



the **THIRTY-NINER**

**SAFE BOATING
WEEK**

JOB WELL DONE

STEP UP!



The THIRTY-NINER



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. 2

VCDR: Tom Remec

SO-PB: Chas. Hague
July 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

15 July: Race to Mackinaw. Navy Pier/Lakefront. Patrol activity and possibly a visit by a cutter.

24–30 July: EAA Oshkosh fly-in. Oshkosh WI. Public affairs for visitors, and patrol activity on Lake Winnebago for seaplane flights. Contact SO-Operations Tim Darrey if you would like to help.

20–22 October: D-Train, Lisle Hilton, Lisle IL. Training opportunities and fellowship.

IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY DEPARTMENT

Division 37's newsletter, *True North*, was deservedly named Best Division Newsletter for 2017 by the D9WR Publications Program. They will now be considered for a National Award at NACON.

One of the Really Great parts of *True North* is their spectacular covers, featuring gorgeous, full-page art and overprinted text. In order to deal with our envy, we came up with the cover you see on this issue of the *Thirty-Niner*. It features DC Robert Reczek doing VSCs at the Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon in May. It is not nearly as good as *TN's* (damn the limitations of Paint!) but we are not above swiping great ideas. Good Luck Jeff Bedore!

STEP UP!

By DO Bob Reczek

This message is directed to those members who are not participating in your flotilla functions. What is happening to your interest in being involved? We are finding out that there are not enough members attending flotilla meetings to meet a quorum. Your flotilla cannot vote on any issues, and you are not contributing to your flotilla. Remember that oath you took, For the member ... commitment to support the USCGAUX, ... as a member are charged with

certain responsibilities and obligations, These include willingness to support the USCGAUX and its purposes, execute your duties, and participate in its authorized programs.

For the appointed leaders ... you offered your talents and services in the interest for a better USCGAUX, be prepared to accept certain obligations along with the administrative and supervisory responsibilities of your office. I hope you see this as the wakeup call!!

SAFE BOATING WEEK



One of the major activities for National Safe Boating Week was the Station Wilmette Open House on 20 May. The rain that fell midday did not discourage people from coming over to see our Station. Moving the activities, such as marlinspike, the "How Long Does It Last?" game, and the pollution diorama into the boathouse worked out pretty well. We could not show off the boats, nor operate the hoped-for boat rides.



OUR FLOTILLAS

Another way to get involved with the Auxiliary is to attend the meeting of a different Flotilla. Chances are, you have some friends there from Public Affairs events.

Flotilla 39-2 Des Plaines

Tim Darrey, FC, Charles Hague, VFC
*Meeting 1930 3rd Wednesday
 Prairie Lakes Community Ctr 515 E Thacker, Des Plaines*

Flotilla 39-4 Chicago

Shawn Landa, FC, William Weisfuse, VFC
Meeting 1930 2nd Thursday. Chicago Maritime School. 5744 W Irving Park Chicago IL

Flotilla 39-6 Wilmette Harbor

Jay Katzman, FC, John Lenhard, VFC
Meeting 1930 3rd Thursday 4709 Golf Rd, Skokie

Flotilla 39-8 Chicago Air

Ronald Dziagwa, FC, Mark West, VFC
Meeting 1930 3rd Monday Pilot Pete's Restaurant 905 W Irving Park, Schaumburg

Flotilla 39-10 Chicago

Joe Conte, FC, Peter O'Malley, VFC
Meeting 1900 2nd Thursday 5801 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago

DIVISION 39 MEMBERS WIN PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Volunteer Service Award is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and is administered by Points of Light. Through a shared mission of inspiring more to answer the call to service, the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award celebrates 4000 hours of volunteerism to bettering our communities and our world.

As it turns out, the Auxiliary is a recognized organization with CNCS and eligible to receive presidential recognition for volunteerism. During the District Board Meeting at the 2017 Spring DTRAIN, your Division Commanders were presented 143 Certificates, letters, and coins to pass on to the members who had accumulated 4000 or more volunteer hours during their time as an Auxiliarist.

