



On Deck There



Peoria, Ill. – Division 8's outgoing division commander Butch Luhrsen and outgoing vice division commander Jim Konieczki (left) as they passed the division colors to incoming division commander and vice division commander, Jeff Poundstone and Chad Wiehe (right) at the division's annual Change of Watch on January 11 in Peoria. Photo by Karla Konieczki.

Newsletter of Division 8 of the USCG Auxiliary's 8th Western Rivers District. Division 8's area of responsibility includes Central Illinois, Northeast Missouri (NEMO), and Southeast Iowa.



Division 8 Leadership:

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DCDR
[Jeff's email](#)
- Chad Wiehe,
VCDR
[Chad's email](#)

Division 8 Staff:

Jim Konieczki
SO-VE / PV

Jeff Wilson
SO-SR / CS

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-PA / PB

Shawn Burnley
SO-HR

Thomas Keagle
SO-PE

Fred Peterson
SO-NS

Commander's Comments

By Jeff Poundstone, DCDR



“If the highly trained, bell ringing Sea Scouts aren't here, who's going to sound eight bells properly?” that was the question I was asking myself prior to the Change of Watch. It was a little crowded near the podium, so I just did it myself and well, totally botched it up.....badly. The bells are struck in pairs of two. So they're sounded ding-ding, pause, ding-ding, pause, for a total of eight rings. I got the first two, paused, and then on the third and fourth ring, the lanyard got in the way and we got half bell half lanyard. Can't stop now, so I just kept messing it up. I was happy that the MC took it from there and I got away from the bell. Later that evening, as several mutinous sea dogs were discussing world events, we experimented with the bell.

Next year, I'd like to begin a new division tradition that the 8 bells be sounded by the previous year's Auxiliarist of the Year. Next year, Mr. Ackerman will have that honor. The secret would be to strike the bell at 270 degrees relative, instead of dead ahead.

We had a lot more family members attend the change of watch, which I think was fantastic. I also saw the absolute look of confusion on several faces trying to decipher our language.

My sister, who is completing her doctoral dissertation as I write this, looked lost. She would have had a better chance if we spoke Latin.

For example, the 8WR DIRAUX was chatting with the LT who is the OIC of the MSD, both were looking squared

away in their SDBs. The DCAPT, DCDR, and VCDR were wearing tropes. The UOD for the SOs was SDBs also. The DCAPT read a letter from the COMO. The SITRP from the 8WR COMO spoke of VEs, PEs, PA, PB, OPFACs, ATONs, PATONs, and MT. Our guests were at dinner in a foreign land where their family members spoke a foreign language. The language was AUXSPEAK. Next year we'll pass out a sheet to help them translate.

It was great catching up with everyone at the COW. If you have any ideas or comments how we can make things better, please shoot me an email.

I am absolutely stoked that our Auxiliary Leadership and Management C-School is almost here. We have 18 members of the division committed to attending the two weekend sessions to graduate. Bringing the AUXLAMs to Peoria and having our current and future elected leaders having this training will pay dividends to the organization both now and for years to come.

We have 18 members committed to AUXLAMs. We still have a few seats open.

Recreational boating safety has been and still is our highest priority mission. We have four safe boating classes already scheduled in the next few weeks. In addition to delivering the course to our boating public audience, these courses will resort in many of our initial qualified newer members being raised to the basic qualified (BQ) level of membership. This will allow them to more fully participate in Auxiliary programs. There are also several members being mentored and will soon be Auxiliary instructor certified and fully able to present courses on their own.

We had a super turnout at the division meeting on Jan 12. Thank you to the flotilla commanders and division staff for participating and making it a great meeting to kick off the new year.

Nice Evening – Change of Watch 2014



Chad Wiehe, SO-MT; Butch Luhrsen, SO-OP; Jim Konieczki, SO-VE; Jeff Wilson, SO-CS; and Tom Keagle, SO-PE take the pledge of office (left to right above). Photo courtesy of Anna Poundstone.

Division 8 members and their guests gathered in the ballroom at Peoria’s Wingate Hotel on January 11 to celebrate and conduct the annual Change of Watch. Special guests for the evening from the Coast Guard were Commander Christina Dell’Orco, our 8WR District’s Director of the Auxiliary and Lieutenant Micah Bonner, who serves as the Officer in Charge of the Coast Guard Station in East Peoria.

We had an incident that was almost as bad as having an engine failure in the middle of the barge channel when we lost our singer and our master of ceremonies in the 24 hours preceding the Change of Watch.



Fred Peterson, SO-NS; Doug Keller, SO-CM; Bill Slusser, SO-MA and Patsy Smith, SO-FN (left to right) take the pledge of their office. Photo by Anna Poundstone.

