

“The Fun One”

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2, FEBRUARY 2023



*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF FLOTILLA #1,
OF THE
GREAT PLAINS DIVISION
IN THE
8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION*



**Omaha NE Flotilla
TANGIER SHRINE CENTER
2823 S. 84th St.
Omaha, NE 68124**



FLOTILLA 33-1 OFFICERS

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

14 Feb. Valentine's Day
20 Feb. Flotilla Meeting
17 Mar. St. Patrick's Day
20 Mar. Flotilla Meeting

8WR DISTRICT MONTHLY TRAINING
LOOK AT THE
DISTRICT CALENDAR ON THE
WOW WEBSITE TO FIND THE DATES
See the calendars and check our website
for possible date changes, RBS dates and
other operations.

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Send articles for "The Fun One" to:
 Barb Westcott
 E-mail: kc0h1b@cox.net

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

**Please remember to check out the
 website at:**

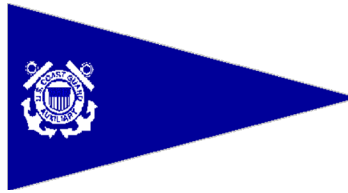
<http://a08533301.wow.uscgaux.info>



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FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



FEBRUARY 2023

January 2023 is now in the books. It seems like I just wrote my January letter a week ago. We have held our first meeting of the year and now have had our Division Change of Watch. It was great to put the Ceremony back into this event. I want to thank each of you that were able to attend. It was once again a great showing for Flotilla 1. Again, we truly appreciate it!

I am hoping that you all will be able to attend our February Meeting and that those with staff appointments that did not receive Appointment Letters and Certificates be able attend to receive those and take your Oath of Office.

Start watching your emails regarding training opportunities as we start to ramp up preparation for the upcoming spring/summer boating and Public Affairs season. If you are interested in Comms there is a course being scheduled. Also, if you are in Operations, there are several dates scheduled for the mandatory Annual RM/TCT workshop. That was sent 30 Jan. If there is any way you can take one, try to get it done early. I am sure there are going to be more. Instructors need to complete the IT training workshop and VE's need to get their workshop completed. There is a Self Attestation form that is to be used to document your completion. If you are both IT and VE they both can be completed on the same form. Once completed be sure to send me your form.

While talking about training, be sure to check out the opportunities being presented at the Spring DTrain in St Louis 30 Mar – 1 Apr 2023. There is a link on the left side of the District Site for information/registration. There are no limits on the attendance to training classes and that schedule is being finalized in the next week or so. If you have never attended one it is a great way to get some additional engagement and meet folks from across the district. Also, with the National Conference (NACON) being in the area at the same time, some of those folks may make guest appearances at the District event.

Barclay Stebbins, FC





THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

I found this very thoughtful information on
[USCGAUX: National Commodore's Diversity Policy](#)

Barb Westcott, IPDCDR, DSO-SR/ADSO-CM/SO-PB, FSO-DV/PB

National Commodore's Diversity Policy

“Dependability, Integrity, Diversity”

Diversity is about our commitment to embrace men and women of all racial, cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds as full, equal and vital members of our organization.

For more information on how the United States is moving forward on LGTBA issues, visit the White Houses page for the "*It Gets Better*" reform act.

National Commodore's Official Policy

It is the policy of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to ensure that all citizens, regardless of *race, gender, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, religion, or physical or mental disability* have an equal opportunity to become a volunteer of this organization. It is after all, part of our mission to become the volunteer organization of choice.

As the National Commodore, I will personally lead the diversity initiatives and challenge all who serve to do the same through leadership, mentorship, service, and example. As someone committed to diversity, I understand that providing training is one of the strategies that helps build an inclusive environment, which is crucial to attracting and retaining top talent, building member engagement, and fostering creativity and innovation. Our Strategic Plan for Managing Diversity will guide us in our efforts towards accomplishing this goal.

Diversity of thoughts, ideas, and competencies of our people, keeps the Auxiliary strong and empowers us to mission readiness and excellence.

Diversity is an imperative to the Auxiliary; it can increase morale and impact our success. In essence every member is responsible for fostering an inclusive team atmosphere and being a contributing part of Team Coast Guard.

The Auxiliary is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment, a journey guided by the deeply held values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty, as America's Guardians, we understand that diversity is not a problem to be solved, but is an asset to be developed.



