



# 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

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

Vol. LI – No. 5 – May 2019

## OUR NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, 15 May 2019 – 18:30 (6:30 pm CST)

Des Plaines Park District Prairie Lakes

515 East Wolf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois

## AGENDA:

VESSEL CHECK SEMINAR



NEW FLOTILLA 39-02 MEMBER JOEL SMITH WELCOMED BY TIM AND BRIDGET DARREY

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Despite the snow, cold, rain, and yuckyness, it is spring – Boating Season is starting! This means Vessel Safety Checks! Barry will give a presentation on current Best Practices for VSCs. If you have the qual (and were not at D-Train), plan on coming. If you are looking to earn the VSC Qualification, come and find out why it's one of the most fun and useful things we do in the Auxiliary.

*“We support the Coast Guard’s Mission—by trying to make boaters so safe they don’t need to be rescued.”*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 18 – 25 May: NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK!

Tentative schedules:

TBD: Receive proclamations from Rosemont, Mt. Prospect, and Arlington Heights

5–18: Tim talks with Chauncy’s Great Outdoors radio show 0630 radio 1000 AM.

5–18: Des Plaines Parks Spring Fun Fair, behind Mountain View Mine at Prairie Lakes. Need volunteers to interact with kids.

5–18: Coast Guard Station Wilmette Open House. 1000 - 1600. Demonstrations and tours for locals.

5–19: Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon, 1200–1600. Dam #2 Forest Preserve, River Road between Kensington and Euclid (park in the subdivision west of River Road). Chance to give lots of VSCs and do boating education.

18/19 May: PA event at Cabela’s.

25/26/27 May: PA event at Bass Pro

TBD: PA tables at Des Plaines, Mt. Prospect, and Elk Grove Libraries. Check with Ginny for sched.

TBD: VE Blitz on the Chain O’ Lakes.

27 May: Parades in Arlington Heights and Niles.

Check with Bob Reczek.

Observance at Des Plaines Bandshell, 1100. Wreath laying. Check with Chas.

## CHILI IN MAY

It has been planned to hold a Division 39 Chili cook-off after the Station Open House on 18 May. There might be competition from Division 35.

## GROWTH

For the second year, our Flotilla has attained the National Commodore’s Membership Growth Award for having ~~earned~~ gained three new members in 2018. Thanks go out to new members Bill Luksha, Jeff Silberg, Robert Larson, Andre Kovalenko, and Ricky Gonzalez. We will do what we can to make



Bill Luksha being awarded by VFC Darrey

your membership in the Auxiliary a fulfilling experience. Thanks too goes to Staff Officer-Human Resources Ginny Haase and Bob Reczek for coordinating the recruitment and signup processes. And, with Joel Smith and some others coming on this year, we might even get the award for 2019.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Our June meeting will be special. Our Flotilla has been active for 60 years! We started up in June 1959 (proved by Bill Robinson’s first dues check). We will be holding a special party June 8, in a hall with the Mayor, Police and Fire Chiefs, and political figures invited. More Info to Come.

## MENTORSHIP

Many Flotillas assign every new member a Mentor, to help with things like getting uniforms, figuring out the paperwork, learning about opportunities, and the Auxiliary in general. 39-02 hasn’t been doing this. One reason is that our active members already hold down so many staff jobs and qualifications, no one wants to take the time. Another reason is that some of these sharp new people have learned most of these things better than us old codgers. Another big reason is that we are ALL mentors. So, if someone asks you about some facet of the Auxiliary, reach around and give ‘em a hand. One of the things we have going for us is that we are about the friendliest Flotilla on this side of the Lake.

## DUNKIRK

We watched the movie *Dunkirk* the other night. Very well made, although the evacuation didn’t happen quite that way.

The Really Impressive part is that nine of the small boats that participated in the original evacuation were used in the movie. Also, Charles Lightoller, late second officer of RMS *Titanic*, was one of the skippers who sailed across the Channel to bring the troops home.