



# Above Board

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

JUNE / JULY 2009

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

USCG 2  
Commandant

The Bridge 3

Boating 3  
Education

Public Affairs 4  
School

Water Safety 5  
Events

Event 6  
Calendar

## Mission Tempo Increases

After completing boat crew qualifications, Flotilla 4 went to work patrolling Saylorville Lake. With a new boat, a new coxswain and six new boat crew members the flotilla has went to task in increasing the Auxiliary presence on the lake. The flotilla has patrolled Saylorville Lake at least once per month, if not more, every month since May.

These patrols are not the only Auxiliary presence on the lake. Our communications personnel have established a communications base at the Saylorville Marina to coordinate our surface operations and receive requests for help from local boaters.

Our vessel examiners have worked all over the lake to conduct courtesy vessel safety checks for over 150 boats.

Every month our program visitors are making visits to our Recreational Boating Safety Partners to distribute free boating safety literature.



**TOP:** Brandon Butters (right) and Norma Newton (left) out on patrol

**ABOVE:** Jeff Towle (left) communicates with Coast Guard Auxiliary base while Norma Newton (center) and Travis Daniels (right) patrol for boats in need of assistance

**CENTER:** Chuck Brudtkuhl monitors a disabled vessel in a side tow.

**LEFT:** Jeff Towle Conducts a Vessel Safety Check at Lake View Ramp  
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photos by Brandon Butters and Doug Jansen)

Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!

## 70th Anniversary of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary



**Admiral Thad Allen**  
**USCG Commandant**  
*Official CG Photo*

“June 23, 2009, is a significant date for the Coast Guard as it will mark our Auxiliary’s 70th year of dedicated service to the nation. We take tremendous pride in calling these volunteer guardians our shipmates, knowing that their selfless devotion to duty and unwavering pride have given us invaluable support throughout our daily routines and greatest challenges.

For seven decades, Auxiliarists have nobly offered their time, efforts and resources to support the Coast Guard. Specifically during the past ten years, a period of unprecedented challenge to our national safety, security and spirit, Auxiliary contributions have been staggering in their breadth and scope. These undaunted volunteers have performed over 1.2 million recreational and commercial fishing vessel safety checks, over 980 thousand hours of boating safety course instruction, and more than 7.7 million hours of operational support and patrol missions. The costs of such performance have also been overwhelmingly borne by Auxiliarists as they have logged over 23.7 million hours of staff work, travel, preparation, training, and self-administration. This has all been unselfishly delivered as Auxiliarists have stood side by side with their Coast Guard counterparts to confront and overcome a roll call of challenges: Y2K, 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and many other natural and man-made disasters.

The Auxiliary continues to align itself with the Coast Guard, modernizing its organization across all Sectors, Districts, and Headquarters Directorates to shape optimal support of Coast Guard missions today and into the future. Moreover, the Auxiliary has gained even greater headway as it has progressively broadened its ability to comprehensively address more and more non-traditional mission areas such as interpreter, vessel documentation, legal, and health services support. I greatly admire the organizational courage and determination of all Auxiliarists as we make our final approach on achieving a fully modernized and integrated Coast Guard.

Auxiliary performance has been nothing short of stellar, and its greatest impacts are readily reflected by Auxiliarists spirit of patriotism and dedication to the Coast Guard men and women with whom they service. I therefore intend to duly recognize the Auxiliary with an award of the Coast Guard Unit Commendation as part of its 70th Anniversary Celebration at Coast Guard Headquarters on June 23. Please join me in setting aside time to recognize the exceptional honor, respect, and devotion to duty so consistently displayed by our Coast Guard Auxiliarists, and thank them for their service.”

Admiral Thad Allen  
Commandant

[iCommandant Blog](#)

# The Bridge

Our operational season is now well underway. We have conducted double the patrol hours in the first two months of the season than we did in all of CY 2008. Our vessel examiners are, despite several days of inclement weather, on a rapid pace conducting vessel safety checks. This season will be record breaking for Flotilla 4.

As we continue to patrol and assist boaters in need, let's remember to emphasize safety and professionalism. During these operational months, we will be very busy and will need to plan and prepare well, work hard and be prepared in order to meet our mission expectations. We have had ample opportunities to serve our community. Now we must focus on recruiting some new members to begin their training to be able to grow our ranks to perform missions next season.

Finally, let me thank you all for your service. You are a truly amazing group of dedicated individuals who are working hard and taking our flotilla to new heights. Thank you!



Travis Daniels, Flotilla Commander, is interviewed by "Rooster McRoberts" on Mac's World Live starring "Rooster McRoberts"

## Educated Boaters Make For Safe Boaters

For the second year, Flotilla 4 partnered with the Corps of Engineers at Lake Red Rock to put on a boating safety class. The class was held at the Lake Red Rock Visitor's Center.

Jeff Towle and Norma Newton taught the Iowa DNR boating safety class to the students.

There were twelve students in the class, with two adults and the remainder ranging in age from 12 to 15. Half of them were taking the class with an interest in PWCs, with the remainder more interested in boats. There was some good interaction with good questions, accurate answers, and some comedy relief when the instructors demonstrated sound signals when vessels overtake one another. "How many short toots did you say?"

More boating classes will be offered in the fall.



