



Flotilla 19 News

January/February, 2010

Flotilla Commander's Report **By Gary Cordrey, FC**

The New Year brought divergent weather: wind, rain, snow and a few sun breaks. Coast Guard Auxiliary activities were equally diverse.

The Flotilla Change of Watch was well attended with good friends, great food and raucous, at times, camaraderie. A special moment was the singing of the Coast Guard Hymn accompanied by Mary Heintz on the violin.

A record number of members attended the annual staff planning meeting, sharing ideas and thoughts on activities for 2011. The suggestion that we have a bigger presence in the community was well received. I was pleased that Richard Coons, our District Captain, joined us as did special guest, District Commodore, Peter Raiswell. Peter briefed the group about the national Coast Guard Auxiliary's plans for 2011.

On Saturday 22, "Suddenly In Command", a workshop for women boaters, was held at the Blaine Marina. More than 23 people were present at the half-day event. A special "thank you" goes to Kathryn Wellington who chaired the workshop committee. Other participants included Pam Chelgren-Koterba, Diane Cordrey, Nancy Kaye and Darcie Haskell. Randall Kall provided technical assistance. Lou Herrick and I were the grunts and gofers until the ladies requested that we leave as this was a "Ladies Only" event.

Terry Sanchez and Randall Kall continue to teach an on-going series of ABS classes. Please assist in this endeavor by spreading the word to the many boaters who need boating education. You can also

volunteer to assist the instructors or become an instructor yourself.

I'd like to thank you, all the members of Flotilla 19, in advance, for your participation and for helping to make Flotilla 19 exciting, fun and a vital service to this community.

Also, I'd like to welcome two new members to Flotilla 19. Please welcome Darcie Haskell and Jim Heikel. Darcie was born and raised on San Juan Island and has been in Bellingham for 30 years. She has retired from administration in a drug rehabilitation program and is currently a property manager. Darcie has a life-long love of boating and will be pursuing her basic crew qualification. I met Darcie when I did a VE on her boyfriend's sail boat.

Jim is the boyfriend in question. Jim was born in Aberdeen and raised in Hoquiam. He is a retired paramedic and fireman. He has his commercial twin engine pilot rating and owns a beautiful 36' Islander Freeport sailboat which he keeps in Blaine Marina. I met Jim when I did a VE on his boat last August, and we chatted about the Auxiliary. He will be starting the crew academy shortly. I look forward to getting Darcie and Jim involved in flotilla activities as soon as possible. When you see them at the meeting, please stop and say hello.

I'd also like to welcome Bill and Sherri McIntosh who recently transferred in from Flotilla 17 in Anacortes. I've had the pleasure of meeting Bill and Sherri at several Auxiliary functions and I'm looking forward to working with them in Flotilla 19. By way of background, they only joined the Auxiliary in 2008, but they have plenty of boating experience. According to Bill, "Since we are from the south, our boating took on a different flavor than here in the

Pacific Northwest. We've owned several boats, and typically would water ski, scuba dive, or otherwise be on the water from April through October. Add to that some offshore fishing and experience with on-water police patrol, our boating has been varied and across the board. We are in somewhat of a learning curve here however. Currently we have a 22' rig that is a facility and look forward to lots of patrol time this year." Wow Bill, that's quite a resume! Bravo Zulu, and welcome to Flotilla 19.

Suddenly In Command

By Kathryn Wellington, FSO-MS

Women bring special insights into safe boating



Diane Cordrey leads the *Suddenly in Command* class at the Blaine Marina Conference Room.

Nineteen women attended Flotilla 19's course on boating for women presented by women on Saturday, January 22, 2011. This course is for women who are interested in boating, who may be married to a boater but feel they are just there to provide the lunch, women who go out as passengers on other people's boats, or who may be anxious about boating altogether and would rather leave boating up to the men! Many women responded to this opportunity with our registration going from 2 to 19 in one week and they came from as far away as Mt. Vernon and British Columbia! Their skills and knowledge ranged from being a commercial fisherperson in Alaska to some who were really scared about going out on the water.

