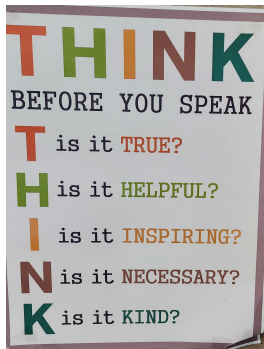


“The Fun One”

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3, MARCH 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

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Published by and for members of
Omaha NE Flotilla
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
8th Western Rivers Region.
Opinions expressed herein are not
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On Facebook we are found at:
USCGAUX Flotilla 85-33-01

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

17 Mar. St. Patrick's Day
20 Mar. Flotilla Meeting
30 Mar.-2 Apr DTrain in St. Louis
09 Apr. Easter Sunday
17 Apr. Flotilla Meeting
29 Apr. Division Meeting and Awards Dinner

8WR DISTRICT MONTHLY TRAINING
LOOK AT THE
DISTRICT CALENDAR ON THE
WOW WEBSITE TO FIND THE DATES
See the calendars and check our website

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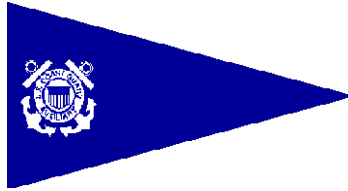
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Please remember to check out the website at:
<http://a0853301.wow.uscgaux.info>



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FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



MARCH 2023

March starts to bring us some warmer weather and getting ready for Spring. We are still waiting on the City of Omaha to get the Omaha Fire Department training schedule worked out, hopefully, very soon. We are going to get a schedule put together for our Public Education Program and published on the NE Game and Parks and Aux PE website. These will be primarily on Saturdays at Aux Station Omaha.

Doug Ives did some research on qualifying to teach the Iowa Boating Class and has the information if anybody is interested.

As we find the days a little better going into March, it may be a good opportunity for the PA and VE officers to do some joint planning. As always, anyone with an idea please speak up. New ideas foster some things to build on. As for VSC, some boats may start showing up in neighborhoods near you. Even if you are not a VE, talk to that neighbor and let them know that a VSC is available free of charge.

In the area of training, be sure to check your status in AuxData to ensure that those of you in AP status, get your Core Training and BQ II completed and those in BQ status, check your 5 year.

Reminder: 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 (with the exception of RM/TCT) and that schedule has been finalized. 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.

As always, I truly appreciate all of your work and ideas, so don't hesitate to reach out.

Barclay Stebbins, FC





THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

I found this very thoughtful information on
[NextPracticesInAchievingDiversity&Inclusion.pdf \(cgaux.org\)](https://www.cgaux.org/NextPracticesInAchievingDiversity&Inclusion.pdf)
Barb Westcott, IPDCDR, DSO-SR/ADSO-CM/SO-PB, FSO-DV/PB

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Next Practices in Achieving Diversity & Inclusion

The Auxiliary has already created its Policy Statement and Strategic Plan to develop diversity and inclusion initiatives throughout the organization. Our Plan addresses the purpose, vision, specific goals, and action items toward managing diversity.

Next, it's incumbent upon the Auxiliary's elected and appointed Leadership to incorporate and carry out our diversity policies and objectives into every aspect of the organization's functions and purpose. It is our Leaders who'll be expected to carry out an active role in implementing our diversity processes helping the Auxiliary maintain the competitive edge as a volunteer organization; our actions will be aligned with the core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

Now is also the time to move beyond viewing diversity and inclusion as merely the numerical representation of certain groups. It's time for a systematic application of diversity concepts to the business of our organization. Diversity and inclusion are business priorities of Team Coast Guard and it takes people with diverse talents and perspectives in an inclusive culture.

What is Diversity & Inclusion?

Diversity includes all characteristics and experiences that define each of us as individuals." A common misconception about diversity is that only certain persons or groups are included under its umbrella, when in fact, exactly the opposite is true. Diversity includes the entire spectrum of primary dimensions of an individual, including race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, and sexual orientation. Secondary dimensions commonly include: communication style, work style, organizational role/level, economic status, and geographic origin. It is a simple fact that each of us possesses unique qualities along each of these dimensions.

Leadership Commitment

The degree to which our leaders are actively involved in implementing initiatives, taking ownership and communicating the vision will be a test of their leadership. Managers manage change, but best-in-class leaders create change by inspiring their members, they also recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion being infused into all of the Auxiliary's processes. Diversity and inclusion is both a top priority and a personal responsibility for our leaders.

