



# On Deck There



***Coast Guard Station, East Peoria, Ill. – Jeff Poundstone, DCDR (elect) presented Flotilla 81's Douglas Keller, FC (elect) with the 2012 Auxiliarist of the Year Award during the quarterly division meeting. Photo courtesy of Jeff Wilson.***

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, SO-OP  
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- Jim Konieczki,  
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# **Commander's Comments**

By Butch Luhrsen, DCDR



### **Flotilla 85 (Peoria)**

Flotilla 85 held a meeting on October 17. Donald Ackerman was nominated for FC to replace Scott Lamberes through Dec. 31, 2013. Donald Ackerman was elected by acclimation. Elections were conducted for FC and VFC for 2014. Letters of intent from Donald Ackerman for FC and from Merwon Smith for VFC were announced. No nominations from the floor. Donald Ackerman and Merwon Smith were voted in by acclimation.

Their November meeting will be held at the home of Donald and Wanda Ackerman. We have invited the Sangamon, the MSD, the District Captain East, the Division Commander and Vice Commander, Flotilla 81 and Flotilla 85 with their significant others.

### **Flotilla 83 (Hannibal, Mo.)**

Doug Keller received certification as a "Tower Climber" after attending and graduating from a week long ATON school hosted by the USCGC Sangamon.

Jessica Dawson, ADSO-DV, is taking a college workshop in graduate school for inclusive kayaking to enable disability accommodation and spent 3 hours working diversity issues this month.

Klaus Stendebach, FSO-VE, (Hannibal Harbor Master) visited with harbor visitors about the CG Auxiliary.

Eric Dolbeare, IPFC, will return Afghanistan on approximately Dec 17 from a one year employment as an Agriculture Advisor.

### **Flotilla 81 (East Peoria)**

Members began working on some of the mandated training modules on the AUXLMS system.

Jeff Wilson and Bud Grimm were elected FC and VFC for 2014.

### **Flotilla 88 (Lincoln Trails)**

Elected Ethan Brewer and Penny Clay flotilla commander and vice commander respectively for 2014.

Chris Ware was appointed Branch Chief Diversity. Calen Edgar is pursuing the online public affairs courses.

Flotilla meeting announced for November 6. Flotilla COW, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of December; details later.

### **Flotilla 84 (Floating Illini)**

Flotilla 84 met at Clinton Lake on Oct 19. Flotilla elections were held. Thomas Keagle was elected FC; Anna Poundstone was elected VFC. Shawn Burnley, FSO-MT, successfully and perfectly grilled 2 dozen brats on the dock.

Joshua Wilson has all new member paperwork completed and sent in.

Tom Keagle completed the Operations Policy Exam. Tom Keagle completed the Flotilla Leadership Course.

Shawn and Tom have been notified about a future CPR training session for the Scioto.

Flotilla 84 conducted a reconnaissance in force at the new Ted's Garage Restaurant in Clinton. The previous location burnt to the ground last October. All the great pictures and memorabilia were lost in the fire. Our recon determined that a new collection is growing. Floating Illini members, performed just like a well-oiled machine, with the whole table ordering the walleye and ice tea. It was found to be just as good as or even better than it was at the former location. The downside is there is no side room where we can hold division meetings.

***~Butch***

## Communications: Let's get Tactically and Technically Proficient

By Jeff Poundstone, SO-PB

"Dudes, this is Coast Guard Auxiliary 800, sending a shout out on 16 to see where all my peeps want to hook up and have lunch.....shoot some flash traffic back at me....over and out!" I cringed just writing the above.



USCG Auxiliarist sending marine VHF radio traffic. USCGAUX photo.

Using the VHF marine radio is a very important skill that we as Auxiliarist need to learn and master. A boat crew member is required to know how to operate a marine radio as well as being able to send the radio guard an operational and a position report message. A member who is interested in offering the Auxiliary their equipment as a radio facility must meet even more stringent communications training. A member offering their marine radio as a facility for the first time must earn the telecommunication operator (TCO) qualification in order to operate it. When Auxiliarists are operating and communicating on the marine VHF radio, especially on channel 16, we are broadcasting in the public domain and the manner in which we operate is a direct reflection on our professionalism and how the recreational boating public perceives the Auxiliary.

