

True North News

W N E S

Division Two Newsletter

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13th District United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division Two

A New Flotilla for Our Div One Teammates

A remarkably appreciated blanket of sunshine was splayed across the Boating Center at Blaine Harbor on the morning of August 22nd. Assorted gulls and seabirds squawked their pleasures, swooping back and forth among the tall masts and flying bridges rising out of the rows of marina slips. It was a beautiful Thursday; one for following the 72 degree line—right there. It was an exceptional day for a rare event.

Fred Bell, DCP One, and former a Division Two, Flotilla 22 member, has guided an outstanding array of USCGAUX development projects since his membership transfer north to the Bellingham community. Now, Bell is one of 39 charter members of Blaine's Flotilla 19, the newest flotilla in the 13th District.

Both historic and popular theme's of patriotism played from the audio system while a wide variety of guests began gathering well before 1000 hours. The quay wall plaza area was full for the Chartering



Above, Fred Bell DCP 1 stands attentively behind keynote speaker, Captain Robert Wicklund, OPS, USCG, Group Seattle, reiterates Admiral Brown's call for "a diverse, highly flexible workforce."

Ceremony when it began at 1100.

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Attendees included an impressive blend of local government and law enforcement; the Mayor of Blaine; the Chief of the Blaine Police Department; a Whatcom County Sheriff; management from the Boating Center; the President of the West Coast Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and an assortment of USCGAUX members and officers, including the Director of the Auxiliary, Commander Kelly Boodell.

Robert Wells SO-MT, FL 11, Bellingham, was acknowledged for making regular Saturday trips to Blaine for nearly a year in a sacrificial training effort to prepare the then new detachment from Bellingham for their upcoming Blaine flotilla administration. He was there, proudly watching as Jo Ann Grubb, RCO-N, swore in board of appointed officers. Wells later presented a gift of \$100 to Flotilla 19's first Flotilla Commander, Hoyt Hatfield.

Louise Gatlin DCO also presented a \$100 dollar gift to Flotilla 19 on behalf of all Auxiliary members in District Thirteen, saying, "I am so proud and pleased with Blaine."

Dan Neiderhiser VCO and DIRAUX Kelly Boodell presented several types of certificates, including 'Plank Owner'

shares. The program seemingly displayed immense respect and satisfaction with those responsible for chartering Flotilla 19 with a 35 detachment mem-

bers, plus four additional members who were sworn in at the ceremony.

It was readily apparent that effective networking had already begun at Blaine. Division One Captain, Fred Bell, like unto our own Division Two Captain, Bruce Miller, is both proactive and a visionary. His ability to lead, delegate and network have had remarkable impact on the current Coast Guard Auxiliary. Among his platform of guest speakers was Frank Hudson, President of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Pacific Branch. President Hudson told listeners at the ceremony, "I am looking forward to working with the USCGAUX at Blaine," (The Canadian CG Auxiliary has nearby units at Crescent Beach and Point Roberts.)

This cooperative posturing between the Canadian and US Coast Guard auxiliaries may be a potential component for the daunting task of creating a "seamless line of safety" across the waters between the US and Canada.

Rear Admiral Errol Brown had referred to such seamlessness at the annual Navy League banquet at Pier 36 earlier this year. Unfortunately, the Admiral was unable to participate in the chartering celebration due to his military obligations surrounding the visit of President George W. Bush to Portland, Oregon. In his stead, Captain Robert Wicklund, OPS, 13th District, took the podium as keynote speaker.

Captain Wicklund drew upon a previous message by the Admiral to remind all that "readiness, people and stewardship" are Coast Guard mandates, and that these are best fulfilled by a "diverse, highly flexible workforce." Thus came a rally for "unity toward a common purpose" — a message often heard since the events of 11 September 2001.

Bonnie Schiesswohl VFC 22



Above l. to r., Fred Bell DCP 1 and DIRAUX, Kelly A. Boodell, LCDR, USCG. Shown in a frame is Bell's personalized Plank Owner certificate from DIRAUX.

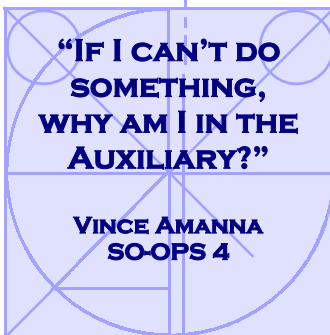
LCDR's Survey Recap Shared at NAR

Turnout for the Northern Area Rendezvous (NAR) was an overall modest low this year, with just a handful of Division Two members in attendance.

But it was a good opportunity to receive direct feedback regarding the 'gold side' efforts of Lynn Goldhammer LCDR, USCG ISC, Group Seattle.

In tandem with the concerns of Division Two Captain, Bruce Miller, Goldhammer recently conducted a telephone calling project. Ted Schiesswohl, VCP 2 polled each flotilla commander in an attempt to narrow down selected segments of membership who, though still living locally, are either relatively inactive as Auxili-

Below, Commander Lynn Goldhammer reviews her Division Two survey results with Auxiliary members at the Northern Area Rendezvous.



iarists or have otherwise withdrawn from flotilla activities. This targeted phone list was then provided to Commander Goldhammer. She also called members who requested opportunity to give her their feedback.

Everyone *in attendance* at the Saturday afternoon presentation in Bremerton had an opportunity to cast five votes by prioritizing concerns summarized on Lt. Goldhammer's survey feedback list. Not surprisingly, the lack of current training materials ranked high on the problem scale. (Mismatched old manual data versus new manual test questions was also brought up.)

Another top issue was paperwork. We've all

known for a long time that most Auxiliarists feel there is way too much paperwork.

