



Fore & Aft
United States
Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 87
District 5SR
Lake Anna, VA

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Flotilla 87's Jet Ski Unit Requalifies!

Tis the season to re-qualify! F87's jet ski patrol unit went through its triennial currency maintenance requirements on July 25 in Contrary Creek. Gail Sheridan, Jane Haley, Jean McCormick and Maureen Daniels successfully completed their recertification check rides conducted by Qualifying Examiner (QE), Leigh Pemberton.

Some of the skills they had to demonstrate were the ability to remount a PWC in deep water, safely recover a person in the water, proficiently take a PWC in a stern tow and negotiate a five buoy slalom course.

AUX vessel 038 was also out that day on patrol thanks to Bill Shutt who served as crew and Richard Ness on radiowatch.

In August, Leigh will be recertifying Richard Ness, and Carol and Bill Shutt as crew.

It's always beneficial to practice our skills. The more we practice, the more proficient we will be as coxswains, crew and PWC operators.

FSO-OP, Maureen Daniels

The PE Corner

Apparently the Word is Out! It seems that the boating public is beginning to understand the ramifications of the new recreational boating safety requirement. Our last two Boat Virginia classes have been at full capacity. Boaters, young and old, are starting to realize that they, too, will have to satisfy this legal requirement, if not this year, in the near future. So, our classes have been filling up quickly.

The make-up of our safe boating classes has changed this year. Instead of the majority of the participants being "young" jetski operators,

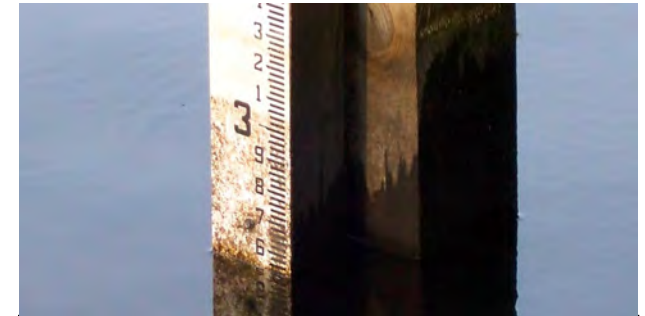
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Twenty-eight attend July PE Class

Lake Anna Level Down

The combination of little rain and hot weather continues to affect Lake Anna. On this measuring stick the normal reading is 3.3 ft but on 7/23/2010 it reads like just over 2.5 ft giving us almost 0.8 ft down or about 9.5 inches below normal.



Coming District Events D5SR Fall Conference

Coming on September 24-26, 2010 at the Newport News Marriott, the Fifth District Southern Conference & Workshop has something for everyone including 14 workshops, District Material Center, information exchange, fellowship, District Elections, social events and awards banquet. The deadline for room reservations is 22 Aug 2010.

Whether you're a veteran attendee, new to the Auxiliary, or anything in between, it's something to consider. Click here when online for more information.

Advance Skills Weekend

The Advance Skills Weekend is Oct 1-3 and Oct 8-10. It will be 2 weekends this fall with an assortment of classes each weekend.

Commander's Corner

We've come a long way. I thought this was an appropriate time to reflect on the changes I have seen during my relatively short time in the auxiliary. I know many of you have served much longer. When we began patrolling Lake Anna, while still in Division 3, communications and the entire patrol procedure was much more relaxed. I remember one occasion when members were discussing potato salad and items for a picnic over the radio. Contrast this to today when we do not give our cell phone number over the radio due to security issues, and you will be amazed by the difference.

Flotilla 87 has gone from being a small presence on Lake Anna to a major player. We now carry a Louisa sheriff's radio while on patrol and actually check in with Louisa dispatch before the patrol begins. Louisa and Spotsylvania dispatch contact us whenever there is an emergency situation on the Lake. This never happened in the past. Flotilla 87 has taken an active part in the Safety Coalition for Lake Anna.

