

WATERWAYS 78



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New Flotilla Leadership for 2012



VANCOUVER, Washington—Hall Guttormsen is sworn in as the new Flotilla Commander for 130-07-08 as George Sipes, the outgoing Flotilla Commander stands watch, December 15, 2011. (Photo by John Hilbrands, FSO-PA)

Flotilla 78 held its *Change of Watch* ceremony at the regular auxiliary meeting on December 15, 2011. The new flotilla commander and vice flotilla commander will take the helm in 2012. The flotilla welcomes Hall C. Guttormsen as the new Flotilla Commander and Gay Sipes as the new Vice Flotilla Commander. A few changes in flotilla staff officers have been made for 2012 as well. These roles can be found on page 8 of this edition of *Waterways 78*.

Thank you to George Sipes, who served as Flotilla Commander over

the past two years and all of those members who have helped us continue to actively educate the public on the importance of recreational boater safety. Without all of you, we would not be successful in getting the Coast Guard's message out. Education saves lives and your continued involvement is an essential part of the Coast Guard family.



VANCOUVER, Washington—flotilla staff officers receive Certificates of Appreciation for their service with Flotilla 78 at December 15, 2011, flotilla meeting. (Photo by John Hilbrands, FSO-PA)

Check the Activities and Events Calendar for important dates



From the Commander



The flotilla *Change of Watch* took place on 15 December 2011. The time was also used to conduct regular meeting business so all could see what is accomplished during regular meetings. The District Captain South, swore in the newly elected Commander and Vice Commander for Flotilla 78. New flotilla staff officers were sworn in by Vice Commander, Gay Sipes, and member training was provided.

The Change of Watch included a potluck. Flotilla 78 supplied the barbecue main course. (Barbecue sauce goes well with the tropical blue uniform!) The relaxed atmosphere allowed time to mingle and enjoy the company of others. I enjoyed the time and although nervous to take over the helm, I am looking forward to the opportunity. The auxiliary has a wonderful group of people, with a sincere desire to help and that makes it a very rewarding association.

I would like Gay Sipes, Vice Commander, to administer the staff in a manner she feels comfortable. We will be setting goals for each staff section. I will attend the staff meetings to observe what the staff has accomplished during each month and hear plans for the upcoming month.

Two public affairs events are on the horizon. This includes the annual Boat Show and the Sportsman Show. There are also two About Boating Safely classes lined up for 14 January and 25 January.

Christmas break brought member training about for those interested in becoming instructors and vessel examiners. The annual Christmas Ships festivities brought forth flotilla patrol efforts on the Columbia River as well as the Willamette River. The weather was cool and foggy but we were proud to take part in this special event. Even with the cooler weather, activities continue. Dana Bergdahl, the publications officer, will continue to highlight activities through the newsletter, and get information to members about what the flotilla is doing.

A time for planning and preparation for the year ahead is at hand. I know the staff will have goals ready soon to accomplish in 2012.

Respectfully yours,

Hall C. Guttormsen
Flotilla Commander



Awards and Recognition

Certificate of Appreciation

Hall C. Guttormsen, VFC
Warren Cook, FSO-CM
John E. Mackey Jr., FSO-CS
Lance R. Harmon, FSO-FN
Gay Sipes, FSO-HR
Donald G. Lewallen, FSO-MA
John F. Hilbrands, FSO-PA
Dana M. Bergdahl, FSO-PB
Joann P. McCollum, FSO-PE
Elizabeth W. Allen, FSO-PV
Todd J. Miller, FSO-MS
Karl Johnston, FSO-MT
Robert E. Wilkinson, FSO-OP
Barry Owens, FSO-SR, FSO-IS
Joel Hernandez
Eric A. Stokes, Jr.
Eric A. Stokes, Sr.

5 Year Member Service Award with Ribbon and Medal

Bruce E. Garnett

You're #1 Trophy

Daren Lewis, DCDR
Brad Schuldt, VCDR



Around the District: *Christmas Ships*

By Dana Bergdahl, FSO-PB



PORTLAND, Oregon—Christmas boats light up the water under the Columbia Bridge. (Photo by JoAnn McCollum)

Lighted Christmas boats are an annual tradition for many areas around the Pacific Northwest. One can find lighted holiday boats in cities such as Seattle and Portland, and some of the smaller towns like Bandon, Oregon or LaConner, Washington.

Christmas boats call for night patrols that rely heavily on the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Night patrols are quite different from patrols that take place in the daylight hours. Auxiliarists depend heavily on electronics at night. Situational aware-

ness is at a higher level due to poor visibility. Aids to navigation are critical in the evening as well. During these holiday events, patrols must be aware of what is going on around them at all times. This not only includes the lighted Christmas boats, but all other vessel activity in the water, such as tugs with tows, bulk carriers, observation vessels and more. In addition to all of this activity, radio traffic must also be constantly monitored.