We are all volunteers who do something else in our lives who volunteer our precious time serving both the Coast Guard and the recreational boating public. In that spirit we should strive to become more technically proficient radio operators. We should be aware that every vessel with a marine radio is required to maintain a radio guard on channel 16 or 156.8 MHz. That means when you broadcast on channel 16 "everybody" is listening. We should attempt to be as professional as possible when operating on that channel. Channel 16 is the hailing and distress channel. It is called a hailing channel, because all vessels are required to guard channel 16, it is used to contact another vessel, and when contact is made, a

change or shift to another channel is made to continue communications. This is not the channel to discuss the best fishing spot or lunch plans. Make contact and go to another channel.

Channel 16 is used for distress messages. Mayday, pan-pan, and security messages begin on channel 16. Mayday messages are sent when there is an imminent loss of life unless some aid is rendered. Vessels in distress stay on channel 16 longer than any other distress or hailing calls due to its dire nature. The Coast Guard keeps the distressed vessel on channel 16 to allow other vessels to relay messages if needed and to avoid the risk of losing contact attempting to shift to another channel. When the Coast Guard has the situation under control, mayday communications are shifted to a working channel. A pan-pan message is a message broadcast that there is a medical or mechanical issue requiring assistance. A security message is broadcast to advise others about a hazard to navigation. Pan-pan and security messages are announced on channel 16 and then shifted to another working channel.

On whole entire level is the Auxiliary's High Frequency (HF) program. Auxiliarists who have completed the TCO personal qualification standards (PQS) or the telecommunications watchstander qualifications as well as being recommended by the district's communication staff officer may participate in the HF program. The HF nets operate on a national, regional, district, and at a local level. These networks are called contingency nets; they are designed to go operational in times when normal communications are disrupted or when called in emergencies. If you are an amateur radio operator and are interested in the Auxiliary HF net, contact a TCO in the division and he will be glad to point you in the right direction.

The Auxiliary places a lot of importance in being a competent communicator. To qualify as an Operational Auxiliarist or AUXOP, a member needs to take a battery of specialty courses; one of the required courses is the Auxiliary Communications Specialty Course or AUXCOM. This course is a great start in becoming familiar with marine communications. AUXCOM will give you a great start towards learning and mastering the tasks a telecommunications operator needs to know. Studying, training, and mastering the TCO or watchstander requirements allow an Auxiliarist to participate in all other areas of radio communications within the Auxiliary. It is a good goal to pursue and being able to operate and communicate in a competent professional manner are life skills well worth having. Your FSO-CM, the SO-CM, or a TCO would be very willing to set you in the right direction to take the next step in becoming an Auxiliary Communications Specialist.



## New Leadership for the Floating Illini

By Jeff Poundstone, SO-PB



Tom Keagle (left) and Anna Poundstone (right) were elected flotilla commander and vice flotilla commander of Flotilla 84. Photos courtesy of Debbie Dunne.

"I have always been around boats and fishing, it's not my hobby, it's my way of life," remarked Tom Keagle, FC (elect) when asked if he had any hobbies. Tom and Anna Poundstone were elected unanimously by members of the Floating Illini at their October meeting at Clinton Lake Marina.

Tom has been a member of the Auxiliary for about three years. He has become certified as an Auxiliary instructor, a vessel examiner, marine dealer visitor, and a boat crew member. As an instructor he has presented CPR and first aid courses to both Division 8 and the

entire crew of the USCG Cutter Sangamon. Tom is a boat owner and is working towards offering his vessel for use as a facility and earning the coxswain certification.

Tom and his wife of 29 years, Annette, live in nearby Monticello. He is the Field / Ambulance Operations Coordinator at Kirby Medical Center in Monticello and also teaches CPR and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). He's attended Parkland College and Eastern Illinois University. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Their youngest son is currently serving in the 25 Infantry

Division "Tropical Lightning," in Hawaii.

Anna Poundstone, VFC (elect) has been in the Auxiliary for roughly four years. She has served as SO-HR and is a qualified boat crew member. She and her husband spend as much time as they can aboard their sailboat, only returning to shore because they have to work.

