



On Deck There

January 2013

Division 8 Leadership:

- Butch Luhrsen, DCDR, SO-OP
[Butch's email](#)
- Jim Konieczki, VDCDR
[Jim's email](#)

Division 8 Staff:

Jim Konieczki
SO-VE, SO-PV

Kurt Ayres
SO-SR

Bill Slusser
SO-MA

Bud Grimm
SO-IS

Doug Keller
SO-CM

Butch Luhrsen
SO-OP

Chad Wiehe
SO-MT

Patsy Smith
SO-FN

Jeff Poundstone
SO-PB

Shawn Burnley
SO-DV

Thomas Keagle
SO-PE

Anna Poundstone
SO-HR

Tyler Fortner
SO-CS

Fred Peterson
SO-NS

Newsletter of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 8, 8WR District, Central Illinois.

Election Results Across the Division

By Jeff Poundstone

On January 1, new leadership teams are taking the reins of their units, appointing their staffs, and looking to the future and the next season on the water.

Marlin "Butch" Luhrsen from Champaign's Flotilla 84 and James "Jim" Konieczki of Peoria's Flotilla 85 have been elected Division 8's commander and vice-commander respectively.

Chad Weihe and Jeff Wilson were elected as flotilla commander and vice flotilla commander of East Peoria's Flotilla 81. John Davison was re-elected as FC and Doug Keller was elected for VFC of Hannibal's Flotilla 83. Jeff Poundstone was re-elected FC and Shawn Burnley was elected VFC of Champaign's Flotilla 84. Peoria's Flotilla 85 saw Scott Lamberes elected flotilla commander backed

by Tom Keagle as VFC. Charleston's Flotilla 88 saw Penny Clay re-elected as flotilla commander and Brandon Helm elected as VFC.

It is good to see so many members stepping up and serving in their first elected offices.

Division 8 Staff Appointments

By Jeff Poundstone

The division 8 staff has a few hats changing heads and several new members taking positions as we move onward and upward into 2013. Jim Konieczki who earned the Recreational Boating Safety award last year has been appointed the SO-VE (vessel exam) and SO-PV (marine visitation).

Tom Keagle joins Jim in the division RBS area as the new SO-PE (public education).

Tyler Fortner of Flotilla 85 has agreed to manage the division website and social media as the new SO-CS

(computer services).

Douglas Keller has been appointed the new SO-CM (communications). Doug hopes to help members earn the TCO (telecommunications operator) qualification and take and pass the Communications Specialist course (AUXCOM).

The Floating Illini's Anna Poundstone has been appointed the new division SO-HR (Human Resources).

Flotilla 81's Fred Peterson has been appointed by

Butch to be the SO-NS (navigational services).

The last of the new appointments and changes is Shawn Burnley of Flotilla 84 being appointed as SO-DV (diversity). Shawn's duties, as it is all of our duties, is to prevent any of our members from being disciplined or taken advantage of by another member due to who they are instead of what they may have done and to ensure equal treatment of our shipmates across the board.

Butch Luhrsen elected Division Commander

By Jeff Poundstone



Butch Luhrsen, DCDR, Photo courtesy of Jim Dunne.

"Thank you for voting and putting your confidence in me. I really look forward to working with 8 year Coast Guard veteran Jim Konieczski as our VDCDR."
~Butch Luhrsen



Jim Konieczski, VDCDR, Photo courtesy of Debbie Dunne.

Division 8 elections were held October 20 at the quarterly meeting hosted by Flotilla 83 in Hannibal. Butch Luhrsen was unopposed as he sought his fourth and final year as DCDR in Central Illinois, which begins January 1. Butch a 12 year member of the Auxiliary, joined Flotilla 84 in 2000. He has served as vice flotilla commander, flotilla commander, vice division

commander, and has previously served three years as division commander.

Besides serving in leadership positions, he has been extremely active in both flotilla and division staff positions. Last year, he was appointed as a Qualification Examiner (QE), and has been very active in the qualifying of boat crew members and coxswains.

Butch, and his wife Pam live in Champaign. They enjoy boating at Clinton Lake, ham radio, are very active members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Champaign and all Fighting Illini sports and activities. They have two sons, Jeremy and Brad, grandchildren Tyler, Noah, and Emma, and Ginger, their very spoiled toy poodle.

