



BILGEWATER

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

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

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Are you bored? Tired of staying inside? Want to hang out with your comrades in the Auxiliary? Learn something useful? Train to save lives?

Well then....

ZOOM INTO THE NEXT MEETING OF FLOTILLA 39-02, 16 SEPTEMBER!

Bridget has held online Flotilla meetings for the last few months. Wednesday, we will again get together online. Starting at 1830, Chas will attempt to run the Seamanship Seminar on Radio. Then there will be a regular meeting at 1930.

NOTE: The ZOOM license is held by VDCO Shawn Landa. So, when you get an message from him before the third Wednesday, it will be a link to our Flotilla meeting. All Flotilla members are urged to follow the instructions and click on the link to attend remotely. You can eat your fill of all the food you bring yourself.

MIKE VALENTE

Our good friend and Vice CO Mike Valente has been sick the last couple of months, including hospitalization. He has had to drop his Staff commitments. We don't let good people get away that easy, though, and will be asking his advice. Send Mike good thoughts, give him a call.

OPERATIONS

Some progress has been made on the Operations front. Back on August 1, Tim had a group of crew over to his office parking lot and conducted an equipment inspection. (See the *Thirty-Niner* for article and pictures.)

Since then, Tim, the Raiths, and Tom Remec had pulled patrols out of Station Wilmette. They are trying to get as much needed training and qualification work into each patrol as possible.

VSC'S AND PV'S

Alas, this activity is still up in the air. I have heard of some people doing remote VSC's by having the boat owner walk around his vessel with his smartphone, taking pictures under instruction from the Examiner. Also, Merchant Program visits are curtailed, both because face-to-face contact is disallowed and because many of the venues have closed. (Lattoff YMCA, RIP)

GOT A VSC-STORY?

Those of you who read *Currents*, the newsletter of the 9th District, may have seen the "Tales of the VSC" piece that have appeared in the last few issues. I personally have experienced some silly, unusual, and bordering-on-incredible situations doing VSC's. But I do NOT want to be the only contributor! All you VSC examiners (I'm talking to YOU!) have had something happen to you while checking out a boat. Write it up and send it to me at sailnrails@aol.com. Or call 847-297-2541 and relate the story verbally—I'll write it and you can look it over.

SV DELOS

Still another Youtube page is the story of *SV Delos*. Brian (a former Microsoft engineer) and Karin have been traveling the world for 10 years on their sailboat. Enroute, they got married and had a baby—Sierra, or "The Nugget." The videos are great. Two good ones, of interest to Auxiliarists:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vffRihzQaq4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4RztPT2w3c&t=789s>



Another thing missed—the AIRFAC picnics in August! (Also missed—George)