She is originally from Mesa, Arizona currently living in Marseilles. She is employed in the engineering department at Clover Technology in Ottawa. Anna attended Mesa Community College and graduated from Illinois Valley Community College. She has three adult children, three teenaged step children, and five grandchildren, who are now old enough to be spending more weekends on the sailboat with her.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Tom and Anna are going to be a top-notch leadership team for the Floating Illini," said outgoing flotilla commander Jeff Poundstone, "I do predict we'll be having more fish fries and fish boils than barbeques with Tom at the helm."

## Veteran Leaders take the Helm in Peoria

By Jeff Poundstone



Don Ackerman (left) and Merwon "Smitty" Smith (right) were elected to lead the Peoria Flotilla in 2014. Photos by Anna Poundstone

Peoria's Flotilla 85 held not one, but two, elections at their October monthly meeting. Don Ackerman and Merwon "Smitty" Smith were elected to serve as FC and VFC for next year. A special election was also held electing Ackerman flotilla commander to fill the remainder of the current term.

Don and Smitty are both active in Auxiliary surface operations as boat owners and coxswains. They have both been long time vessel examiners, instructors, aids to navigation verifiers, and have served in a variety of appointed and elected leadership positions.

"Don and Smitty bring a wealth of experience back to Flotilla 5 and to Peoria. There's no doubt that Peoria will have a great year," commented Butch Luhrsen, DCDR, "I look forward to getting over and getting on the Illinois River with them and their crews."

Don has served in the Auxiliary for over ten years. He is a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. He is retired from Caterpillar. He and his wife Wanda reside in Mackinaw and have two sons. Smitty is also retired from Caterpillar. He spent 17 years in the Army Reserves. He and his wife Patsy reside in Lacon. They have five children, eight grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

## On Diversity

By Jessica Dawson, ADSO-DV



Jessica Dawson, ADSO-DV.  
Photo courtesy of John Davison.

To be honest, I never really considered myself to be an example of diversity before this year. I grew up in Oak Park, IL, a town which prides, nearly stresses, itself on having a diverse and inclusive culture. So, for me I just became another kid in an idyllic picture of various happy children holding hands on the playground. Yet, older now and a member of an organization heavily populated with male members - most of whom are eligible for AARP cards - yeah, I, suppose a late 20s single female graduate student could symbolize diversity for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

These personal attributes are in fact some of the very reasons I was recommended for the position of Assistant District Staff Officer for Diversity (or ADSO-DV). As ADSO-DV my responsibilities include assisting with the promotion of a culture more representative of the United States. In promoting diversity we are looking beyond simply the color of one's skin, one's gender or their religious background. We are also looking to include citizens regardless of educational background, marital status, language abilities, sexual orientation, and disabilities.

So how do we build diversity within the Auxiliary? In addition to educating each other on the importance of diversity, I've found myself heading out into the public to talk to people about how they can serve their country, if they so desire. One such event I attended was The St. Louis Festival of Nations held in August. It was here I teamed up with other ADSO-DVs and Bill Key, DSO-DV.

This combination proved highly effective and between all of the diversity within our own staff, we were able to attract and engage with a variety of festival goers. We spoke with veterans, teachers, immigrants turned proud citizens and high school students who were eager to join once they were old enough.

I personally spoke with one young woman, about my age, who tried to join the Coast Guard but washed out due to a medical condition. She was visually upset by the fact that she couldn't realize that goal, and seemed to look at me with an expression of, "you're so cool. I wish I still could be like you." When I told her that there were no physical fitness requirements necessary to join the Auxiliary and her medical condition would not necessarily affect her membership this young woman became so ecstatic she actually hugged me!

I suppose this interaction with the young woman is a great example of what I like about my duties as ADSO-DV. Through simply talking to others, by looking past what makes them different to instead see the patriotism, the potential and the passionate enthusiasm that binds us all together, I can help make the Auxiliary a stronger organization. Diversity not only benefits the Auxiliary, but provides new members with the sense of having a place where they belong, where such opportunities may not have existed before due to whatever limiting factors they may believe they possess. For more information on diversity, including resources and outreach programs offered to promote diversity, please visit the Auxiliary's diversity website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=D-DEPT>.



