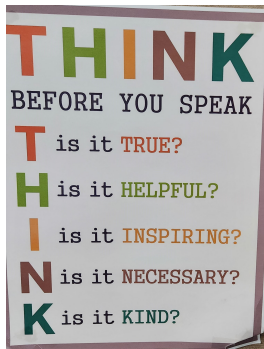


# “The Fun One”

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 04, APRIL 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

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**15 APR** Flotilla Meeting  
**18-21 APR** DTRAIN IN St. Louis  
**18-24 MAY** Safe Boating Week  
**20 MAY** 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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 8th Western Rivers Region.  
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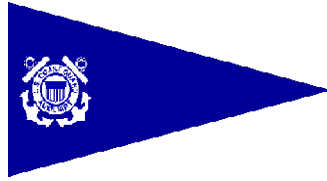
**On Facebook we are found at:  
 USCGAUX Flotilla 85-33-01**

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

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

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## FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



*APRIL 2024*

**Trivia:** On 20 Apr 2010, the oil drilling rig Deep Water Horizon had a catastrophic failure causing an explosion of the platform. After the explosion, the only thing holding the Deepwater Horizon in place was the riser and drill pipe connection between the floating platform and the wellhead some 5,000 feet below the ocean surface. The enormous size of the spill – estimated at about 60,000 barrels a day at its peak, flowing from the damaged well for 87 days, covering thousands of square miles of water and almost 4,400 miles of shoreline, including Louisiana's vast array of bays and inlets – made both *Deepwater Horizon* and the response unprecedented. On the single-most demanding day, more than 6,000 vessels, 102 aircraft, and nearly 48,000 personnel were working to contain the spill.

Spring is finally in the air, the birds are making nests (some where we don't want them), the plants are sprouting and blooming, and river water levels are coming up to something that is more navigable. The marina is planning the removal of earth dam in the next week or so. We have a little spring prep to do to the boats, and PPE inspections need to be completed.

Several flotilla members participated in the "Water Connects us All" event at the Council Bluffs Public Library. We had a lot of good information and a couple activities available that folks found interesting. The event was slightly hampered by an unknown athletic event blocking off much of the area around the library. Given those challenges, it was a pretty good turnout and thank Doug Ives for his efforts. Also participating were our CG Recruiting Team, consisting of Jim Wolfe. During our March meeting we handed out 20 Yr Membership to Barclay Stebbins, 15 Yr Membership to Doug Ives, and sent John Hawkinson his 15 Yr membership. Rochelle Nolte was also available by Zoom, and recognized for her BQ status.

Reminder, for those that need RM/TCT, dates are out so watch for those if you need it. Also, for those that need the VE and the IT refresher, the courses are out there for 2024. These need to be completed by 30 Jun 2024

There are a lot of training opportunities being presented at the Spring DTrain in St Louis 17-20 Apr 2024. Check the District website for more information.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting 15 Apr 2024.

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



## **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, 2024

The information for this article was found at:  
[Benjamin Wingo - Recipient - \(militarytimes.com\)](#)



## BENJAMIN WINGO

Coast Guard Medal AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING [Peace Time Awards](#)  
Service: [Coast Guard](#)  
Rank: [Seaman Apprentice](#)

GENERAL ORDERS: U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

### CITATION:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Medal to Seaman Apprentice Benjamin F. Wingo, United States Coast Guard, for extraordinary heroism on 12 February 1997 while serving as a crew member aboard Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat 44363, attached to Coast Guard Station Quillayute River. Shortly before 1 o'clock in the morning, responding to a distress call from the sailing vessel GALE RUNNER, Station Quillayute River launched two rescue boats. The operator of GALE RUNNER reported that the vessel was dismasted, taking on water, and in danger of sinking, 2 miles south of the Quillayute River entrance. Seas of up to 25 feet, combined with high winds and driving rain, created a situation of imminent danger for the two people aboard the GALE RUNNER. Soon after crossing the treacherous bar in an attempt to reach the stricken sailboat, the motor lifeboat suddenly rolled over several times in the surf and confused seas. As a result of the repeated roll-overs, three crew members were forcibly separated from his rescue craft and thrown into the churning ocean. Seaman Apprentice Wingo managed to remain on his rescue craft and released his safety line as his stricken lifeboat itself crashed repeatedly on the rocks. Despite his harrowing ordeal, he was able to fire flares to signal his boat's and his crewmates' distress. A Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter from Air Station Port Angeles was able to hoist to safety the two people from the GALE RUNNER as it crashed on the rocks. As a crewmember of Coast Guard 44363, Seaman Apprentice Wingo willingly entered extreme ocean storm conditions and risked his own life while attempting to save the lives of the two people from the GALE RUNNER. Seaman Apprentice Wingo demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite of imminent personal danger in this rescue. His courage and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

