



Volume 2008-Apr

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8 April 2008

March Social Meeting

Our first meeting at the Kirk O'Cliff Presbyterian Church on March 18 was a social dinner activity. An important piece of business was the Pledging Ceremony for Chuck Grutzius as our newest member. Shown below, Virginia Ellis (l) reads the pledge to Chuck Grutzius (r) as Barbara Kerr (m) looks on. Congratulations Chuck!

There were 19 members present and 1 guest at this meeting. Next on the agenda was food for all thanks to the efforts and coordination by Barbara Kerr.

Staff officers from Operations, Vessel Examinations, and Program Visitors led discussion on current, future and suggested activities for Flotilla 87. The emphasis here was to highlight past activity and ensure resources and schedules were in place for the next 30-45 days for smooth operations. Members having multiple competencies have a challenge to coordinate their choice of activities to participate in.



Roundtable discussion also included the mentoring program and how to implement for this flotilla.

An excellent meeting for the first meeting at Kirk O'Cliff. All went home full at the end. See also additional pictures on page 2.



ABC Class Success

A record setting 35 students listen to instructor Andy Gibson at the initial 2008 America's Boating Course (ABC) class in the Kirk O'Cliff Presbyterian Church community room on Saturday 15 March 2008.

All students successfully earned their ABC boating certificates and wallet cards to complete the March ABC class activity.

Jean McCormick says "Another Job Well Done" thanks to the volunteer efforts for this class of instructors Jean McCormick, Maureen Daniels, Andy Gibson, Lynwood Hancock, and Dave Aitken with support assistance from Barbara Kerr, Carol Shutt, and Bill Shutt.

The next scheduled Flotilla 87 ABC class is April 19 at the Kirk O'Cliff Church.



**Operations Workshop/
Team Coordination
Training Refresher,
(TCT)**

Louisa County Library,
Saturday, 12 April
0930-1200

What does PPE stand for and what PPE is required of all crew? The answer at the Operations Workshop. Come!

Vice Commander's Report

It is obvious that Flotilla 87 has started the year off with a bang! We have already had numerous PE classes, workshops, training, and planning meetings. In addition to that, we even had time to socialize and dine together before the last meeting.

Some members even found the time to go to the Specialty Training weekend in March. This is an excellent way to improve your skills - congrats to all that attended.

2008 promises to be an exceptional year. Please make sure you touch base with Dick on Communications, Maureen for Operations, Jean for Public Education, Bill for Vessel Examinations, and Dave for Mentoring in preparation for the new boating season. We are working on increasing our visibility and productivity in an increasingly busy venue-Lake Anna, Virginia.

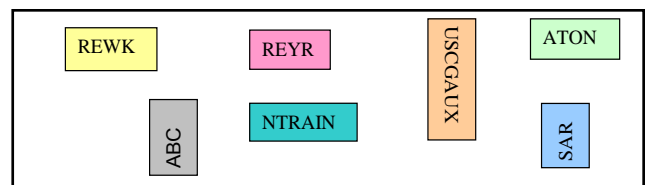
I hope some of you had the opportunity to attend the Division Meeting on April 5th as held at the Louisa Library as the meeting travels to the locations near the various division flotillas.

Of course, don't forget the operations workshop on April 12th. Contact Maureen Daniels to get additional information-and don't forget to tell her your patrol availability for this season. Also remember we need your availability for radio communications as well.

This promises to be the most exciting year ever for Flotilla 87. Welcome aboard and take time to congratulate our new member - Chuck Grutzius.

Thanks for your hard work and if you have ideas to improve our mission, skills, availability and social time-please let us know!

