



THE MORNING STAR

# MORNING STAR NEWS

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 63, Tillamook Bay

March 2013



## Flotilla 63 - News From Tillamook Bay

### From the Helm

Bob Hickman, FC Flotilla 63

I am very proud of our Flotilla and other member of the Division who have assisted Station Tillamook Bay personnel with watch standing at the Garibaldi Marina this year. Winter storms severely damaged the boat house and repairs required moving the two 47' MLB and the 25' safe boat to moorage at the Garibaldi Harbor. As this is a public moorage, it was necessary to provide security to the boats. Station personnel were managing the watches until they were struck with the flu. Since the call for assistance was made at the end of January, Auxiliarists from Flotilla 62, 63, 65, 66, and 67 have stood 318 hours of watch. Watches were from 1600-2000, 2000-2400, 2400-0400, and 0400-0800 each day. The good news is that repairs to the boat house are completed to the extent that the boats will be moved back March 31.

Flotilla 63 watch standers were Gordon Southwick, Ray & Kay Neubig, Mike Johnson, Anya Doll, Cammy Hickman and I. I'd like to specially thank John Lester, Dennis Hein and Lee LaFollette, Flotilla 62, for manning the watches over Valentine's Day weekend. For many of the Coasties, this was their first weekend off since November. George Long, Flotilla 65, stopped in Garibaldi on his way home from meetings at Sector to stand the 1600-2000 watch. Dan Cary and Ron Hillburger, Flotilla 62, each took a watch. Don Sandercock, Flotilla 66 of McMinnville stood 2 separate watches. Honorable Mention goes to Dick

Stolte, Flotilla 62 and Bill Browne, Flotilla 63. These members offered their time but were not able to follow through. Paul Ploeger, Flotilla 67, volunteered to drive all the way from Bend for a 4 hour shift. The offer was sincerely appreciated, but that was too much travel time for the length of the watch.

Our efforts did not go unnoticed having saved the US Coast Guard over \$20,000.00. During the Division meeting at Sector this month, all the members who assisted in this effort were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for augmenting CG Station Tillamook Bay personnel signed by Captain Leonard R. Tumbarello of Sector Columbia River.

Well Done!

Bob Hickman, Flotilla Commander

#### 2012 Officers

Flotilla Commander - Bob Hickman  
Vice Flotilla Commander - Ray Neubig  
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander - Dennis Jacob  
Finance & Materials - Terri Southwick  
Communications - Bill Yaremchuk  
Operations - Ray Neubig  
Public Education & Computer Services - Mike Davis  
Secretary, Public Affairs - Cammy Hickman  
Publications - Anya Doll  
Information Services - Kay Neubig  
Human Resources & Marine Science - Mike Johnson  
Vessel Examiner - Dennis Jacob

MSN Edited by Anya Doll, FSO-PB. (Unless otherwise noted, all photos were taken by Anya Doll)

## Awards & Recognition

By Anya Doll

Again, Flotilla 63 has much to feel good about in our members; and again, some of our members have shined to the point of recognition by the Auxiliary. Cammy Hickman received a Service Award with bronze star for 2250 hours (though we all suspect she's worked far more). Cammy's commitment and competence in service is a tremendous asset to the Flotilla. Dennis Jacob received a Recreational Boating and Safety Award; also, a letter recognizing his outstanding duty in support of RBS was included and copied to his permanent record. Bob Hickman, five months after taking on the task of Flotilla Commander, received "total confirmation" of his position.

In addition to Flotilla recognition, Dennis Jacob made a presentation to Gordon Southwick (who wasn't present) and Bob Hickman on behalf of the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River. Both men were unable to attend the Division 6 meeting and so were absent when Chief Bill Gibbons gave out recognition certificates and thanked everyone who has helped out with standing watch on the 47' MLBs. (More about this in a later article)



*Dennis Jacob listens as Bob reads from the letter of recognition that will go in Dennis' permanent record with the USCGAUX*



*Bob receives his confirmation as Flotilla Commander*



*Bob Hickman, FC received recognition from the USCG for outstanding service assistance standing watch of the 47' MLBs*



*Cammy Hickman receiving a well-deserved recognition for 2250 hours of service from FC (and husband) Bob Hickman*

## Division 6 Meeting

By Anya Doll

The weekend provided opportunities to rise to challenges. March 15-17<sup>th</sup> Auxiliarists gathered at Sector for a weekend of work and camaraderie. The Friday evening social was a pleasant start to the schedule. Saturday it was time to dig in to training and information sessions.