The course was led by women from Flotilla 19 (Kathryn Wellington, Nancy Kaye, Darcie Haskell, and boating spouse Diane Cordrey) and Flotilla 11 (Pam Chelgren-Koterba) of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary who have enthusiasm and experience with boating and want to help others who "ride" on boats to know what to do if the boat captain should fall overboard or fall ill and they will need to be "suddenly in command"! There was much discussion and sharing of ideas among all the women about how to deal with boating anxiety, how to deal with people who are drinking on board while underway, how to discuss safety equipment with all passengers, and how to use the radio. All said they would recommend this workshop to other women - so look for another class to be held in October.

Quote of the day: "Before, I just enjoyed sitting on the boat at the dock. Now I feel like I can learn about boating and look forward to going out on the water!"

Helping Station Bellingham

By Lou Herrick, DSO-OP

Would you be interested in helping out Station Bellingham? Learning how a Coast Guard Small Boat Station operates, from an insider's viewpoint?

Then consider becoming a CG Watchstander! Here's what it entails, and how you get qualified.

Prerequisites: Passed or currently working on the AUXCOM qualification. Experience using marine radios would be helpful. Meet appropriate grooming standards, and have a properly attired ODU uniform with boots. Security clearance of DO (Direct Operational). Ask about this if you don't know your clearance.

Training provided: You will be mentored on the job by one of the active duty Watchstanders, and assisted in completing the Personal Qualification Standard (PQS) for the position.

Time required: Watch shifts are four hours, either 0800-1200 or 1200-1600, seven days per week. You can come in for any shifts you wish for your training. Recommend 2 shifts per week during the training period, so you can get the PQS completed in a reasonable period of time. After qualification, it's up to you how much time you spend at this, but

I recommend at least one 4-hr. shift per week to stay current and up to date.

What would you be doing?

- ✓ Answering the phones and directing calls as needed.
- ✓ Responding to access requests from the gate intercom.
- ✓ Monitoring radio traffic on Channel 16, and other operational channels.
- ✓ Responding to radio calls for assistance from mariners.
- ✓ Keeping a log of unit activities on a computer workstation (Microsoft Word).
- ✓ Logging ops and position reports from Coast Guard boats during their missions on the water.

What back-up would you have if there were a REAL emergency? The station is always staffed with a ready crew for SAR callouts. You have virtually instant access to the Officer of The Day (OOD) and other experienced Coasties to help. If you're good at keeping your cool, and multi-tasking, you'll do fine and enjoy the work.

OK, if you'd like to give it a shot, or at least see what really goes on, start by giving me a call, or e-mail me, and I'll arrange to meet you at Station Bel-lingham and give you some indoctrination. If you like it, you'll be on your way. Every time an Auxiliary takes a watch shift, it gives one of the Active Duty guys or gals time to work on the boat crew qualifications they joined the Coast Guard to do. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

[Editor's note: Lou sent this to the flotilla membership by email but I thought it was really good information, and definitely worth repeating here].

Flotilla Planning Session ***By Chris Doutre, FSO-PB***

On January 15th, the Flotilla 19 staff officers gathered at the home of FC Gary Cordrey and his wife Diane. Thanks to Gary and Diane for providing a comfortable and effective meeting venue, and for serving a hearty breakfast with real coffee. The primary topic was the 2011 Flotilla Event Calendar (see below). If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please get in touch with the contact named in the chart below. If there is no contact listed yet, and you want to get involved, please contact Gary at your earliest convenience.

