



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

Vol. L – No. 8 – August / September 2018

WEDNESDAY, 15 August 2018 - 18:30 (6:30 pm CST)

Des Plaines Park District

Prairie Lakes Community Center\*

515 East Thacker, Des Plaines, Illinois

SEPTEMBER MEETING: 19 SEPTEMBER, SAME TIME AND PLACE\*

## AGENDA:

ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAST GUARD



Dinner at the Darreys

## **COVER PICTURE**

Tim and Bridget Darrey, Bob Reczek and your Editor went up to Oshkosh for the EAA Air Venture show the week of 22-28 July. (see below) Here, in the midst of 20,000 other campers, we have a great cookout next to Tim and Bridget's RV. Photo by Reczek.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**15 July:** Station Wilmette BBQ 1200–1500 at the Station.

**11 Aug: CG AIRFAC Picnic.**

Coast Guard AIRFAC hangar, Waukegan airport, 1100–1400. Joint event with the Navy League. Bring a dish to share. \$10.00 at the door. This is the anniversary of the Coast Guard, so there will be steak! Come meet Gold siders from all around the country. Contact Barry Jacobson for more information and to RSVP.

**18-19 August: Chicago Air and water Show.**

Opportunities for crewing and Ron Dziagwa will have a tent on-shore for PA.

## **BAD NEWS AND NOT-SO-BAD NEWS**

Later this month, our FSO-FN Ron Tragasz will begin sending out dues notices for the Flotilla. The bad news part is that dues are going up. The not-so-bad part is that they are only going up \$5, to \$70.00 a year.

Our Flotilla is a pretty good deal. Many other units have higher dues, and our Staff doesn't like to spend money on stuff – and when they do, it tends to be their own money.

## **JULY MEETING**

We had Dr, Mike Vannier and Greg Kmiec talked to us about innovations in communications in the Coast Guard Auxiliary on 18 July. Turns out that there is more to Coast Guard radio than Channel 23 Alpha.

## **\*SPEAKING OF MEETINGS**

In June and July, our usual meeting space got yanked from under us by other goings-on at Prairie Lakes. We can't complain, at least not too loudly, because we get this great meeting space for free. As FC and the one who lives closest, I will get over to PL Monday before the meeting and verify that we

have the space; or send out an E-mail giving an alternate if we have to change again.

Also, your Editor will be traveling in the first part of September, so I will not be putting out a Bilgewater. Hang on to this one.

## **OSHKOSH, B'GOSH!**



Members of Flotilla 39-02 participated in the EAA Air Venture show again this year. The Darreys drove their RV up and camped with about 20,000 others. Bob Reczek stayed in their spare bunk. Chas got ambitious and trailered his 20 Ft. sailboat up to the marina.

Four Facilities were available for patrols during the week. 251090, Adam Klein's ex-CG SAFE boat was one of 'em, along with 251080, Tim ran patrols almost every day, while Chas got to stand radio watch in the headquarters trailer at Pioneer Marina. Big day for us was Wednesday. 251090 went out with Tim as Coxswain, Jen Austin from Grand Haven MI as crew, and Chas and Bob Reczek as crew trainees. We patrolled the Exclusion Zone, the area just off the seaplane base 5 miles south of Oshkosh, where seaplanes were taking off and landing – usually without warning.

Most exciting bit there was when a Lund fishing boat with 3 POB chugged right through the middle of the Zone. Tim swung around, pulled up next to the boat, and said, "Skipper, this is a forbidden area



being used by seaplanes...” Just as he said that, Chas looked to starboard and warned, “Seaplane! Taking off! NOW!” The boater looked over, and his jaw dropped into his bilge. Jen said that she lost sight of him, because he was so close behind us the motors were in the way...

Fellowship was provided by dinners in Oshkosh and a great cookout at the Darrey’s RV. A front coming through Wednesday night brought the only bad weather (Chas discovered that his weather deck leaked, onto his sleeping bag) In past years, there have been incidents with aircraft, including a seaplane crash last year. This year the only trouble was Tim blowing a tire on the way home.

Bruce and Barbara Fuhrmann were wonderful hosts, supplying all needs for the visiting crews.



L to R: The Fuhrmanns, ?, Bob Reczek, Russ Hoganson, the Darreys, Jen Austin



Most of these pictures by Bob Reczek.