

“The Fun One”

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 3, MARCH 2021



**The 2017 Winner of
the 8th Western Rivers Region
"Best Flotilia Newsletter" Award**



**Omaha Ne Flotilla
2500 Bellevue Medical Center Drive
Bellevue, NE 68123
Conference Room D**

FLOTILLA 33-1 OFFICERS

Flotilla Commander (FC) - James Wolfe
 Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) - Barclay Stebbins
 Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) - Jim Westcott
 AUX Scout - Warren Koehler
 Communications (FSO-CM) - Jim Westcott
 Communication Services (FSO-CS) - Barb Westcott
 Diversity (FSO-DV) - Jim Westcott
 Treasurer (FSO-FN) - George McNary
 Human Resources (FSO-HR) - Jim Westcott
 Information Services (FSO-IS) - Barclay Stebbins
 Materials (FSO-MA) - Bernie McNary
 Marine Safety (FSO-MS) - Doug Ives
 Member Training (FSO-MT) - Warren Koehler
 Aids to Navigation (FSO-NS) - Shane Wilson
 Operations (FSO-OP) - Barclay Stebbins
 Public Affairs (FSO-PA) - Jim Westcott
 Publications (FSO-PB) - Barb Westcott
 Public Education (FSO-PE) -
 Program Visitor (FSO-PV) - Cannon Kinchelow
 Secretary (FSO-SR) - Barclay Stebbins
 Vessel Examiner (FSO-VE) - Cannon Kinchelow

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

15 March	Flotilla Meeting via ZOOM
17 March	St. Patrick's Day
4 April	Easter Sunday
17 April	Division 33 Meeting and Awards Dinner
20 April	Flotilla Meeting via ZOOM

**8WR DISTRICT MONTHLY TRAINING
 LOOK AT THE
 DISTRICT CALENDAR ON THE
 WOW WEBSITE TO FIND THE DATES**

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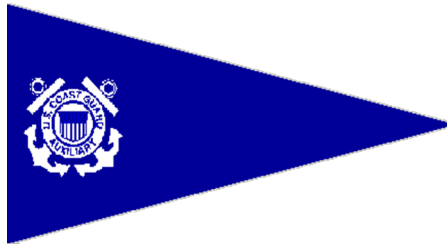
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FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Commander's Notes *March 2021*

The month of February was highly active with all the virtual meetings, phone calls and endless emails that needed to be forwarded to the membership. There were changes to reports, new positions to consider and new assignments that came with the new positions. New ways to train are being explored as well as how to do vessel exams and other activities.

The lock down seems to be easing, along with some of our restrictions. We had our February meeting via ZOOM on February 15th and will continue if needed. This may be a way that we can continue to have our members join the meetings even if that can not be there in person. The National Board had their meeting via YouTube on February 20th. If you missed it, you should look at the YouTube site: [US Coast Guard Auxiliary National Events - YouTube](#).

During this meeting, it was mentioned that we may have a new ODU coming soon. There was some good information on the switchover to AUXDATA II. The National Board is concerned about how Quals were affected in 2020, and how this will affect the next few months.

I am hoping that we have a new logo for the Flotilla soon. One of our members is working on updating our Facebook Page. Another member has started on his Boat Crew training. Several other members are working on their BQ and other courses.

March should be a busy month with decisions on operations, vessel exams, public education, and other programs. We are hoping that we can have boats in the water by April or May.

With COVID-19 still a problem, please check on others and stay safe yourselves.

James O. Wolfe, FC

THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

Barb Westcott, DCDR, SO-PB, FSO-CS/PB

This information was printed in the "Diversity Matters" Newsletter

ALEX HALEY— FIRST CHIEF JOURNALIST

By Talia E. Myres, ADSO-DV, printed with permission.

Although he is best known for "Roots" - a novel about slavery in America, Alex Haley also was a highly decorated Coastie.

In 1939, Haley enlisted for a three-year tour as a Mess Attendant Third Class. At the time, that and Steward's Mate were the only rating open to minorities.