Vice Flotilla Commander - Jane Haley



Acronyms & Abbreviations

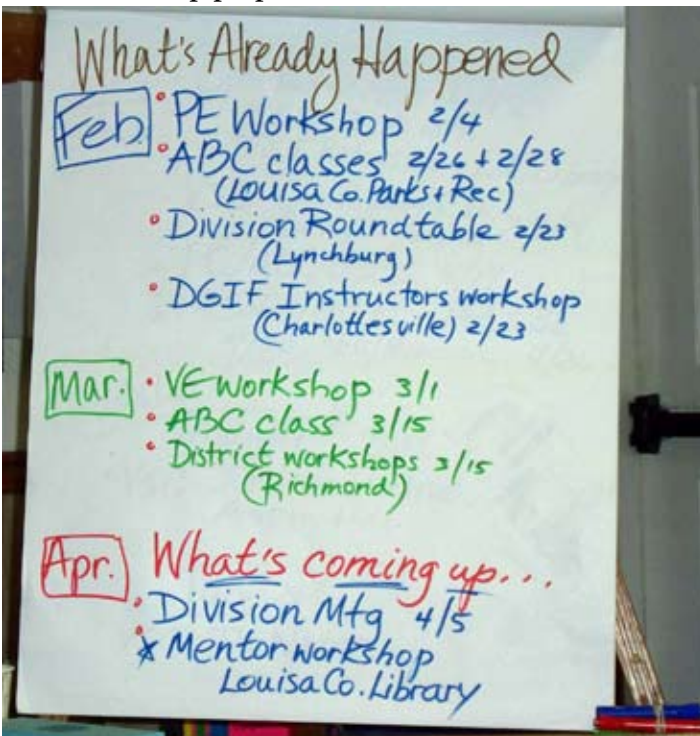
Alphabet Soup, It's all over. Do you need a source to decipher the acronyms? Try the following URL. Many commonly used acronyms in the Auxiliary are identified here.

<http://www.opr.auxnstaff.org/acronyms1.htm>.

Photo Credits: Page 1 left - Mo Daniels, right - Andy Gibson
Page 2: Andy Gibson, Page 3: Bill Shutt



Above, Jack Gorski and Bill Shutt take their selection from the wide variety of food on the table at the March Social Meeting. Below, a flip chart to highlight past, present, and upcoming activities used by Mo Daniels, FSO-OP to help prepare resources and schedules.



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.uscgau.info. Due date for input is the 1st of the month.

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VDOT “Adopt-a-Highway” Program

The initiative is moving forward! After flotilla approval at our March meeting, formal applications were filed March 21. Louisa County approved the request immediately. Spotsylvania County’s is expected the first week of April.

The flotilla’s adopted roadway includes and extends for about one mile on either side of the Route 208 Bridge. Signs will say “Flotilla 87 – USCG Auxiliary//Boat Safely at Lake Anna”. Planning is underway for our first “trash pick-up” in the late April/early-May timeframe before the weeds get too tall. At our April meeting, a mutually convenient date/time for the pick-up will be determined and an 8-minute training video from VDOT will be shown.

Nine members have already indicated their intention to participate, schedules permitting. All pick-up events, probably 3 each year, will be carried out and reported as PA missions. Any member wanting to help out should contact flotilla focal point Dick Shrum.

Dick Shrum, FSO-PV

Sector Hampton Roads Conference & Workshops

Ron & Virginia Ellis represented Flotilla 87 at the Fifth District (Southern Region) Conference & Workshops held on Mar 15, 2008 in Richmond VA.

The District Conference had something for everyone. Workshops, District Material Center, Information Exchange, Fellowship, and Luncheon. The District Conference will return to Richmond in the fall. Whether you’re a veteran attendee, new to the Auxiliary, or anything in between, it’s closeness makes it something to consider later this year.

Blue Ridge Division Meeting

The Blue Ridge Division 8 spring meeting was gavelled to order by DCP Ginger Ellis at the Louisa County Library on April 5th with 40 plus people present. A tremendous turnout of membership including 14 from Flotilla 87, the host of the meeting and 3 honored guests from the gold side.

Thanks go to Barabara Kerr, Jean McCormick, Mo Daniels and Carol Shutt (to name a few) for the location and the excellent box lunch enjoyed by all. See you all at the next scheduled quarterly meeting.

Advanced Skills Weekend

March 28 four members of Flotilla 87 headed to U.S. Coast Guard Training Center, Yorktown, Virginia for the Fifth District (SR) Advanced Skills Weekend (ASW).

This spring ASW session offered thirteen courses of study. Bill Shutt took the Communications (AUXCOM) course while Carol Shutt tackled the Weather (AUXWEA) offering. Ginger and Ron Ellis also were in attendance, serving as instructors rather than students. Their AUXCHEF course is a mixture of classroom discussion and galley food preparation designed to assist or augment a Coast Guard Food Services Specialist at a Coast Guard Unit.

