

The

THIRTY-NINER

REGISTRATION



PUSH

**ELECTION
RESULTS**

D-TRAIN





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Newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Chicago - Wilmette Division 39, 9th Western Region

Flotillas 39-02 (Des Plaines), 39-04 (Chicago), 39-06 (Wilmette), 39-08 (Air), 39-10 (Ten Chicago)

DCDR: Robert Reczek
Volume 8, No.4

VCDR: Tom Remec

SO-PB: Chas. Hague
Decembrrrr 2017

COVER: One of the primary reasons that D-Train goes as smoothly as it does is Amy Seeley, Goddess of Weather and the reception desk.



Also lavender hair. (I am grateful to Amy for letting me assist her on the Christmas Tree Ship.)

21 January 2018: Change of Watch. Club Casa Café, River Road and Golf Road, Des Plaines. Only \$35 for the great food and fellowship.

10–14 January 2018: Progressive Boat, RV and Strictly Sail Show. McCormick Place, Chicago. The Big Boating Event! Volunteer to meet the boating public, and sneak off to see exhibits and seminars.

17–19 February 2018: Rockford Boat Show. Smaller, but another fun opportunity to meet the public and get Boat Safety information out.

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.

ELECTION RESULTS

November is Election Month in our division. At the 3 November Division meeting, protocols were observed meticulously and Tom Remec was elected Division Commander. Tim Darrey assumed the role of Division Vice Commander.

Because Tim stepped up to VCDR, he could no longer be FC for Flotilla 39-02. Your Editor Chas. Hague was elected Flotilla Commander, with Bridget Darrey as Vice Commander.

Flotilla 39-04 elected Shawn Landa and Josh Weisfuse (same as last year), 39-06 is John Lenhard and Dan O'Connell, 39-08 is Ron Dziagwa with John Cusack jr as Vice, and 39-10 is Joe Conte and Juanita Silva.

Outgoing Division Commander Bob Reczek managed to attend all five elections!

STATION WILMETTE BBQ



By Tim Darrey

The CGSTA Wilmette Harbor “End of Season Barbecue” was well attended by 27 D39

Auxiliarists, 15+ Active Duty and Reservists. BM1 Lyle attended while off-duty with his son, who seemed to enjoy watching football with the Coast Guard on duty crew! Bob and Jeanette Reczek stood watch over the hot grill, while Ron Dziagwa served in the galley.

“The fellowship [this event] created between the Active Duty and our Auxiliary family is immeasurable,” said DO Reczek.

D-TRAIN



This fall's D-Train was a success. Plenty of awards were given out at the morning, lunch, and dinner convocations. In between was instruction in operations and new member orientation. The store had a great selection of uniform items and other goodies.



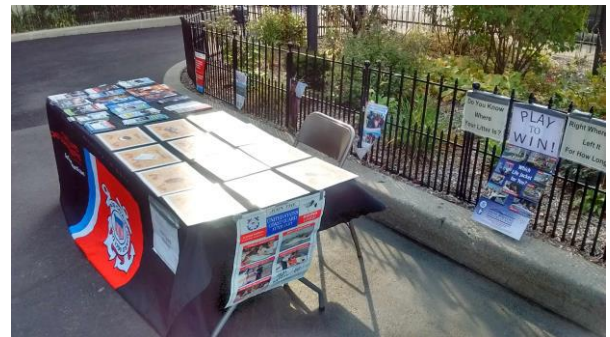
Late summer / early Fall were active times in our Division. Photos supplied by Ron Dziagwa:



United Air Lines HQ on the 26th floor in the Willis Tower on their annual Health and Safety Day



Village of Itasca on National Night Out in their Police, Fire Department and Village Hall's parking lot



Copernicus Center's parking lot for their annual Jefferson Park Neighborhood's Open Flea Market Day in Chicago



(preceding page) The Active Senior Expo in the Prairie View Building on the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles



In the mess hall at Station Calumet Harbor for their first annual joint MSU and SCH's picnic held this year on CG's 227th anniversary. L to R: Gail and Mike Raith, Rita Kasper, Ron Dziagwa, CWO James, Officer in Charge of CG Sta Calumet Harbor.



