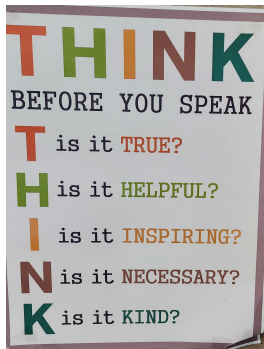


“The Fun One”

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 11, NOVEMBER 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

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

Published by and for members of
Omaha NE Flotilla
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
8th Western Rivers Region.
Opinions expressed herein are not
necessarily those of the
U.S. Coast Guard or
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Nov 20 Flotilla Meeting
Nov 23 Thanksgiving
Dec 2 Division Holiday Party
Dec 25 CHRISTMAS

**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.**

INSIDE THIS EDITION

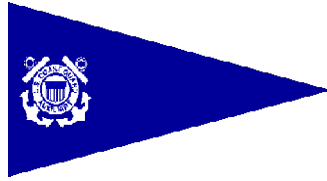
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**Please remember to check out the
website at:**

<http://a0853301.wow.uscgaux.info>

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FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



NOVEMBER 2023

November has arrived on the heels of a very cold end to October. As we prepare for the cold winter months, there are some things that we can plan and get accomplished. We will be discussing some of those at our November meeting.

Our Flotilla elections were held at our 18 Oct 23 Meeting for the bridge for 2024. I want to thank the membership for your support in electing me as your FC and electing Patrick Rezac as our VFC. We look forward to serving you in 2024. We will also be looking at staff positions for 2024.

Our operations season ended with a lot of success. Although we got a late start on our patrol season, we were able to get all of our operational hours completed well above the minimum requirements. In addition, with a lot of help from our SO-OP, George McNary, we were able to coordinate and facilitate a huge qualification exam (QE) session at Saylorville Reservoir 21-22 Oct 23. There were 9 members some from our Division including Jim Westcott and George McNary and some from other Divisions needing to get these accomplished. These were completed and we will be ready for next year without the burden of REYR. A huge BZ to George for making this happen!

Our PA team did a great job as well! We had some new venues and we are looking forward to expanding this in 2024. Our VE program did struggle this year so we are going to work on a better plan for next year.

On the recruiting front, Jim Wolfe, Cannon Kinchelow and Doug Ives have done a fantastic job in their respective areas making numerous visits to area high schools and other locations. This effort of getting our message of opportunity out there for active duty as well as the auxiliary to kids and adults will hopefully bring us some new members. Keep up this great effort.

We have some things coming up that I want to put here as a reminder.

Flotilla Meeting 20 Nov 2023– Meeting location to be determined, so watch your emails/ phone for the time/location. The Shrine will not be available for us that day. Our December meeting is traditionally our holiday Fellowship, which is preceded by a very brief meeting. There will be more info on our December meeting date/time at our 20 Nov meeting.

As always, I truly appreciate your efforts in all you do and your support!



THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

This information can be found at:

[Understanding Indigenous Cultures, Traditions and Languages: A Rewarding Journey \(ccunesco.ca\)](https://ccunesco.ca/Understanding-Indigenous-Cultures-Traditions-and-Languages-A-Rewarding-Journey)

Understanding Indigenous Cultures, Traditions and Languages: A Rewarding Journey

09 AUGUST 2019

Learning to understand Indigenous cultures, histories and languages can open the door to enriching partnerships and relationships—and respectful engagement.

Indigenous cultures and the protocols that arise from them can vary widely and take some persistence to fully grasp. But as Jenna McQueen discovered, the payoff is well worth the effort.

Jenna McQueen is the Program Coordinator for the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark and a member of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation. Jenna and her colleagues have produced a guide to [Best Practices for Indigenous Engagement in UNESCO Global Geoparks](#).

Jenna was raised by her Dene father and non-Indigenous mother in Tumbler Ridge, BC, away from her family's traditional lands. Still, over the years, she became acquainted with her cultural roots by listening to stories from her grandmother, Doris McQueen and her father, Don McQueen. Over the last few years, she has been on a more determined journey to learn and understand the hardships faced by Indigenous peoples and how they have worked to protect their languages, history, lands and cultures..

Developing this understanding, says Jenna, has allowed her to be more responsible in her relationships with all Indigenous communities and cultures and build better working relationships with them to contribute to their growth and success.

Continued on the next page

“Culture is key to our being. We learn Indigenous languages, history and traditions through stories and songs that come from our families, Elders and teachers. Indigenous culture is a way of life, so to engage with surrounding Indigenous communities, we have to start with understanding and researching their culture”. - Jenna McQueen

Recognizing each community’s unique history, culture and traditions is an important first step to showing respect, she adds. “As our parents always said: ‘You have to give respect to gain respect.’”

