



MORNING STAR NEWS

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

November 2012



Flotilla 63 - News From Tillamook Bay

From the Helm

Bob Hickman, FC Flotilla 63

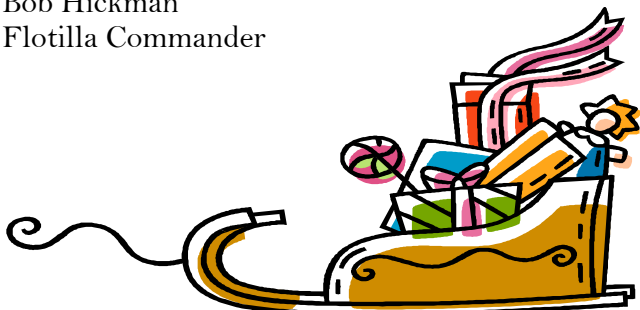
A hoy Shipmates!

The holiday season is upon us. Our Santa Party for the Coasties and their families is Saturday, December 15 at the Upper Station Mess Deck and our Flotilla Christmas Dinner will be on Sunday, December 16 at the Garibaldi Museum. Details of events and activities will be emailed to members – so watch your ‘in box’ in the coming weeks.

Now is the time of the year to be aware of hazardous weather conditions and potential flooding. I have sent each of you a copy of our Emergency Response Plan and will have hard copies available at our next meeting. This plan has been approved by the Coast Guard so please review it so we can be prepared in the event we are called out. If you are qualified to respond you should have your ‘go kit’ ready for a 3-5 day deployment.

I wish you all a happy and safe Holiday. Our next meeting will be January 15, 2013.

Bob Hickman
Flotilla Commander



Awards & Recognition

By Anya Doll & Mike Johnson

At the November meeting, Charles Carlson was awarded the 15 year service award and Jim Seibt received the 10 year service award. Both were not present to accept their awards. Dennis Jacob *was* present however, and he received a certificate of completion of the Flotilla Leadership Course, a well-deserved award if ironic as you will read later that Dennis was just elected Division 6 Commander. We chuckled about the timing of the award but in truth the course was completed almost a year and a half ago and Flotilla 63 has benefitted from Dennis’ terrific leadership since then as Flotilla Commander until he accepted the interim DC position this fall.

Also, deserving of note, Sam Pyne and Bill Browne are not only card-carrying but also name-tag wearing members of Flotilla 63! We all look forward to working with these outstanding gentlemen! Welcome Aboard!

2012 Officers

Flotilla Commander – Bob Hickman
Vice Flotilla Commander – Ray Neubig
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 – Mike Johnson
Vessel Examiner, Member Training & Marine Safety – Dennis Jacob

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



Dennis Jacob noting his Leadership course was actually August 2011

Division 6 Meeting

By Mike Johnson

On Saturday, October 13th, Flotilla 63 hosted the Division 6 Auxiliary meeting at the Garibaldi City Hall. Before the official start of the division meeting, guests were treated to donuts, coffee and a visual display of Flotilla 63's photographic year in review and a sample of the *Morning Star News* all prominently displayed on our new display board assembly. Dennis Jacob was officially elected to the office of DCDR. Congratulations Dennis; it's nice to have you at the Division Helm! Along with Flotilla 63's Kay Neubig as VCDR, I'd say we are in good hands!

The message to all by Dennis is "Sweetness in 2013." This message was embodied in a physical metaphor...that being a jar of fresh honey for all that attended. "Homemade," straight from Dennis's wild flower bee farm! A little sweetness goes a long way! Flotilla Commander Reports were given. The common theme of Flotilla Commanders reporting mission activities was active goal setting, and the importance of accounting and sharing results of those stated goals. Good work ship mates!

Special guests attending the meeting were Dean Wimer, Commodore (elect) District 13, and Daren Lewis, IPDCR.

Thanks to all who attended!

Memorial Blood Drive

By Anya Doll

The Memorial Blood Drive was successful in multiple ways. Organized by Seaman Erin Pfuntner in honor of her brother Nicolis Pfuntner who, after several years, succumbed to complications related to cancer. Erin and her family are committed to memorializing Nicolis each year through blood drives in recognition of the gift of years he was given through numerous transfusions. On November 16th, at the Coast Guard Lower Station, thirty six people donated blood in honor of Nicolis and his family and to support the good work of the American Red Cross.

Coming just two weeks after one of the most devastating storms on the upper East Coast, the Red Cross has been on our minds as we watch and hear of the work that needs to be done and the support that is needed. One donor noted this, as she sat waiting with Bob and Cammy Hickman who lent their support by registering donors and visiting to make the wait more pleasant. They also served the important role of communicating with the Red Cross personnel on the bus to make sure donors flowed efficiently onto the bus for their interviews and eventual donation. The system really worked well, with one more volunteer Auxiliarist (myself) stationed on the bus to help with post-donation snacks and another set of eyes to be sure donors were feeling replenished and strong before leaving the bus.