SAILOR LAUNCHES HANDMADE WOODEN BOAT

Copied from the Communique; newsletter of the Northwest Sailing association of Arlington Heights, IL



On November 2, 2017, Northwest Sailing Association member, Dave Snyder launched his handmade wooden 36' sailboat in the Illinois River. His fascinating story involves repurposing wood from local demolition projects, involving students

for skill building and working from purchased plans. The project took four years to complete. It was built on the edge of a cornfield near Rushville, IL. After launch, he was awaiting "swelling" of the wooden joints before motoring down the Illinois to the Mississippi then into the Ohio River. His fall destination is Kentucky Lake, where he hopes to spend the winter completing the boat for the remainder of the trip down to the Gulf of Mexico and across the open seas to Belize. Dave, a former shop teacher, hopes to start a vocational school in Belize with assistance from local residents and his not-for-profit organization.

Watch the entire video: "Illinois Stories: Schuyler County Boat Launch WQEC TV PBS Quincy"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEzfehoBxOE>

For those of you who do not know, the NWSA is a group of enthusiastic sail cruisers who meet in Arlington Heights and stage trips all summer long. They have the good taste to invite Auxiliarists to their meetings once a year or so to talk about boating safety. Check out their booth at the Strictly sail show, or go to <http://nwsail.com>

CHRISTMAS TREE SHIP



For the 18th year, USCGC *Mackinaw* transported a cargo of trees to the city, and the Auxiliary was there to help.

Organizer Rick Tamraz only had two weeks' notice before the event on 1–2 December to organize the Auxiliary response. When the word went out, 26



Auxiliarists from 12 Flotillas, representing 4 Divisions, came out to assist. This took much of the

load off the *Mac*'s crew, who would otherwise have to be entertaining visitors.

The Auxiliarists conducted tours, starting with school groups from Berwyn on Friday morning. The students got a firsthand sense of the history behind the Christmas Tree Ship and a close-up look at the Coast Guard. Then on Friday and Saturday afternoons, members of the public were taken through the *Mackinaw* by a chain of watchful Auxiliarists. Over 400 people came through on Friday, and 1200 in 2 hours on Saturday, for a total of nearly 1500 visitors.



Members of the Food Service team, including Brian Hinton and Ron Dziagwa, kept the galley humming from 0630 to 1700, relieving some *Mackinaw* crew from that duty. The working Auxiliarists were treated to lunch both days—although the Friday meal was interrupted by the cry, “There are 200 schoolkids on the buoy deck!” Coast Guard first aid training was also brought to play when a man injured himself on the dock and required the corpsman’s assistance.

The Auxiliarists expressed their gratitude to the crew for the opportunity to serve aboard the *Mackinaw*, while the Regulars appreciated the help we were able to give. We are already planning to repeat this holiday tradition next year.

A superb video presentation of this event was put together by Jeffrey Bedore of Division 35. To see it, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2OWFj51IM>
[A&feature=youtu.be](#) or search for “Christmas Tree



Ship” in Youtube.

FAMILY AFFAIR (and other nonsense)

Just by coincidence, three Auxiliary couples were on the *Mackinaw* to help with the Christmas Tree Ship. Here we have Mike and Gail Raith, Shelly and Gary Markle, and Tim and Bridget Darrey.

And one more photo I could not resist: Here, with their permission and my thanks, we have Jackie Dunn, Gail Raith, Shelly Markle, Dianne Doleza, and Bridget Darrey on the deck of *Mac*. Just so I could have a picture of “*Girls and Buoys...*”



BY THE NUMBERS

For those of you keeping score: Our Division goal for this year was to increase the number of Vessel Safety Checks we did by 10%, to 606. By the end of November, our division had performed 808 VSCs! Our people also did 1,148 RBS visits, taught 148 hours of classes, and took on 541 hours of training. Not too shabby, as my boss used to say.



Bob Reczek serves the burgers at Wilmette BBQ
Photo by Jay Katzman

Be a volunteer livesaver—donate blood!