Jim Konieczski elected Vice Division Commander

By Jeff Poundstone

Flotilla 85's Jim Konieczski was elected at the October division meeting in Hannibal to serve as vice division commander for 2013. "I'm looking forward to working and learning from Butch and doing whatever I can as chief of staff to help out the division staff and flotilla commanders." Konieczski said when asked what his plans were. He also said he couldn't wait to get his

new facility under orders for her maiden mission.

Jim served eight years on active duty with the Coast Guard serving from 1981-1989. He served as an Electrician's Mate, reaching the rate of petty officer first class (E-6). He served on two cutters; the *USCGC Resolute* sailing out of Astoria, Oregon and the *USCGC Spencer* whose home port was Boston. Jim was a

plankowner, or a member of the original crew of the *Spencer*.

Jim and his wife Karla reside in Hudson. Both are active boaters and enjoy a lot of weekends at the Spring Valley Boat Club, where they slip their Rinker. They are parents of three adult children and one Lab; Michelle, Hallie, Jon and Diva.

Division 8 Change of Watch

Division 8's Change of Watch will be held January 5, 2013 at the Ozark House in Bloomington, IL. The Change of Watch, coupled with the quarterly meeting will begin at 10:00 am.

The meeting will begin at

10:00 am. A buffet lunch will begin at noon and the Change of Watch ceremony will begin at 1:00 pm. If you or you and your spouse have not responded and would still like to attend, there's still time. Please contact

Butch Luhrsen or Jim Konieczski as soon as possible and let them know how many are attending.

The cost for the buffet style lunch is \$12.

Fantastic Teamwork for Checkrides!

By Jeff Poundstone

When several flotillas have no facilities and several others have a single facility, it takes a lot more coordination to make things like QE check rides happen. That's just what has happened in Division 8 several times this year.

Early in the Spring, Flotilla 81's Jeff Wilson was given his dockside exam and check ride at Clinton Lake. At that time the QE's vessel was the only operational facility belonging to Flotilla 84 at Clinton Lake. When word went out that an extra vessel and coxswain was

needed, Kurt and Debbie Ayres from Flotilla 85, couldn't have volunteered quicker to partner with Flotilla 81's Dirk Homan and his vessel to make it a successful day for the Auxiliary and Division 8.

In August, throw into the mix Flotilla 85's Jim Konieczki coming over from Flotilla 85 to crew for Flotilla 8-1's Homan to assist in the check rides for Hannibal, Missouri's Flotilla 83's Doug Keller and 84's Anna Poundstone.

The teamwork and camaraderie involved in

operations training and joint operations are great morale builders for those involved in these events.

Right. Flotilla 84's Anna Poundstone is assisted by Flotilla 83's Doug Keller, Flotilla 85's Jim Konieczki and QE Butch Luhrsen, while Flotilla 81's Dirk Homan keeps a steady hand on the helm.



Photo courtesy of Jim Dunne.

Marlinspike Seamanship - Too Valuable to Ignore

By Chad Wiehe, SO-MT

As this is my first article for our newsletter, I think it's best that I start with a brief reminder that your FSO-MT is your best resource for your flotilla's individual needs in member training. If there is something that they need to assist them, then we can easily stick to our Chain of Leadership, and pass it on up.

Details are being worked out on some new mandated training for all of us, but since it's not final yet, I don't want to bore everyone with details just yet. Instead, I will offer an idea that each of us

can do pretty consistently that will make all of us better mariners.

Idea #1; Knots and Marlinspike. These skills can really atrophy if not used on a fairly regular basis, so a way to help all of us keep these skills sharp is to use a variation of a trick I learned for PE courses. Sponsor a knot of the month!! I know it sounds crazy but bear with me.

At your next flotilla meeting, after the business meeting concludes, pick a knot. Maybe start with a beckett

bend? Or a timber hitch? Have someone demonstrate the knot and how to tie it properly. Then as each of you have down time, practice that knot. When your next flotilla meeting comes around, right before the start of the business meeting, everyone can review the knot you chose. After the business meeting is over, learn a new knot. Just keep repeating the process with a new knot every month. By the end of the year, you will have added 12 knots, or maybe even a couple of splice methods to your skill sets.



Chad Wiehe, SO-MT
Photo courtesy of Anna Poundstone.

In the Galley with Scott

By Scott Lamberes, AUX CHEF



Photo courtesy of Carol Lamberes.

