



# Above Board

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

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## Ham Radio Station Logs 294 Contacts



Gene Kellogg wraps up his contact at the ham radio special event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.  
*(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)*



Roland Newton (left) makes contact with a station while John Halbbrook (right) wraps up his contact at the ham radio special event.  
*(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)*

Eight members of Flotilla 4 participated in a ham radio special event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This station was located near Rippey, Iowa and is designed to accommodate events like this. The station operated primarily on two frequencies and, despite poor band quality, logged 294 contacts from 47 states and 7 countries.

The station contacted 13 other special event stations during the course of the event. Operators talked to stations in six Canadian provinces, Argentina, England, Ireland, Spain and Brazil. The purpose of the annual event was to spread awareness about the Coast Guard Auxiliary and what it does for the community.

Radio operators for the event included: Chuck Brudtkuhl, Brandon Butters, John Halbbrook, Doug Jansen, Gene Kellogg, Norma Newton, Roland Newton and Phil Patterson.

Photos of the event can be viewed at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/flotilla4/sets/72157622606769498/>

**Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!**



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

## Loss of Coast Guard 1705

"To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard and Everyone Who Supports Them:

First, my heartfelt thanks and sincere admiration to the literally thousands of people, both seen and unseen, who are helping our fellow Guardians in this time of great need. Tragedies like this reverberate throughout our service, but our mission never stops and we continue to be relied on by the American public to provide for their safety and security. Through the tireless and fearless dedication of Team Coast Guard, and the support of the entire Coast Guard Family, we are demonstrating our resiliency and continue to stand the watch while we embrace and lift up those enduring immense loss.

I was in Texas on Thursday evening when I first learned of the loss of CG-1705 and a Marine helicopter. Friday morning we flew out to Air Station Sacramento where I met with the command cadre, held an all hands, met privately with crew members, and talked to families and friends who had gathered. It was difficult for all of us and I appreciate the dedication and commitment of the crew to their Guardians. I also talked with the relief crew that was sent by Barbers Point to take the watch and ease the burden on the SACTO crew. On Saturday I met with our responders in San Diego and thanked them for their tireless efforts. We were assisted greatly by our DHS partners in CBP with search aircraft and the dispatch of CBP Chaplains to assist our shipmates. The US Navy Third Fleet was also a key player in the response and we thank VADM Rick Hunt and his team. I also thank my sea services partners General Jim Conway and Admiral Gary Roughead for their support as well.

The support community has actively mobilized to provide support in every conceivable way, including: additional counselors and chaplains; critical incident stress management services; and other work-life needs (e.g., special needs, child care). The nature of our service -- small, close-knit, geographically mobile -- makes it a certainty that we have Guardians stationed across the country who have experienced a personal loss. We are sensitive to this and the potential need for emotional support and have asked our work-life staffs nationwide to be especially vigilant and ensure that anyone in need is provided for. Coast Guard personnel and dependents can call the Employee Assistance Program toll free number (1-800-222-0364) to obtain counseling assistance.

Friday morning we were in immediate contact with Marine Corps leadership to express our condolences and determine the appropriate way ahead. I cannot say enough about the professional and cooperative response from our sister service, which is also grieving the loss of two brave Marines. We have agreed that the right approach going forward is to exercise complete cooperation. To that end we will conduct a thorough joint investigation, presided over by RDML Korn as Board President and a dedicated and experienced staff of Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy aviation experts.

Plans are still being finalized for a formal memorial service at Air Station Sacramento on Friday. As soon as more details are available for that we will communicate those to maximize the opportunity for Team Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Family to participate. As always, the Coast Guard Foundation is providing outstanding support in our time of need. You can learn more about how the Coast Guard Foundation is helping here.

There is still much to do and many questions to be answered. I caution against speculation until we know the facts associated with what happened. We owe that to our fallen Guardians.

To the men and women of the Coast Guard and all of those who have assisted us, thank you for your concern and support for the families, loved ones, and friends of the crew of CG 1705. We honor their service and devotion to duty."

Admiral Thad Allen  
 Commandant

[iCommandant Blog](#)

# The Bridge

Congratulations to our new elected leadership for 2010, Norma Newton and Trevor Henderson. I have been honored to be your flotilla commander for the last two years. You are a motivated, dedicated and hard working crew. I am certain that with their leadership our flotilla will continue to only get better. Please let Norma and Trevor know what FSO positions that you are interested soon so that they can plan for activities next year.

As we go into our last face to face meeting for 2009, please remember that even though we are off the water there is still much to do. We need to get our hours turned in to Mr. Hawkinson so that our flotilla's efforts can truly be recognized. We also can work on the various online training and AUXOP training that is offered over the winter.

Congratulations to our four new Iowa Boater Education Instructors: Norma Newton, Ralph Tomlinson, Suzanne Tomlinson and Doug Jansen. Congratulations to Norma Newton and Ralph Tomlinson who just earned the Auxiliary Sustained Service Award by completing over 750 hours of service with the Auxiliary. Jeff Towle earned this for the third time for 2,250 hours of total service. Bravo Zulu!



*Travis Daniels, Flotilla Commander,*

## Flotilla 4 Elects New Leaders

During the October flotilla business meeting, elections for the 2010 leadership were held. Flotilla Commander Travis Daniels had held two terms as commander and was ready to pass the torch to new leadership. Norma Newton and Trevor Henderson were elected to be the flotilla commander and vice flotilla commander for 2010.

