



Flotilla 19 NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 3 March, 2012



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

Some rain, some snow, and a few days of sun. It must be March. Spring bulbs are emerging, led by the daffodils. It's time to get the mower ready for the onslaught of the growing season. Spring cleaning of the boat, checking equipment, thinking about fuel and its rising cost.

2012 is starting to be an event-filled year, with lots of member training and public education classes scheduled. We also have a new opportunity to train (play) with the Coast Guard Reserves and the regular crews at Coast Guard Station Bellingham. Plus the station has a brand new boat that all the gold-side crew members will need to be qualified on,

Next Flotilla 19 Meeting:

Wednesday March 7th, at 7 pm, Blaine Marina Conference Room, 235 Marine Dr., Blaine, WA. Please join us for an important vote; see below for more info.

which should result in ample on-the-water joint training exercises with us and our facilities.

Here's a brief update on the new items approved at our last meeting. We now have a 24" TV/DVD player for meetings, safety booths and training. Richard and Beanie Coons have donated a BBQ to the Flotilla and we are ordering two hand held signs (on side "STOP" other side "SLOW") to be used at on-the-water events. We are also working on the acquisition of a light weight display panel for safety booths. In the meantime, please be sure to save these dates:

- **March 24th: Dry suit testing, Station Bellingham**
- **March 31st: 8-hour TCT, Ferndale**
- **April 14th: GNATS, Pier 36, Seattle**
- **April 28th: Suddenly in Command, Point Roberts**
- **May 27th: Ski to Sea, Bellingham Bay**
- **June 8th & 9th: Rendezvous, La Conner**

"No matter how important a man at sea may consider himself, unless he is fundamentally worthy the sea will someday find him out" - Felix Riesenberg

At the next meeting on March 7th, we need maximum attendance to change the standing rules. Currently, it requires 2/3 of the membership to make any rule changes. We'd like to reduce that to 1/4. Please do your best to attend. Thank you.

GNATS Update

by Chris Doutre, FSO-PB

Here is the latest info on GNATS. It will be one day only, April 14, at USCG Pier 36. All classes will be plenary; that means one class attended by all. The lunch meal will be at the Galley. The evening meal will be in the Bear Room, with a Gary Proudlock Spaghetti feed. The registration fee will be \$10. Here's the schedule:

0800-0900 Opening ceremonies/Speakers
0900-1000 How to interact with the public (Public Affairs, Boat shows, VE, PV, etc.)
1000-1100 Leadership & Staff Development
1100-1200 Membership Development & Retention
1200-1300 Lunch
1300-1400 Standardization & Professionalism (Do it the Coast Guard Way)
1400-1500 Sector Puget Sound Update, ASC Bob Hays
1500-1600 Tours of JHOC, Simulator, and Museum.

This is a very full day, starting early and ending late. A good way to get the best out of this event would be to plan on staying at a nearby hotel on both Friday and Saturday nights. That would give you a great opportunity to arrange some social events and maybe even some ad-hoc working sessions with your distant colleagues and counterparts. And organize your carpool now too: that's another two hours each way to discuss your Auxiliary plans for this year.

New Boats at Station Bellingham

by Chris Doutre, FSO-PB

Station Bellingham has recently received the latest in response boat technology. It's the new Response Boat – Medium (RB-M); it's 45 feet long and 15 feet wide, and will replace the 41 foot utility boats (UTB-41). The RB-M weighs 36,000 pounds, is self-righting, and can achieve a max speed of more than 40 knots. It has a range of 260 nautical miles and a towing capacity of 100 tons. Get ready for some new training opportunities. Here's a Coast Guard press release about the RB-M from 2008.



Tacoma, Wash. (March 3, 2008) - The Response Boat-Medium (RB-M) is an all-aluminum, 45-foot boat with twin diesel engines and water jet propulsion. It was launched today at Commencement Bay in Tacoma, Wash. This small boat, which recently completed a successful Builder's Trials on March 3, is expected to be the primary non-heavy weather, multi-mission capable boat for the U.S. Coast Guard. The RB-M will have increased maneuverability and be capable of speeds in excess of 40 knots (46 miles per hour). A full cabin will provide crew protection from the elements and will be equipped with a robust navigation system, heating and air conditioning, shock mitigating seats, and a communication system capable of communicating with other federal, state and local Homeland Security organizations. The RB-M's missions will include Search and Rescue (SAR), Enforcement of Laws and Treaties (ELT), Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security (PWCS), Defense Operations (DO), Marine Environmental Protection (MEP), and Recreational Boating Safety (RBS). These boats will replace the 41-foot Utility Boats (UTB) which have been the workhorse of the coastal stations for the past 25+ years. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. Mark Piber

