



Volume 2008-May

<http://a0540807.uscgaux.info/>

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## From The Bridge

Flotilla 87 continues its busy schedule of activities. Our Operations Workshop/TCT and Mentor Workshops were conducted with most members attending. FSO-OP Mo Daniels prepared a nice handbook for all facilities which covers all the necessary information for your patrol in one place.

By now many of us have taken the communications workshop. There never will be a time when all members can attend a certain date but makeups will be provided.

We will begin our Clean The Highway program in early May. We have seen the video instructions and are ready to begin.

Our next training meeting will be on May 20 and we will conduct the Good Mate Program. June 17 will be our pontoon party on the lake and I hope all will be able to attend and the weather will cooperate.

The VE program is up and running but not many boaters as yet available for inspections. All owners of facilities should be sure they are inspected before asking for orders. Our third PE class was held on the 19th with 23 students present.

Congratulations to the members who received certificates for courses completed and time served in the Auxiliary. Thanks for all your assistance in making my job possible.  
Barbara W. Kerr, Commander 87

## Coast Guard Feature Story Release

Our own Ron Ellis and the Auxiliary Chef program are highlighted in a Feature Story Release by the United States Coast Guard following his recent support to Station Little Creek. Ron and the Auxiliary Chef program provides relief to active duty Food Service Specialists in the fleet, allowing them to take leave or participate in training. The full store is visible at the following URL

<https://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/651/200354/>

## Good Mate 101



RRRRRR you ready for the May training activity? Jane and Donna will be presenting information on the Good Mate program.

Good Mate is designed to raise awareness and promote environmentally responsible boating and marina operations. Even small day-to-day changes in the way we maintain and operate our boats make a big difference to our aquatic environments.

This program is a way that we can reinforce environmental safety and awareness through outreach in public education, vessel inspections and PA booths.

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## Lake Anna Patrols Begin

The 2008 Lake Anna Safety Patrols began on Sat, April 26 on the private or hot side of Lake Anna with coxswain Rich Kunz at the helm. A quiet patrol on a partly cloudy day. The highlight was finding 100-120 kayaks on the lake conducting training activities in the near 80 degree water near the power plant.



<http://www.auxmdept.org/Good%20Mate%20Manual.pdf> points you to the Good Mate course manual. You are welcome to download it and do some initial reading. Flotilla 87 members will also find sample questions as a separate file with their copy of this May 2008 Fore & Aft.

Following the Good Mate presentation material, we will review the sample questions. Our goal is to prepare you at the meeting for your home work assignment which is to take the online Good Mate test available thru <http://ntc.cgaux.org/>. Currently, Andy, Donna, and Gena have completed this-anyone else? Can we be a 100% Good Mate flotilla?

So see you at next week's meeting! Submitted by Jane Haley and Donna Canary

## Communications Workshop

Flotilla members listen to FSO-CM Dick Shrum as he provides a refresher and review of equipment, policies and procedures at the Lake Anna SARDET building. "Coast Guard Auxiliary Lake Anna Radio" scans marine VHF channels 9, 16, 21, 22 and 83.



## New Flotilla 84 Website

It looks real good and is worth a visit by you.

<http://a0540804.uscgaux.info/>

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](mailto:fsopb@a0540807.uscgaux.info). Due date for input is the 1st of the month.

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## OPs Alert!

As we begin the patrol season, here are the Top Ten reminders for Coxswains:

- The patrol and radiowatch schedule is subject to change. An effort will be made to provide current updates throughout the boating season.
- Recognizing everyone's very busy schedule and long list of commitments, we will be extremely flexible in accommodating last minute requests for patrol orders. Do not hesitate to volunteer for patrols or watchstanding if you find the time to participate. Just let Ron and Mo know of your intentions.
- When Coxswains request patrol orders from Ron, you will need to provide your own member # and the member # of the OPFAC owner, if it is different from the Coxswain's. Be clear whether you are the Coxswain and OPFAC owner or using someone else's Facility.
- Normally, you should contact Ron the week of the scheduled patrol, via email or phone, to confirm your patrol status so he can cut orders.
- When requesting patrol orders, please copy the FSO-OPs so she can be advised of any schedule changes, additions or cancellations.
- Contact your crew and the scheduled radio watchstander to coordinate times for start and end of patrol.
- In the event there is no scheduled radio watchstander, you are responsible for finding one. If radio guard can not be secured, there will be no patrol.
- As we have discussed at the OPs Workshop and our monthly meeting, the Coxswain calls the uniform of the day so all on board will be dressed alike. The uniform chart handed out at the meeting provides useful guidelines.
- You represent the United States Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Be proud. Be safe. Use your training to minimize risk and ensure mission success.
- Plan for Success, prepare for emergencies!