**ABOVE:** Jeff Towle, Norma Newton and Ralph Tomlinson talk with students during a break

**BOTTOM:** Jeff Towle Teaches a Boating Safety Class at Lake Red Rock

(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photos by Suzanne Tomlinson)



# AUX 12 Public Affairs School

“Exciting, informative, well-organized and well worth your time” is how Flotilla Public Affairs Officer, Doug Jansen, describes the AUX-12 Public Affairs C-School. Doug was one of 23 Auxiliarists selected to attend the Public Affairs School held in San Diego.

One of the many benefits of being an Auxiliarist, is the opportunity to travel to schools to receive training. The Public Affairs C-School teaches the students how to correctly prepare and distribute press releases, manage media relations, media interviews, photography, copy editing / news writing, article submissions to local, national level and other public affairs matters of special interest to the Auxiliary.

Coast Guard Active Duty and Auxiliary instructors taught the students about these topics and reinforced it with homework and projects. The hands-on training included writing news releases, newspaper articles, preparing public affairs programs and interviewing people. The hands on training culminated in a press conference where students were divided into teams to brief simulated media on an emergency and to answer their questions.

“Public Affairs is everyone’s job in the Coast Guard Auxiliary,” said Tom Nunes, Deputy Chief for Public Affairs for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Tom served as one of the instructors for the Public Affairs C-School and provided a wealth of knowledge. This knowledge prepared many of the students to serve as Public Affairs Officers at units across the country.

“The course provided excellent hands-on training for any PA or elected officer,” said Doug Jansen. “It was a very busy school full of instruction, assignments and great networking.”

After completing this course, students are able to train for and qualify to become Public Affairs Specialists in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Public Affairs Specialists are trained in handling internal and external communications for the Auxiliary and can work with Active Duty Coast Guard Public Affairs Officers.



Doug Jansen conducts a mock press conference at C-School (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by David Cox)

*“Excellent hands-on training for any PA or elected officer.”  
- Doug Jansen*



San Diego AUX-12 Public Affairs C-School students pose next to a Coast Guard MH-60 helicopter at CGAS San Diego. (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Manny Romero)



Tom Nunes, Deputy Chief for Public Affairs, teaches during the Public Affairs C-School in San Diego. (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)

## Iowa Children's Water Festival

Groups of over 300 fifth graders standing impatiently on the other side of a line of flagging tape, waiting to enter an exhibition area is enough to cause one to pause and think about what on earth one is doing in the exhibition area! That is what five Flotilla 4 Auxiliarists faced during their participation in the Iowa Children's Water Festival.

By the end of the day, about 2,000 youngsters had passed through the exhibit area, participating in a number of different displays, one of which was the Lady Grace and Safety on the Water. The young people climbed a short ladder to peer into the Lady Grace, asked all sorts of questions ("How fast does it go?"), and were exhorted to wear their life jackets whenever near or on the water. Demonstrations of how to use the throwable "seat cushion" style of PFD, why it was important a PFD fit properly, as well as explanations of the different types and styles of PFDs were well received.

We had a number of different sizes and styles of PFDs on display, explained how the styles differed in their flotation assistance, and assisted the students in trying them on to show how they could fit and should fit. Naturally, the Life Savers candies in a small bowl nearby helped maintain interest in our display.

Thanks to Travis Daniels, Jeff Towle Chuck Brudtkuhl, John Hawkinson and Norma Newton for staffing this very successful event.

## Wallace Elementary Safety Day

Students at Wallace Elementary School were treated to some lessons in water safety on their last day of school during their "Safety Day." This was the second year the Flotilla 4 participated in the event. The event is designed to help the students to remember safety in all that they do during their summer vacation.

Students were rotated between three different stations. The Lady Grace was towed to school for a little show and tell. Students could climb up and see the inside and ask questions about boats. There was a station to learn about different types of life jackets and how very important it is that they wear them whenever they are in a boat. Finally there was a question and answer station where students were given demonstrations of our equipment and able to ask safety questions.

Auxiliarists Travis Daniels, Paul Faganel, Norma Newton and Jeff Towle helped with the event.



Travis Daniels answers a question at the Wallace Elementary School Safety Day

*(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Norma Newton)*



Norma Newton talks about Water Safety

*(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Travis Daniels)*



# Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Travis Daniels  
 Flotilla Commander  
[fc@flotilla4.org](mailto:fc@flotilla4.org)

AUGUST 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					

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			

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

- August 2—Division 33 Picnic  
 Omaha CG Moorings
- August 11—Flotilla Business Meeting (Webinar)  
 1900—2000 hours
- August 15 —Des Moines River Garbage Grab  
 Safety Patrol
- August 27-30 —NACON—Chicago
- August 15 —Des Moines River Garbage Grab  
 Saturday: 1200—1600?  
 Safety Patrol
- 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 10—Flotilla Business Meeting & Elections  
 0900—1100 hours  
 Camp Dodge Building B-62
- October 10—Flotilla Training  
 1100—1700 hours  
 Camp Dodge Building B-62
- October 17—CG Aux Ham Radio Special Event  
 0800—1500 hours  
 TBD
- November 14—Flotilla Business Meeting  
 0900—1100 hours  
 Camp Dodge Building B-62
- November 14—Flotilla Training & Holiday Party  
 1100—1700 hours  
 Camp Dodge Building B-62  
 1800—2100 hours—Party  
 Dodge House