Division 39 Auxiliarists who were awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2017 for their accumulated service:

Auxiliarist	Hours	Flotilla
BARRY JACOBSON	5923	39-02
CAROL JOHNSON	4531	39-02
ROBERT RECZEK	8909	39-02
RICHARD MCNULTY JR.	4081	39-06
ALAN JANNEY	15554	39-06
JAY KATZMAN	7820	39-06
JEFF GILMORE	9090	39-06
JOHN REINHERT	5232	39-06
RICHARD POLAD	15476	39-06
RICHARD CONWAY	4678	39-06
THOMAS REMEC	5904	39-06
RONALD DZIAGWA	19815	39-08
JOHN ROGERS JR.	4083	39-10

FLOTILLA 39-08 DOES PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Flotilla 39-08 member Ron Dziagwa is seen again playing his popular "Do You Know Where Your Litter Is" game with attendees at the Active Senior Expo held at the White Eagle Banquet Hall on Milwaukee Avenue. This was the first year that the Chicago Air Flotilla was able to get a table there.



The Chicago Air Flotilla also manned a CG-Auxiliary AWW/MS/PA and Recruitment table again in the main hangar at Lewis Airport during the Cavalcade of Planes. This is another

event that the Chicago Air Flotilla has participated in the past. Besides Richard Grinius sitting next to Ron Dziagwa at the Chicago Air Flotilla table, Jim Kristufek also showed up to help out (he took the picture).

SAFE BOATING WEEK

By Virginia Haase, 39-02

It was all hands on deck for Des Plaines Flotilla 39-02's National Safe Boating Week campaign this year. Two months prior to National Safe Boating Week (NSBW), our members planned activities that targeted Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Rosemont, Park Ridge and our surrounding areas. Although our flotilla is small, our boating safety message to the community was broad and effective. Not only did we coordinate NSBW Public Affairs outreach tables at the Des Plaines and Mount Prospect libraries, Rosemont Park District, and the Lattof YMCA, but we also used a wide range of electronic media to spread the message.

Our Flotilla Staff Officer--Communications, Andrew Weiler, posted NSBW events on our Meet Up site for everyone to read about our NSBW events and attend them. Also, we worked together with our municipalities to access multiple media sources reaching beyond their city limits and spreading boating safety messages to the greater northwest Chicago suburbs. For example, our flotilla requested and received NSBW proclamations from the mayors of our four villages. These mayors presented their NSBW proclamations during their town council meetings. These meetings were recorded and televised on their municipal websites. The videos and city council meeting notes are available for years to come. They include our flotilla's proclamation acceptance and safe boating message to all residents and citizens who search online. We also had access to our surrounding villages' electronic sign boards. Our committee members' NSBW messages were posted on municipal electronic sign boards that are positioned



on the highly visible, heavily traveled roads in the community for all who pass by to read.

The spoken word carries a great deal of weight as our flotilla commander, Tim Darrey, who is a member of Toastmasters International, knows. He gave a NSBW radio interview on Chauncey's Great Outdoor program alerting all canoers, kayakers, duck hunters, and anglers of important boating safety information when they are on the water.

Our flotilla vessel examiners know that they go where the boats are to be most effective in promoting boating safety. For this reason, they went to the Des Plaines River Canoe and Kayak Marathon at Dam #2 at Des Plaines Forest Preserve and gave vessel safety checks on 52 canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. VEs were also available for boaters at Cabela's Sporting Goods Store in Hoffman Estates.



John Mukoyama and his wife Sharon set up three display cases at the Park Ridge Library in June. Various items, including the trophy, color guard and 096 facility pictures, ship compass and rifle were borrowed from Flotilla 39-06.

JOB WELL DONE

By Joe Conte, FC 39-10

With the passing of my family's older generation, I am inheriting artifacts and heirlooms from my elders. One of these artifacts, a 48 star V.A. Burial flag, yellowed and wrinkled with age, was stored in a beat-up cardboard box. The box was marked "Leo Beirne's Burial Flag." That was it.