Like Jenna, by showing a willingness to learn and respect Indigenous cultures, histories and languages, you can begin to learn the importance of cultural protocols—and in doing so, take the next step toward respectful engagement. Protocols are not just rules—they represent a culture’s deeply held traditions, and can differ significantly from one Indigenous culture or community to another. Navigating and understanding them appropriately can take a lifetime of learning and patience.

“It’s important to feel comfortable enough to ask about protocols and how to pronounce certain words,” says Jenna. “But here’s a little tip: I have yet to meet an elder who wasn’t willing to share their stories, so never feel afraid to ask for help or ask to learn.”

Once you’ve gained the knowledge and respect of your Indigenous neighbours, you can truly start to work in partnership and ensure that everyone involved is able to participate meaningfully. The effort you put into building and maintaining that relationship is just as important as your initial engagement. Reaching out is the first step, but continuously improving that relationship will lay the groundwork for true collaboration.

Jenna notes that due to her Indigenous background, people often assume that engaging with nearby Indigenous communities comes easily to her—but it’s not so.

“I wasn’t raised on my ancestors’ traditional lands,” she says. “I grew up hundreds of miles from my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The stories I was fortunate to be told were those from my culture, so they were different from those of the Indigenous cultures that surrounded my home town.”

Today, Jenna is on a path of discovering her Indigenous identity, which hasn’t always been a straightforward process. She says learning about and understanding other cultures, traditions and history can be just as hard for her as it would be for any non-Indigenous person. But the rewards make it all worthwhile.

“Ultimately, the journey I’ve embarked on to engage and work side by side with Indigenous communities has enriched my life. I am humbled by and grateful for any and all opportunities to engage and learn with the Indigenous communities that have traditional ties to the land that I now call home.”



INFORMATION BUG SEPTEMBER, 2023

The information for this article was found at:
[Prepare for Winter with these Essential Winter Supplies –
Grainger KnowHow](#)

Prepare for Winter Storms with these Essential Winter Supplies

In many parts of the United States, the winter season often ushers in hazardous weather that can range in intensity from a sprinkle of freezing rain to a blinding snowstorm that lasts for days.

While winter weather and cold temperatures can negatively affect your workers and facility with the possibility for frozen pipes, slippery roadways and power outages, being prepared can help minimize these impacts. Review this list to make sure your people and facility are well-equipped to weather this winter season.

Preparing People for Winter

Warm clothing. During cold weather, [warm clothing](#) is a necessity for employees that work outdoors or in unheated spaces. [Hats](#), [face coverings](#) and [coats](#) help prevent loss of body heat due to cold and wind. Additionally, clothes may include reflective properties so workers can be easily seen in limited-visibility conditions. [Cold-condition insulated gloves](#) and [cold-insulated winter boots](#) help keep hands and feet warm when working in frigid temperatures. When working in wet conditions, choose gloves that are water-resistant gloves and waterproof boots. [Foot and hand warmers](#), worn inside footwear and gloves, add additional warmth and help reduce the risk of [frostbite](#).

Emergency blankets. [Emergency blankets](#), also known as first-aid or space blankets, help reduce the loss of body heat through convection. By acting as a windbreaker, it helps prevent cold air from blowing across exposed skin and removing heat.

Flashlights and Lanterns. [Flashlights](#) come in handy for low-light conditions and during power outages. Choices range from general-purpose flashlights to rugged, waterproof options that can better withstand hazardous conditions. [Lanterns](#) are another good option if hazardous weather arrives as they can illuminate a broader area than flashlights. If using a rechargeable lantern, make sure that the batteries are fully charged and ready to go.

Continued on the next page

Battery-powered radios. [Weather radios](#) and [two-way radios](#) can be helpful during winter emergencies, especially if the power goes out, affecting internet and communication networks. Weather radios provide alerts and immediate information when bad weather is expected. Two-way radios can be clipped on to clothing or placed in a pocket and provide instant and clear communication between workers. Waterproof options are ideal for wet conditions.

Batteries. Don't forget to have extra [batteries](#) on hand in a variety of sizes to operate radios, flashlights, lanterns and other portable equipment you might need in the event of a winter storm.

First-aid kits. [First-aid kits](#) are good to have on hand regardless of the season. Choose one that contains supplies for common injuries such as minor burns, cuts and scrapes, and the number of people it is expected to serve.

