



# BILGEWATER

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

**Our Meetup!!** <http://www.meetup.com/United-States-Coast-Guard-Auxiliary-Flotilla-95-39-02/>

Vol. XLIX – No. 4 – April 2017

WEDNESDAY, 19 April, 1900 (7:00 pm)

Early for Member Training!

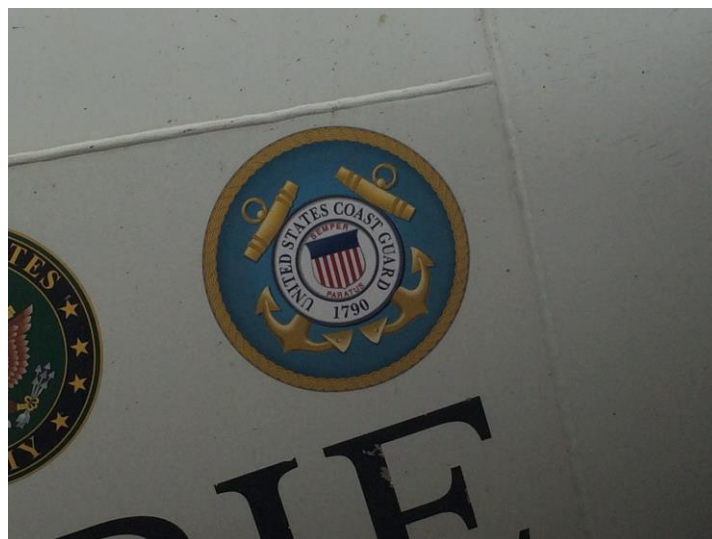
Des Plaines Park District

Prairie Lakes Community Center

515 East Thacker, Des Plaines, Illinois

## AGENDA:

Mike Valente will discuss Communications



The Coast Guard Seal graces a unique vehicle  
(see Flotsam)

# FLOTSAM

April 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 22 April: 10th Annual Des Plaines

**Earth Day Celebration**, 10:00 am–3:00 pm at the Historic Methodist Campground, 1900 E. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

This fun, FREE, informative, and family-friendly festival is a great way to inspire awareness and build community through environmental protection. New this year is a Peace Fire Circle established to provide a safe space for the next generation to experience the Wisdom of the ~~Cumudgeons~~, er, Elders.

### 20–27 May: National Safe Boating Week

Various events, including Des Plaines Spring Fun Fair, Canoe Marathon / Safety Check, and Station Wilmette Open House.

## COAST GUARD KEEPS ON TRUCKIN'

One of Prairie Concrete company's trucks is decorated for Veterans. Along with Wounded Warrior graphics, it has the seals of the four major services, including the Coast Guard. Nice Job!



## SCHOOL DAYS

Our Flotilla did two sessions of About Boating Safely this past month. The first session on 11 March had four students, including one sailor, and the second on 25 March had six, three from one family. The instruction was some crazy, because Chas had to leave early from the first session to work, while Tim taught the first three chapters in the second session, then went to D-train, leaving Chas to finish. To our great

delight, all students passed with scores well into the 90s.

## DUES AND DON'TS, PART DEUX

Last month, we had an article about the proposed dues increase and the different ways (i.e., how much more \$\$\$) that might be accomplished. We urged you to send any ideas or comments to the Bridge.

Tim and your Editor/VFC have not gotten much if any feedback. We will discuss the issue more at the next meeting, and a decision will be made based on what we know.

There is still time for you to put your oar in, either by communicating with the Bridge or attending the April meeting.

## CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE(S)

On a related subject, the Flotilla can now accept credit and debit cards. According to FSO-FN Ron Tragasz, the system we got for our ABS classes works really well.

## CREW

Our new Facility needs Crew, of course, and soon-to-be Coxswains Tim and Bridget Darrey have been leading a crew class for the past two months. Two big milestones took place the first weekend of April when students from our Flotilla and Division 41 took the required 4 hour Team Coordination Training exercise. Then, on Monday, 10 crew trainees from all over took the PFD swim Test at Schaumburg pool. Bravo Zulu goes to Andrew Weiler and Mike Valente, who jumped into the pool ("Ankles Crossed!"), towed fellow Auxiliarists, and practiced escaping from a capsized boat, even though neither had much swimming experience.