INFORMATION BUG JANUARY, 2023

The information for this article was found at
NATIONAL Weather website

While there is much disagreement about thunderstorms and lightning, there is one universal agreement—avoid them entirely if at all possible. That can only be done if you have some means of learning of their impending presence ahead of time.

Although you should always check the official weather forecast before you go boating, you should always be watching out for the development of any of these dangerous conditions:

- Fog, dark clouds and lightning.

- A falling barometer (If the barometer falls, you can expect rain to fall too).

- A noticeable halo around the sun or moon (this usually indicates rain).

- Changes in the direction and temperature of the wind (a drop in temperature indicates a storm).

- Puffy, vertically rising clouds.

- Watch out for the West: Foul weather usually comes from the west, but storms from the east tend to be the most powerful.

It does help to have a warning in advance of the spectacle in the sky. Such a warning could come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) [National Weather Service](#) (NWS) via radio or online. The NWS has established radio transmitters all across the United States with a [specific set of frequencies](#) available on most VHF-FM marine radios, as well as specific weather radio receivers with warning alert systems that will sound off when there is a weather emergency in your vicinity. If you don't have a marine radio on your boat, these weather radios are small, battery-operated and convenient to carry on the smallest of vessels.

Knowledge of upcoming weather is vital to ensuring a safe trip on the water. Advance knowledge can offer a means of advance preparation and that could mean survival of your property and/or the life of yourself and your passengers. So make sure to check the NWS online while planning your trip and ensure that you have a way to receive weather alerts during your float, either on your phone or via radio.

NOAA provides the following warning levels:

Small Craft Advisory:

A warning of weather conditions that may be dangerous for small boats. This warning indicates winds of at least 18 knots (24 mph) and rough, wavy conditions.

Gale Warning:

A warning of strong winds within the range of 34-47 knots (39-54 mph).

Continued on the next page

Storm Warning:

A warning of winds within the range of 48-63 knots (55-73 mph).

Hurricane Warning:

A warning that indicates hurricane winds of 64 knots (74 mph) and higher. This warning identifies that a combination of dangerously high water and rough seas are expected to impact a specified coastal area.

Thunderstorms usually mean a triple threat: 1) Heavy, flooding rain; 2) Unusually heavy and sudden winds; and 3) Potentially destructive lightning.

If you get caught in a storm, take the following actions:

Step 1) Make sure every passenger is wearing a life jacket.

Step 2) Reduce your speed and maintain your movement forward.

Step 3) Turn on your required navigation lights—you may not be the only boater out there.

Step 4) Seat your passengers on the bottom of the boat, along the centerline. This will help stabilize the boat and prevent your passengers from falling overboard.

Step 5) Stow away any loose gear. A wakeboard or fishing pole can catch the wind and fly at you or your passengers.

Step 6) Cut through large waves at a 45° angle—this will reduce the chance of your boat being swamped by them. If you're operating a personal watercraft, cut through the waves at a 90° angle to help maintain lateral stability.

Step 7) Keep the bilges free of water in order to stay well above water level (make sure you have a good bailer or working bilge pump on board).

Step 8) If it's safe to do so, head toward shore.

If you get caught in a storm and you're unable to return to shore safely, you should anchor your boat. Here's how:

Step 1) Angle the boat as though you were still moving, at a 45° angle, headed into the waves. This positioning will prevent the boat from drifting or from being swamped by waves.

Step 2) Drop the anchor from the bow of the boat.

Step 3) Stay low in the boat and turn off the electrical equipment while you wait for the storm to pass.

Step 4) Use your sound signaling device to indicate to other boaters that you're at anchor. To do this, sound a signal rapidly for about five seconds in intervals of not more than one minute.

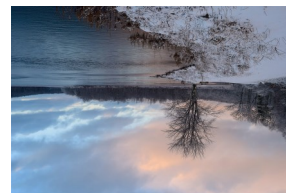
Step 5) If you find yourself in need of rescue, use the appropriate visual distress signal equipment.

Step 6) If you find yourself without an anchor, the Coast Guard recommends using a bucket and rope as an emergency anchor.

Note: If you cannot reach your destination safely, you should seek shelter for the duration of the storm. Safe shelters include marked areas for mooring or bays and docking areas that are protected by breakwaters.

Knowing what weather is on the horizon and being prepared for running into storms while on the water can help keep you, your passengers, and your vessel safe.


February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Omaha Flotilla Meeting					
26	27	28				
						

March 2023



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