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Newsletter of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

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Des Moines River Patrol



Flotilla 4 was asked to help with the 8th Annual River Run Garbage Grab event on the Des Moines River by providing a safety patrol of the river. This event allows volunteers the opportunity to remove trash from the river or along its adjacent trails. Paddlers, rowers, power boaters, walkers and hikers participate in the clean up effort.

Removing a large amount of garbage by boat can create safety issues on the river. Additionally, a few weeks earlier, there was a boating accident in downtown Des Moines that resulted in a drowning. The Coast Guard Auxiliary patrolled the river to help boats in distress and to help prevent further accidents.

This year Flotilla 4 was able to provide 4 boats and 16 Auxiliaries to support the patrol mission on the Des Moines River that day. The patrol area was from the Sycamore Ramp to downtown Des Moines. Two personal watercraft (PWC), a jon boat and the Lady Grace patrolled that day in order to aid boaters in distress. A few boaters were found that had problems and one of them required a tow to the nearest ramp.

At that same time a temporary radio base was setup at the Sycamore Ramp and also at the Birdland Marina to coordinate the patrol boats on the river. At Birdland Marina, Flotilla 4 conducted free courtesy vessel safety checks for boats going out for the day on the river.



LEFT: Flotilla 4 fleet passes by Birdland Marina before going on patrol

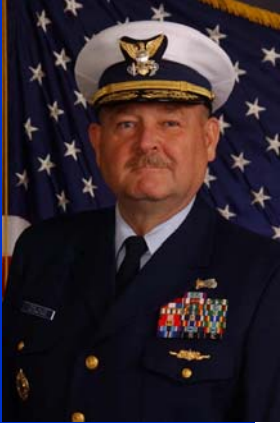
RIGHT: John Halbrook guides his jon boat down the Des Moines River

ABOVE: Roland Newton talks to a patrol boat

(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photos
by Doug Jansen)

Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!

US Coast Guard Auxiliary NACON 2009



Admiral Thad Allen
USCG Commandant
Official CG Photo

Shipmates,

“This year’s National Auxiliary Conference (NACON) at Oak Brook, Illinois concluded with the National Commodore’s Banquet last night.

Prior to the dinner I met with senior Auxiliary leaders and we discussed Auxiliary Modernization. Under the leadership of National Commodore Nick Kerigan the Auxiliary has modernized their structure to align with the new Coast Guard command and control and mission support structure. There are now four new Deputy National Commodores which will be the Auxiliary liaison and principal counterparts to our Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, Deputy Commandant for Operations, Force Readiness Command, and Operations Command. There is also a new Assistant National Commodore for Strategic Analysis. I congratulate Commodore Kerigan and his team for their commitment to our collective future.

Another highlight of the evening included recognition of the Auxiliarist of the Year, Marilyn Leonard who has been a veritable whirlwind of activity in D13, most notably the Puget Sound Citizens Action Network which uses local residents to report events and increase maritime domain awareness.

I was extremely gratified with the large number of foreign volunteer SAR organizations that attended the conference. Shown in the picture here is Bruce Reid who heads the Royal New Zealand Coast Guard, a all volunteer organization.

I was particularly pleased to recognize the terrific support that our Directors of Auxiliary provide to our Auxiliarists.

To everyone who planned and executed the details of the conference, well done.”

Admiral Thad Allen
 Commandant
[iCommandant Blog](#)

To watch the video of Admiral Allen’s speech to the Auxiliary go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/uscgauxiliary?ref=ts#/video/video.php?v=634427195675>



The Bridge

Our operational season is about to wrap up and I think we all are ready for a break. Our operational tempo has exceeded our wildest expectations. We have set a very high standard of excellence in our missions this summer, a standard that we could not have anticipated a year ago. Without your hard work and dedication, none of this would have been possible.

As we stand down from operations and switch back into training mode, it is time for us to relax and evaluate how we did. Next year we will improve some things and stay with other things that worked fine.

A few things to note. As of September 8, 2009 we have logged over 3,500 "99" or administrative hours. We have logged over 250 hours on patrol and 80 hours conducting 200 + Vessel Safety Checks. That is quite an increase from where we were last year and you should be proud of your hard work.



Travis Daniels, Flotilla Commander,

Auxilarists Take Part In Exercise

The Coast Guard Auxiliary was asked to represent the Coast Guard during an exercise known as "Vigilant Guard."

The National Guard Bureau sponsored exercise was designed to test local, state, federal and military responders to perform roles and responsibilities related to homeland defense in support of the governor and the Iowa Emergency Management Division, in the event of a catastrophic emergency within the state.

Coast Guard Auxilarists staffed the State Emergency Operations Center, Joint Operations Center, Sector Upper Mississippi and some local Emergency Operations Centers. The purpose of the Coast Guard's participation was to respond to simulated flooding events during the exercise.

