



Above Board

Newsletter of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2010

FLOTILLA 4
PO BOX 93621
DES MOINES, IA
50393
WWW.FLOTILLA4.ORG

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commandant 2

The Bridge 3

Tomlinson
Completes
Course 3

DART
Training 4

National Staff 5

Event
Calendar 6

Advanced Coastal Navigation



Wendy Faganel tries to locate a point on a chart during the Advanced Coastal Navigation Class. (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)



Roland Newton teaches deviation during the Advanced Coastal Navigation Class. (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)

This winter Flotilla 4 began working on the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Advanced Coastal Navigation Course. It is a comprehensive course to prepare the advanced boater with the knowledge needed to safely pilot a boat. It goes over the marine compass, charts, tools, dead reckoning, piloting, currents, tides and voyage planning. It is one of the most difficult components of the Auxiliary's AUXOP program. The test consists of Part A, which is a multiple choice knowledge test, and Part B, which is a tabletop navigation problem to solve.

Students who have completed both parts are: Chuck Brudtkuhl, Brandon Butters, Paul Faganel and Wendy Faganel.

Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!

Coast Guard Auxiliary National Training Conference



**RADM Sally
Brice-O'Hara**
Official CG Photo

This year's Coast Guard Auxiliary National Training Conference (NTRAIN) 2010 concluded on Sunday. The theme was "Leadership, Performance, Readiness". The culmination of extensive joint efforts between Auxiliary and active duty leadership enhances Auxiliary surge capability and capacity to support the active duty workforce, and ultimately improves Coast Guard mission effectiveness. The Coast Guard Auxiliary provides critical reinforcement, not only within our local communities but expanding to national and international response missions, such as the Haiti earthquake.

Auxiliarists have provided vital support in wake of the Haiti tragedy. Immediately following the earthquake event, eight Auxiliary Creole-French interpreters volunteered their service and stand ready to utilize their language skills to contribute to the ongoing response efforts. In addition, Auxiliary members are standing watch in the Seventh Coast Guard District's Joint Information Center to handle public information needs. Also of particular note were the efforts of Mr. Robert Nelson, Director, USCG Auxiliary Public Affairs, who established a system that allowed him to monitor social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook for reports of people in distress. Mr. Nelson also helped coordinate the development of a distress SMS Short Code through the Department of State to allow those in Haiti to send distress text messages. Due to the thousands of text messages that were received, additional Auxiliary members were brought in to assist in filtering messages.

America's Volunteer Guardians live the Coast Guard's Core Values above and beyond the call of duty. The approximate 30,000 members offer their time, skills and resources. The volunteer efforts of the Auxiliarists, through vessel safety checks, safe boating courses, and search and rescue, is immeasurable. I recently issued an ALCOAST that moves the Auxiliary Trident Program one step further in providing additional support to the field. ALCOAST 045/10 announced the release of twelve new and twelve revised and updated Prevention and Response Performance Qualification Standards (PQS) for the Auxiliary Trident Program. The new PQS is the culmination of an extensive joint effort on behalf of Auxiliary and Active Duty Leadership. The Auxiliary must continue its forward-leaning support of Coast Guard missions, and progressively steer its evolution as a volunteer service through well-planned and well managed change in order to improve mission execution within a Modernized Coast Guard.

In the picture Anne Lockwood (left), CG Auxiliary Public Education Director, explains the workings of an inflatable lifejacket to Commodore Robin Freeman

RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara
Deputy Commandant for Operations
[iCommandant Blog](#)



U.S. Coast Guard Photo

The Bridge

What a fortunate flotilla we are to have such very talented and skilled flotilla members. Throughout the winter months, members have been busy teaching classes and receiving training. A group completed the AUX Weather class. More members trained in marine safety with successful exam results. Two groups of Advanced Coastal Navigation training were held, with one still ongoing through the division webinar.

We have members receiving training from the Coast Guard on the Mississippi River. Mr. Faganel and Mr. Jansen both received their DO clearance which allows for the AUX Air program in the flotilla to forge ahead, as well as providing a fingerprint technician in the flotilla. In addition, Mr. Tomlinson is in the final stages of completing certification as a TCT instructor.

Now that the snow is melting, we are readying our facilities for the season while preparing more vessels for inspection and certification as facilities. Numerous public affairs events have kept the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the public eye and encouraged safe boating. Public education classes are scheduled, with requests for additional classes being fielded. Work continues to prepare for the Inland SAR School which the flotilla is hosting in June. On top of that, we stand in readiness for possible flood support deployments. Our flotilla is truly Semper Paratus. Keep up the good work!



*Norma Newton, Flotilla Commander (left)
Travis Daniels, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander
Trevor Henderson, Vice Flotilla Commander (right)
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)*

Tomlinson Completes Course in California

Auxiliarist Ralph Tomlinson recently completed the Coast Guard Instructor Development Course at TRACON Petaluma.

