



Volume 2009-Apr

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

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## ABS Boating Classes Begin!



The About Boating Safely (ABS) Classes for 2009 began at the Louisa County Library on Saturday, 28 March. Shown above is instructor Mo Daniels in conversation with a student during the lunch break.

Flotilla 87 instructors for the class were Jean McCormick (FSO-PE), Lynwood Hancock, Mo Daniels, and Andy Gibson. This class of 18 students consisted of 9 adults and 9 youths. Congratulations to all 18 on obtaining their Safe Boating Class Certificates.

The new Virginia Boating Safety Compliance requirement goes into effect this summer. All PWC operators 20 years of age and under will have to meet this requirement by July 1, 2009. Flotilla 87 Lake Anna offers the About Boating Safely classes each month March through November.

## VE Workshop

The FSO-VE will be conducting a workshop for Vessel Examiners and anyone interested in becoming a VE prior to our Flotilla meeting on April 21. It will begin at 6pm at the Louisa County Library. Topics to be addressed are a review of the process, changes to the process and sign up for this year's Vessel Safety Check stations at the local marinas. Please bring your calendars so we can finalize the VSC schedule. Vessel examiners may pick up their VSC Decal supply at this workshop.

Bill Shutt – FSO-VE

## Big Doins' on Lake Anna

Let's plan to kick off our safety patrol season with strong participation on the Memorial Day weekend.

Ron and Ginger have been working with BM1 Rich Gonzalez, Milford Haven, to arrange for a Coast Guard helicopter to be used as a PA event at Lake Anna Island Realty's second annual picnic at the 208 bridge. Plans are still evolving, but it will likely involve an opportunity for the public to view the helo and talk to the Coast Guard pilots.

Later, they would perform a SAR exhibition by dropping a rescue diver into the water. **ALL Hands** can play a role as we will have a PA booth, possibly vessel inspections and safety patrols to cover the Lake and provide support for the Coasties. It is likely Milford Haven will be sending the "Orange Pickle" as well. Details will be shared as they become known.

***Let's suit up and show the Lake Anna recreational boating public what the United States Coast Guard and its Auxiliary are all about!***

A Reminder from your FSO-IS (Gena Kunz); For submitting email forms such as 7030, etc, please use [fsois@a0540807.uscgaux.info](mailto:fsois@a0540807.uscgaux.info) and for daily communications please use [genak@hughes.net](mailto:genak@hughes.net). Thanks.



At the March Flotilla meeting, Louisa County Sheriff Ashland D. Fortune (L) and Major Donald A. Lowe (R) Chief Deputy Louisa County Sheriffs Office talk about their new boat on Lake Anna. See story page 4.

## PA Event - Louisa



Bill and Carol Shutt discuss boating education with a visitor to the Flotilla 87 Public Affairs booth at the Louisa Beautification event. This event was held the 4th of April on a bright sunny but windy day in Louisa.

The booth manned by Andy Gibson, Lynwood Hancock, Carol and Bill Shutt went well after using Plan B. The original use of two six-foot roll-up banners as the central piece for the PA booth could not be accomplished because of the wind.

The roll-up banners, one each from DGIF and D5SR simply caught too much wind when unrolled. Plan B left them in their base with three colorful sheets taped to their vertical posts as shown in the picture above. The roll-ups are great for indoors but unsuitable when outside in wind. We will consider this a lesson learned.

The U.S. Coast Guard, Fifth District Outreach Display and Fulfillment Center For Maritime Safety Programs provided a roll-up banner and the "Boat Responsibly" blue table covering for this event. A second roll-up banner was on loan from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Photo Credits: Page 1: Gibson, Daniels 2: Gibson, 3, 4: Kunz , 3: Martin, 4: Kunz, Lowe

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

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## Ops Alert

**Calling ALL Hands!** In order to complete our Coast Guard missions, we need **everyone's** cooperation. Put your training to good use--sign up--do your fair share so we can teach classes and inspect boats. Stand watch so patrols can go out. Pass out materials and talk about the Auxiliary at our Public Affairs booths. There is something for everyone.

There is much to do. We look forward to a close working relationship with Louisa County as it launches its Marine unit on April 18th. These are exciting times for them and for Flotilla 87 as we redefine our role on Lake Anna.

To be an effective resource, we need to be a consistent presence on the water. We need to cover 35 days during prime boating season. We have 14 certified Watchstanders, 13 Coxswains, and almost everyone is Crew qualified. With additional help from Flotilla 84 Charlottesville, we should be able to perform safety patrols weekends and holidays, Memorial Day to Labor, **IF** everyone plans to do their fair share.

## The Training Room

"Thank the Lord and pass the potatoes" all current Coxswains have finished ICS 210 and are ready for the patrol season! Currently, we have 4 members left to take the 8 hour TCT. We anticipate a class will be offered in Charlottesville in June, and hopefully we will finish this endorsement then.

A special thank you to Lynwood for teaching a Nav refresher course this spring. There is one meeting left to review the final homework exercise. More to come on the SAR refresher class later this month.

At the April Flotilla Meeting, we will review some basic knots necessary for on the water recertification. Also, we will be reviewing the basic principles of towlines, taking a tow, and alongside towing. Please review the necessary line handling techniques for these skills.

We have 6 members that have expressed an interest in taking the AUXPAT class. A tentative date is Friday, May 1. Workbooks are available. Please confirm availability and interest. Not sure? Let me know so I can get you the study materials. Maureen, FSO-OP will let you know about the 3 on the water training/recertification dates in May. Smooth sailing until May!

