

“The Fun One”

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3 MARCH 2013



**Flotilla 33-1
40 & 8 Club
3113 S. 70 St.
Omaha, Nebraska**

FLOTILLA 33-1 OFFICERS

Flotilla Commander (FC) - Jim Westcott
Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) -
Ralph Tomlinson
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) -
Barclay Stebbins
Secretary (FSO-SR) - Barb Westcott
Treasurer (FSO-FN) - George McNary
Communications (FSO-CM) - Jim Westcott
Communication Services (FSO-CS) -
Barb Westcott
Information Services (FSO-IS) -
Barclay Stebbins
Materials (FSO-MA) - Sharon Peterson
Marine Safety (FSO-MS) - Tom Spieker
Aids to Navigation (FSO-NS) - Pete Peterson
Member Training (FSO-MT) - Ralph Tomlinson
Operations (FSO-OP) - Warren Koehler
Public Affairs (FSO-PA) - Barb Westcott
Publications (FSO-PB) - Barb Westcott
Public Education (FSO-PE) - Richard Goble
Personnel Services (FSO-HR) - George McNary
Program Visitor (FSO-PV) - Suzanne Tomlinson
Vessel Examiner (FSO-VE) - Suzanne Tomlinson

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Published by and for members
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Guard Auxiliary 8th Western
Rivers Region. Opinions
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U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Coast
Guard Auxiliary.

**On Facebook we are found at:
USCGAUX Flotilla 85-33-01**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

15-16 Mar	Spring DTrain - Denver
18 Mar	Flotilla 1 Meeting
6 Apr	Boating Safety Class
15 Apr	Flotilla 1 Meeting
20 Apr	Division Meeting and Training Mahoney State Park
27 Apr	Safety Expo - Westroads Mall

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Want to see more pictures?
Please remember to check out the website at:
[http://wow.uscgauaux.info/WOW_signin.php?](http://wow.uscgauaux.info/WOW_signin.php?unit=)
unit=



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FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



MARCH 2013

I am sure that you all have read the information about the budget problems our elected representatives have imposed on our government. While only time will tell exactly what restraints the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary will have forthcoming, it is something we will have to deal with. In the meantime Flotilla 1 will do what it does best, improvise / adapt / overcome.

In a cost savings measure, a group of hearty souls gathered together to take down the communications tower located at the Dodge Park Marina. With the assistance of a crew (and crane) from the City of Omaha, and under the able-bodied and watchful eye of Roland Newton, the tower came slowly down, as planned. Following the disassembly, the tower sections, antennas and transmission lines were loaded onto a trailer and transported to the USCG facility at the Omaha Moorings for storage. Again, in our current economic climate only time will tell, if /when/where the communications facility will be located. Let us hope for the best as it is a fantastic asset to have in our area. If you want to get an idea of the project, sign on to our website and take a look at the photographs taken to document the "adventure!" The City employees are the ones without the hardhats!

Jim Westcott FC
8WR 085-33-01



Photo by Jim Westcott

This is information that was received from:

**Commodore Sigrud E. Murphy
Assistant National Commodore
FORCECOM
USCG Auxiliary**

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FORCECOM

In order to understand the function of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Forces Command (FORCECOM), a basic understanding of the Auxiliary structure is needed. There are four units comprising the Auxiliary – Flotillas, Divisions, Districts and National.

National is comprised of elected and appointed leaders and staff. Together they are responsible under the governing policies established by the Commandant of the Coast Guard for the administration and policy making for the entire Auxiliary. To facilitate administration for the Auxiliary, the National Staff is organized into seven functional entities, each with one or more assigned Directorates. The National Commodore (NACO) assigns an Assistant National Commodore (ANACO) for each of the seven functional entities. The ANACO for each functional entity plans, organizes and coordinates all activities within their program area to ensure that the policies established by the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary National Board, and the NACO are effectively implemented. In addition the ANACO keeps the NACO, Vice National Commodore (VNACO), each Deputy National Commodore (DNACO), National Executive Committee (NEXCOM), and the Chief Director (CHIDIRAUX) informed of Directorate matters.

FORCECOM is one of the seven designated entities and has three assigned Directorates: A (Public Affairs) Directorate, H (Human Resources) Directorate, and T (Training) Directorate. Each directorate is led by a director and deputy director and is further functionally divided into divisions and divisions have a division chief (DVC), and usually branch chiefs (BC), and assistant branch chiefs (BA).

The FORCECOM mission is to enhance the readiness of all Auxiliary members by using training and support based on standardized doctrine to ultimately position the Auxiliary to execute, with excellence, every mission assigned by the Coast Guard. This is achieved by the three Directorates adhering to the NACO's Vision:

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary – the best trained most valued maritime volunteer organization in the world – highly effective during normal operations and ready for emergencies.



Continued on the next page

The missions of the three Directorates comprising FORCECOM are:

A Directorate: The mission of Auxiliary Public Affairs is to train, standardize, and assess the Auxiliary public affairs enterprise by coordinating formal public affairs training, advanced education, member management, program evaluation, enterprise standardization, and public affairs awards for interested Auxiliary members.

H Directorate: The mission of Auxiliary Human Resources (HR) is to train Auxiliary leaders, HR staff and every member at all unit levels to enhance recruiting and retention of Auxiliary members, to provide resources for the same through information, guidance, management tools, program evaluations, and standardization. The H Directorate divisions include AUXCHEF, AUX Health Services, Uniform, Recruiting and Retention.