Norma Newton is currently the flotilla's public education officer and has been in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for almost two years. She works for the USDA/ National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames as a Biological Laboratory Technician. Her husband of 26 years, Roland, is also in the Auxiliary. She has two grown children and one grandchild. She is AUXOP, boat crew member, PWC operator, vessel examiner and instructor qualified. Norma has also been awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device.

Trevor Henderson is currently the flotilla's communications services officer and has been in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for almost two years. He works for West Corporation in Omaha as a Technical Supervisor. He is a qualified vessel examiner and RBS program visitor. His achievements include the Auxiliary Achievement Award with Operational Distinguishing Device, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device and AUXCOM. Trevor lives in Omaha with his wife of 16 years, Janine, and their daughter Ashleigh.



After the election Norma Newton (left), Travis Daniels (center) and Trevor Henderson (right) talked with members of Flotilla 4.

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

## Flotilla Helps Sector With Disaster Relief Missions

Earlier this year, Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi tasked several Flotilla 4 members to aid Coast Guard personnel in staffing Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in North Dakota and Minnesota to help coordinate rescue and relief operations due to flooding on the Red River. It was because of their previous experience with weather related missions with other organizations and, most recently, the assistance that they provided the Coast Guard during the Iowa floods of 2008 that they were chosen. Additionally, they had already received extensive training in the Incident Command System and EOC Operations. They performed such duties as field communications, personnel and asset tracking and preparing briefings. Each billet provided a new learning experience.

A few months later 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 of Iowa 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.

As a result of these missions, Auxilarists Trevor Henderson, Jeff Towle and Nick Critelli were awarded with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal with Operational Device.



Nick Critelli (left) and Trevor Henderson (right) receive their Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal from Travis Daniels (center).  
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)

# Inland SAR Planning Course Comes To Iowa in 2010

Flotilla 4 has been selected to host the Inland SAR Planning Course on June 21-25, 2010 at Camp Dodge. According to the course overview “the 5-day Inland SAR Planning course is a comprehensive, “graduate-level” look at inland search theory and its application to land and air searches for missing persons and aircraft with a focus on wilderness, not urban, searches. The course consists of classroom lessons and practical, tabletop exercises. This course does not incorporate field training. Emphasis is on the planning necessary for effective area-type searching during an extended search using Probability of Success (POS), rather than just a few elements of POC or POD, to predictively allocate limited resources to their best effect. In essence, what to do after the hasty search and specialty resources have not found the missing person. Additional topics include pre-plan development, legal aspects, NIIMS ICS applied to SAR, the federal role in SAR, and related subjects. The course does not teach search tactics or technical procedures, as those are well covered from other readily available sources.

The course is directed toward SAR leaders in federal, state, and local emergency services and law enforcement, as well as Civil Air Patrol, international, and volunteer SAR agencies -- those few people who are responsible for the planning and overall conduct of inland search missions. The target audience includes on-scene incident commanders and their planners, operations leaders, and up-channel reporting chain. The general searcher or search team leader, while arguably the most important part of the SAR team, will not find this course useful. Aiming to “find the objective fast,” the course centers on tools to help SAR decision makers determine where to search, how to divide an area between limited search resources, and how to craft the overall search effort to gain the best increases in likelihood of success at each step. The tools are mathematically based and not for the faint of heart; they help quantify the uncertainties of the search problem to allow consistent application throughout a mission. “

The course is open to all agencies to attend. Members who wish to attend the course should contact Ralph Tomlinson for more information.

## Flotilla 4 Gains New Iowa Boating Instructors

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources offers a boater education course to the public and is in need of more instructors qualified to teach it. Several flotilla 4 members completed the instructor training in October and will be able to teach this course in 2010. The instructor training was conducted by Iowa DNR Boating Safety Coordinator at Story County Conservation Center in Ames.

The Iowa course is one of several accepted for certification to operate a boat in Iowa. Norma Newton, Ralph Tomlinson, Suzanne Tomlinson and Doug Jansen completed the instructor training and are now able to teach the class.





# Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

### 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					

**November 14—Flotilla Business Meeting**

0900—1000 hours

OWL Center

**November 14—Flotilla Training & Holiday Party**

1000—1630 hours AUX Weather Training

OWL Center

1800—2100 hours—Holiday Party at the Rube's Steakhouse

**December 8—Flotilla Business Meeting / Webinar**

1900—2000 hours

**January 9—Flotilla Business Meeting**

0900—1100 hours

OWL Center

**January 9—Flotilla Training**

1000—1630 hours AUX Advanced Coastal Navigation

OWL Center

**January 9—Flotilla 4 Change of Watch Dinner**

1800—2100 hours

Location TBD

**January 12—AUX ACN Webinar**

1900—210 hours

**January 16—Division 33 Change of Watch Dinner**

1800—210 hours

Riverside Grill

**January 19—AUX ACN Study Session**

1900—210 hours—Location TBD

**January 23—Flotilla Training**

0800—1630 hours AUX Advanced Coastal Navigation

OWL Center

**January 26—AUX ACN Webinar**

1900—210 hours

### DECEMBER 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		

### JANUARY 2010

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						