Jeff Wilson, FC81, did an outstanding job serving as MC for the evening, taking the job with a day’s notice. My wife’s expensive smart phone and speakers served to replace our beautiful, talented singer. Anna’s phone is chock full of easy listening lounge music that played during our social hour. On behalf of the board, a thank you goes out to Jeff Wilson, Anna Poundstone, and Wanda Ackerman. Wanda coordinated with the hotel which was both a fantastic venue and the staff couldn’t have been more friendly and helpful. Again, thank you.

Dinner of roast turkey and a glazed ham was served. Both the caterer’s full service and their meal were super.



Auxiliarist and guests enjoyed fellowship and dinner at the change of watch. Above, Jim Konieczki is attempting to talk his flotilla commander out of his vegetables. Photo by Anna Poundstone.

At the beginning of first watch, which is sounded by 8 bells, the ceremony began. The bugler played “To the Colors” and then the benediction was delivered by Merwon “Smitty” Smith. The division colors were passed from Butch Luhrsen to Jeff Poundstone. A salute and handshake was exchanged. Luhrsen as district captain and LT Bonner administered the pledge of office to Poundstone and Chad Wiehe, VCDR. Poundstone and Wiehe, in turn, administered the pledge to the incoming flotilla commanders and vice commanders and then division staff officers.

Don Ackerman Named Auxiliariist of the Year

Don Ackerman has been selected the Division 8 Auxiliariist of the Year for 2013. This past year, Flotilla 85, had a very serious leadership issue that came to a head when the previous flotilla commander was suspended. Don stepped up immediately and took the steps necessary to recall the flotilla commander, stepped up again and ran for flotilla commander to fill the



Butch Luhrsen, DCAPT-E (left) reads the citation as Jeff Poundstone, DCDR (right) prepares to award the Auxiliariist of the Year plaque to Donald Ackerman, FC (center). Photo by Anna Poundstone.

remainder of the term, and stepped up a third time to run for flotilla commander for 2014. The recall election, the interim election, and the 2014 were all unopposed, that says that the members trust Don to turn things around here in Peoria. That's a lot of stepping up for the good of the team.

Don didn't just step up into leadership this year. He also stepped up when Division 8 found itself down a few boats. On more than one occasion, Don gathered his crew, and served as the distressed vessel on several Boat Crew and Coxswain check rides, at both Clinton Lake and here in Lake Peoria. We found ourselves short a few boats at the Flying Scot Regatta and Don, who doesn't normally trailer to Clinton Lake didn't hesitate to bring his facility over.

On behalf of the division board and the members of Division 8, I would like to congratulate Don Ackerman on being selected as Auxiliariist of the Year. Thank you for stepping up big this year. Your actions did not go unnoticed.

Safe Boating Courses

Don Ackerman, FC85, presented the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Boating Safety Course twice already last month. Don's first course was well attended and hosted by the First United Methodist Church in East Peoria on Jan 18. Don also taught an 8 hour DNR course at the Pontiac Sportsman's Club on Jan 25.

Chris and Jaime Harriman along with Joe Macfarlane, members of Flotillas 81 and 85 respectively, attended the course in East Peoria and have changed their IQ membership to BQ. Being basic qualified will allow them to participate in other Auxiliary programs.

Jeff Wilson, FC81, presented several of the chapters as the instructor. Jeff has previously taken and passed the instructor development course (IDC) on the Auxiliary national test center and mentored under Don to earn his instructor certification.

Congratulations to Don, Chris, Jaime, Joe, and Jeff. What a great start delivering safe boating course to the public!

April Division Meeting Information

Our April quarterly division meeting will be held at the Army Corps of Engineer's Conference Center at Lake Shelbyville on Saturday April 5. The meeting and the accompanying training will run from 0900 to approximately 1700. Host flotilla 88's Ethan Brewer, FC, has promised to use his chef skills to put on a five star lunch for participants.

The division meeting will begin at 0900 and hopefully last no more than hour. We will tentatively begin our 4-hour Team Coordination Training (TCT) immediately after the division meeting. The AUXFS need this training every two years. Crew and coxswains whether they need or not, can reset their schedule by joining in the session.

We'll finish this great day of training with the annual operations briefing presented by the SO-OP and another briefing regarding the AV qualification and our mission on the rivers by Fred Peterson, SO-NS.

