

Shipmate Etiquette

By Jay Croy, DCDR

We have had some outstanding Division Training Events this summer. Members from all Flotillas gathered to train, share experiences, and socialize together. We accomplished much in the time we had to work together. There were, however, some issues that need to be addressed. When you work with 25 Auxiliarists on four different Facilities, new issues lead to new lessons in etiquette.

The first unplanned lesson we all learned is that the Coast Guard non-marking black boots that many of us wear with ODUs actually do leave scuff marks all over white fiberglass boats. Dave Tutch's operational facility Rausie and my facility Cape May had many scuff marks on the decks and along the side walls. Dave spent several hours and a \$30 bottle of cleaner to remove the marks on Rausie. He didn't complain but was not happy with the result of the uniform boots on his boat. There was a work crew of members that joined in to help clean up Dave's boat when we discovered the problem with the black boots.

Most other issues with Operational Facilities involved following the owner's process for mooring, replacing equipment, and respecting the space you are using. The following is a list of guidelines when you are participating in a group activity.

1. Have a good pair of Boat Shoes to use on Auxiliary Facilities. Coast Guard work boots are perfect for rugged skid proof decks like the RBS 25. They are not good on white fiberglass. Athletic shoes or hiking boots have large lugs or grooves which pick up rocks leading to scratched gel coat and a very expensive fix. They also can be slippery and dangerous to wear on a deck.
2. Clean your shoes and gear before climbing on board, store your gear in a safe area, and take your trash with you when you finish.
3. Be alert as to the location and proper use of equipment. Wet lines must be dried and coiled; life jackets, charts and tools, and other equipment stored in the correct location, and the facility cleaned at the end of the day. The mission is not finished until boats are cleaned, stowed, and moored or loaded on trailers.
4. Treat the facility and equipment as if you own it. Anchoring practice puts dings in gel coat, drags mud on deck, and produces wet line to be dried and stored. Side by side tows can result in damage if fenders are poorly placed.

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5. When it is damaged, someone will need to fix or replace the problem. Boat owners spend many hours and dollars trying to maintain their boat's appearance. Do what you can to minimize the problems. Boat owners and Coxswains are particular about how their vessels are tied up at the end of the day. Using the wrong line, tying too tight or too loose, incorrectly tying a cleat or improper fender placement can lead to damage later on. Follow the guidance of the owner and strive for perfection.
6. Respect the Coxswain in charge on a vessel. Everyone wants to help and share their knowledge. In an operational evolution, communication between Coxswain and acting crew is vital to the safety and execution of the event. The time to contribute to the event is during the debrief. Side conversations and conflicting directions destroy the coordination necessary to efficiently work together.
7. The members that donate their boats, campers, and radio facilities are doing so because they want to contribute to our mission. You are invited to participate and train with them because they want to pass on the skill and dedication they have for the Auxiliary mission. You can help by honoring your commitment to the mission; respecting the people you are working with and having the same devotion to duty as you see displayed by your mentors.

Follow these rules and you'll be called shipmate for a long time to come.



Jay Croy, Div 30 DCDR for 2012. Always provides good counsel and ideas for our Division. Jay is a member of Flotilla 5, Northwest Rivers and Lakes. Photo by Wayne Hempeck

The Race with a Fuel Shortage By Wayne Hempeck, Leech Lake Detachment

The 42nd annual Leech Lake Regatta three day sailboat races was a slower pace than in most years past. This was brought on by a fuel shortage for the participants. Yup, winds mostly 2-3 miles per hour gusting to 4 MPH. The three Auxiliary boats providing security and safety zones were still busy. There was a Fishing tournament pre-fish going on. This in turn brought more traffic on the lake from those that had no interest in sailboats or their race. All of this kept the Auxiliary vessels busy protecting the fleet as they concentrated on the race. The nice calm weather also brought out more spectators than usual trying to get close to the racers for pictures.

Still, a good time was definitely had by the crews of Rausie(Dave Tutch), Cape May (Jay Croy) and Gold Dust (Wayne Hempeck). Communications was provided by Duluth Mobile One (Ryan and Christina Kapperud) Crew members came from Flotilla 4, Twin Ports Duluth; Flotilla 5, Northwest Rivers and Lakes, Outer Minnesota and Flotilla 7, International Falls and Boundary Waters.

For the shorter races on Saturday and Monday, only two vessels were needed. For the long race on the big lake, three Facilities provided the coverage. Fifty-eight sailboats participated and all returned to port with no injuries or damage, mostly due to the light winds; in contrast to past years with broken masts, busted rudders, flipped catamarans with gear and people over the side.

This years' USCG Auxiliary Light House Award went to the sailing vessel Silkie, their first time at the Leech Lake Regatta. The Award is sponsored by Flotilla 5 for the safest observed sailboat in the race. The initial qualification is a Vessel Safety Check followed by observed life jacket usage for all three races. This along with a few other criteria and the possibility of earning courtesy points will win the award. Flotilla 5 gives a lighthouse to the crew and has their name engraved on a permanent trophy on display at Shores of Leech Lake Yacht Club.

Ten Auxiliarists from Division 30 participated in the Regatta. Members joined together after the day's activities for food, fellowship and sea stories.



At the starting line, Wind, none
Photo by W Hempeck

Remember this good time at the Division meeting 2010 at Ash River

photo by W Hempeck

News From the Boundry Waters By Raul Lufbery 30-7

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla

091-30-07 coxswain Raoul Lufbery along with crew member Gary Whipple participated in the 2012 City of Ranier, Minnesota Summer Festival on August 11. They displaying and discussing items with the boating public cold weather anti-exposure work clothing, crew survival vests with emergency signaling devices and other safety equipment like flotation jackets, life jackets and water survival suits.

Lufbery noted the flotilla safety equipment display was set up near the waterfront of Rainy Lake which aided in contacting the festival attendees; whether they arrived by auto or boat. Many boaters especially appreciated seeing and learning more about cold weather PPE safety coveralls, waterproof personnel marker lights, and emergency distress beacons (EPIRB). City event organizers passed along a note of appreciation and thanks to the USCG Auxiliary for their festival participation and informative safety display.



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