Event Calendar For 2011	Date	Contact
Birch Bay Village Boating Safety Day	April	Lyle, John
Point Roberts Marina Safety Day	April	Lou
Semiahmoo International Regatta	April	
Semiahmoo Resort Opening Day	May 7	Gary
Blaine Harbor Opening Day	May 7	Art, Kathryn
Sandy Point Marina Opening Day	May	Lyle
Ski to Sea (100 years old)	May 28	Drew, Mike
Flotilla Rendezvous La Conner	June 24-26	Gary
Blaine Old Fashioned 4th of July	July 4	Pat, Drew, Richard
32nd Annual Birch Bay Days	July	
BP Refinery Safety Days	July	Drew, Kathryn
Ferndale Old Settlers Picnic	July	
Blaine Sail-A-Bratton	July	Hoyt
Drayton Harbor Days	August	Gary, Mike, Pat
Sandy Point Bullhead Derby	August	Lyle
Northwest Washington Fair	August 15-20	Mike, Sherri

Communications Report

By Chris Doutre, FSO-CM

As we all know, the pace of change in the Auxiliary can sometimes be exhausting. Sometimes it seems like we are drinking from a fire-hose. I've been doing some thinking about the many changes in our communications activities and this article is an attempt to clarify one of these issues.

New radios? Some of you have probably heard that the Coast Guard Auxiliary will no longer accept certain amateur VHF radios for land mobile and fixed land radio facilities. That is true. Here's the story. Broadly speaking, the Coast Guard operates VHF radios in two frequency bands, the marine frequencies we all know and love, and the non-marine frequencies that are seldom used by most Auxiliaries and are not well understood either.

Let's talk about the marine frequencies first. Among many other things, the Coast Guard uses these frequencies for communicating with the public. Think channel 16. There has been no change in the technology used for communicating on these frequencies. Therefore, a standard 25-watt marine radio, also known as a "Part 80" radio, continues to be 100% acceptable for use in an inspected radio facility. If you're curious about "Part 80", just Google "47 CFR 80".

Now, let's talk about those non-marine frequencies. They are known in the business as "private land mobile radio services", or "Part 90", and they are used by the Coast Guard for private communications and, in many cases, repeaters. For many years, the Coast Guard used the standard of the day, as everyone else did, called "wide-band". But now, the Coast Guard has standardized on a new technology called "narrow-band", rendering many of the existing land mobile radios obsolete. At the same time, they are adopting a new policy of only allowing the use of standard commercial radios known as "type-accepted" radios. This applies to both marine and non-marine frequencies.

This precludes the use of modified amateur radio equipment because, regardless of its actual technical capabilities, amateur radio equipment is never type-accepted.

Bottom line? At your next radio facility inspection, the only acceptable radio will be either a "Part 80" marine radio, or a "Part 90" commercial land mobile radio with narrow-band capability.

So, what's an Auxiliary radio facility owner to do? At this point, I'll stick my neck out and recommend a marine VHF radio for most people. I have a land mobile VHF radio in my truck, I've used it for several years, and frankly, I'm coming to the conclusion that it's really hard to use compared to your average everyday marine radio. And the only time I've ever used the private Coast Guard frequencies is during radio drills, never during a real operation. In fact, I'm thinking of adding a marine radio to my truck because it would be much easier to use, especially during an emergency.

There are plenty of other developments in the communications arena. We'll talk about some more in a future article. If you have any questions or comments, please see me at the meeting, or contact me by phone or email. Meanwhile, keep on drinking from that fire-hose.

Next Flotilla 19 Meeting: Wednesday February 2nd, 7 pm, Blaine Marina Conference Room. 235 Marine Dr, Blaine, WA. See you there!

Flotilla 19 Newsletter — A Coast Guard Auxiliary District 13, Division 1, Flotilla 19 Publication authorized IAW COMDTINST 1800.5D & COMDTINST M5728.2C. Published periodically during the year and circulated to Auxiliary members of Flotilla 19 electronically. *Flotilla 19 Newsletter* contains news of general interest, suggestions, and information for Coast Guard Auxiliary members. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Homeland Security or the United States Coast Guard. Material is informational only and not authority for action. Internet release is authorized.

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