Hand sanitizer and masks. During the pandemic, [hand sanitizer](#) and [face masks](#) are recommended safety precautions, especially when indoors or working in enclosed spaces. Make sure to place hand sanitizer where it is readily available and [wear a mask](#) that covers the nose and mouth to help limit the spread of the virus.

Preparing Your Facility for Winter

Ice melt compounds. Help prevent possible [slips, trips and falls](#) by using [ice melt compounds](#) on ice or packed snow on driveways, parking lots and walkways.

Snowblowers. Use [snowblowers](#) to clear driveways, sidewalks and parking lots, reducing the hazards of walking or driving through snow.

Snow shovels and snow pushers. [Snow shovels and snow pushers](#) help clear walkways, driveways and parking lots of snow. Use ergonomic snow shovels or snow pushers to help prevent back strain. Keep a collapsible or short-handled snow shovel in company vehicles to stay prepared for any snow emergency.

Portable generators. [Portable generators](#) provide a backup power supply if a power outage occurs. They are powered by gasoline, propane gas or other fuel types and can help keep needed equipment, lights and heat sources running until power is restored.

Heaters. [Portable heaters](#) can provide a primary or supplemental source of heat during cold weather, but it's important to consider the heater's location. [Electric heaters](#) don't produce any gas so they are best suited for indoor spaces. [Gas, oil and kerosene heaters](#) are best used outdoors or in open areas where there is good ventilation and electricity maybe limited or not available.

Continued on the next page

Pipe insulation. Pipe insulation helps reduce heat loss from water pipes and helps prevent pipes from freezing at frigid temperatures. Choose from insulation that is unslit, preslit or hinged.

TIPS TO PREPARE

- Know your areas risk for winter storms and monitor weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms.
- Prepare your facility with insulation, caulking, weather stripping. Insulate pipes and know how to shut off water valves in case pipes freeze and burst.
- Recognize that extreme winter weather may leave your facility without utilities or other services for an extended period of time.
- Be prepared to evacuate if you lose power or heat.
- Equip fleet vehicles with roadside emergency items such as jumper cables, battery jumpers, flashlights, blankets and flares.
- Prepare for potential isolation or sheltering-in-place by storing essential supplies sufficient to support your employees for several days.
- Prepare for potential isolation or sheltering-in-place by storing essential supplies sufficient to support your employees for several days.
- Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for, frostbite and hypothermia.
- Consider buying emergency heating equipment, such as a wood- or coal-burning stove or an electric or kerosene heater.

TIPS TO RESPOND AND RECOVER

- Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms.
- Prevent slips and falls by clearing snow and ice from walking surfaces and spreading ice melters as quickly as possible after the storm.
- Monitor workers' physical condition during tasks, especially new workers who may not be used to working in the cold, or workers returning after spending some time away from work.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators outdoors.
- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters or gas-powered generators to avoid buildup of toxic fumes.

If ice or heavy snow has damaged your buildings, make sure they are structurally sound before entering

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
8th Western Rivers Region
Division 33
Invites YOU to our fall
2024 Change of Watch Meeting
& Dinner**

DIVISION MEETING

will be held at the
Auxiliary Station Omaha
located at 9800 John J Pershing Drive, Omaha NE.
On the 27th of January, 2024
and will start promptly at 10:00 Hrs. (local time).

Uniform will be "Trops" or business attire.

***CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER
AND LANTERN CERMONEY***

will be held at the
CASIO'S RESTERAUNT
Located at 1620 S. 10th St., Omaha
beginning at 1800 Hrs.

Uniform will be Tropical Blues or Business Attire

SOCIAL HOUR WILL START AT 1800 HRS.

PLEASE CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING MENU ITEMS:

8OZ Top Sirloin - \$38.00

Atlantic Salmon - \$38.00

Chicken Parmesan - \$ 31.00

**Tax and gratuity are included in the above prices,
payment via cash or check will be collected prior to the dinner.**

Your family is invited to attend.

ADULT BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA A CASH BAR

Please advise me of your dinner choice and the number attending.

RSVP to me by January 20, 2024

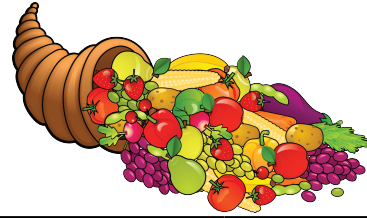
**With your intention to attend the meeting, lunch and
training, the dinner or all three.**

You may call or text me at 402-510-0308,

Or email me at kc0h1b@cox.net

The uniform of the day will be Tropical Blues, AWU or Business Casual.

November 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  Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 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 	26	27	28	29	30
31 						