



# Flotilla 19 NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 4 April, 2012



## **Flotilla Commander's Report**

*By Gary Cordrey, FC*

April is upon us and daylight hours are getting longer. We are now starting our busy time of the year: eight-hour TCT training at WECU in Ferndale, two "Suddenly in Command" programs are scheduled, one in Point Roberts and another in Anacortes, scheduling vessel exams - lining up staff members for opening day events with safety booths at marinas in our area.

A special thanks to Mike Farinha for scheduling and directing the dry suit testing at Station Bellingham last Saturday. The program on hypothermia by

### **Next Flotilla 19 Meeting:**

Wednesday April 4th, at 7 pm, Blaine Marina Conference Room, 235 Marine Dr., Blaine, WA. Please join us for an important vote; see below for more info.

Dr. John Alexander was very enlightening, followed by some 30 Auxiliary members bobbing around in the water by the station boat dock in our bright orange dry suits.

After our water outing and hot showers, our flotilla provided hot dogs side dishes; some side dishes were also provided by members of the other flotillas. We also invited Station Bellingham personnel to join us. The food was great and company grand. Thank you Connie Farinha and Michael DeAnnuntis for putting this meal together and Jeff Shaw for helping out with the BBQ and kitchen.

Mike Farinha is to be congratulated for all of his hard work with Station Bellingham. Thanks to Mike's efforts, our three local Flotillas (Blaine, Bellingham & Anacortes) are starting to train with the Coast Guard Reserves and the Helo-ops. Mike is also in contact with the Bellingham Sheriff's department to see if we can train with their marine division too.

**Important Election:** At the next meeting on April 4th, we need maximum attendance to make a change to 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.

Flotilla Rendezvous: Our annual social outing is again, by popular demand, scheduled in beautiful La Conner, on June 8th & 9th. We have 300 feet of dock space reserved on "F" dock for our flotilla. If you plan to bring your boat please contact the La Conner marina at 360-466-3118 to reserve a portion of the space for your vessel.

*"It's not just a keel and hull and a deck and sails, that's what a ship needs, but what a ship is...is freedom"...Capt. Jack Sparrow, Pirates of the Caribbean.*

### **Birch Bay Village Vessel Safety Day**

*By Chris Doutre, FSO-PB*

Since I was in Phoenix on the appointed day, March 31st, I would like to present a report of this event as told by the Assistant Commodore of the Birch Bay Village Yacht Club, Denise Thompson, the wife of the Commodore, Gordon Thompson. [Disclaimer: I also serve on the BBVYC Bridge, as Rear Commodore].

Ahoy BBVYC members!

A total of 18 vessels were inspected Saturday: 12 from the yacht club and 6 from the BBV community. Of these, seven inspections were walk-ups.

Commodore Gordon and your Bridge would like to sincerely thank **Dr. Lyle Shrag** and his crew of USCGA Examiners and support personnel: **Nancy Kaye, Kathryn Wellington, Gary Cordrey, Andrew Breiteneder** and **Richard Coons**.

Also making this great event happen were our own BBVYC volunteers: **Chris Doutre** served as his usual excellent self and liaison to the USCGA; **Jim Pirak** was an outstanding Member Co-Captain whose contributions really kept the day running smoothly! Awesome job Jim! **Pat Hartung** and **Don Stewart** braved the nasty weather to stand by for assistance during the day. Thank you for just showing up you guys! **Gary Wilde** also pitched in toward the end of the day- when we really needed it! Big mahalo as well! I'd also like to thank the donuts, muffins and coffee for their help in keeping our energy levels up.

[Editor's note: Thank you Denise for setting up the online VSC schedule. And I'd like to add that our own Nancy Kaye provided very special support to this event. While the VEs were doing their thing, braving the elements down on the docks, Nancy was up in the parking lot, braving the elements, and managing the schedule and the walk-up requests for VEs.]

### **GNATS Update**

*by Chris Doutre, FSO-PB*

By now, you should have received several emails on this topic, and you should be up to speed on all the activities planned for Friday and Saturday. And you should have your registration form filled out and on its way with your check for \$10. It must be received no later than April 10th.

Unfortunately, I will be out of town during this event, but, if I were there, here's what I would be doing. I would be talking to the other members about this, say at a flotilla meeting. I would be discussing the idea of carpooling down on Friday, as early as possible, and getting together Friday evening to mix business and pleasure. Since I'm in the PB program, and the CS program, I'd be looking to meeting up with my counterparts from the other flotillas in Division 1. Anyway, I think you get my drift. Have a great time at GNATS 2012.



## Vice Flotilla Commander's Report

By Michael DeAnnuntis

As we are now well into our activities for 2012, in spite of the rain and snow, I would ask that each of you consider supporting the many activities that your Flotilla 19 Staff Officers have planned 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 Gary Cordrey or VFC Michael DeAnnuntis if you would like to participate in any of these events or if you have any comments or questions about them. Thank you for your support.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Point Of Contact</b>
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 <sup>th</sup> 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

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](http://www.tinyurl.com/d13-f19-news)

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