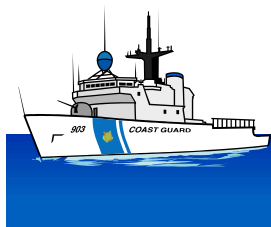
T Directorate: The mission of the Training Directorate is to analyze, design, develop, implement, and evaluate auxiliary training programs to ensure high quality blended learning and training are delivered to support all Auxiliary members in the areas of operations, other activities, leadership and professional development to improve their ability to achieve mission excellence and enhance professional growth in the Auxiliary.

To learn more about each FORCECOM Directorate, visit the Directorate site on the Auxiliary national web page at www.cgaux.org/.

To learn more about the Auxiliary national leadership and staff, read the Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 G, found on the Chief Director's home page.

To learn about the Auxiliary plans for the future, review *The Auxiliary Strategic Plan – 2013-2017* found on the "Leadership" page.

This article was written by Commodore Sig Murphy, ANACO-FC, who would like to thank each of the three accomplished Directors he works with and their staff for their commitment to excellence and the work they do for the Auxiliary.



THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS FROM THE (8wr) MARCH WESTERN EXPRESS

KAYAKS AND PADDLE BOARDERS DESERVE A VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)



I think we can safely say that the number of people involved in some type of paddle sport is rising. Paddle boaters are now the fastest growing segment in the boating community. Growth in the sport exceeds 270% within the most recent decade. In 2010 a total of 228,000 kayaks were sold and canoes were over 100,000. According to the Outdoor Industry Association 17.8 million Americans participated in kayaking, canoeing and rafting in 2008, with 7.8 million alone paddling kayaks. These paddlers made 174 million outings averaging 10 days per participant. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary reported the number of fatalities with the use of canoes/kayaks increased to 107 in 2007 as compared with 99 in 2006. Of the 107 deaths, 97 were from drowning. More than twice as many people died canoeing (66) as kayakers (31). The peak age for deaths was 50-59 years old and the major cause of death was drowning. The vast majority of victims were not wearing life jackets and many accidents occurred in hazardous waters. The majority of the population rent canoes/kayaks/paddle boards and 72% of people have not completed training in paddling skills. Another disturbing fact is that 74% did not receive safety information from a retailer when a purchase was made.

As a Program Visitor (PV) I encourage you to become a visible source of safety information to retail establishments that sell canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and rental agencies. Literature should include: Vessel Safety Checks # 3000, the right life jacket #3032 and federal requirements for recreational boats. Work with the Public Educational officer to promote the RBSVP safety program. Another source of information is the American Canoe Association which offers a variety of skilled classes on line based on the ability and knowledge of the paddler. Use the 8th Western Rivers web site under the VE/PV section to find paddle craft information. Go to “Job Aid Kits” and search workshops-module 4. Explain that a whistle should be attached to the life jacket and PFD’s should be worn.

Completing a vessel safety check (VSC) for the vessel examiner (VE) is challenging because the traditional locations for finding paddlers is not boat ramps. Paddlers are usually found at parks, beaches, and small bay inlets. In 2012 the 8th Western Rivers District only completed 358 VSCs for paddle craft and the goal for 2013 is 630. Out of 62 flotillas, only 21 or 33% reported VSC counts during 2012. Contacting paddling clubs is an excellent way to promote the VSC program. Explain the requirements and arrange meeting times and dates to complete the VSCs. Usually, this approach will require two or more vessel examiners. The requirements for VSC are: whistle and wearable USCG approved life jacket for each person – not required to wear it. Kayaks, canoes, and paddle boarders are exempt from carrying a type IV PFD. Visual distress signals and lights are required from sunset to sunrise.

The vessel examiner must go the extra distance to complete a VSC for paddlers. The safety needs for the paddler is sometimes greater than power vessels. Their craft are smaller, have lower free board and are affected by weather conditions.

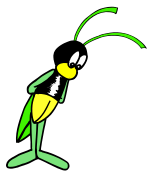
Ed Lieblein DSO-VE/PV

Sources:

The American Association

Outdoor Industry Association

US Coast Guard Auxiliary



BY THE INFORMATION BUG

MARCH Notes

As this section is not just for boating, here is some information from an internet article:

Information for this fact sheet was provided by :

FEMA's ready.gov website

TORNADOES



Inspire others to act by being an example yourself, [Pledge to Prepare](#) & tell others about it!

PLEDGE TO PREPARE

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard. Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.



Continued on the next page

Before a Tornado

To begin preparing, you should **build an emergency kit** and make a **family communications plan**.

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.



Tornado Facts

Quick facts you should know about tornadoes:

- They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average tornado moves Southwest to Northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.
- Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.
- Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer months.
- Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.

Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 pm and 9 pm,

but can occur at any time.

March 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Spring DTrain Denver	16 Spring DTrain Denver
17	18 1930 hrs Flotilla 33-1 Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2013

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

	1	2	3	4	5	6 Boating Safety Class
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 1930 hrs Flotilla 33-1 Meeting	16	17	18	19	20 Division 33 Training and Awards Dinner Mahoney State Park
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Safety Expo Westroads Mall
28	29	30				