Empowering through Leadership

As a part of our next practices, diversity and inclusion will not depend on a single leader because it will be woven into the fabric of the way we will conduct business. And because our leaders will come to understand that being competitive on a global front requires full utilization of the skills and talents of all our members and potential members to better serve and meet the needs of a diverse community. "Success will only be achieved through inspired people operating in an environment based on mutual trust respect, openness, candor, empowerment, teamwork, innovation, risk taking, integrity, and encouraging and valuing diversity."

Accountability

A key element to ensuring the success of any organizational initiatives especially diversity and inclusion is accountability. Accountability is achieved by making the appropriate leaders responsible and ensuring that "everyone is on board" and actively engaged in the diversity process. We will begin with a monitoring system to measure diversity and inclusion representation by function at all levels to: (1) ensure a balanced workforce, and (2) strengthen the organization's ability to attract, retain, and develop the most highly qualified members. Specific measures included in the plan are: positive responses to member surveys, positive articles in publications, sustaining the reputation as a volunteer organization of choice, improved representation of diversity at all levels, effective remedial action when appropriate, awards, and other recognition.





INFORMATION BUG MARCH, 2023

The information for this article was found at
[Boats Sinking at the Dock is 4x More Than Underway | Waterway
Guide](#)

Boats Sinking at the Dock is 4x More Than Underway

Date Posted: February 15, 2023

Source: Vincent Pica Commodore, 1st District, Southern Region (D1SR) USC



If I told you that statistics on boats sinking showed that the dock is four times more dangerous than the open waters, you might tell me to check my calculator, amongst other things. But study after study show that four times as many boats sink at the dock than underway! Why is that?

Real-Time Reactions Well, candidly, there are lies, damn lies and statistics. If you are underway and you see water coming up from below, you are going to do something about it right away. Thus, the underway problems are going to be dealt with in real time and the odds are way in your favor that you can save the vessel, even if you have to drive her on to the beach to do so. But why do so many boats sink at their docks? Why didn't the bilge pump save her, to start with? Many people believe "big boat, big bilge pump. Little boat, little bilge pump." Wrong! Big boat, LOTS of bilge pumps. Little boat, BIG bilge pump. You need to get the water OUT of your 17' Seahunt as fast as possible. 500 gallons per minute isn't half as good as 1,000 GPM. It is less than half as good because, once she goes down, no bilge pump can re-float her. And experts estimate that it costs 40% of the original value of the boat to re-wire her and restore the engine. Oh, and throw out the radio, GPS and fish finder. So, your \$20,000 17' Seahunt will cost you as much as \$8,000 to repair/restore versus the \$200 1,000 GPM bilge pump. Is she worth that much today?

Continued on the next page

Buying Time And remember, bilge pumps don't save boats. They buy you time. Time from what? Well, again, the statistics say that boats sink at the dock for 2 major reasons. Half the time, a thru-hull fitting gives up the ghost and water eventually overwhelms the battery/bilge pump arrangement. So, check the thru-hulls with every lay-up. And check the screws around them. If the screws "rot*" away, it is another source of water to enter that isn't so obvious. But it will add up.

The second most common source of sinking at the dock is snow and rain (30%). I had one happen to one of my boats because the self-bailing scuppers clogged from leaves. Rain followed – and followed – and followed – until I had a submarine. Also, many skippers believe that biminis and canvas covers prevent water from entering the boat. Wrong again. They slow it but don't stop it. In the winter, stow them someplace dry and shrink-wrap the boat. So, over 80% of the boats sink for two reasons – all of which adds up to checking the boat from time to time. Or paying the dock hand to – or your teenager that wants some extra spending money to go with his or her new driver's license – but check it. Would you leave a box with \$20,000 unattended on your lawn for months at a time?




So, if 4 out of 5 boats sink at the dock, what about that other boat? Well, that is a story for another time – and soon.

As a side note, marine screws don't rot. They get eaten away by electrical charges in the water. This is due to poor "galvanic isolation". More on that in the weeks ahead!



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 	

April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 LAST DAY OF DTRAIN
2 Safe Travel Home 	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 EASTER SUNDAY 	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16	17 Omaha Flotilla Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 GREAT PLAINS DIVISION Meeting
30						