Suddenly In Command: A Boating Course For Women Taught By Women

by Kathryn Wellington, FSO-MS

WHO: Presented by women of Flotilla 19 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
FOR: US and Canadian women interested in building their confidence in boating
WHEN: Saturday, April 28th, 2012 from 1030 am to 4 pm (sign in at 1000 am)
WHERE: Point Roberts Marina (upstairs in the marina club room- south entrance)
713 Simundson Drive, Point Roberts, WA 360-945-2255
COST: USCG Auxiliary members: free
Non-members: \$35
To REGISTER or for any questions: Please call or email Kathryn Wellington at 360-220-3872 or k.wellington28 (at) gmail.com.

This course is for women who are interested in boating; who may be married to a boater, yet 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!

Suddenly in Command is instructed by women from Flotilla 19 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 become incapacitated and they will need to be "suddenly in command!" Through discussion and hands-on training, we encourage women to voice their concerns and help them build confidence by learning some basics of boating such as using the radio to call for help, stopping the boat, turning the vessel around, and bringing someone back into the boat if there is a "man overboard!" We provide all necessary learning material, coffee, lunch, and snacks. Please join us! All past classes have been full.

Sponsored by: Point Roberts Marina and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 19, Blaine, WA

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

Bellingham BS&S Training Opportunities *by Chris Doutre, FSO-PB*

Flotilla 11 is in the third week of a BS&S course that meets Mondays and Wednesdays. Upcoming topics include navigation, charting, and radio communications. Contact F11 Member Training Officer Pam Chelgren-Koterba for more information. They will be practicing charting on March 14 – so consider coming to St Luke's Education Center that evening (6:30 to 8:30) to practice yourself or help the students. Flotilla members are always welcome to attend the class to refresh your knowledge and skills. Please wear a uniform when you come - either ODU (work uniform) or your tropical blues - so students know you are a member.

Help Wanted

by Chris Doutre, FSO-PB

One of our primary goals should always be to find new members for our flotilla. After you have been a member for a while you start to understand the enormity of the task that we have all volunteered for. In spite of all our efforts, hundreds of people die every year in boating accidents, and thousands more are injured. But it takes a broad spectrum of skills and backgrounds to make our flotilla vibrant and successful. Yes, we need well-trained cox'ns and boat crew, but we also need administrators and instructors to support our operations people, and to develop our future generations of cox'ns and boat crew. And we need administrators and instructors to drive our vital public education programs. And we need lots of other people to work with our administrators and instructors to keep the flotilla moving forward as an organization that is both fun and fulfilling. So, please keep this in mind as you go about your daily life: you are an expert on the Auxiliary; you alone can make your friends and colleagues aware of the broad range of opportunities that are available in the Auxiliary. If they are boaters, they can benefit from our training programs and join our surface operations. If not, perhaps they would enjoy managing or teaching our public education classes. Our common goal is to help the boating public enjoy themselves safely. That's a goal worth talking about. And that's a goal that could benefit from the dedication of lots more people from all walks of life. This year, let's focus hard on recruiting those new members.



USCGC Mellon, WHEC-717, underway in the Bering Sea, 2001. Her homeport is Seattle, Washington. Photo: Wikipedia.



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
Birch Bay Village Vessel Safety Day	March 31	Lyle Schrag
Pt. Roberts Marina Safety Day	April 20	Andrew Breiteneder
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, K. Wellington
Blaine Old Fashioned 4th of July	July 4	TBD
Point Roberts 4 th of July	July 4	TBD
33rd Annual Birch Bay Days	July 21-22	TBD
BP Refinery Safety Days	TBD	Michael DeAnnuntis, Art Cummings
Blaine Sail-A-Bration	July 21	Hoyt Hatfield
Drayton Harbor Days	August 4-5	Michael DeAnnuntis
Point Roberts Seafood Festival	Sept. 15 or 22	Andrew Breiteneder
Other Special Events		
Marine Radar Class at Semiahmoo	March 26	6:00 pm, \$35. Call 371-0440

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



See previous issues of this newsletter at: www.tinyurl.com/d13-f19-news

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