



# BILGEWATER

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

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

Des Plaines Park District

Prairie Lakes Community Center

515 East Thacker, Des Plaines, Illinois

**AGENDA:  
FORMS FOLLOW FUNCTION**



**HEY, BUDDY! WANT A FREE VESSEL  
SAFETY CHECK?**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 21 April 2018: Operations Workshop 39-06

meeting space, 4711 Golf Rd, Skokie, IL 60076. This workshop is compulsory for any Auxiliarist wishing to participate in Operations this year.

### 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 APRIL MEETING

*“No Job Is Finished Until the Paperwork Is Done”*

The Coast Guard version of this is “No Job **Acquires Credit** until the Paperwork is Turned In!” This month, Barry and Bob will explain how to fill out all those pesky forms (really, there are only two important ones) and send them up the Chain so that the job is recognized—Your work, the Flotilla’s work, the Division’s work, and ultimately the work done for the nation by the Coast Guard. Come at 1830. Bring your notebook computer if you have one and we will see if we can overload Prairie Lakes network.

## SAFE BOATING WEEK

Only a little more than a month separates us from Safe Boating Week, 19–25 May. Virginia is organizing a number of events for our Flotilla to participate in—getting proclamations, Public Affairs displays, and education.

Down for sure are the Des Plaines Canoe Marathon VSC event on 20 May, at the former location of Dam #2 off River Road, Des Plaines Parks Spring Fling down by Mountain View Mine south of Prairie Lakes, and the Station Wilmette Open House.

All Hands! Try to participate in one or more of these events! Some things require a qualification or full uniform, but some of the other events can be attended in civilian clothes. Come out and be active in YOUR Flotilla! (Insert Guilt Trip here.)



Note: A big event is the Station Open House. We are hoping to get as many of our Flotilla members as we

can out for this event. Come to assist, or just visit the Station as a guest. Tell your friends and neighbors, and bring them along.

## OPERATIONS



Jim Davy getting 222033 uncovered last year.

We are looking forward to the Operations season, which will start in another month or so. Our Facility will be uncovered in the near future, and after needed work is done (anybody know about carburetors?) we will haul her up to the Chain of Lakes, where the folks at Ben Watts Marina have set aside a slip for our use. We have a Coxswain in Tim Darrey, and four crew trainees (Chas, Lou, Andrew and Mike Valente) so we should be able to do some good up there.

## VESSEL EXAMINATIONS

Another activity that is in the works is vessel examination “Blitzes” at the local boat ramps. We have always had a good run at the Chain O’ Lakes State Park, due to their excellent layout with a Boat Prep area. Other possibilities are the Evanston Boat Ramp and the Chicago Harbors, in cooperation with the other Flotillas. VSC Inspector is an easy qualification to attain. If you would like to get more involved, talk to Jim Davy or FC Chas about doing the studying and taking the test.

## STOP PRESS!

About 6 hours after *The Bilgewater* should have been distributed to all of you, we received word that our Immediate Past Flotilla CO, **Tim Darrey**, was given Honorable Mention in the awarding of the Charles S. Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award for 2018! The CHIDIRAUX added, “I applaud the efforts of these outstanding individuals and all award nominees. Through their collective actions and the actions of those who nominated them, they demonstrate proficiency in leadership and that our people are the foundation for successful Coast Guard service to the nation.” No one we know deserves this honor more.