## Council Bluffs Library Water Event

Photos & Article by Doug Ives

On Saturday, March 9th of 2024, Flotilla 85-33-1 was one of the exhibitors present at the Council Bluffs Iowa Public Library for their 2024 “Our Community Reads” kick off celebration of “ALL THINGS WATER.”

“WATER CONNECTS US ALL” was the title of this year’s event. Exhibitors ranged from the Council Bluffs’ Fire Department, City Works “Sewer Camera Exploration,” several environmental groups to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 85-33-1.

Flotilla members Barclay Stebbins, James Wolfe, George McNary, and Doug Ives were there to hand out Recreational Boating Safety, Marine Environmental Protection and Coast Guard Academy materials to visitors. Retired Coastie Steve Semler helped James Wolfe at the Academy table.

The day started out being a “trial of patience” for those Flotilla members not familiar with downtown Council Bluffs. St. Patrick and his green dressed followers had created a maze of the downtown streets. Once everyone found the Library, we were able to get set-up on the second floor and got to see just a small fraction of the 298 people who attended the event.

The outside exhibitors and their equipment attracted the attention of the majority of attendees, who were children. Free plastic Fire Helmets and City Works Hard Hats were a huge incentive. There was also a green Jon boat for photo opportunities in the lower level of the Library.

I tried to get the “Sammy the Sea Otter” costume for the event but was unable to obtain. From past experiences I know that it is a huge photo draw for both adults and children.

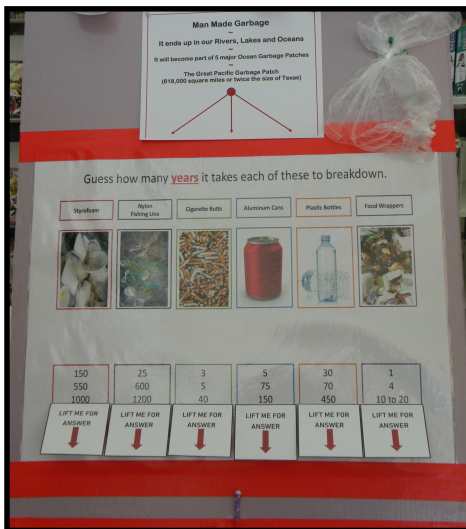






Left to right: Academy Partner James Wolfe, Retired Coastie Steve Semler, Barclay Stebbins, FC and hidden behind sign is George McNary.

The “Marine Safety Environmental Outreach” displays were built and displayed by Doug Ives, FSO-MS





# SAVE THE DATE OF MAY 4, 2024

DIVISION 33 OF THE 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION  
WILL HOLD THEIR SPRING BUSINESS MEETING  
STARTING PROMPTLY AT 1000 HRS  
THE LOCATION WILL BE THE AUXILIARY STATION OMAHA  
LOCATED AT 9800 JOHN J PEERSHING DR. OMAHA  
Lunch will be "Walking Tacos" and soda at a cost of \$5.00 per person

THE DIVISION AWARDS CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT  
CASCIO'S RESTAURANT LOCATED AT  
1620 S 10TH St. , OMAHA  
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 - \$ 30.00

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 April 20th 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,

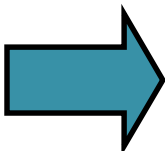
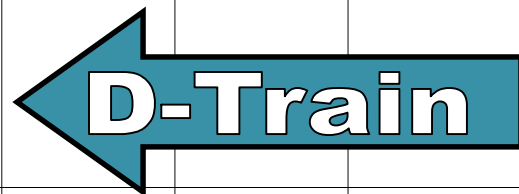
Or email me at [kc0h1b@cox.net](mailto:kc0h1b@cox.net)

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

# April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	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
28	29	30				



# May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Division 33 Meeting and Awards Dinner
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18 
19	20 Omaha Flotilla Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27	28	29	30	31	