Welcome to the galley! In this first column of "In the Galley with Scott" I would like to share with you one of my favorite quick dishes. Sliced Tomato with Fresh Mozzarella! I prefer fresh homegrown garden tomatoes for this dish coupled with fresh mozzarella. Any tomato will do in a pinch, but it just has to be a ball of fresh mozzarella. Rounding out the ingredients would be extra

virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and some fresh basil seasoning. Let's take one nice size garden



Tomato with Fresh Mozzarella! Photo courtesy of Scott Lamberes

tomato and cut it into four slices. Lay them flat on the plate, don't stack them. Top each tomato slice with a slice of fresh mozzarella. Now, pour a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil, then pour a drizzle of balsamic vinegar, and lastly sprinkle with fresh basil. A perfect dish for any season, but especially good served slightly chilled or cool while at anchor on your boat.

Enjoy! -- Scott

Honesty...Integrity...Diversity

By Michael D. Huff, ADSO-DV

In 2013, one of the main objectives is Diversity within the Auxiliary. We have all probably heard or have seen that there is a new FSO DIVERSITY position added to every flotilla. After gaining an understanding what Diversity is, we should all make sure that this position is filled with the right member.

There is not one simple statement to define Diversity, but here is a brief description:

Diversity is a variety. It includes all characteristics, experiences, and differences of each individual. We as a TEAM must move forward with a more Diversified Auxiliary, supporting and achieving a volunteer environment of all age groups, backgrounds, education and personalities. Race, gender, and physical characteristics are easily

identifiable differences and therefore the most apparent aspects of Diversity. There are many other dimensions of diversity. Diversity dimensions can be internal, external, and organizational.

As members of TEAM COAST GUARD, we are all expected to treat each other professionally and respectfully regardless of individual differences.

The day of bullying members will be gone, and those who lead this way will be replaced with leaders that have the skill sets to lead by example. Organizations die because of no new blood, or fresh ideas.

Taking pride in you and taking pride in the Coast Guard Auxiliary can be accomplished with proper training and education.

Recruiting and retention will be a high priority; the average age in the Auxiliary

is 54.7 years old, we must target different age groups and backgrounds/develop and recruit the best talents to the table, in order to support, and accomplish our missions.

The day of the new person feeling that he/she has been mistreated unfairly and having no recourse; Members leaving because they feel they can't be heard; Members leaving because of being harassed are over. We now have the FSO-Diversity Officer to assist with any misunderstandings. Hopefully this new and important position can lead to corrective action and positive membership opportunities.

I highly recommend that all members take a look at the "National Diversity" web page. This should help us all obtain a clear understanding of what "Diversity is", and what "Diversity is not".

"The day of bullying members will be gone, and those who lead this way will be replaced with leaders that have the skill sets to lead by example."
~Michael D. Huff

Sea Scouting Sails on Clinton Lake

By Jeff Poundstone

Besides Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, the BSA has several programs for older youth, one of them being the little known Sea Scouts. Sea Scouting is a co-ed program for young men and young ladies with ages ranging from 14-21. The youth members do not have to have been Boy Scouts previously to join this nautical program. Sea Scouts have been around since 1912, when the first unit or "Ship" was formed in England on Brown Sea Island. Commander Thomas Keane is the man responsible for bringing

Sea Scouts to the U.S. and making the 7000 member program what it is today.

The program is based on nautical skills. The first Sea Scout rank earned is Apprentice. They will then learn an incredible amount of seamanship and leadership as they progress through the ranks of Ordinary Seaman and then Able Seaman, finally earning the highest rank in Sea Scouting, Quartermaster. The Quartermaster is named after the Sailing Master of old who used his mastery of the art of sailing and

seamanship to assist the Captain.

The USCG Auxiliary has an active Memorandum of Understanding with the Sea Scouts.

Flotilla 84 is working with several Sea Scouts from Ship 007 in Champaign. The Skipper of Ship 007 is Mrs. Julie Ramsey. Several of our young men took their test for the Apprentice rank aboard "The Floating Illini" this summer and successfully passed. We look forward to lending a hand as they earn Ordinary, Able and Quartermaster.



Apprentice Sea Scouts on Clinton Lake. Photo by Julie Ramsey

2013 OPEX to be held at Clinton Lake

By Jeff Poundstone

Butch Luhrs, DCDR proposed dates for next year's division meetings and operational exercise (OPEX) at the October division meeting. It was agreed that this year's OPEX will be held over the weekend of June 7-9 at Clinton Lake. He then announced that the OPEX will take with an ICS flavor and that Jeff Poundstone, FC-84 will serve as incident commander.