Training for auxiliary members has increased over the years in order to prepare us for these challenges. Functions of the auxiliary will continue to grow and evolve. All of these changes come with a price. Increased visibility requires increased commitment and dedication on our part. We need to continue our training and recruitment efforts to be ready for the future!

This Flotilla 87 Monthly e-Newsletter is sent to flotilla members and selected others 1 week prior to the Flotilla monthly meeting. Please send feedback, articles and contributions to the FSO-PB at fsopb@a0540807.uscgaux.info. Due date for input is the 1st of the month.

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Fun Day at the Lake Ends in Tragedy for 20 Year Old Man

FSO-OPs, Maureen Daniels, got the call from Louisa County Dispatch on Friday, July 23 at 1227. "We have a drowning on the lake at marker 16." "Is it confirmed?", she asked. "We believe so. Friends reported a young man went into the water, but didn't know how to swim." "I'll call you back as soon as I know who we can send out," replied Daniels.

Within minutes, Jean McCormick, and Bill and Carol Shutt were underway on AUX vessel 038 heading to the mouth of Sturgeon Creek. They arrived on scene within 15 minutes. Andy Gibson deployed AUX vessel 887, and Jane Haley and Donna Canary deployed their AUX jet ski. Ron Ellis was called for emergency orders and asked to provide comms.

Once on scene, 038 observed two pontoon boats filled with young people, estimated to be in their early twenties. They were clearly distraught and pleaded for help. A firefighter was already on board one of the pontoons and directed 038 to set up a perimeter from the Magnolia Harbor common area to marker 16. Shortly after that, 038 was asked to pick up equipment for the dive team, which had just arrived on the scene. About that same time, AUX 887 and the AUX jet ski arrived to assist in

perimeter control.

In emergency situations, the Auxiliary takes its direction from the Incident Commander on scene. Usually that is Major Donnie Lowe, LCSO, but since the drowning took place on the Spotsylvania side of the lake, Spotsy was in charge.

Throughout the day, we maintained our somber vigil as the divers took turns trying to locate the young man's body. Recovery is a painstakingly slow, deliberate process with the only satisfaction being that in recovering the body, closure can be brought to an inconsolable, grieving family and friends.

We did our part. We stood watch over the divers, and said a silent prayer for the young man who started his day looking forward to a fun time at the lake . . .

FC, Jane Haley

Maureen Daniels, FSO-OPs

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AUXCHEFs Help Station Menemsha After Boathouse Fire

When AUXCHEFs Ron and Ginger Ellis, from 5th Southern, accepted the invitation from Station Menemsha OIC, Chief Jason Olsen, they expected a busy but calm week of cooking for the station personnel. That changed quickly at about 1430 on Monday July 12. They were relaxing after serving lunch when Ron notice black smoke rising from the village. Hurrying out of the barracks to find out what was happening, he and Ginger were nearly run over by the Station SUV as it rushed to the water front.

They later found out the crew needed to get the 47' Motor Life Boat away from the burning pier. By that time, black smoke was billowing and red flames were shooting skyward. The Station's historic Boathouse was fully engulfed by the fire, burning to the ground. The Station pick-up was destroyed as was all of the Station equipment. Five private boats were damaged and the wooden pier was destroyed. Thankfully, no one was injured in the fire. The fire fighting, which involved all the fire units on Martha's Vineyard, went on all afternoon focusing on keeping the fire from spreading to the surrounding buildings. The village was evacuated. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

That afternoon and evening, Ron and Ginger made sure that the station personnel had food and drink to keep them going. Sandwiches and Mountain Dew were the main items on the menu.

Starting on Tuesday, the two AUXCHEFs were back to preparing and serving three meals a day. The challenge was that there at least twice as many people to feed. Planning involved some creativity to stretch the available food. The additional personnel included Captain Gifford, Commander of Sector Southeastern New England, investigators from various agencies such as ATF, CG Investigative Services, the state fire marshal and other CG personnel from the Sector. The meals included entrees such as smoked pulled pork, meatloaf and steamed shrimp. With all of the stress, good and plentiful food was important to keep the crew going.

