



Making Way For 35



Homeland Security

Official Publication of
Division 35, Ninth District
(Western Region)

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



Visit us on the web at <http://a09535.uscgaux.info/>

DIVISION COMMANDER
Tom Mullally

DIVISION VICE COMMANDER
Rich Persiani

June, 2012

Commander's Quarters Tom Mullally DCDR

May was an extraordinary month for our Division. National Safe Boating Week and the NATO Conference taxed most, if not all, of our resources. The "In Water Boat Show event," at 31st Street, added additional tasks to our already exhausted members.

I tell you all - BRAVO ZULU. I could not be more proud of the members who donated time, money, resources and effort to supporting these daunting events;but, WE DID THEM ALL.

To the Division Staff Officers, I can only think of one word: EXCELLENCE. For all that has transpired and has been accomplished, only praise and a high degree of pride can be directed to each of you.

I wish I could tell you it's time to rest. Unfortunately, the tasks have only just begun. Vessel Safety Checks are down this year. To our current Vessel Examiners, strive to "save our boaters from themselves." For those who are contemplating becoming Vessel Examiners, we could never need you more than now. I ask all of our elected officials in Division 35 to push the Vessel Examiners and Trainees as much as possible. The only result from a shortfall in this area will be additional SAR cases, injuries and worse. WE COLLECTIVELY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Operations, the "every year shows," are beginning as well as the War of 1812 event. These will stretch our resources to the maximum yet again this year. Coxswains, Crew and Trainees – it is time to get the check rides done, overcome the 'REYR' status and join us on the water.

Finally, to each and every member of Division 35, I ask you, why did you join this organization? Is it living up to your expectations and are you living up to the Auxiliary's expectation of you?

A volunteer has one of the purest motivation factors than any 'paid' job can have - Devotion to Duty and Division 35 - it shows.

Vice Commander's Deck Rich Persiani VCDR

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you in Division 35 for working hard this year. It is looking like it will be a hot summer. Please make sure you keep yourself hydrated while out on Missions. It doesn't take much to have a heat related illness. Water is the best solution, not soda. We as a Division need to be more vigilant at Marinas or when out in the public. Make sure we are getting the word out about Water Safety. The Chicagoland area is having far too many incidents this year. Let's be proactive and not reactive.

Finance Reuben Barrett SO-FN

Online Banking Password Complexity and Safety: Suggestions for your password complexity that maximize your protection are passwords that have 8 to 10 characters and at least one capital letter, one numeric character, and one special character such as !, %, #, or ^.

Many financial entities require that passwords that do not meet this complexity will be prompted to do so the next time you login for your Online Banking. They do this to ensure that all passwords have the adequate protection.

Follow up: the law I mentioned in my last article was the Dodd-Frank financial reform. This law passed in 2010 and included rules likely to make banking less risky. A summary can be found: (http://banking.senate.gov/public/_files/070110_Dodd_Frank_Wall_Street_Reform_comprehensive_summary_Financial.pdf)

Assistance for your SWOT financial Analysis: Kimberly Palmer from RSS suggests these questions:
Do I know where my money is going?
Am I focusing too much on the month, instead of the year?
Do I do something every day that wastes money?
Do I know my own weakness?
Am I saving too much?
Are the big expensive items dragging me down?
Am I wasting money by carrying debt paying fees?

**Member Training
Mike Scott SO-MT**

Crew Underway Training

Flotillas 35-09 and 35-12 have begun training patrols. Contact the Coxswains to determine times and if space remains available. Here are the schedules developed at the Division meeting in May:

Tuesdays: Jim Bell & Rudy Lyles
Wednesdays: Rudy Lyles, Mike Scott, & Tom Paris
Thursdays: Jim Bell & Mike Scott
Saturdays: Jim Bell, Mike Scott, & Tom Paris
Sundays: Rick Tamraz

No information has been received for John Laurie.

Division Training Winds Down

With the arrival of boating season, most training will continue with students working with their individual mentors.

An 8-Hour TCT was presented on Saturday, 2 JUN. Members who still desire this course (or who did not yet have a member number when the course convened) will need to watch the 9WR Member Training web site calendar page to see if more opportunities will be offered this summer.

After prolonged efforts by Jeff Gilmore, DSO-MT, two ICS-210 courses are being scheduled this summer. One will be taught in Milwaukee; the other will be taught at the south end of Lake Michigan on a Saturday. Date will probably be JUN 23, and location will be determined soon.

Students from several Flotillas and Divisions share training at the Mead Training Room. Photo by Jim Bell.



Article By John "Hoppy" Hopkins, FSO-PA 35-09

It was a warm, sunny day in late August and I was finishing the pre-underway checklist aboard the Auxiliary facility "Bellsar". Captain Jim Bell, QE Rick Tamraz and crewmember Andrew Casavant were on board for a typical training mission. We were going to the Chicago Locks from Hammond Marina to run thru some crew tasks and prepare for my upcoming check ride. It was my 18th mission of the season and things were starting to really gel and become second nature. I had been crewing twice a week since the beginning of the boating season.