FSO-MT Donna Canary, Ed.S. FSO-MT

## PE Corner

In keeping with our theme this boating season of answering questions that have been asked during PE classes, our topic is statute miles vs nautical miles? And why is the speed at sea called knots?

Statute miles are used to measure distance on land and on inland lakes, rivers and intercostal waterways. Nautical miles are used to measure distances on the oceans of the world. If you assume the earth is perfectly round, (it is slightly flatter at the poles), there are 360 degrees around the equator. There are 60 minutes in each degree and each minute is one nautical mile. Doing the math, 60 minutes x 360 degrees = 21,600 nautical miles around the earth at its equator.

A statute mile is 5, 280 feet in length.

A nautical mile is 6,076.11549....feet in length. ( most references refer it to 6,080 feet)

To convert distance use the following formulas:

statute miles x 1.15 = nautical miles

nautical miles x 0.87 = statute miles

What about speed at sea? Why is speed referred to as knots? Look for the continuation of this article in the May Edition of Fore & Aft.

FSO-PE Jean McCormick

## SARDET Tower



Thanks to a lot of hard work by flotilla member Leigh Pemberton (L) and his son Harrison (R), the base of the new SARDET radio tower takes its required shape.

It's no easy task to dig a nine by nine by four foot hole, construct the needed rebar cage, position the tower footing, place all in the hole, level everything and prepare for and then assist in the cement delivery.

Thanks also to the dedication of flotilla member, Gena

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## 2009 Publications Contest

Our Flotilla Fore & Aft monthly newsletter was officially entered into the District 5 Southern publication contest by the FSO-PB as the initial stop on a potential trip to the National 2009 Publication contest. National contestants must be winners of their respective District contests. National contest winners will be announced at NACON in August 2009.

New this year is that all Publication (PB) Contest entrants are made electronically with no hard copy requirements. Our newsletters within the contest window of May 2008 thru May 2009 were submitted on CD with an optional URL to view via the web at

[a0540807.uscgaux.info/pbcontest2009.html](http://a0540807.uscgaux.info/pbcontest2009.html)

FSO-PB Andy Gibson

## Postage Increase

Flotilla 87 members who mail official Coast Guard Auxiliary business materials need to be aware of the new postage rates going into effect on Monday, May 11, 2009. Letters - first ounce will be \$0.44 and additional ounces will be \$0.17.

Official postal stamps available at this time from FSO-MA Carol Shutt come in various denominations. 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>.

## Technology Corner

Many programs are generous in allowing just about anything in a file or folder name. But best practices say when developing file names for files and folders don't use spaces, but instead use the underscore “\_” or “-”.

If spaces are used, what is seen initially as easy to read comes out full of percent signs when viewing that file or folder or through a web browser.

See the following example:

News Winter 09.pdf -Original file name  
News%20Winter%2009.pdf -Name when in browser  
News\_Winter\_09.pdf -Best Practice

A quick glance at the file name in a browser may lead to confusion in identifying the real name of the file. Did it end in 2009 or just 09? Just what is the %20? A %20 is the hexadecimal equivalent of a blank and this is what is substituted by the browser for real blanks.

FSO-CS Andy Gibson

SARDET Tower - Continued from Page 3

Kunz, the SARDET Officer In Charge (OIC) for her tireless coordination of all the permits and paperwork required for the work to begin.

Shown below, Leigh (L) discusses the final cement leveling with Pete Kelley (R) the cement delivery operator. The cement was poured on Friday, April 3rd and after a 28 day curing period, the tower structure will follow.



## Calendar

- 4/18, Sat - 1100, Louisa County Marine Unit Boat Dedication, Anna Point Marina, PA Booth
- 4/21, Tue - 1900, Flotilla 87 Meeting, Louisa County Library
- 4/25, Sat - 0830, ABS Class, Louisa County Library
- 5/2 & 5/9, Sat - Training Check Rides on Lake Anna
- 5/9, Sat - DGIF Workshop, 1400-1600, Piedmont Community College, Room 835, Charlottesville, VA
- 5/16-17, Sat-Sun, 1000-1800, Lake Anna State Park, PA Booth
- 5/16-17, Sat-Sun, Lake Anna Training & QE Weekend
- 5/23, Sat - Lake Anna Island Realty, PA Booth
- 5/23, Sat - 1000 - 1400 VSC Station, Christopher Run Campground
- 5/30, Sat - 0830, ABS Class, Louisa County Library
- 6/6, Sat - 1000 - 1400 VSC Station, High Point Marina & Anna Point Marina

## Homeland Security Grant Provides New Patrol Boat for Lake Anna

Louisa County Sheriffs Office Chief Deputy Major Donald A. Lowe, speaking at our March flotilla meeting, provided the following information on the county's new patrol boat.

It's a 21' Pro Craft center console with a Honda 225 outboard motor on it. Made specifically for us by Pro Craft out of Florida. The boat was paid for from a Homeland Security Grant. It is equipped with a trolling motor, underwater camera, marine and law enforcement radios, hand held radar, decibel meter, on board camera, FLIR

(forward looking infra-red), night vision capabilities and other law enforcement and safety related equipment. The boat was acquired primarily to help protect North Anna Power Station but will also be used to promote water safety and assist other agencies on the lake.

In addition, we have acquired through donations, two 2008 Yamaha PWC's, FX SHO's, as another part of the Marine Unit. We're excited about the program and anxious to become a part of the multi-agency effort to make Lake Anna a safe place to live and relax.

