



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Flotilla 19 NEWS

February, 2012



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

2011 was a year that passed quickly – Now it is 2012 and our first snow storm is a memory, along with our annual change of command at the Great Blue Heron Grill at Semiahmoo Country Club. Our special guests were Division Commander Harry Ota and his lovely wife Lucy, and Station Bellingham Commander Chris Robinson. A special thank you goes to Kathryn Wellington and Art Cummings for giving us a memorable program. And Lyle Schrag did an outstanding job as our MC. Thank you Lyle.

I want to thank all the flotilla staff officers, and especially VFC Michael DeAnnuntis, for all your help last year. We do have great members in Flotilla 19. THANK YOU!

Next Flotilla 19 Meeting:
Wednesday February 1st, at 7 pm,
Blaine Marina Conference Room, 235
Marine Dr., Blaine, WA. Our special
guest will be our new Division
Commander, Harry Ota. Please
join us.

Now that 2012 is with us, what are our plans for this year? I just scheduled our Rendezvous for June 8th & 9th in picturesque La Conner (by popular demand). We will do the customary opening day booths at our marinas, the 4th of July parade and food booth at Blaine, Safety Day at Point Roberts plus other activities. Please check our activity calendar for the specific activities and dates.

Now is a great time to prepare for the upcoming boating season. If you are in operations, check your gear and your facility and schedule any repairs or service needed, review your manual on skills, and most important please get your hours in early. Recreational Boating Safety: check for updates on pamphlets and quantities needed for scheduled activities. Education: review the latest material and select supplies for 2012. For those looking to take additional classes and training, check the calendar and schedule the classes as soon as possible.

As we start work on the flotilla budget for 2012, we need your input on what equipment or special supplies are needed for our activities. Some ideas are a new standing display panel for behind our display table, one that is lightweight and easy to transport; a new banner for marching in parades with; a portable TV & DVD combo; a spare projection bulb for our projector, and so on. If you have any suggestions along these lines, please contact me (or Michael) with your ideas.

"To ensure safety at sea, the best that science can devise and that naval organizations can provide must be regarded only as an aid and never as a substitute for good seamanship, self-reliance, and a sense of ultimate responsibility which are the first requisites in a seaman or naval officer".
... Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

Women Boaters Fill Point Roberts Marina Workshop!

by Kathryn Wellington, FSO-MS

It was a snowy, rainy, blustery day, but 28 intrepid women boaters showed up to discuss and learn what to do if the captain becomes ill or falls overboard and you find yourself "Suddenly in Command"! We had a great day sharing stories, skills, camaraderie, and food at Point Roberts Marina. There was so much interest that we outstripped the capacity of the room and started a waiting list (at least 15) for the next course.



Darcie Haskell leads the Suddenly In Command class at Point Roberts Marina. K. Wellington photo.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 19, in Blaine, WA would like to thank Darcie Haskell, Sherri McIntosh, Nancy Kaye and Kathryn Wellington for an energetic, participatory presentation and discussion with lots of hands-on practice with various lifejackets (what happens when you pull on that cord?), steps for rescuing a "person/man overboard," practice using the marine radio and calling for help, knowing how to tell where you are (GPS) and tying knots and throwing docklines (so you don't have to jump off the boat to tie up). There was also discussion about taking a safety walkabout

to learn where the safety equipment is found and how to use it, as well as some questions to improve communication with your boating partner to ensure the safety and enjoyment of your boating trips. Boating should not be "a man's dream and a woman's nightmare." The DVD "Cold Water Boot Camp" demonstrated the dangers of boating in the cold waters of our area in the Northwest, especially without a lifejacket.



A brave student demonstrates the proper way to wear an inflatable PFD. K. Wellington photo.

All of the women would recommend the course to other women. Here are a few quotable quotes:

"The hypothermia video struck fear in my heart – I will always wear my PFD - zipped up!"

"The lifejacket/hypothermia film was life-changing! We boat in a trawler and never wear lifejackets but have them close. We will wear them now."

Most helpful: "Various lifejackets, marine radio, knots, the stories, the sharing." Hypothermia, MOB drill, knots, radio". "Thanks again for a great day! I am sure I echo other women when I say, "our hus-

bands should see that hypothermia video!" My hubby said he would love to go to a similar course. Any safety review is good for boaters. Please keep me informed of any more courses. Great staff, yummy food, and as always, what a view from the marina!"

Watch for the next Suddenly in Command class at a marina near you! www.a1300109.uscgaux.info



Harry Ota, Division 1 Commander, will be a guest at our February Flotilla meeting on 2/1 in Blaine.

GNATS! GNATS! GNATS!

A message from Harry Ota, Commander, Division 1

Please mark your calendar. We have received the date and location for this year's Great Northern Area Training Session (GNATS). It's Saturday April 14th and Sunday the 15th at Pier 36. As a general rule, there has been an informal social on Friday night, which would be Friday, the 13th. It's an excellent way to meet Auxiliary members, make friends and renew acquaintances. Why not carpool to get to know more folks, better? I'm looking forward to seeing you there. Stay tuned for more information.