Jess Dawson, John Davison, Bill Slusser, and Doug Keller conducting a pre-underway briefing at OPEX 2013 at Clinton Lake.. Photo by Jeff Poundstone.

## Election Results



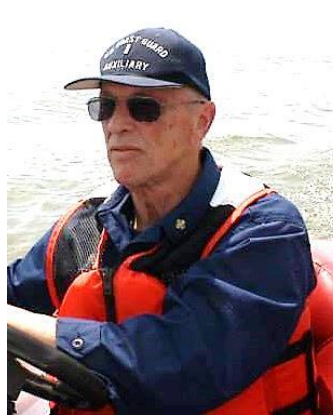
### Ethan Brewer and Penny Clay elected by Flotilla 88

Ethan Brewer (left) and Penny Clay (right) have been elected to serve as FC and VFC respectively by Flotilla 88 which serves the Charleston, Lake Shelbyville, and most of East Central Illinois area. Penny Clay has been a member of Flotilla 88, since March of 1993.

She has served as FC, VFC, SR, IS, PE, OP for the flotilla and SR for the Division. USCG Auxiliary Photo.

### Doug Keller and Jess Dawson are Hannibal's choice for 2014

Douglas Keller and Jessica Dawson were elected by members of Hannibal, Missouri's Flotilla 83 to serve as flotilla commander and vice flotilla commander respectively. Doug enjoys augmenting on the SCIOTO. Jess is a graduate student at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill.



### Jeff Wilson and Bud Grimm to serve East Peoria's Flotilla 81

Flotilla 81 announced that Jeff Wilson was elected to serve as flotilla commander for 2014. He will be backed up by Bud Grimm, who was elected as vice flotilla commander. Jeff is active in surface operations and is working towards coxswain. He and his wife Angie enjoy travelling and camping along the way. Bud, a past division commander, is also a boat crew member who is a very active vessel examiner. Bud is retired, he and his wife Karen, head for their home in Florida in the winter, so he can keep doing vessel exams.



January 11  
Division 8 Change of Watch  
6:30 PM. Wingate Hotel in  
Peoria.

January 12  
Division Meeting. MSD in  
Peoria. 10:00 AM.

## Keller Awarded Auxiliarist of the Year 2012



Douglas Keller of Hannibal, Missouri's Flotilla 83 was named Division 8's Auxiliarist of the Year for 2012 at the meeting held November 2 at the Coast Guard Station in East Peoria. Jeff Poundstone, DCDR (elect) presented Keller an Auxiliary engraved decorative clock as a token of the award.

In 2012 Keller drove from Missouri to Clinton Lake to begin mentoring for boat crew qualification. After a day on the water patrolling he proceeded to successfully take a few proctored exams. He passed the AUXSEA, AUXCOM, and AUXPAT exams. He became an Auxiliary Seamanship Specialist, an Auxiliary Communications Specialist, and an Auxiliary Patrol Specialist in a single afternoon. The next weekend, he successfully passed the AUXWEA exam; becoming both an Auxiliary Weather Specialist and AUXOP qualified. Finishing AUXOP in a week is a pretty good accomplishment.

Also in 2012, Keller offered his 20' Champion, Auxiliary 806, for use by the Coast Guard as an operational facility. He served 2012 as Vice Flotilla Commander for Flotilla 83. In May of 2012, he attended and successfully passed the AUXCHEF course which was hosted by the USCGC SANGAMON at the Moorings in East Peoria. He went on and completed the necessary PQS requirements to fully qualify as an AUXCHEF (now called AUXFS). He completed the requirements with the FS1 on the SANGAMON and the FS2 on the SCIOTO in Keokuk.

Doug drove many times from his home in Missouri to Clinton Lake to patrol with Flotilla 84. He completed the mentoring tasks and successfully passed the QE check ride and dockside oral exam and earned boat crew qualification.

Doug had a busy and successful 2012 and we congratulate him on his accomplishments and wish him well going forward.

### On Deck There

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