Covering the multi-week weather and communications courses in less than a day and a half required diligent self study in the weeks preceding the ASW. AUXCOM instructors John and Marilyn Penne (Flotilla 20-04, New Bern, N.C.) and AUXWEA instructors Charlie Lamb (Division 3, Flotilla 32, Surface and Air, Petersburg) and Jenny and Jim Stack (Division 5, Flotilla 9, Aux Air, Smithfield) proved to be professional and knowledgeable. AUXWEA instructors and Carol Shutt pictured below. All strove to insure that each student learned the highly technical material in the short timeframe allowed.

The Shutts found the experience of staying at a U.S. Coast Guard Training Center with active duty and reserve Coast Guard personnel as enlightening as the course material. Watching Coast Guard trainees in ODUs marching in step to raise the flag each morning was a reminder of the important role of the Coast Guard Auxiliarist and the valuable training being provided.

A highlight of the weekend was the Sunday buffet brunch professionally prepared and served by the student AUX-CHEF crew, with Ron and Ginger at the helm.



Ops Alert!

Coxswains and Radio Watchstanders, please sign up for at least 3 patrols/radio watches between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We should plan to patrol every Saturday, Sunday and Holiday, if Resources are available, during Lake Anna's busiest time on the water.

Once those priority dates are covered, we can look at patrols in April, May, September and October. That will require another 3 dates for patrols/watches to cover those times. If every Coxswain, Crew and Watchstander can commit to 6 dates, we can provide continual, consistent assistance to Lake Anna boaters.

I recognize for some that will really mean 12 dates because of multi qualifications. You know the old saying . . . To whom much is given. . . I have no doubt "All Hands" will step up to the challenge. Thank you for that! Let me know what dates work for you.

Submitted by Mo Daniels FSO-OP

Flotilla Communications

As of this writing, new rules and procedures for radio watchstanders at Lake Anna are still in draft. In part, the overall SOPs from both the Sector and Division 8 are under revision – more on this may be available at the OPS workshop on April 12. The new SO-CM (Vinnie Popowitch, SML) is also working on a potentially major re-write of the communications section.

Some changes being considered could affect AUXCOM-qualified members of F87. For example, members may be expected to serve a minimum of 8-hours of watch per year. If not, the next watch by that member would be served under the supervision of a member who met the minimum. Alternatively, it may be decided to require each watchstander to participate in "refresher training" each Spring.

The Division is improving radio capabilities by providing a second VHF radio for the SARDET and handheld/portable radios for all coxswains on patrol. In addition, flotilla members wishing to establish their own radio facility at home will be assisted with free equipment and installation assistance to the maximum extent possible. Organizationally, the area coordinator for communications is Jerome Ix (F84), who has responsibility for scheduling radio watches, equipment maintenance, HF drills, comms mentoring and all such matters on Lake Anna. Vinnie Popowitch performs this role for SML

Submitted by Dick Shrum, FSO-CM

Calendar

4/12 Sat - 0930-1200, OPs Workshop and 1 hr TCT refresher training, Louisa County Library

4/15 Tue - 1900, April Flotilla Mtg, Kirk O'Cliff

4/19 Sat - 0830, About Boating Safely Class, Kirk O'Cliff

4/19 Sat - 1000 - 1400, VSC Stations at Lake Anna Beach Marina & Christopher Run Campground

5/1 Thu - Input due for May Fore & Aft

5/10 Sat - Community VSC activity at Aspen Hill

5/10 Sat - 0830, About Boating Safely, Kirk O'Cliff

5/13 Tue - Publish May Fore & Aft

5/17, Sat - Community VSC activity at Jerdone Island



Local Newspaper Articles

It's always enjoyable to see newspaper articles on some of our flotilla activities. The Central Virginian serves the Lake Anna area and has been very supportive with multiple articles over the past months.

With permission from the editor, Greg Dorazio, five of these articles have been reproduced and are visible from our web site. Look on <http://a0540807.uscgaux.info> in the capsule story articles at the bottom left of our home page. Enjoy!

Brain Teaser

What are the responsibilities of the Coxswain on patrol under orders?

- A. Ensure that the minimum number of certified crew are on board and equipped with the proper PPE.
- B. Ensure that the facility is properly equipped and that patrol orders have been issued.
- C. Ensure the safety of the crew, the facility, and those who may be assisted.
- D. All of the above