



BILGEWATER

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

Vol. L – No. 3 – March 2018

WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018 - 18:30 (6:30 pm CST)

Des Plaines Park District

Prairie Lakes Community Center

515 East Thacker, Des Plaines, Illinois

**AGENDA:
ORGANIZING SAFE BOATING WEEK**



**HEY, CAPTAIN LOU! WANT A FREE VESSEL
SAFETY CHECK?**

UPCOMING EVENTS

19–25 May 2018: National Safe Boating Week.

Lots of activities, including meeting our local politicians, the Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon, and Public Affairs tables. (See below)

OUR COVER PICTURE



Flotilla member Lou Muno is currently serving as Captain on the *MV Pacific Link*, working out of Rabaul to bring medical services to people in the South Pacific. I'm glad he didn't ask me along—I wouldn't have lasted 10 minutes.

OUR MARCH MEETING

It will be May before we know it (well, in 2 months) Ginny wants to get started planning our Safe Boating week activities as soon as possible. We'll start at 1900 (7:00 pm) and start talking during New Business. Projects will most likely include getting Proclamations from our local community governments, the Canoe Marathon, Open House at Station Wilmette, and Public affairs. Come stick your oar (paddle) in!

We also have to (finally!) publish the schedule for our ABS, paddle and GPS classes.

BASS PRO SHOP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Barry kicked off the Public affairs season with a four day series at Bass Pro Shop in Gurnee. He had help from Andrew, Bob Reczek, and Chas. We assisted the Bass Pro greeters by accepting rods and reels that will be reconditioned for use by kids. (Participants got a coupon for 10% off a new rod or reel)

There was lots of interest in the Auxiliary and in the planned patrols on the Chain of Lakes this summer. Plans are also in the works to do PA at Bass Pro during Safe Boating Week, with the possibility of performing Vessel safety Checks in the parking lot. "This is good for everybody," said Barry. "If the boater needs something, he can get it right here.

Bass Pro gets more business, and we get two VSC's, one before and one after they correct the discrepancy."

SPEAKING OF VSC's

Several of our members (Hi, Jim!), mostly ones who winter in Florida, have already begun garnering Vessel Safety Checks. Our plans for the upcoming year include doing VSC's at Watts Marine on the Chain, where our Facility will be moored this summer. Hope is that we can move the boat and take clients in the slip right there. Also, we figure on going up to the Chain of Lakes State Park launching ramp off Grass Lake north of Fox Lake. The boat preparation area is ideal for catching boats while they are being set up.

Also in the works is to do some VSC Blitzes in the harbors along Lake Michigan, as we did last year.

POOR RICHARD'S WISDOM

"As to the kindness you mention, I wish it could have been of more service to you. But if it had, the only thanks I should desire is, that you would always be equally ready to serve any other person that may need your assistance, and so let good offices go round, for mankind are all of a family.

For my own part, when I am employed in serving others, I do not look upon myself as conferring favors, but as paying debts."

--Benjamin Franklin, in a letter written June, 1753.

NEEDS A NAV COURSE

Needless to say, this does not apply to anyone in our Flotilla. Mostly.

An old man and woman were married for many years, even though they hated each other and fought constantly. The old man would shout, "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!"

The man died of a heart attack when he was 98. His wife had a closed casket at the wake. After the burial, she went straight to the local bar and began to party, as if there was no tomorrow.

Her neighbors, concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?"

The wife said, "Let him dig. I had him buried upside down, and you know he won't ask for directions."