The event lasted several days and exercised simulated deployment of assets and exercised communications and staff rotation functions.



ABOVE: Bob Smetka and Norma Newton speak with Auxilarists at an EOC in Sioux City using a Voice Over IP communications link.

BELOW: Paul Faganel processes a request for Coast Guard support at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photos by Paul and Wendy Faganel)

Labor Day Weekend Activities Promote Boating Safety At Saylorville Lake

Labor Day Weekend traditionally marks the end of the boating season in Iowa. This Labor Day Weekend, Flotilla 4 made it a point to make an effort to push boating safety.

A first for Flotilla 4 was a two PWC patrol. Auxiliarists Norma Newton and Phil Patterson and their PWCs performed a safety patrol on Saylorville Lake. Their patrol was to look for boaters in distress and encourage life jacket wear for children.

Flotilla 4 members visited local recreational boating safety partners in the Des Moines area to distribute boating safety literature. The purpose of this program is to help provide boating safety education to the public. By doing this we provide copies of the state and federal regulations handbook to customers in addition to literature with various boating safety tips and tools.

Finally Flotilla 4 and Flotilla 6 provided free courtesy vessel safety checks at Big Creek Marina, Saylorville Lake Marina and the Lake View and Cherry Glen Boat Ramps. These vessel safety checks were a review of required safety equipment for local boaters. Due to our ongoing boater education we have conducted, the vast majority of these vessels passed inspection.



*Phil Patterson scans the horizon on Saylorville Lake on Labor Day Weekend.
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)*



*Norma Newton (left) and Phil Patterson (right) conduct a safety patrol on Saylorville Lake on Labor Day Weekend.
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)*

Coast Guard Auxiliary, Corps of Engineers and Iowa DNR Team Up to Make Water Safety Fun

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR and the Coast Guard Auxiliary teamed up to make water safety fun by having a water safety beach party at Sandpiper Beach at Saylorville Lake. The event was aimed at families with children to learn about water safety in a fun way.

There were several stations that kids both big and small could enjoy. Kids and parents got to learn how to toss a throw bag to a person in the water at one station. At another station, kids got to get fitted for a life jacket so that they knew what size they needed. Kids also got to try out a third station known as the "Sink Fast" station, where they learned what to do if their boat is sinking and how to quickly react. Finally, the Iowa DNR provided t-shirts for kids to design and make up with water safety themes.

Flotilla 4 member Brandon Butters served as the Coast Guard Auxiliary project officer for the event. Auxiliarists Mary Kimmich, Jim Berry, Steve Johnson, Vic Voskans and Francis Meyrat participated in the event.

New Bass Pro Shop in Altoona is Our Newest Recreational Safe Boating Program Partner

Flotilla 4's newest Recreational Safe Boating Program Partner is the new Bass Pro Shop in Altoona. The store had its grand opening and Auxiliarists from Flotilla 4 and Flotilla 6 were there talking to the public about water safety and America's Waterway Watch. Customers talked to Auxiliarists about life jackets and boating safety on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The purpose of the Recreational Safe Boating Partner Program is to work with marine retailers to help provide safety literature to customers to encourage safe boating practices. Bass Pro Shop is one of 40 such partners in Central Iowa.



Jeff Towle at the recreational boating safety booth at the Bass Pro Shop in Altoona.

(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)



Jeff Towle talks with a young man about a throwable rescue line.

(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)



Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Travis Daniels
 Flotilla Commander
fc@flotilla4.org

SEPTEMBER 2009

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			

September 8—Flotilla Business Meeting (Webinar)

1900—2000 hours

September 25-26 —8WR FALCON

Branson, Missouri

<http://users.mo-net.com/district8wr/members/index.htm#Fall>

UOD: Tropical Blue Long

October 8 & 10—About Boating Safely

Oct 8: 1800—2100 hours

Oct 10: 0800—1300 hours

USACE OWL Center—Cost \$20 for the Public

October 10—New Member Training

1300—1800 hours

USACE OWL Center

October 10—Division 33 Election Banquet

1800—2200 hours

Bass Pro Shop—Council Bluffs

UOD: Tropical Blue

October 17—CG Aux Ham Radio Special Event

0800—1700 hours

October 18—Flotilla Business Meeting & Elections

1400—1600 hours

November 14—Flotilla Business Meeting

0900—1100 hours

Camp Dodge Building B-62

November 14—Flotilla Training & Holiday Party

1100—1700 hours **AUXOP Training**

Camp Dodge Building B-62

1800—2100 hours—Holiday Party at the Dodge House

December 8—Flotilla Business Meeting / Webinar

1900—2000 hours

OCTOBER 2009

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

NOVEMBER 2009

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				