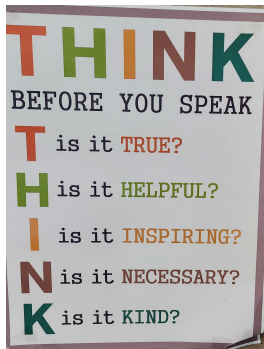


“The Fun One”

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 01, JANUARY 2024



*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) - Patrick Rezac
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) - James Wolfe
AUX Scout - Patrick Rezac
Communications (FSO-CM) - Jim Westcott
Communication Services (FSO-CS)- Jim Wolfe
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

Jan 15	Flotilla Meeting
Jan 27	CHANGE OF WATCH
Feb 2-4	Lincoln Boat Show
Feb 19	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.**

INSIDE THIS EDITION

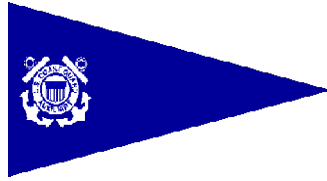
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**Please remember to check out the
website at:**

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

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FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year Shipmates!

January Trivia: The **Coast Guard Act** of 1915 was passed by Congress and subsequently signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on the January 28, 1915. The act created the United States Coast Guard as a new service outwardly modeled on the structure of the U.S. Navy and under the command of the Department of Treasury.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season with family and friends! I want to thank all of you that were able to participate in the Division 33 and our Flotilla Holiday Meeting/Fellowship! It was a fun wrap up for 2023.

On the recruiting front, we were able to host a couple of new potential members contemplating joining the organization. We will continue to pursue these folks. We successfully gained a new member with the addition of Rochelle Nolte. She has already completed all of her requirements and is BQ. We truly appreciate her efforts!

We wrapped up 2023 with all of our members accomplishing all required tasks, VE, PV, PE/IT hours, and Coxswain/Crew/QE requirements. Members also participated in many hours of Emergency Management.

This was quite a year of accomplishments. So BZ to all of you!

Patrick and I truly look forward to being at the helm in 2024 in guiding us to more collaboration with our PA/VE/MS events to further our outreach to the community.

Again, we can not thank you all enough for all of your work. At our 15 Jan 2024 meeting I will have a summary of all our 2023 hours.

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

Barclay Stebbins, FC



THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

This information can be found at:

[Embracing diversity and amplifying Indigenous voices | NRG Energy](#)

Embracing diversity and amplifying Indigenous voices

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples celebrates the rich cultural diversity of Indigenous people worldwide while raising awareness and support for the protection of their rights. This day also highlights the importance of understanding the past and current relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous society to create a more open dialogue.

Storytelling is a central part of Indigenous identity. In honor of that practice, we want to share the stories of two teams within NRG and their work in support of Indigenous groups.

Sharing the sun

Goal Zero, a brand focused on sustainable portable power products, empowers people with energy resilience solutions. The business donates and installs solar generators on homes in the Navajo Nation to help communities without access to power. In 2020, Goal Zero partnered with [Heart of America](#) to leverage its education-focused connection in the Navajo Nation. Together, the organizations are providing free, sustainable power for students and their families.

With 275 installations so far, the partnership goes beyond providing electricity. It's also helping students complete their schoolwork and focus on their education.

"The power is independent of the grid, so families don't have to pay for electricity. This includes providing lighting so that students can complete homework and pursue hobbies and activities beyond their classrooms," says Brianna Blaschke, Humanitarian and Events Associate Manager at Goal Zero.

Access to electricity has improved the lives of many Navajo families. Now, they can charge school-provided electronics and personal devices, power home appliances, and have uninterrupted power for general living. With these successes, Goal Zero and Heart of America don't plan on slowing down anytime soon.

Continued on the next page

“Our goal is to supply power to all the unpowered homes across the Navajo Nation while continuing to update our donations to match the growing needs of the community. We also aim to develop a training program to provide an avenue for long-term skill development and eventual employment opportunities for Navajo Nation residents,” says Blaschke.

RISE-ing to the occasion

The Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Supporting Equity (RISE) business resources group is taking the initiative to raise awareness of Indigenous people in our communities and in the workplace.

“We were starting to see some gaps in how we’re meeting the unique needs of the Indigenous communities that we support or service,” says Stacey Schorr, Director of Government Affairs at Direct Energy and member of RISE. “Employees were also asking more questions and were not aware of how Indigenous history has developed in Canada.”

RISE saw an opportunity to foster and improve the relationships with Indigenous communities. The group also recognized the need for more education and awareness at work.

“This past spring, we brought in a speaker who walked through the histories of the Indigenous communities in Canada. She brought in a talking stick, and there were opportunities to share your experience. It was amazing to me how, even in the office environment, people really opened up,” says Schorr.

To gain a better understanding and have meaningful dialogue, members of RISE believe it’s important for organizations to have conversations that incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion.

“For me, it means recognizing, respecting, and valuing the unique cultural, historical, and social experience of Indigenous communities. It involves creating an environment through education, awareness, and cultural competency where organizations are better equipped to address and dismantle systematic barriers that exist for Indigenous people,” says Colleen Geddes, Customer Experience Analyst at NRG and member of RISE.