Mr. Tomlinson was a member of the class which consisted of 4 Auxiliarists, 13 active duty Coast Guard members and 1 Coast Guard civilian employee. This was the premier course for instructors in the Coast Guard. Attendees are expected to become instructors for active duty, reserve, and civilian Coast Guard member training.

“I am looking forward to continue teaching ICS 210, 300, and 400 courses,” said Mr. Tomlinson “I will also be involved in the Team Coordination Training courses this spring.”

After completing the other requirements, Tomlinson will be able to become a Team Coordination Training facilitators, the first in Flotilla 4.



*Auxiliarist Ralph Tomlinson
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Suzanne Tomlinson)*

DART Training

In February several members of Flotilla 4 went to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Quad Cities for Disaster Assistance and Response Team (DART) training. DART teams are equipped with boats to provide shallow water search and rescue capabilities. In the Midwest they are primarily used for flood response. Midwest DART teams were used during the Iowa floods of 2008.

The initial DART crew training lasted several days and covered many aspects of boat operations, safety and first aid. The DART qualification is a Coast Guard certification where Auxiliarists, who meet the physical and performance qualification standards, have the ability to become qualified.

Auxiliarists Travis Daniels, Paul Faganel and Wendy Faganel have begun the training and hope to finish in March.



Getting ready to go out are (left to right) PO Carey, PO McLellan, Wendy Faganel and Travis Daniels
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Paul Faganel)



Wendy Faganel (left) and Travis Daniels (right) operate the DART Boats in the Mississippi River
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Paul Faganel)

Flotilla Members Named to National Staff Positions

Flotilla 4 member, Suzanne Tomlinson has been appointed as the National Branch Chief of Boating Safety Communications (BC-BSC). This position is part of the Recreational Boating Safety Affairs Department. Mrs. Tomlinson is a teacher in the Humboldt Community School District and has been part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary since 2008.

“I am pleased with the confidence that the National staff has shown in appointing me to this position,” said Mrs. Tomlinson. “It will take some time to completely learn the ins and outs of this job, and I am eager to get started.”

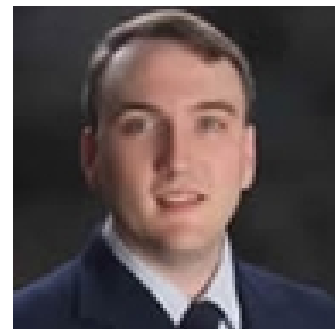
The RBS Affairs Department, under the program guidance of the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety and the direction of the Auxiliary Directorate of Recreational Boating Safety, provides assistance to Coast Guard units, Auxiliary National departments and Auxiliary district organizations in their efforts to promote and support recreational boating safety programs. RBS Affairs provides both informational and fiscal resource services to the Auxiliary membership. In addition, the RBS Affairs provides liaison with state boating law administrators and other recreational boating safety organizations, i.e., state, federal and the public sector.

Flotilla 4 member, Rob Green has been appointed as the Graphics Branch Chief of the National staff. “This position will definitely enhance my capability to coordinate and execute Coast Guard Auxiliary design projects,” said Mr. Green.

Rob is a former Coast Guard officer and a lifelong artist. After graduating from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1998, he spent six years on active duty as Operations Officer of USCGC SEDGE (WLB-402) in Homer, Alaska; as admin staff for the Assistant Commandant for Operations (G-O) at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC; and finally as Executive Officer of USCGC HICKORY (WLB-212) in Homer, Alaska.



Auxilarist Suzanne Tomlinson
(U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo by Doug Jansen)



Auxilarist Rob Green
(Photo Courtesy of Rob Green)



Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Norma Newton
 Flotilla Commander
fc@flotilla4.org

MARCH 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 5-7—Kidsfest

Varied Industries Building
 Iowa State Fairgrounds

March 13—Flotilla Business Meeting

0900—1100 hours
 Camp Dodge Building B-62

March 13—Boat Crew Training

1100—1600 hours
 Camp Dodge Building B-62

March 19-20 — 8WR District Conference

Plymouth, Minnesota

March 27—8 Hour Team Coordination Training

0830—1600 hours
 Eppley Airport Fire Station—Omaha, Nebraska

April 10—Flotilla Business Meeting Followed By Boat Crew Training

0900—1100 hours
 Camp Dodge Building B-62

April 23-25—Division 33 Training & Awards Weekend

Annual Operations Workshop and 1 Hour TCT Refresher
 Mahoney State Park—Ashland, Nebraska

May 15—Flotilla Business Meeting & Workshops

0900—1600 hours
 Camp Dodge Building B-62

May 22-28—National Safe Boating Week

May 22—Iowa Boating Classs
 0900—1700 hours

Lake Red Rock Visitors Center

May 22—Water Safety Night at the Iowa Cubs

Principal Park

May 27 & 29—Iowa Boating Classs

1800—2100 hours May 27

0900—1400 hours May 29

Oak Woods Learning Center at Saylorville Lake

May 29—Spring Into Safe Boating Event

Various Ramps At Saylorville Lake