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

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8WR District Spring Conference

Eight members of Flotilla 4 traveled to the 8th Western Rivers District Spring Conference in Peoria. Members who attended the conference included Chuck Brudtkuhl, Travis Daniels, John Halbrook, Doug Jansen, Norma Newton, Roland Newton, Suzanne Tomlinson and Ralph Tomlinson. This two day event focused on changes to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and continuing education.

Friday's activities focused on presentations by various Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary leadership.

Saturday had a variety of breakout sessions focusing on a wide variety of topics. Annual refresher training such as the 1 Hour Team Coordination Training, Instructor Workshop, and Operations Workshop were offered. ICS 210 was also offered. Members were also able to take the Initial Indoctrination to Marine Safety exam. This exam is a test to prepare an Auxiliarist to support Coast Guard Marine Safety missions and is proctored by an active duty member of the Coast Guard. Five members of Flotilla 4 took this exam including Chuck Brudtkuhl, Norma Newton, Roland Newton, Suzanne Tomlinson, and Ralph Tomlinson.

There were also seminars for continuing education such as how to create a newsletter, the OTO Briefing from CWO Leavell, Basic Navigation, and a session to "Meet the Brass" and ask questions.



Ralph Tomlinson (left), Travis Daniels, and Norma Newton at the Spring Conference Awards Banquet

Photo Courtesy of the Suzanne Tomlinson



Flotilla 4 members were recognized with a variety of awards for their service in 2008. For members who missed the banquet, their awards will be presented at the Division 33 Awards Banquet on March 21 at Mahoney State Park in Nebraska.

The Fall Conference will be September 25 and 26 in Branson, Missouri. Additionally the National Conference (NACON) will be very close this year. It will be in Chicago, Illinois in August. More information will come out later this year on both events.

Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!



Admiral Thad Allen
USCG Commandant
Official CG Photo

State of the Coast Guard Address

“Today, To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard:

This afternoon, I will deliver my third State of the Coast Guard address at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. During this year of transition, I thought it was important to emphasize the tremendous value we provide to the Nation on a daily basis. Our men and women - active duty, reservists, civilians, and auxiliaries - safeguard the Nation's maritime interests in the Heartland, in the Ports, at Sea, and around the Globe. We are America's Maritime Guardian.

Last year, I mentioned the Coast Guard has never been more relevant in the national discussion of maritime issues. This year, the demand for our services has never been higher and this puts a tremendous burden on our people and our assets. We are in such high demand because we are a unique instrument of the federal government. As an Armed Service, DHS component agency, National Intelligence Community member and the Nation's lead representative at the International Maritime Organization, we are well equipped to mitigate risks and respond to threats anywhere in the maritime domain.

Our working environment has changed dramatically over the past decade and we are evolving to meet new challenges. Our modernization program is unifying our command and support structures to improve mission performance in the field. We still need Congressional authorization to fully implement our plans but we are well on our way. We are also introducing new assets to ensure our people have the right capability mix to execute our missions.

We need to act with a sense of urgency because our work has never been more important for the Nation's safety, security, and economic prosperity. We'll engage the public and private sectors as well as the international community wherever America's maritime interests are at stake.

To fulfill our commitments, we have to recapitalize our aging assets and shore infrastructure while increasing our capacity to meet emerging demands. I will continue to work with the Administration and the Congress to ensure our men and women have the tools, capabilities, and authorities to execute our missions safely and effectively.

As the Nation struggles with a lingering economic recession, we'll have to make difficult financial decisions to allocate our existing resources towards the greatest risk areas. We have always been sound fiscal stewards but we will not do more with less. Rather, we will consider investments in the Coast Guard as a critical step towards decreasing the Nation's maritime risk.

At the end of the day, you are the reason the Coast Guard can provide such tremendous value to the Nation. You enable us to be Always Ready. You ensure we can meet All Threats and All Hazards - nationwide and worldwide. You are America's Maritime Guardian.

I encourage you to watch or read the entire State of the Coast Guard Address and discuss it with your shipmates so that you can understand our dynamic operating environment. Thank you for your tremendous commitment and dedication to our Service.

Semper Paratus.”

Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen [iCommandant Blog](#)

Note: The video of the Commandant's State of the Coast Guard Address will be posted on the Coast Guard Visual Imagery gallery (<http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/mail.php>) and on You Tube (<http://youtube.com/uscgimagery>) as soon as available. A full transcript will be posted on Commandant's Corner (www.uscg.mil/comdt) within 48 hours.

The Bridge

It has been another busy month for our flotilla. We have had two more members complete their AUXOP qualification and as was evident at our last meeting, a lot of other members have been working hard in completing tests and qualifications. I was able to attend the Spring Conference in Peoria and represent our flotilla. Many of our members have earned a wide variety of awards due to their hours of service, photography and scrapbooking skills, and their never ending desire to complete the missions of the Auxiliary and Coast Guard. Bravo Zulu to our award winners!

We are staying busy preparing for a very busy spring season. We have public education classes starting this month, several vessels to prepare to facilitate, ten members trying to complete their boat crew member qualifications, and many vessel safety checks to get going on. Please remember to be professional and safe in all of these things that we do. Flotilla 4 will have a record year again in 2009, and I am very proud of the progress we are making.



Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Tomlinson

Spring Into Boating Education

Flotilla 4 will be hosting About Boating Safely and then the Suddenly Command Course at Valley Southwoods in West Des Moines from 7 to 9 pm. Suddenly in Command will be held on April 16 and April 23. About Boating Safely will be held over seven consecutive Tuesdays from March 24 to May 5th.

For more information go to www.flotilla4.org and look up the boating classes in the Public Section.

