

Local honored for Flotilla Web site

Little did Andy Gibson dream that after only three years of retirement, he would be standing before 225 people in Richmond, accepting an award, for being “Best of the Web” (BOW) in all the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas.

Gibson retired from Lockheed-Martin as a systems engineer and moved to the shores of Lake Anna with his wife, Pat. They had owned waterfront property since 1983 then built their retirement home in 2002 and retired fulltime in 2005. Why Lake Anna? “I

enjoyed boating and camping at Christopher Run so I knew we would love living here....and we do!”

Gibson wanted to volunteer and found the Coast Guard Auxiliary fit his interests and skills. Although he had no previous experience, he was trained and soon was on safety patrols, doing public education and boating classes and performing vessel inspections and training with the Lake Anna Flotilla.

With no formal training in being a web-manager, Gibson learned on his own through the trial, error and practice method. Computers were second nature to him so Gibson soon became the Flotilla Staff Officer for Communication Services and also Publications.

With these titles, Gibson also publishes the on-line internal newsletter, “Fore &

Aft” and initiated and maintains the award-winning public website. His site is user-friendly, colorful and contains safety information, as well as boating classes, boating in Lake Anna, meetings and many other links. Gibson said, “The primary objective of the site is communication between the Flotilla and the local boating public. In addition, it is for communicating with Auxiliary members.”

It is interesting that in the past, the man in charge of a website was called the webmaster. But today both men



USCGAUX national technology department's flotilla "Best of the Web" award. (Added picture, not in original CV article)



Lake Anna resident and Coast Guard Auxiliary member Andy Gibson, was presented with this beautiful clear plaque for creating and maintaining the "Best of the Web" website nationally. The award was presented Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Fall Conference in Richmond.

and women plan, develop and maintain websites so the new term is web-manager.

The evaluation criteria for the BOW award include technical aspects, content and appearance. The winning site must be well written, web pages easily viewable, new technology used, easy link navigation, appropriate content for the local reader and be visually appealing. Gibson's website won at the local level then the division level, through the hierarchy and finally to the national level. There he was honored with the best Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla website in the United States.

Of his tribute Gibson said, "I set the site format but am only a member of a team. Without help and information from staff officers, the site would be empty. I have always enjoyed building so being a web-manager is just another type of building and creating. I enjoy the challenge and have just begun to touch the surface of its technical and creative potential."

The future? "Next year I would like to be considered for the national award for 'Fore & Aft', our internal newsletter." If you would like to visit the winning website: www.a0540807.uscgaux.info. Congratulations, Andy!!