Quarterly Division Meeting Report

Members of the division board and division staff gathered at the Coast Guard station in East Peoria for the quarterly meeting on Jan 12. Jeff Poundstone, DCDR and Chad Wiehe, VCDR were both present as were remaining division board members Butch Luhrsen, IPDCDR; Jeff Wilson, FC81; Doug Keller, FC83; Tom Keagle, FC84; Don Ackerman, FC85; and Ethan Brewer, FC88. Division staff members attending were Patsy Smith, SO-FN; Fred Peterson, SO-NS; Merwon Smith, SO-MS; Bill Slusser, SO-MA; Jim Konieczki, SO-VE/PV; Wilbert "Bud" Grimm, SO-IS and LT Micah Bonner, OIC of the Marine Safety Detachment, East Peoria.

Jeff Poundstone, DCDR, began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began an after actions review regarding the Change of Watch. The location and caterer were given five stars. An issue was raised concerning whether we could condense the pledge of office. It was agreed that in the future a single prologue could be read and then the much shorter pledge could be administered. Someone suggested we could have combined the change of watch and the division meeting all on the same day. Several members who were involved in the planning would like to have training, fellowship, as well as the division meeting. An overnigher or evening prior could meet some of the missing camaraderie building fellowship.

It was mentioned that BMSC Michael Love who is the skipper of the CGC Sangamon, has inquired about us conducting PATON and bridge spot checks that are on his to do list for 2014. Several of our crews and aid verifiers will accomplish this mission. Fred Peterson, SO-NS will give a briefing on current aid verification standards and procedures at the April division meeting.

Ethan Brewer, FC88 announced that the April meeting will be held at the Army Corps of Engineer's Conference Center at Lake Shelbyville on April 5. We will be holding a 4 hour TCT session and the annual operations briefing at the April meeting.

Flotilla reports were given. They appear on the next page.

Division Staff reports were then given. Patsy Smith, SO-FN delivered the finance report. Fred Peterson,

SO-NS delivered the navigation services report. Fred reported that there are new requirements for any member that wishes to become certified as an aids to navigation verifier. He will report about the new standards at the April division meeting.

Jim Konieczki, SO-VE, gave the vessel examiner report. Jim stated that the VSC stickers were sent out to the FSO-VEs. The number of stickers that were sent out was based on the number of exams completed in 2013 plus 10%. Additional stickers may be obtained when the flotilla numbers in AUXDATA exceed the amount given last month. Jim also reminded everyone that we are examiners, not inspectors.

Bill Slusser, SO-MA, stated that there exists material that belongs to the division that is not being utilized and needs to be returned to the station. There are other items of equipment listed on the division and flotilla audits that need to be accounted for, returned, and made better use of.

Butch Luhrsen, SO-OP, reported that the PPE is still an issue Auxiliary wide and that we should continue doing the best we can with what we have available.

Tom Keagle, SO-PE, mentioned that he would like closer communication with the FSO-PEs. He is our division contact for a new excellence in education initiative.

Chris Ware suggested that the division create an amateur radio club. We have several ham radio enthusiasts. A ham club will allow the group to use special frequencies and other benefits.

A motion was made by Don Ackerman that the division financially support hosting and financing an AUXLAMS C-School in Peoria. The motion carried and the C-School will run over two weekends in March.

A motion was made to adjourn. We adjourned.

SITREP: The Flotillas Report in

By Division 8 Flotilla Commanders

Flotilla 8-1 (East Peoria)

Flotilla 81 met on January 15 at the MSD. We now have a supply of fingerprint cards to use. An application has been submitted for David Cashion, pending his fingerprint cards. Jeff Wilson, FC, discussed need for ATON/PATON missions with BM1 Lombard, the XPO of the Sangamon. Chris and Jaime Harriman attended an 8-hour Safe Boating Course on Jan 18 in East Peoria. Jeff Wilson taught several chapters of the same course in his pursuit of instructor certification. Chris Harriman successfully passed the instructor development course (IDC). Our next flotilla meeting will be on Feb 19 at the MSD in East Peoria.

Flotilla 8-3 (Hannibal)

Doug Keller, FC attended the Division Change of Watch and was sworn in as flotilla commander and then again as SO-CM.

Douglas Keller has gone on a medical leave of absence. Jessica Dawson, VFC is serving as interim flotilla commander. Jessica Dawson, VFC, John Davison, IPFC, and Klaus Stendebach, FSO-FN, completed and turned in the flotilla audit form to division.

Jessica Dawson, VFC, is attending the AUXLAMs C-School in East Peoria in March.

Flotilla 8-4 (Floating Illini)

Flotilla 84 did not meet in January but many members did attend the Division 8 Change of Watch and did attend the division meeting. We have a goal of 5 new members for 2014. Joshua Wilson's application was resubmitted to DIRAUX.