FSO-OP Mo Daniels



Photo Credits: Page 1,2, 3 & 4: Andy Gibson

## OPS Workshop

### Team Coordination Training

A combined Operations (OPS) Workshop and Team Coordination Training (TCT) Refresher was held at the Louisa County library on Saturday, 12 April. Maureen Daniels, Flotilla 87 FSO-OP officer lead 14 auxiliary members through the required workshop and training sessions in preparation for our on lake activities this summer.

A 3 ring Coxswain Handbook was given to all Coxswains packed with many of the required reference material and paperwork needed for use on their boats.

For those unable to attend, a makeup session is scheduled for Wed, 21 May at 1900 at the Jean/Mo residence.



During the TCT portion of the meeting the participants were split into working groups to review a mission story and to identify elements of the story with good decisions and where principles of TCT were not followed, and to suggest a course of action or change in behavior to correct or align this crew's activity with TCT principals.

Coffee and refreshments were available during the meeting.



## 3 “R”s—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

With Good Mate the training topic for our May meeting, have you considered recycling to create emergency boat bailers?

Take a plastic gallon container from milk, distilled water or other liquid. Using a pair of scissors, simply cut off the bottom of the gallon jug. The upper part of the jug becomes a simple boat bailer (de-watering device) complete with a built-in handle.

The base makes a nice addition to your workbench to hold small parts when needed.

The gallon jugs with the screw on caps work best but the snap on caps can be used if you glue the cap in place to prevent it falling off.

During boat safety checks, handing the person an emergency bailer may be an appropriate response needed to issue a safety seal. Consider giving extras to your VSCers.

A suggestion from the Good Mate handbook illustrating “What Can I do about it?”



## Vessel Safety Checks Not Affected By Inflation – They Are Still Free

An extract from a recent USCGAUX press release.

In 1947 when the Vessel Safety Check program began \$10.00 had about the same buying power that \$92.81 has today. And while the cost of everything has gone up, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary can proudly proclaim one thing definitely has not – our free Vessel Safety Checks. Although free, the value of the life that may be saved by taking advantage of a Vessel Check Safety is priceless.

The complete Press Release is visible at this URL

[http://www.auxpa.org/releases/press\\_release4-4-08.pdf](http://www.auxpa.org/releases/press_release4-4-08.pdf)

## SARDET Pier Update

Work on the SARDET pier continues under the leadership and teamwork of Rich and Gena Kunz. Shown here with Richard Ness loading a load of lumber destined for another 25 feet of pier decking. The decking is about 1/3 done at this time. Expect some additional work parties to complete the work.



## Map Update at SARDET

Flotilla 87 members, Bill & Carol Shutt, Andy Gibson and Dave Aitken band together to replace the aging SARDET Lake Anna Map with the latest available for Lake Anna.

Instead of magnetic boats pieces, this map will allow the use of colored "post it note tabs" to show the latest patrol locations.

Complementing the new map is a 2 page list of Lake Anna subdivisions and locations that reference the map grid coordinates for faster location information. All coxswains should carry the coordinate reference information.



## Calendar

- 5/17, Sat - Community VSC activity at Jerdone Island
- 5/17, Sat - 1000-1400 VSC stations at Sturgeon Creek Marina and Hunter's Landing
- 5/17 - 5/23 - National Safe Boating Week
- 5/19, Mon - Adapt a Highway Project
- 5/20, Tue - 1900, May Flotilla Mtg, Kirk O'Cliff
- 5/21, Wed - 1900 - 2100, MakeUp Ops Workshop & 1 hr TCT Refresher at Mo & Jeans
- 5/26, Mon - Memorial Day
- 6/3, Tue - Input due for June Fore & Aft
- 6/10, Tue - Publish June Fore & Aft
- 6/14, Sat - 1000-1400 VSC stations at Christopher Run Campground and Lake Anna Beach Marina
- 6/17, Tue - Pontoon Party
- 6/21, Sat - About Boating Safely Class, Kirk O'Cliff

## May Brain Teaser

What is the Coxswain's responsibility in the event of a mishap while on patrol?

- a. Ensure all persons are safe and report the incident by the most direct means to the order issuing authority.
- b. Document the time, location, weather, and situation surrounding the mishap.
- c. Perform an immediate damage assessment, identify witnesses and take pictures, if possible.
- d. All of the above

Bonus: What is a MARB?

## Postage Increase

Flotilla 87 members who mail official Coast Guard Auxiliary business materials need to be aware of the new postage rates that went into effect yesterday (May 12, 2008).

Mailings in official white business envelopes (4" x 9") weighing one ounce or less require \$.42 and mailings weighing over one ounce up to 2 ounces require \$.59. Official business manila envelopes (9" x 12") weighing 2 ounces or less now require \$1.00 in official postage.

Official postal material available at this time from FSO-MA Carol Shutt come in coils of \$.39 stamps and sheets of \$.01. To save on your gas, please contact Carol ahead of time for materials so that they can be distributed at flotilla functions.

More information on current postal rates may be found at <http://www.usps.com>.