and connection. Remember that a faulty electrical system on your boat could electrify the surrounding water and result in someone's untimely death. More will be coming on this phenomenon called Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) in a later publication. Get your engines gone over from top to bottom and all your wooden equipment such as boat hooks, etc treated with boiled mineral spirits to prevent dry rot. Inspect and replace as needed all lines and ropes.

Your successful start to next year depends on the care you give your boat and equipment now.

Semper Paratus Pays Off

by A J Sullivan

On Sunday September 27th the Coast Guard's motto *Semper Paratus*, Always Ready, was tested when Dan Brewer of Richland Center, WI., an off duty US Coast Guard Auxiliary crewman from the Prairie du Chien Flotilla, and his brother Pat were on the Mississippi giving Dan's newly purchased 21 foot SeaRay her shakedown cruise.

Leaving McGregor they headed south and near Hovie Island were flagged down by two boats. The skipper of a disabled pontoon boat stated that they had lost all electrical power, were dead in the water and in need of assistance returning to port.

While the SeaRay was not yet a fully equipped US Coast Guard facility Dan did have his towing bridle on board which he and Pat used to safely tow the disabled vessel with a crew of two, through the narrow and winding passages to the landing at River of Lakes.

Dan stated, "After we got them tied up they thanked us and I told them I was glad the Auxiliary was able to help them. I feel that if it wasn't for the training I received from the Auxiliary I would not have been able to help much let alone had the confidence to do so.

Dan's boat is docked at River of Lakes Marina and will soon be added to the Auxiliary's list of assets as a US Coast Guard facility.

2015 A Banner Year for Vessel Safety Exams

By: A J Sullivan, Jr.

2015 was a record setting year for our Flotilla and possibly the entire District with 11 vessel examiners onboard we completed 235 vessel safety examinations. Galloping Steve led the pack with 111 followed by Joannie's 43. The rest of us trickled in from there. We have two VEs who have not turned in their 5 required VSCs so hopefully our number will increase before the end of the year.

An interesting analysis of the 50 failed examinations is being produced for the next issue and it should be telling as far as the classes of boats failing and why they failed.

Calendar

15 Oct: 1830 hrs; Mandatory Training
11 Nov: 1830 hrs; Mandatory Training
14 Nov: 1000 hrs; Flotilla Meeting
18 Nov: 1830 hrs; Mandatory Training
26 Nov: Thanksgiving
12 Dec: 1000 hrs; Flotilla Meeting
25 Dec: Christmas
1 Jan: Happy New Year!!!
9 Jan: 1000 hrs; Flotilla Meeting



Davy Jones's Locker, by [John Tenniel](#), 1892

Lore of the Sea – Davy Jones 'Locker

Davy Jones' Locker, also **Davy Jones's Locker**, is an [idiom](#) for the bottom of the sea: the state of death among drowned [sailors](#) and [shipwrecks](#).^[2] It is used as a [euphemism](#) for [drowning](#) or [shipwrecks](#) in which the sailor(s)'s and/or ship(s)'s remains are consigned to the bottom of the sea (to be *sent to Davy Jones' Locker*).^[3]

The origins of the name of Davy Jones, the sailors' [devil](#),^[2] are unclear, with a 19th-century dictionary tracing Davy Jones to a "ghost of Jonah".^[4] Other explanations of this [nautical superstition](#) have been put forth, including an incompetent sailor or a pub owner who kidnapped sailors.

Source: Wikipedia

SEMPER PARATUS