Randy Henry from the State Marine Board gave an in-depth presentation that included information from an extensive study by the SMB on changes in boating in Oregon. Randy started by recognizing that boating is dynamic and is being redefined in Oregon. Most significantly, there is a sharp rise in non-motorized boats while at the same time registered motorized boats are increasing in size. Boat use is also on the increase. He noted that, with these changes, one might conclude that fatalities would increase sharply, however fatalities have remained relatively flat, owing perhaps to new requirements for education. Still, Randy noted, it will be important for all of us to discuss education and safety in light of the changes on the water. It was a good afternoon to then take part in a TCT (Team Coordination Training) with the help of \_\_\_\_\_.

Saturday evening was again a light social time at dinner with special guest Bill Gibbons and his wife Liza. After the delicious meal, Bill stood and told the story of the Garibaldi boat house and expressed deep appreciation for the assistance received from Division 6 and from the Flotillas. He noted the tremendous task of coordinating members' availability and the Station's needs. As Dennis Jacob later would note, "there was almost a silent awe," when Bill mentioned Bob Hickman's name. For we all knew the hours and effort he has devoted to the effort coordination and standing watch himself. Then Chief Gibbons handed out certificates of appreciation from CG Sector Columbia River to those who have stood watch.

The District meeting concluded with an Officer's meeting Sunday morning that was said to have finished early, having attended to all business. Of note, the budget was passed with little challenge. Also discussed was the way in which Flotilla Commander reporting is done. It is most important

that it represents the significant efforts of the Flotilla in an efficient and effective manner as the reports are passed up through the chain of command.



*Randy Henry of OMB explains changing patterns in boating*



*D/DC Dennis Jacob conducts business after Saturday's speakers*



*USCG Chief Bill Gibbons expresses gratitude on behalf of the Coast Guard, explaining that Auxiliary assistance standing watch at Garibaldi Marina has saved the Coast Guard over \$20,000.*



*After dinner Saturday evening, Chief Bill Gibbons presents certificates of appreciation to Auxiliarists who have stood assisted with the watch*

the MLB watch, at the meeting and that, not only did they come to help with watches but they also brought news of free ODU's being disseminated to whomever might want or need them. The Uniforms are changing to an untucked version but the tucked version will still be acceptable as regulation, so all the tucked version pants and shirts in storage need to be emptied from the warehouse. Bob and Cammy offered to pick up specific sizes for any Auxiliarists.

Officer reports were relatively routine as no unusual activity was reported:

FC- issued a reminder to get reports in and remember the chain of leadership for any issues that may arise.

HR – Mike Johnson reported 2012 saw the addition of two new members and Anni is readying to take her test as well

PE - Mike Davis reported that no schools have contacted to request classes. Cammy offered to re-send PR to *Headlight Herald* and local radio

CS – Mike Davis and Suzy Nelson will be discussing Suzy taking this over or perhaps sharing this position

All other officers' reports were deferred to the monthly meeting two days following.

## Annual Pizza Party!

*By Anya Doll*

**F**lotilla 63's annual Pizza Party for Coast Guard personnel and their families was held Sunday, February 17, 2013, at 1300 hrs. at the Barview Jetty Store. Flotilla 63 paid for the pizza and donations were accepted from members to help defer costs. Store owners, Marilyn & Rick closed the store for our private party and provided an abundance and variety of fabulous pizza and beverages.

## Flotilla 63 Officers Meeting

*By Anya Doll*

**T**he annual Flotilla Staff Officers meeting was 12:30 pm, just prior to the Coasties Pizza Party at Barview Jetty Store. The big discussion of course at that time was about the watch standing at Garibaldi Marina. Bob Hickman thanked those who'd been able to help with the watches.

We also learned about the "Three Musketeers," the three Flotilla 62 members who'd come to help with

Always a great opportunity for Coasties and their families and Auxiliarists to mix and mingle while also enjoying great food, this year's pizza party was well attended. We also enjoyed the company of "The Three Musketeers," from Flotilla 62. "Musketeers," Lee LaFollette, John Lester and Dennis Hein had travelled south in a motorhome and spend much of the weekend standing watch on the 47' MLBs moored the Garibaldi Marina. The men took all watches for the weekend and so we were glad they could join us for some socializing over pizza!