Other than knowing that was one of the names in my family tree, I had nothing else to go on to find out who Leo Beirne was, when and where he'd served, which branch of the Armed Forces he'd been in, etc. The only thing I knew for certain was that I would find out which branch he was in, ask an Honor Guard from that branch to fold the Burial Flag and bring honor to Leo's memory.

After ten (10) years of searching obituaries, family records, land deeds, and many other sources, I found out that Leo Lawrence Beirne was my grandmother's kid brother, never married, moved from Wisconsin to Oregon and had not only registered for the draft in WWI, but also registered for what was called the "Old Man's Draft" in 1942. Uncle Sam was willing to draft men up to the age of 60 to fight in WWII.

Leo Beirne had joined the U.S. Army on August 14, 1918, deployed to France, and served with the U.S. Army's Motor Transport Corps Repair Unit #310. He made Sergeant before his Honorable Discharge nine months later. A huge reason he'd been so hard to find is that his V.A. Application for a Headstone had his name as LEE, and not Leo.

I considered contacting a U.S. Army unit in Chicago to fold the flag but then realized I could count on a big-hearted MST2 named Stacy Smith at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit. Stacy likes doing Funeral Honors details because of the comfort she can bring to the next of kin. One phone call and I was on board the MSU with the yellowed flag. Stacy was ready with her white gloves.

I held my great-uncle's flag as Stacy began folding it in the triangular shape. Because of its age and after decades of sitting in a relative's basement, the flag was very stiff. Without being asked, MST3 Dylan Caikowski came along and helped Stacy fold my uncle's flag into a perfect triangle. Dylan then placed it gently in the flag case I'd purchased. These Coasties took obvious pride in what they were doing.

Thanks to MST2 Smith's and MST3 Caikowski's big hearts, my great-uncle's burial flag is now where it should be. You can say with certainty that the Coast Guard was in the right place at the right time once again.

For you history buffs, Lt. Colonel Dwight David Eisenhower became the Commanding Officer of the Motor Transport Corps in the summer of 1919 and led the first convoy of trucks across the continental U.S. That was part of his preparation to lead the invasion of Europe in 1944 and to become President in 1952.

VESSEL SAFETY BLITZ BUSINESS

By SO-VE John Lenhard

We have been charged with increasing Chicago Harbor Blitz activity during 2017. Blitzes were organized and completed at Chicago Yacht Works, led by Marc Pullman, Diversey Harbor Blitz over Memorial Day yielded 11 VSCs, and Saturday blitzes took place for 6 consecutive weeks led by Donna Feldman. Blitzes also occurred at Montrose Harbor June 10 led by John Cusack, Belmont Harbor June 17 led by Gail and Mike Raith, and June 24 led by Chas Hague. We are having a problem with VEs responding to VSC requests that are coming through the system. VEs are not stepping up to contact boaters making the requests. This needs to be improved.

39-02: June 24 Montrose Harbor blitz was led by Chas Hague and resulted in 10 Vessel Safety Checks. Tim Darrey, Bridget Darrey, Chas Hague, and Andrew Weiler served. Andrew is working on his VE qualifications and was mentored by Tim and Bridget during the blitz.

39-06: June 17 Belmont Harbor blitz led by Mike and Gail Raith resulted in 35 Vessel Safety Checks. Bob Bush, Frank Cavalier, John Lenhard, Juanita Silva, and Yvette Ocasio came over from 39-10 to help out. Blitz was also useful in training a couple of the VEs on the larger boats, diesels, documented boats, etc. A special thanks to Donna Feldman who faithfully managed all 6 Highland Park Saturday blitzes. Highland Park requires a current VSC sticker prior to launch so it is critical that we have VEs at the launch ramp during the first 6 weeks in the boating season each year.

39-08: June 10 Montrose Harbor blitz was led by John Cusack with the assistance of Bob Auchenlick, Frank Cavalier and John Lenhard from 39-06. 25 vessel exams were completed from 1000 to 1400 hours on a somewhat slow Saturday due to high waves.