



BILGEWATER

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 39-02, Des Plaines, IL 9TH WR
FC Chas. Hague (last time!) VFC Bridget Darrey FSO-PB Chas. Hague

Our URL: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=095-39-02>

Vol. LI – No. 11 – December 2019

OUR NEXT MEETING: 18 DECEMBER 2019, 18:30 (6:30 PM)

BACK AT PRAIRIE LAKES COMMUNITY CENTER

515 East Wolf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois

AGENDA:
DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP



OUR FLOTILLA CA. 2003

HEADS UP!

Be advised: Our December meeting will be back at **Prairie Lakes**; then January–March we return to the Leisure Center.

DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP MEETING

This is our special end-of-year get-together. Everyone attending should bring two food items: a dish to share with our members, and a commercially packaged, non-perishable treat for the crew at Station Wilmette. After a very brief meeting to discuss last year and what's planned for 2020, we will indulge in food and fellowship. Next day we will transport the treats over to the Station. It's a good time for all.

COVER PHOTO

At our November meeting, former member Gale Nitz dropped in. Now a resident of Florida, Gale had to call Mike Valente to find out where the meeting was.

Gale brought a few pictures from many years ago, including this great group shot, taken around 15 years ago. A few of the faces I recognize are Barry, Jim Davy, George, Bill Robinson, Mikes Valente and Schlatcher, Rolf and Linda, Millie, and Cheryl McGraw. Some of you old timers can fill in the gaps.

We are very pleased to get this picture. Thanks, Gale!

SUBMIT YOUR TIME

We are coming up on the end of the year, which means that you should make sure to submit your 7029 and 7030 forms so that the hours we put in get counted. Bob Reczek has set the deadline at 27 December. Get them in before that! (And no, just because AUXDATA doesn't update until Sunday night, you do not have three more days!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

18 January 2020: Change of Watch. Club Casa Café, River and Golf Roads, Des Plaines. Dinner with speeches, awards, and videos. Generally enjoyable.

8–12 January 2020: Chicago Boat, RV and Strictly Sail Show. McCormick Place. The Auxiliary usually has a space at this show. Lots of

opportunities to interact with interested boaters. Watch the District website for sign-up page.

2/7–2/9/20: Rockford Boat Show. A remarkably well-attended show on the east side of Rockford. Barry Jacobson is handling this.

29 Feb–01 Mar. Our World Underwater. Smaller show slanted towards SCUBA enthusiasts.

CHRISTMAS TREE SHIP



For the 20th year, the Coast Guard undertook the Chicago Christmas Tree Ship. Cutter *Mackinaw* loaded 1200 trees at Cheboygan and brought them down to be distributed to deserving families in Chicago. This honors the tradition of the Xmas Tree Ships, and the mariners who have lost their lives on the Lakes. The *Rouse Simmons* was one of the small schooners that made a last bit of money by cutting trees up north, then bringing them to Chicago and selling them right off the dock. She went down with the loss of all on board while making a tree run in November 1912. The captain/owner of the *Simmons* is remembered for setting aside a few trees to be given to families who could not afford to buy one. This year, in a break with tradition, the *Mackinaw* dropped a wreath off the port of Thompsonville, from which the *Simmons* had set out.

39-02 member Bridget Darrey helped operate Coastie at Navy Pier, to the delight of the kids there. She was helped by Bill Luksha and Jenn Austin, along with Michael Hudec, Terry Paggi and Robert Hennessy. Tim stood watch guiding tours through the ship. Your Editor told school groups about environmental protection and invasive species Friday morning, then also guided tours through the ship. (To children: “Do you go to school? This is our schoolroom.”)

The crew of *Mac* were grateful to all the Auxiliarists who assisted them in this event.