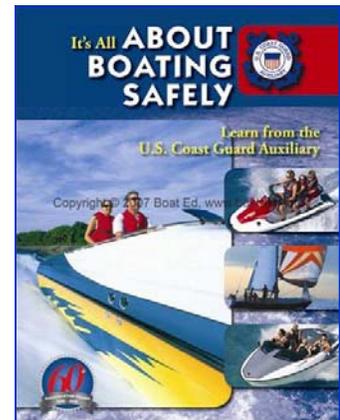


Photo Courtesy of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association

Two More Achieve AUXOP Qualification

The AUXOP, or Operational Auxiliarist, program is an advanced training program available only to members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. An AUXOP member has completed six advanced specialty courses and is entitled to wear the special AUXOP device on the uniform. Those courses are Seamanship, Navigation, Patrols, Communications, Weather, and Search & Rescue. The Director of Auxiliary controls the examinations for the AUXOP specialties. All of the examinations are closed book.

This month Roland and Norma Newton of Ames completed all of the courses to become AUXOP qualified. With their qualification that means that Flotilla 4 now has four AUXOP qualified members and counting.



AUXOP Device

Kellogg On Patrol

During the winter, Flotilla 4 member Gene Kellogg resides in Florida. In February he was able to go on a patrol as a guest of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla. His patrol was on board of a 49 ft member-owned vessel.

Before the patrol began, he was shown around the boat and given a basic safety briefing and familiarization. The vessel left from a local marina near Gene's home.

Initially the crew was informed that the scheduled Coast Guard helicopter operations were cancelled due to helicopter mechanical problems. However, when the crew was returning to the marina after completing their patrol, the helicopter called them and wanted to do some rescue swimmer training. The boat changed course for deeper water and the helicopter arrived shortly thereafter and began to deploy a swimmer into the water. The Coast Guard Auxiliary's presence there was strictly for the safety of the swimmer. The helicopter made several retrieves and decided to release the vessel and return to base.

The crew for the patrol consisted of qualified members of the Cutler Bay Flotilla and a couple of trainees. Two guests from a new flotilla being formed in Homestead were also aboard.

Gene was very impressed by the crew and their capabilities. It was a mission that an Iowa Auxiliarist normally wouldn't get to be a part of, and he was quite glad to be able to be a part of it.

- Gene Kellogg



"I cannot say enough good things about the members of this flotilla"
- Gene Kellogg



A Swimmer Enters The Water
Photo Courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard



Gene Kellogg In Florida
Photo Courtesy of Gene Kellogg

Lady Grace Update



The Lady Grace is getting very close to launch ready! We have secured all of the necessary equipment to facilitate her and have most of it installed. The remaining items to complete her are the installation of a new thru-hull, a second VHF antenna, a couple of new speakers, and a deep clean and wax. We have a couple of small items on the trailer to address as well. With one good day of installs and one good day of cleaning and waxing, she will be ready to hit the water. I want to thank everyone that has put time, effort, and money into this project. Flotilla 4 will hit the water in style, comfort, and with the capability to serve our AOR. - Travis Daniels

Social Media Helps Share Spring Conference

This past weekend several members of Flotilla 4 attended the 8th Western Rivers Spring in Peoria. Unfortunately many of our members were not able to make the trip. In years past those who did not attend a conference were left in the dark and were never able to capture the experiences and lessons learned at these events. Fortunately this conference was different. Members of Flotilla 4 equipped with laptops, internet capable cell phones and cameras captured their experiences and shared them with those not in attendance at the conference. Flotilla 4's website hummed with nearly a dozen web posts generating over 50 page views in one day. The site became so popular that Flotilla 76 from Portland, Oregon referenced us on their web site.

The experience of "blogging" from a conference was a new one for the members of our flotilla, but we have received such positive feedback that we plan on capturing more of our experiences and showing them on our various web presences. If you are interested in seeing what we are up to today you can go to www.flotilla4.org, and check out our Blog, our Facebook page, and our Flickr page. - John Halbrook



Flotilla 4 members at the District Awards Banquet. (l to r) Suzanne Tomlinson, Norma Newton, Roland Newton, Travis Daniels, and Ralph Tomlinson.
Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Tomlinson



Norma Newton (left), Roland Newton, and Doug Jansen during the Spring Conference.
Photo Courtesy of Doug Jansen



Chuck Brudtkuhl sees what the store has to offer during the conference
Photo Courtesy of Doug Jansen



CWO Leavell, the OTO, gives a briefing at the Spring Conference in Peoria.
Photo Courtesy of Doug Jansen



Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa Calendar of Upcoming Events

Travis Daniels
Flotilla Commander
fc@flotilla4.org

MARCH 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				

March 14-15 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Boat Crew Training
 Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—Required Workshops
 Sunday: 0900—1100 hours—Business Meeting ****Time Change**
 UOD: ODU

March 20-22 —Division Training Weekend / Awards Ceremony

Friday: 1900—2100 hours—Workshops
 Saturday: 0830—1500 hours—Workshops
 Saturday: 1800—2100 hours—Awards Ceremony
 Sunday: 0900—1030 hours—Workshops
 UOD: Tropical Blue

APRIL 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		

April 4 —8 Hour Team Coordination Training

Omaha, NE
 UOD: ODU

April 18-19 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Boat Crew Training
 Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—Boat Crew Training
 Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting
 UOD: ODU

May 16-17 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Boat Crew Training
 Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—Boat Crew Training
 Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting
 UOD: ODU

MAY 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						

May 16-22 —National Safe Boating Week

Various Events



**Take A Look At Our
New Website!**