As the OPEX incident commander, I'd like to announce that John Davison, FC-83 will serve

as operations section chief and Chad Wiehe, FC-81 signed on as our planning section chief. Shawn Burnley, VFC-84 will be our liaison and safety officer. Anna Poundstone will be maintaining radio guard and serving as communication chief. Pam Luhrs will have an aid station set up and will serve as our medic. Scott Lamberes, FC-85 rounds out the incident command team as his Aux Chef crew has committed to running a galley operation for the weekend. The Pawnee, IL Fire Department

ambulance and boat crew will also be participants.

The operational scheme for the OPEX to complete 3 year check rides, conduct a number of search and rescue related scenarios, and enjoy the fellowship of being a part of training up for our worthy mission.

We also hope to see a number of new crews and new facilities participating alongside our veterans.

"Make plans to attend this year's OPEX at Clinton Lake, you'll spend the rest of your career regretting that you missed it!"

~Chad Wiehe

2013 Coming Events

January 5

Division 8 Meeting and Change of Watch. Bloomington, Ozark House 10:00 a.m.

March 15-16

8WR District Spring Business Meeting. Denver, Co.

April

Division 8 Meeting, Ops and TCT Refresher. TBD

June 8-9

Division 8 Operational Exercise (OPEX). Clinton Lake Marina.

August TBD

NACON 2013. USCG Auxiliary National Conference. San Diego, Ca.

September

TBD. 8WR District Fall Business Meeting.

October

Division 8 Meeting and Election. TBD

Flotilla 81 – East Peoria in Review

By Jeff Wilson

The flotilla had several things of note happen during 2012.

In March, the flotilla provided a booth at the Elmwood All Outdoors Show. The flotilla held three boating safety classes this year. Langie Radeke celebrated her 40th anniversary in the Auxiliary! Some other flotilla member accomplishments included; Jeff Wilson receiving a favorable report from SECCEN, then passing his dockside exam and check ride to qualify as boat crew. Later in the year, Jeff completed the tasks

necessary to be certified as a VE.

Dirk Homan earned his Air Observer and Air Crew Wings.

Dan and Kyle Penning received favorable responses from SECCEN. The flotilla took part in several missions. There was a safety patrol on Lake Springfield on Memorial Day weekend. All available hands were in attendance at Opex. There was a patrol of Spoon Lake in June. One of the highlights of the year is always the fireworks show over the Illinois River at Peoria. In August, the flotilla once

again contributed to the protection of the Henry to Chillicothe canoe/kayak float. This was followed the next weekend by a patrol on the Illinois during which facility 804 watched over a scout canoe trip. Later came the Glow Regatta on Clinton Lake. Facility 804 worked as a sentinel while Chad Wiehe provided radio watch. Several prospective recruits were contacted during the year. The paperwork for three of them is in the pipeline. We're looking forward to having them as members. We're hoping for an even better 2013!

Division 8 Joint Operations – A Year in Review

By Jeff Wilson

It was another good year for the flotillas of Division 8. There were multiple opportunities for cross-flotilla operations. Three new division members qualified as boat crew. Jeff Wilson (8-1) qualified with the help of two other flotillas. Later in the year, Doug Keller (8-3) powered through his check ride with the assistance of three flotillas. In addition, Anna Poundstone (8-4) sailed through her qualification also with the help of three flotillas.

Once again, the division shepherded the canoes and kayaks on their annual float down the Illinois from Henry to Chillicothe. There were a couple of incidents that were quickly tended to by the ever-watchful eyes on

the Auxiliary facilities.



Photo by Anna Poundstone

The sails were up and filled again this year on Clinton Lake as the sailing club held their Glow Regatta. With a radio watch onshore, there were multiple floating facilities serving as pickets to try to keep powerboats from cutting through the race course. Thanks to some gusty winds, there were some instances of sailing masts (and the boats they were attached to) pointing a

direction other than upward. With Auxiliary resources standing by as protection and in case more help was needed, the boats were righted by the crew and race staff.

One of the largest joint efforts of the year was the Peoria fireworks. Several of our facilities served as key resources on the river.

OPEX brought the division's personnel and facilities together for a multi-purpose weekend. In addition to practicing different kinds of evolutions with different combinations of crew, there was also training done and the division meeting held.

On Deck There

Newsletter Editor

Jeff Poundstone, SO-PB
jeff.poundstone@gmail.com

Contributing Editor

Jeff Wilson, FSO-PB
jeffcwilson@prodigy.net

Photographer
Deborah Dunne

Photographer
Anna Poundstone

Newsletter Mentor
Linda Vogel, ADSO-PB