Rich Wynne, Shawn Burnley, and Tom Keagle are working and ready to test the Navigation Rules 70 exam. Members are working to complete all mandatory training.

Flotilla 84 is serving as a test flotilla for the National AUXLAMs staff as they are introducing a series of flotilla level "Deck-Plate Leadership modules" to be presented at flotilla meetings.

Flotilla 84 is presenting the pilot in Farmer City on Feb 15. Jeff Poundstone, Anna Poundstone, Butch Luhrsen, Pam Luhrsen, Jim Dunne, Richard Wynne, and Thomas Keagle are enrolled in the March AUXLAMs C-School.

Flotilla 8-5 (Peoria)

Bill Slusser passed NRUL 95. They are working on setting a boat crew class and monthly flotilla training. We gained a new member, Joseph Macfarlane whose application is done waiting on finger print cards to send in. We're working on monthly flotilla calendar for activities.

Upcoming flotilla events are the Division Change of Watch on Saturday, January 11 at the Wingate Hotel in Peoria; the division meeting on January 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Coast Guard Station in East Peoria; we have our flotilla meeting on January 16 at the MSD at 7:00 p.m. We then have several upcoming Safe Boating Courses. The first will be presented at the United Methodist Church in East Peoria on Jan 18 and a second Jan 25 at the Pontiac Sportsman Club. Both courses are the Illinois DNR course and both will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Flotilla 88 (Lincoln Heritage)

Our regularly scheduled meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather; necessary business has been conducted this month by phone, text and email. Chris Ware spent Jan 3-9 assisting active duty at Air Station NOLA. Brandon Helm has been made the training officer for the Neoga Fire Department. They will have ice rescue training on Sat, Feb 8. Any CG Aux members are welcome to participate. For more info, call Brandon at 217-663-3171. Feb 5 is our next flotilla meeting at the 911 Center in Mattoon. We are hosting the April 5 Division meeting at ACE Visitors' Center, Lake Shelbyville.

February 1
Safe Boating Course in
Bloomington. POC is Don
Ackerman.

February 15
Flotilla 84 Leadership module
training. Imo's Diner. Farmer
City, 10:00 a.m.

March 7-9
Division 8 AUXLAMs C-
School. Coast Guard Station,
East Peoria.
(AUXLAMs Part A)

March 21-23
Division 8 AUXLAMs C-
School. Coast Guard Station,
East Peoria.
(AUXLAMs Part B)

April 5
Division Meeting
Army Corps of Engineer
Visitor Center at Lake
Shelbyville. 9:00 a.m.

Need to Know: The Sheet Bend & the Double Sheet Bend

By Jeff Poundstone



No kidding there I was. The crew in which I served was involved in a stern tow operation in a stiff breeze. The larger boat's motor had quit on them. The distressed vessel had quickly prepared and deployed ground tackle. Unfortunately, the combination of the breeze, the waves, and the lake's bottom saw them being blown toward a lee shore.

Our boat crew secured a stern tow to the relief of the distressed crew and began a slow tow to the nearest marina. A crew member on the distressed vessel remarked that, "there may be a row or two of corn there in the spring as deep as our anchor plowed across the bottom."

Everyone's stress level decreased as the stern tow was executed. An alternate route into the marina was chosen to decrease the amount of wind that would adversely affect the towed vessel with the high freeboard or sail area. Life jackets were on, passengers were centered in the towed boat, everyone was behind the windshield and neither crew was positioned in the tow line's danger zone.

After a very short TCT consultation between our coxswain and the facility owner, it was determined that bringing the larger vessel up into an alongside tow was too dangerous. The combination of the sporty winds, large sail area of the towed vessel, coupled with the narrowness of the marina channel, was a recipe for disaster.

The towed vessel was to heave a line to the dock, make a turn around a cleat, and pull her in.

A high-speed, low-drag member of the distressed crew quickly grabbed a pair of long dock lines, which were identical in diameter. His plan was to join those two lines with a square knot. A square knot, a knot used to join two lines of the same size together. He tied it correctly. There wasn't any time to spare, as he readied his line to heave, his square knot came apart. It came apart. The lines had a little stiffness in them and they came apart at a critical time. The crew didn't fail, the square knot did. The square knot is fired. It is relieved of all its duties on my boat except reefing a sail.

The big boat got in her slip with no damage.

The lesson of the day was twofold: boat crew members need to train relentlessly on marlinspike seamanship (knots) and don't rely on the square knot.

On my boat the sheet bend and its big brother, the double sheet bend, are now the "go to" pair of knots to use. Whether they're joining lines of the same or different sizes, one of those is what we'll use when joining lines.

On Deck There

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