*It was a full house again for the Pizza Party at the Barview Jetty Store!*

## Assist in Redmond

*By Cammy Hickman*

A lot of work is required to start a new Flotilla. It is a challenge to recruit members even while fulfilling the roles and duties of an active flotilla. So, when the opportunity to provide public education at the Central Oregon Sportsman Show, Flotilla 67 was committed for reasons of duty as much as visibility in the community in hopes of increasing membership. At present the flotilla has enough members to meet requirements but that is a small number considering the vast region and number of lakes and rivers they cover, let alone the person-hours required at the Sportsman's Show!

Heeding the call to assist, Flotilla 63 members Bob & Cammy Hickman, Ray & Kay Neubig, Dennis & Kathy Jacob travelled to Redmond, Oregon to boost the numbers available for the Flotilla 67 booth at the Central Oregon Sportsman Show, March 7 – 10.

Flotilla 67 had a table and display at the show, held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds. Bob & Cammy helped Roger Allen and Ames Hendrickson with set-up on Wednesday. Bob & Cammy worked the display with Roger Allen on Thursday and Friday. Ray and Kay worked with Roger on Friday afternoon and Dennis held down the fort for the majority of Saturday. Dan Shipman, Office of Recreational Boating Safety, 13 Coast Guard District was also on hand to respond to questions. Visitors were particularly interested in the inflatable life jackets on display.

Reports from Flotilla 67 indicate they made at least two good contacts for new members, a number of requests for Vessel Exams and most importantly, let the community know the US Coast Guard Auxiliary now has a presence in Central Oregon.



*Setting up for Sportsman's Show, pictured from FL 67 are Roger Allen, FSO-FN; Ames Hendrickson, VFC; and Bob Hickman FL 63 FC  
(Photo by Cammy Hickman)*

## Back in business!

By Mike Johnson

Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> the weather and bay conditions were perfect for the operations at hand. Three Flotilla 63 members underwent the triennial Qualification Exam (QE) for both Coxswain and Crew.

Kay Neubig and Mike Davis underwent the QE for Coxswain and Mike Johnson went for Crew. All successfully passed for their specific positions. Tillamook Bay Station's BM1 Lavelle served as Qualifications Examiner for this session while several station personnel assisted.

The Exam included performing tasks as well as a stern and alongside tow evolution and man overboard (MOB) drill. Thanks to all who assisted; BM1 Lavelle and six personnel from Motor Lifeboat station Tillamook Bay, and Auxiliarists on board Ray Neubig, Vanessa Stone, Bob Hickman and Cammy Hickman!



Show time! (Photo by Cammy Hickman)



Ray and Kay Neubig on the job (photo by Cammy Hickman)



Bob Hickman, Ray & Kay Neubig, Roger Allen, and Dan Shipman



Mike Davis suits up in his Mustang for QE ops.

## At Long Last!

After searches and discussion (and searching some more) in an effort to find a stand for our projection screen, it was decided to give in and simply buy an entirely new screen with stand. The newest piece of equipment for Flotilla 63 was debuted at the March meeting, pictured below in use for member training conducted by Cammy Hickman.



*Putting the new projection screen (and stand!) to use, Cammy Hickman conducted member training at the March Flotilla meeting.*

## Coming Events & Activities

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Flotilla 63 events and activities.

- **Tillamook County Children's Clean Water Festival** – April 2<sup>nd</sup> set-up starts at 0730 hours with children arriving at 0830 hours at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp. Dennis & Kathy Jacob will have a booth, all are invited to help if you'd like.
- **Astoria Mass-casualty Drill** – April 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Flotilla 63 Meeting** – April 16<sup>th</sup> – 1900 hours at the Upper Station.
- **National Safe Boating Week** – May 19 – 25<sup>th</sup> – Display at Tillamook Library throughout the month of May. Possible safety class and relay at a local school (TBA).

## For Our Amusement:

Once upon a time there was a famous sea captain. This captain was very successful at what he did. For years he guided merchant ships all over the world.

Never did stormy seas or pirates get the best of him. He was admired by his crew and fellow captains. However, there was one thing different about this captain. Every morning he went through a strange ritual. He would lock himself in his captain's quarters and open a small safe.

In the safe was an envelope with a piece of paper inside. He would stare at the paper for a minute, then lock it back up. After, he would go about his duties.

For years this went on, and his crew became very curious. Was it a treasure map? Was it a letter from a long lost love? Everyone speculated about the contents of the strange envelope.

One day the captain died at sea. After laying the captain's body to rest, the first mate led the entire crew into the captain's quarters. He opened the safe, got the envelope, opened it and... The first mate turned pale and showed the paper to the others. Four words were on the paper, two on two lines:

Port Left,  
Starboard Right

*From Funnydb.com*

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