Schorr also adds, “Everybody views diversity, equity, and inclusion from a different perspective, and it’s often built upon what your individual experiences are. What I really appreciate is creating a space to have those conversations.”

RISE acknowledges the significance of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples as it aligns with their mission to educate and bring attention to the culture and unique challenges of Indigenous people.

Continued on the next page

“The day provides an opportunity to educate the public about the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and contributions of the Indigenous community. It amplifies their voices to remind people of the struggles for the rights and well-being of Indigenous people while celebrating their resilience,” says Geddes.

Working together for greater equality

“Indigenous worldviews often have the philosophy of interconnectedness and belonging,” says Geddes. “With the foundation that we are all related, the group then becomes accountable for each of their actions. Each child, youth, adult, and elder has a role and a responsibility to each other and the community.”

By honoring Indigenous cultures and acknowledging historical injustices, we can make progress toward a more equitable future. Through collective action, we can work toward a more inclusive future where the rights, cultures, and contributions of all people are valued and respected.

If you’re thinking about getting involved, Blaschke says, “Heart of America accepts general donations to help fund these projects and the purchase of products to provide for students and their families. People can also shop to provide school supplies for education kits.”





INFORMATION BUG

JANUARY, 2024

The information for this article was found at:
[Winter Weather | Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather)

How to Protect Yourself from Winter Weather

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Know your winter weather terms:

Winter Storm Warning

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

Know Your Risk for Winter Storms

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Listen for emergency information and alerts. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Weather Radio](https://www.noaa.gov/) also provide emergency alerts.

Continued on the next page

Preparing for Winter Weather

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights. If you are unable to afford your heating costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.

In Case of Emergency

Be prepared for winter weather at home, at work and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.

Stay Safe During Winter Weather

Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows.

Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.

Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for, frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Continued on the next page

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm **the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.**

Generator Safety

Generators can be helpful when the power goes out. It is important to know how use them safely to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and other hazards.

- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and *at least* 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.
- **Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home.** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.

Follow manufacturer's instructions *carefully*.



Continued on the next page

COMPANY CHOW DOWN

On Thursday November 30th, 2023, at the invitation from the Counseling Center at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, USCG Auxiliary Flotilla Staff Officers Auxiliarists Doug Ives and Cannon Kinchelow participated in a program called Company Chow Down. This program is intended for students who may have an interest in joining the armed forces after graduating from high school. The format is designed for the students to have lunch with representatives from the different military organizations, in order to learn more about each service. Eight students along with two school counselors enjoyed a box lunch supplied by Mr. Kinchelow while watching a power point presentation prepared by Mr. Ives. Also participating in this event was retired Coast Guardsman Steve Semler. Mr. Semler and Mr. Ives worked in tandem with Mr. Ives working a power point presentation frame by frame and Mr. Semler explaining the meaning of each slide and adding his own personal experience to enhance the presentation.

This presentation was well received by the staff and the students. The students, who attended, had interests in becoming culinary specialists, an engine mechanic with one student having a heavy background in computer science AP courses. This was the second year for the chow down. Last year representatives from the Army National Guard attended this event. The Auxiliarists look forward to being a part of this program again.

Submitted by,
Cannon Kinchelow, FSO - PE/PV/SR
USCG Auxiliary
085-33-01



Students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, IA attending the Company chow Down.
Auxilirists Doug Ives, seated, and retired Coasty Steve Semler, standing.

Picture by Cannon Kinchelow

Elkhorn south High School Military Fair

By Doug Ives

On Monday November 13, 2023, members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary 85-33-1, attended the Elkhorn South High School Military Fair along with recruiters from other branches of the United States Military. This event was organized by Elkhorn South Administrative Assistant Penny Rohl. Auxiliarists present were Auxiliarist Cannon Kinchelow, Coast Guard Recruiting Representative, and Auxiliarist James Wolfe, Coast Guard Academy Admissions Partner. Also present was Retired Coast Guardsman Steve Semler.

The Elkhorn South High School Military Fair took place in the commons area of the school during the students lunch hour. During the one and a half hour event, 1439 students had access to the Coast Guard representatives that were there, who were able to discuss and answer their questions concerning a career and/or further education with the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Kinchelow and team are making plans for continuing their work in 2024.

These hard-working people will never know the results of their work but must continue to give the effort.

Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty require



**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
8th Western Rivers Region
Division 33
Invites YOU to our
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

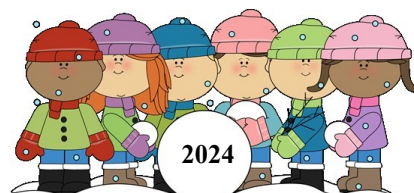
**With your intention to attend the meeting, lunch and
training, the dinner or all three.**

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

Or email me at kc0hlb@cox.net

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

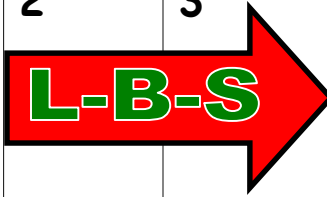
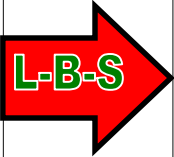

January 2024



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

February 2024



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