Previous editions of this newsletter can be found at: www.tinyurl.com/d13-f19-news

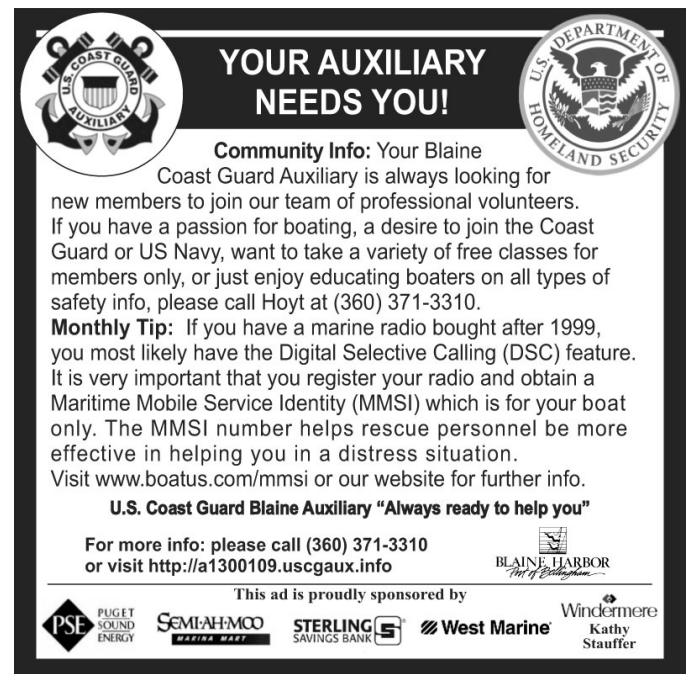
Public Affairs Report

By Andrew Breiteneder

Here is the letter that I wrote to the editor of our local newspaper, The Northern Light:

Your Blaine Coast Guard Auxiliary recently held a "Suddenly in Command" (SIC) class for women boaters in Point Roberts. Suddenly in Command is a one-day class which teaches women boaters the necessary skills in the event the "Captain" becomes ill and they need to be suddenly in command. A big thank you to Kathryn, Nancy, Darcie, and Sherri for delivering a wonderful course that was enjoyed by all! Attendance was at capacity, and a waiting list has already started for our next course. Please contact Kathryn at 360-220-3872 or (email) to join the list for our next class.

Thanks to the generosity of our community sponsors, we are able to continue publishing a monthly Coast Guard Auxiliary announcement in The Northern Light newspaper. Here is our latest ad; check it out and tell your friends to watch for it. Our major focus for February is to upgrade your marine radio and your radio skills, and join the Auxiliary.



YOUR AUXILIARY NEEDS YOU!

Community Info: Your Blaine Coast Guard Auxiliary is always looking for new members to join our team of professional volunteers. If you have a passion for boating, a desire to join the Coast Guard or US Navy, want to take a variety of free classes for members only, or just enjoy educating boaters on all types of safety info, please call Hoyt at (360) 371-3310.

Monthly Tip: If you have a marine radio bought after 1999, you most likely have the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) feature. It is very important that you register your radio and obtain a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) which is for your boat only. The MMSI number helps rescue personnel be more effective in helping you in a distress situation. Visit www.boatus.com/mmsi or our website for further info.

U.S. Coast Guard Blaine Auxiliary "Always ready to help you"

For more info: please call (360) 371-3310 or visit <http://a1300109.uscgaux.info>

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It's a huge task, doing our part to stem the tide of boating death and destruction through education. We need more help and one way to get that help is to reach out to our friends and neighbors and ask them to join the Auxiliary. If they are boaters, they can benefit from our training programs. This year, let's focus hard on recruiting those new members.



Vice Flotilla Commander's Report

By Michael DeAnnuntis

As we enter the New Year and as you schedule your calendar for 2012, I would ask that you would consider supporting the many activities that your Flotilla 19 Staff Officers are busy planning for this year. At these events there are plenty of opportunities to speak with the public about boating safety, and vessel safety checks are being done at most of the activities with lots of opportunities to interact with Auxiliary members. Here below is the current list of activities that you might want to consider. Please contact FC Cordrey or VFC Michael DeAnnuntis if you would like to participate in one of these events or if you have any comments or questions about them. Thank you for your support.

Event	Date	Point Of Contact (tentative)
Birch Bay Village Boating Safety Day	March 31	Lyle Schrag
Pt. Roberts Marina Safety Day	April	
Semiahmoo International Regatta	April	Ed Merta, Mike Farinha
Blaine Harbor Opening Day	May	Art Cummings, Kathryn Wellington
Sandy Point Marina Opening Day	May	Mike Farinha
Ski to Sea	May 27	Richard Coons
Rendezvous, La Conner	June 8 & 9	Gary Cordrey, Lou Herrick, Kathryn Wellington
Blaine Old Fashioned 4th of July	July 4	
Point Roberts 4 th of July	July 4	
33rd Annual Birch Bay Days	July 21-22	
BP Refinery Safety Days	TBD	Michael DeAnnuntis, Art Cummings
Blaine Sail-A-Bration	July	Hoyt Hatfield
Drayton Harbor Days	August 4-5	Michael DeAnnuntis
Point Roberts Seafood Festival	September	Andrew Breiteneder

We thank Blaine West Marine and Blaine Marina for their support of our local Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education programs.



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