



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. 5 – May 2018

WEDNESDAY, 16 May 2018 - 18:30 (6:30 pm CST)

Des Plaines Park District

Prairie Lakes Community Center

515 East Thacker, Des Plaines, Illinois

**AGENDA:
VSC WORKSHOP 2018**



OPERATIONS BEGIN
Andrew Weiler gets his new-issued Crew PPE
inspected by Tim Darrey

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 MAY MEETING

One of the Cornerstones of the Auxiliary is the performing of Vessel Safety Checks. This is one of the main ways that the Auxiliary supports the Mission of the Coast Guard—“By keeping boaters safe, so that they don’t need to be rescued.” Barry will present the VSC Workshop at the May meeting, to get all our Vessel Inspectors up to date on the latest procedures. If you are not a VSI, no worries—come anyway, learn about how a VSC is done and what the inspector looks for. It’s interesting, and you may decide to earn the qualification.

We are also tentatively planning a Vessel Safety “Blitz” up at the Grass Lake Boat Launch ramp.

SAFE BOATING WEEK

Virginia is organizing a number of events for our Flotilla to participate in—getting proclamations, Public Affairs displays, and education. See the attached table for a full lineup.

All Hands! Try to participate in one or more of these events! Some things require a qualification or full uniform, but many 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.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Another event our Flotilla has done the past few years is the Des Plaines Memorial Day observance. This takes place at the bandshell at Lake Opeka. This year the observance will be 28 May, starting at 11:00. Our Flotilla has laid a wreath in front of the Coast Guard medallion at the bandshell.



OPERATIONS

First, what’s going on in our cover picture is Andrew Weiler was issued his Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by Tim. Every crew and crew trainee has their own set of gear—Lifejacket, Survival Vest, and Mustang Suit, used in cold conditions. All this gear must be inspected every 6 months. Tim is looking for air leaks in the flotation bladder that is inside the collar of the Mustang suit, using his \$40.00 bottle of leak-spotting dish soap.



Our Facility, 222033 has spent the winter at the Des Plaines Public Works garage (Thanks to John Pluta) and it will be uncovered in the next couple of weeks. After an appearance in the Lisle Lilac Festival Parade, 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. .