Part of the annual festivities that take place during the holidays in the Portland/Vancouver area include the *Christmas Ships* events. This year, Flotilla 78 was involved in patrol orders on the Columbia River near St. Helens on December 10, 2011; the Willamette River near Lake Oswego on December 17, 2011; and the Willamette River at the St. Johns Bridge on December 18, 2011.

Daylight hours allow more visibility to see obstacles that might disrupt an event. At night, it is much more difficult to see debris, logs and other obstructions in the water. Patrols on December 10th experienced icy docks and boat ramps as well as black ice on the roads returning home. It is easy to see how night patrols can be very complex and sometimes dangerous.

A token of gratitude goes out to all of those auxiliarists around the district who helped keep the holidays safe and enjoyable for all to enjoy during the various Christmas boat activities.



PORTLAND, Oregon—Santa and reindeer catch a ride on a Christmas boat during the December, 2011, Christmas ships event. (Photo by JoAnn McCollum)



ST. HELENS, Oregon—Lighted boats parked at the dock during patrol at the holiday Christmas Ships festivities. (Photo by JoAnn McCollum)



PORTLAND, Oregon—Christmas ships cruise by Vigor Industrial Shipyard on Swan Island in December, 2011. (Photo by JoAnn McCollum)



PORTLAND, Oregon - Rear Adm. Keith Taylor, the Coast Guard 13th District Commander and DCAPT, Daren Lewis presents Hall Guttormsen, FC 7-8 with the Marine Dealer Visitor Program Award at the Auxiliary Division 7 Change of Watch on January 7, 2012. This award is presented to the flotilla with the most recorded MDVP for the previous year. (photo by Auxiliarist Jonathan James)



PORTLAND, Oregon - CDR Kent Chappelka, Director of Auxiliary for district 13, seated at the head table for the Division 7 Change of Watch. (photo by Auxiliarist Jonathan James)



Portland, OR - CDR Micheal Zamperini, Executive Officer of Marine Safety Unit Portland, addresses the members at the Division 7 Change of Watch held at MSU Portland. (Photo by Auxiliarist Jonathan James)



Activities and Events Calendar

January 3	Flotilla Staff Meeting (Peachtree Restaurant, Hazel Dell)	1830
January 7	Division 7 Change of Watch (MSU, Portland)	1400
January 11-15	Portland Boat Show	
January 14	Division Training—Surface Operations Fueling/P6 Pump (Station Portland Pier)	0830
January 17	Crew/Coxswain Academy (MSU Portland)	1900
January 19	Flotilla 78 Meeting (WA Fish & Wildlife Bldg., Vancouver)	1930
January 21	Fellowship Breakfast (Hometown Buffet, Vancouver)	0800
January 24	Crew/Coxswain Academy (MSU Portland)	1900
January 28	About Boating Safely Class (4700 NE 78th St, Bldg. B-1, Vancouver)	0830
February 1	Fellowship Breakfast (Vancouver Plaza I-Hop)	0800
February 1	Division 7 Meeting (MSU Portland)	1900
February 7	Flotilla Staff Meeting (Peachtree Restaurant, Hazel Dell)	1830
February 7	Crew/Coxswain Academy (MSU Portland)	1900
February 16	Flotilla 78 Meeting (WA Fish & Wildlife Bldg., Vancouver)	1930



Semper Paratus

2012 OFFICERS

FC	Hall C. Guttormsen	FSO-MT	JoAnn P. McCollum
VFC	Gay Sipes	FSO-NS	Wayne A. Monroe
IPFC	George Sipes	FSO-OP	Robert E. Wilkinson
FSO-CM	Warren Cook	FSO-PA	John F. Hilbrands
FSO-CS	John E. Mackey, Jr.	FSO-PB	Dana M. Bergdahl
FSO-HR	Karen Harmon	FSO-PE	Karl Johnston
FSO-FN	Lance Harmon	FSO-PV	Elizabeth W. Allen
FSO-IS	Barry Owens	FSO-SR	Barry Owens
FSO-MA	Donald G. Lewallen	FSO-VE	Tammy Longpre
FSO-MS	Todd Miller		



Over the past several weeks there has been a lot of buzz about the new series *Coast Guard Alaska*. If you have not had the opportunity to tune in to the show on the

Weather Channel, it is well worth your time. New episodes begin this month continuing the stories of Coast Guard personnel and their families as they face challenges in Alaska's cold and rugged environment.

It is refreshing to see a series dedicated to the men and women of the Coast Guard family. To learn more about the show, schedule, training and the Coast Guard team involved in the series, visit the website at <http://www.weather.com/tv/tvshows/coast-guard-alaska>.

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