He quickly gained notoriety as a prolific letter writer and was able to turn that skill, ghost-writing letters for shipmates and earning a small fee in return.

Haley soon began publishing articles in the *Coast Guard Magazine* and in a ship's newsletter he started. On June 29, 1949, he changed ratings and was promoted to Journalist, First Class. Later that year, Haley made chief and became the Coast Guard's first Chief Journalist.

Haley continued to write for the Coast Guard and retired in 1959 after 20 years in the service.

To learn more about Haley's career in the Coast Guard, visit <https://bit.ly/36dzidk>.





INFORMATION BUG

The information for this article can be found at:
[District 8WR What's New! \(uscgaux.info\)](http://uscgaux.info)

Marine Safety



Marine Safety falls under the Prevention Directorate of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Marine Safety program is designed to facilitate and encourage Auxiliary support for Coast Guard Sectors in the legacy Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Programs.

All Marine Safety programs open to Auxiliarists are based on the needs of their individual Sector. If a Sector has no need of Auxiliary support in a particular program area, it is not available to Auxiliarists in that area. Unfortunately, with the Covid-19 limitations in place, we are stuck in a situation where there is little or no need for support at this time. I will continue to keep track of what is going on in Sector and reach out to see what the possibilities there are for the future.



With all of that in mind, we can still work on earning the "Marine Safety Training Ribbon". There are particular Marine Safety Training PQS courses that are attainable. Some are also needed to achieve qualification in other Auxiliary certifications. The Marine Safety Training Ribbon is awarded to members in recognition of their completion of all educational requirements for the Auxiliary Marine Safety (Trident) device.

The seven courses that are required and can be taken are: Good Mate, Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, ICS 100, ICS 200, (ICS 210 or 300 these two are classroom courses), IS 700 and IS 800. I would urge anybody who hasn't taken these classes to at least take the Good Mate and as many of these ICS courses as possible.

An area where we can make an impact in our AOR is MEP. The (MEP) Marine Environmental Protection side of the Marine Safety program is an area that is not geographically limited to an active duty Coast Guard presence.

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Trash in our waterways is an ever increasing problem. The amount of plastic, tires, medical waste and other discarded item in our waterways is a job that uses Coast Guard resources. "If it is cheap and no one is watching throw it in the water". That is the mindset of a great many people. Plastic beverage bottles, plastic bags and Styrofoam worm containers are just a few of the hundreds of small and large items that people are just too lazy to dispose of properly.

Now the ugly face of Covid-19 has added the face mask to the mountains of items that are making their way downstream to our oceans. What is the number one thing that we can do about it? What we do best, EDUCATE.

Whether we are at a Coast Guard Base training to do commercial vessel inspections, ATON inspections, MEP patrols or in our AOR cleaning up trash from our local waters, or just teaching people about the impact of pollution and invasive marine species on our waterways, we are doing our part in Marine Safety and Marine Environmental Protection.



ARLINGTON CEMETERY TRIVIA

Thanks to Dan Smith, VFC of 085-33-03

- 1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns?**
- 2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?**
- 3. Why are his gloves wet?**
- 4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?**
- 5. How often are the guards changed?**
- 6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?**

I hope that you are able to answer at least one of these questions. For the answers, see the next page.



Continued on the next page

Trivia Answers

1. 21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one-gun salute which is the highest honor given to any military or foreign dignitary.
2. 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.
3. His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
4. He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the Tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
5. Guards are changed every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
6. For a person to apply for guard duty at the Tomb, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the Tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the Tomb in any way.

After 2 years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on the lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoes in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first 6 months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone or watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interned.

Among the notables are : President Taft, Joe Lewis (the boxer) and Medal of Honor winner Audie L Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame.

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Every Guard spends 5 hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment.

They respectfully declined the offer, "No way Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelt-ing rain of a tropical storm, they said that the guarding of the Tomb was not just an assign-ment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The Tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7. since 1930.




MARCH 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Omaha NE Flotilla Meeting	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Division 33 Meeting & Training
18	19 Omaha NE Flotilla Meeting	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	