All District 13 members present at the rendezvous were offered opportunity to ask questions and to make comments. One member, Division Four's Operations officer, Vince Amanna, offered this pragmatic rhetoric: "If I can't *do* something, why am I in the Auxiliary?" As heads nodded in agreement, a few made audible comments along the same line.



Bruce Miller DCP 2 and Vince Amanna SO-OPS, FL 42, yield to the TNN camera.

Whatever the life and work styles of the Auxiliary in the past, circumstances of current times call for workers who are unified to support a common purpose as set forth by the United States Coast Guard.

Like as the need for workers, the opportunities have never been greater for Auxiliarists to serve their country and community.

Division Two leaders are working to develop a participant base for volunteers on both the silver and the gold sides because the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is a *service* organization.

Bonnie Schiesswohl VFC 22



PONDEROSITY

From the Helm

by Bruce Miller, DCP 2

Welcome to the end of summer. All in all, a pretty good one and one full of good hard work on the part of Division Two. Fireworks displays got covered. SeaFair was its usual stressful self, but, a safe one. Tall Ships came and went, and watches were covered at the Shilshole Boat Show. Don't forget, also, the hard work by Betty Hamilton and all the volunteers that greet the visitors to the Alki Pt. Lighthouse. One member showed his desire to serve at the lighthouse by getting married there this summer. (I wonder what AUXDATA category is used for *that* activity?)

I would like especially to thank all of you that are working on training. Boating Classes in the summer?.....130+ people might be safer because our members gave up some sunshine for the classroom. Boat Crew-Coxswain Training?.....we are better prepared to meet our operational opportunities because training continued this past few months. Thanks for the sacrifice—it makes a difference.

Auxiliary publications are full of articles about the upcoming elections. Flotillas, Divisions and Districts pick leadership in the next 90 days. While we have good growth in our membership numbers, there is a shortage of experienced leaders. Each unit has to decide if they will turn to the experienced people and have them serve as FC or VFC once again, or if they will encourage new people to take those positions with a delivered promise of mentoring and support to get them up to speed. Many of our new members have experience in leadership roles in business, non-profits and community organizations. What they lack is Auxiliary experience. As you make your choices in the Flotillas, consider helping some of the new members take a leadership role by supporting them, encouraging them and mentoring them.

Now for opportunities:

September 14 we are helping MSO Puget Sound with a safety event at Fisherman's Terminal. Help is needed to staff the booth. Call Ted Schiesswohl or myself.

Five committees are being formed for events in our future:

- Nominating Committee for Division VCP and DCP offices
- Awards Committee to review Division Awards given at Change of Watch (AUXDATA makes the formulas used in the past obsolete)
- Change of Watch Committee (planning the program and helping with the arrangements)
- Seattle Boat Show (Jan 2003, but, never too soon to start the planning)
- Division Two Annual Holiday Party

(Contact Ted or myself if you are interested in lending a hand, or in chairing one of the committees.)

CALENDAR

September 10 - this month only, DIV 2 meets at Factoria Mall, Bellevue. (see page 5 for directions.)
SEE <<http://calendar.yahoo.com/uscgaux13002>> for complete Division Two CALENDAR updates.

WORKING UNIFORM CHANGE TO ODU CLARIFIED

In an attempt to quell a string of inquiries regarding rumored upcoming changes in dress uniforms led to the following clarification on 12 August 2002 from Robert H. Gitschier, Uniform System Manager, Chief, Uniform Clothing Section by way of CDR Christopher Olin, USCG, Chief, Auxiliary Operations Division:

“The Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) is a replacement for the Working blue (Utility) and Undress Blue Uniforms **only** (emphasis ours). The ODU is a modification of the Department of Defense’s Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) design suited for CG uses and made in CG blue instead of a camouflage pattern. The name is derived from the Battle Dress Uniform modified for CG operations, hence it is called the Operational Dress Uniform, for the uniform that is worn for operational dress (work) applications.

The CG is *not* making (or even considering) any changes to the Service Dress Blue or

Tropical Blue Long uniforms. I do not anticipate the potential change to a new Department will affect the CG dress uniforms either, so persons who need to get new dress uniform items should rest assured that those items will remain in service for quite some time to come.”

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NOTE: Current uniform ordering information (included on the ANSC 7055) can be found on the USCGAUX website. Also,

Uniform Distribution Center

U. S. Coast Guard Training Center
Woodbine, NJ 08270
ph.# 1.800.874.6841

Lighthouse Uniform Company

1532 - 15th Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98119
ph.# 1.800.426.5225
<www.lighthouseuniform.com/uscgalpha_uniform_body.htm>

Also, see your AUX Manual, Chpt. 10.

September Meeting Location Change

September 10 - The regular Division Two meeting will be at 7 PM. It will NOT be held at the Bear Room this month. The meeting will be at the Factoria Mall in Bellevue. (Take I-5 or I-405 to I-90. Exit off I-90. Turn right at bottom of Factoria exit ramp.) If you are not familiar with that mall, go into the main entrance and look at the Mall Directory. The meeting will be in the conference room next to PETCO, and across the hall from the Red Robin restaurant.



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Remember, the full **CALENDAR** of District 13 events is on the Auxiliary website.
<<http://calendar.yahoo.com/uscgaux13002>>

CLASSIFIED USCGAUX Help Wanted

Assorted Team CG Positions

Auxiliarists interested in volunteering in specific CG units or tasking venues at Pier 36, or at the downtown Federal Building, should contact Bruce Miller DCP 2 for further information.
<bmilleruscgaux@mindspring.com>

Mailing Assistant

TNN still needs a mailing assistant to pick up newsletter hard prints in Edmonds, or by other arrangement, collate and staple, affix labels and postage, then mail to members who don't have e-mail. Please contact Bonnie Schiesswohl SO-PB.
<box1018@pobox.com>