RADM Neptun came to the Station on Thursday to survey the damage and talk the Station personnel. Despite their worries, the crew "spiffed" up the station, including grooming Bridger, the Station dog (and guard of the galley). Ron and Ginger prepared a dinner for the Admiral and crew, featuring grilled steak and zucchini, home made rolls, and peach cobbler. At the end of the dinner, there was nothing left. That's what cooks like to see!

When Ron and Ginger left on Sunday, they had the satisfaction of helping the station get through a difficult time by providing great food. RADM Neptun gave them each his challenge coin – and the crew heaped thanks and praise on them.

Article by Virginia F. Ellis, AUXCHEF Branch Assistant- Atlantic
 Photos by Ronald A. Ellis, AUXCHEF Branch Chief – Atlantic-East
 and Seaman Dodson, STA Menemsha



The PE Corner (continued from Page 1)

the students tend to be older, more experienced boaters seeking to satisfy the new state education requirement. Many fishermen who have been on the Virginia waterways for years are now looking for a class that will fit into their busy schedule.

We are also running into a number of participants who have attempted to take the class online and have found it too difficult. Most of these students are very successful in our 8 hour Saturday class. Online classes are not for everyone!

We completed a second class this year at Lake Caroline. The class of 28 consisted of students ranging from 13 - 80. They were very enthusiastic and completed the class with only one 10 minute break. Lake Caroline is a private lake and the residents can legally boat on their lake without satisfying this education requirement. But many people are electing to enroll in our class.

It is encouraging to see that most people embrace the idea of a mandatory safe boating education

class and seem to enjoy the experience. Even though it is a long 8 hours, most people leave the class with a smile and a "thank you."

Fearless Leader Turns Fifty!

After patrolling Lake Anna on Saturday, July 31, our Fearless Commander, Jane Haley, arrived back at home port to be greeted by family and friends surprising her with a raucous rendition of Happy Birthday! Jane was totally surprised to the delight of everyone involved in putting together the celebration of her 50 years!

We wish you good health, good times, lots of laughs and fond memories in the next half of your life!

Fore n' Aft

Turn back the clock to March 2001 and you would see this as our newsletter logo.



At the Flotilla 87 July Meeting Flotilla Commander Jane Haley handed out three service awards. (l to r) Andy Gibson: Five Years of Dedicated Service, Ron Ellis: Auxiliary Annual Service Performance and Ginger Ellis: Auxiliary Annual Service Performance and Superior Performance of Duty from 11 Dec 2009 to 31 May 2010 with Service in excess of 7500 Cumulative Hours.

Calendar

- 8/21, Sat — 0830, combined Boat Virginia and ABS Class, Louisa County Library
- 8/25-29, Wed - Sun, USCG Auxiliary National Conference, Scottsdale, AZ
- 8/28, Sat — 0830, combined Boat Virginia and ABS Class, Louisa County Library
- 9/24-26, Fri-Sun — D5SR District Conference (Elections), Newport News Marriott, Newport News, VA,
- 10/1-3, Fri-Sun - D5SR Advanced Skills Week-end 1, TRACEN, Yorktown, VA
- 10/8-10, Fri-Sun - D5SR Advanced Skills Week-end 2, TRACEN, Yorktown, VA
- 10/23, Sat — Blue Ridge Division (Elections), Police Academy, Lynchburg, VA

D5SR Blinker 2010 Issue 2

D5SR's "Blinker" 2010 #2 has been published. It's available here when online. The Blinker will transition from being a traditional printed and mailed publication to a fully digital format and electronically distributed briefing format in 2011.



Flotilla 87's Ron and Ginger Ellis (AUXCHEFs) and the of Crew of Station Menemsha.