The mood for the day was jovial. Whether that's an appropriate word for a blood drive or not, with the rain pouring outside, the depth of gratitude that was the current running through the drive seemed to carry spirits. On the bus, even as they prepped the first donors, the Red Cross phlebotomists told jokes and shared stories. As the day flowed on, 36

donors (split about 50/50 between CG and the public) donors too seemed at ease with the mood, even contributing lighthearted stories themselves. Representing the Auxiliary also helped the public see the kind of support we like to lend to the Coast Guard, resulting also in one donor visiting the Auxiliary meeting the very next week with an interest in joining!

It was a time of community; from the small, private community of Erin and Nicolis' family; growing larger to the sharing between Seamen and Auxiliary and the public; and then to include offering something very personal and very practical with fellow humans in need.



The day ran smoothly thanks to the teamwork all around. Bob and Cammy Hickman greeted & registered donors.



Coast Guard donor, Zach Johnson replenishes in the bus "canteen" (photo by Cammy Hickman)



Several times during the day, Red Cross phlebotomists, Mary and Robert have their tables full of brave Coast Guard donors

New Coast Guard Liaison

By Anya Doll

At the November 22nd meeting, Flotilla 63 was introduced to its new Coast Guard Liaison, Kate Sheehan. It was a brief introduction, though some of us were able to chat with her during break; so I asked Kate if she would write up a background piece for our newsletter. By her response, we are very fortunate to work with her for the coming year. Here is a bit about BM3 Kate Sheehan in her own words:

"I was born in Bangor, ME in 1987 and moved to Texas a few months later. Our family relocated to Alaska the summer of 1995. I spent most of my youth in Eagle River, AK until I moved to Sandy, OR with my husband and 6 month old daughter in 2008. I enlisted in the Coast Guard that December with the intentions of going MST, however I fell in love the second I stepped foot on our 47' MLB in Neah Bay, WA! Immediately my mind was changed and I left for BM 'A' school in November 2009. I transferred to Station Morro Bay, CA as a BM3 at the beginning of 2010. Just over a year later, I accepted a mutual transfer to Station Tillamook Bay, OR and reported in July 2011. Since, I have attained various qualifications such as watch stander, boat crewman, boarding officer, 47 engineer and I am currently working on 47 coxswain. I am also the station's Suicide Intervention Petty Officer, the Victim Advocate, Morale Petty Officer and Navigations Petty Officer. I am excited to be the new Auxiliary liaison and look forward to working with a lot of great people!"



USCG Liaison to USCG Auxiliary, Flotilla 63, BM3 Kate Sheehan
(Photo submitted by Kate Sheehan)

By-The-Way

By Anya Doll

After the November Flotilla 63 meeting, we were stopped by a flagger along OR Hwy 6 as two power poles were installed, replacing two snapped by the previous night's winds. We chatted with the flagger as we waited and he told us about anticipating work as he had watched the storm coverage; then he chuckled as he remembered a tweet that'd been broadcast mid-story. Someone had tweeted to the effect, "On the East Coast, it's called a hurricane, out here we call it 'November.'" As we drove on later, we remembered this and also Dennis Jacob's report at the meeting that the marine debris from the Japan tsunami is expected to move considerably in-shore this winter. In-fact, he reported, with this recent storm, it has already begun doing so. So I did a bit of research to pass along a very user-friendly page you may want to share as "November" turns to "Winter."

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/tsunamidebris/faqs.html>

Coming Events & Activities

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

- **Change of Watch** – December 8th at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City, Tutuni Room at 1100 hours.
- **Santa Party** – December 15th at 1300 hours at the Upper Station. Auxiliary members asked to arrive at 0900 to help set up and wrap gifts. Cammy Hickman, FSO-PI has sent out letters so members can request donated gift certificates for local restaurants. Please get any certificates you receive to Cammy by December 14th. Also, Auxiliary members are asked to bring chips or a salad and a desert to the party.
- **Flotilla 63 Holiday Party** – December 16th, Happy Hour at 1700 hours; dinner at 1800 hours. We will be celebrating at the Garibaldi Maritime Museum once again.
- **Flotilla 63 meeting** – January 15, 1900 hours, Upper Station

For Our Amusement:

A sailor ran aground on a sandbar. A passing fisherman offered to tow the sailor's boat off the bar for fifty dollars and the sailor agreed.

After he was safely off the bar, the sailor joked that at \$50 a pop, the fisherman could make a nice living pulling people off the sandbar day and night!

"Can't at night," replied the fisherman, "at night I haul sand."

From AVYC's Jokes.com

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