This mission started like any other by me calling into Station Calumet Harbor to my radio mentor and watchstander Auxiliarist Begley. We were no more than five minutes into the mission when we spotted a vessel approaching us at very high speed with strobe lights on and signaling us for help! We quickly figured out it was an Indiana Sheriff's Patrol Boat. They had one officer on the phone with a distressed vessel. A second officer asked our help to search for the vessel. The officer told us that we would be searching for a fishing boat that was quickly sinking. The party on the cell phone was very distressed. He tried to give the officers their location. At that moment, I knew that everything I had learned was about to be put into motion. This was not a drill, but the real deal! Something happens to you when you are summoned like this. Your pulse quickens from the adrenalin rush that your brain has released and you hope everything you do will be right!

We first asked the officers if they had called the Coast Guard Station. Their answer was 'no'. We knew, from our training, that we needed to call the Station and report to them all that we knew about this situation and to await further instructions. Their instructions came quickly. The Station told us to follow and support the Sheriff's vessel and report back when the sinking fishing boat was located. With line in hand, throwables at the ready and binoculars scanning the water, we located the overturned 18' fishing boat and two very wet, cold, scared, and grateful survivors. We were second on scene and assisted the officers in securing the area and debris field. Within thirty minutes of the vessel sinking, the debris field was about a quarter mile long.

No. We did not get the opportunity to retrieve the victims and display the skills of the task for which we tirelessly train. However, it felt great that we were prepared to assist. Within a matter of minutes, the 45' Coast Guard Medium Response Boat was alongside us and all was well.

I write this now as a qualified crewmember. I am very thankful to all my mentors listed above and to Mike Scott. They believed in me and helped hone my crew skills so that I was able to assist in a situation of opportunity meeting preparedness. I am proud to be part of this United States Coast Guard family and honored to be called on to help the "Guardians of the Great Lakes.

It's Who We Are and What We Do!

U.S. Coast Guard & Coast Guard Auxiliary Participates in Chicago Memorial Day Parade

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary marched down State Street in Chicago during the city's annual Memorial Day parade. Today was my first opportunity to participate in the Parade. Being the new guy and new to the Auxiliary Color Guard, I was asked to write some ideas down on what I thought of the Wreath Laying Ceremony and the Parade.

As I stood watching our fallen Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen's families receive the Gold Star Award for fallen veterans, I reflected back on my own Marine Corps service. As an Officer of Marines, we were taught that we must always be aware of our history and those who came before us. The brave men and women who gave their lives for Country and Corps must always be remembered. This idea of remembering the Heroes that went before us is one of the things that make this country great. As I watched young JROTC members standing shoulder to shoulder with some of the highest ranking officers in our military services a sense of pride swept over me and the crowd around me. This kind of pride can only be known by those who understand that sometimes sacrifices must be made to preserve freedom. On this day we remember those who paid that sacrifice so we could live free.

My thoughts then drifted to the Auxiliary and the sense of pride I feel wearing this uniform. While no one in the Auxiliary will be asked to pay that ultimate sacrifice, our service should not be under estimated. For the members who serve in the Auxiliary, their pride is just as evident. While we marched in the parade, the Auxiliary Color Guard leading the gold side, a sense of pride no smaller than that of active duty was evident to all who attended.

I was honored with the task of carrying the American Flag. Never have I felt such pride and been more excited as when I heard that first "Detail Forward March." From that time till the end of the parade my focus was on carrying the National Ensign tall and straight, high for everyone to see. My hope is that someone will remember that we marched straight and true as they reflect on our service. **Submitted by Bobby Hill Jr. 095-39-08 and Janice L Jones 095-35-16**



Capsized Boat Described in John "Hoppy" Hopkins article on Page 2



AGENDA FOR MONTHLY MEETING

14 June 2012

Meeting Begins at 1900

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Guests
- Member Training
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- FC Reports
- Staff Officer Reports
- Committee Reports
- Old Business
- New Business
- Honors & Awards Presentations
- Comments - Members and Guests
- Adjournment
- Fourth Cornerstone

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 22 June – Operation Dry Water**
- 05 July – Gary, IN Water Show**
- 21 July – Dragon Boat Races**
- 21 July – Mackinaw Race**
- 23 July – EAA Air Venture – Oshkosh, WI**
- 27 July – Grand Haven, MI Festival**
- 11 August – Bud Billiken Parade**
- 16 August – Chicago Water Show**
- 22 August – NACON – San Antonio, TX**

Division 35 meets at **1900** on the First Thursday of every month, except December, at USCG Calumet Harbor Station. Use parking across the street from the Station

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
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Official Business

FIRST CLASS

