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

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FLOTILLA 4
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3 Saves In One Day



**Shore Patrol Members (l to r)
Norma Newton, Trevor Hender-
son, and Dave Ellis**

Photo Courtesy of Nick Critelli

Three young adults were rescued from the Des Moines River on Saturday, August 16th thanks to the teamwork of Flotilla 4. Shore patrol, composed of Auxiliarists Dave Ellis, Norma Newton and Trevor Henderson, spotted a capsized boat and three boaters in the water. They were able to radio Birdland Base who relayed to our two patrol vessels. Pauline and Ron Longnecker on their Personal Watercraft were able to rescue one while David Mote, Jim Berry, Gary Neel, and Jose Medina secured the other two. Communications was handed off to Mission Base at Sycamore access who coordinated the SAR with Sector Upper Mississippi River.

Teamwork involving all four mission elements (shore or ground patrol, surface patrol, communications and mission management) were necessary to make this a success. Other members involved included: Tony Crandell, Nick Critelli, Travis Daniels, John Hawkinson, Gene Kellogg, Roland Newton, Ralph Tomlinson, Suzanne Tomlinson, and Jeff Towle.

A New Boat For Flotilla 4

In September it was announced that Flotilla 4 will now have a new vessel available for use for the Spring 2009 season. This new boat is a 23' Sea Ray Laguna Center Console. It is equipped with radar, GPS, Comm radios, and twin 135 HP outboard motors. It's top speed will be nearly 60 Knots. Mr. Daniels towed the new boat to the Flotilla Business Meeting on September 14th for Flotilla members to look at. Over the winter months it will get some TLC and get outfitted with the necessary gear to be made a suitable Coast Guard Auxiliary facility this spring. It is planned that this facility will be available in addition to 2 other Jon Boats, 2 PWC's, and a pontoon boat for multi-mission patrols and SAR's in Flotilla 4's area of responsibility.



Flotilla 4's Newest Facility

Photo Courtesy of Trevor Henderson

Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!

USCG Commandant Pushes Facebook



Admiral Thad Allen
USCG Commandant
Official CG Photo

“Your Assistance to the Sector has been invaluable and is very much appreciated.”



Captain Steven Hudson
Commander, SUMR
Official CG Photo

“Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thad Allen has eclectic tastes in music, plays Scrabble online, doesn’t really watch mainstream television — although he is a fan of “House” and “The Big Bang Theory” — and, above all, is proud of his fellow service members, according to his Facebook profile.

The highest-ranking member in the Coast Guard has been experimenting with various new media tools such as the photo-sharing site Flickr, video hub YouTube and popular social networking site Facebook for the last several months as he prepared for a “revolution” in Coast Guard information management.

Allen released a servicewide message Monday that strongly encourages senior leaders to use new media technology such as “blogs, wikis, social networks and podcasts” to improve communication with Coast Guardsmen and potential recruits.”

This new emphasis by higher headquarters has encouraged Flotilla 4 to look into new media as well. Check back for further updates on our progress. The rest of the story is available at the link below:

[Navy Times Article](#) by [Amy McCullough](#)

SEOC Liaison Recognized by SUMR

As you know I have been in this Sector for only a short time, but in that time I have been impressed by the support and professionalism of 8 Western Rivers’ Auxiliaries. Your assistance to the Sector has been invaluable and is very much appreciated.

During the past month, I have reviewed the lessons learned from the massive flooding in June. One of the success stories which stand out is that of the Auxiliaries who support the Iowa State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). For those of you who are unaware of this team, let me provide you with some background information about them. These Auxiliaries volunteered to work with the Iowa SEOC and have been trained as a part of that organization. As such, when Sector dispatched a Coast Guard Liaison officer to the Iowa SEOC during the flooding this team supported him. This assistance was invaluable to ensure rapid support to the affected areas.

Based on the success of this team, I would like to establish a SEOC support team at each of the SEOC’s in Sector Upper Mississippi River’s (SUMR) area of Responsibility (AOR). The principal function of these teams would be to assist SUMR during emergencies by acting as a member of the Coast Guard Liaison Support Team assigned to the SEOC; working under the direct supervision of an assigned Coast Guard Liaison Officer. All teams would perform their duties under the supervision of the Incident Management Division at Sector UMR. Each team would train with the SEOC to ensure familiarity with systems, personnel, types of emergencies, etc; participate in SEOC Major Exercises; and, participate in SEOC Planning Evolutions (not as the decision maker, but as the communications link with SUMR).

The specific qualifications I am looking for in each volunteer are:

- ICS 100, ICS 200, IS 700, & IS 800; with ICS 300 & ICS 400 preferred;
- Some computer skills are necessary.
- Co-located near the SEOC;
- Willing to serve during emergencies;
- Willing to make a significant investment in personnel time for: Training; Exercises; and, Planning.

These teams are necessary to cover a gap in our support organization which exists between SUMR and the other ten (10) SEOCs in our AOR. This program is essential to ensuring that we fulfill our responsibilities in emergency management and I look forward to working with you on making this a success.

**Steven L. Hudson, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Sector Upper Mississippi River**

Flotilla 4 Attends Fall Conference

Eight members of Flotilla 4 travelled to Dubuque to attend the District 8 Western Rivers Fall Conference which was held at the Grand Harbor Resort. Flotilla 4 was glad to be a part of the conference and our members met a lot of Auxiliarists from across the district as well as our District leadership. Seminars were taught on a variety of topics on operations, public education, and administration.

Members were able to meet the DIRAUX, Cmdr Campbell, and the OTO, CWO Leavell, as well as other "Gold Side" leadership at the conference. The Spring Conference will be hosted by Division 8.



Flotilla 4 Members (l to r): Norma & Roland Newton, Suzanne & Ralph Tomlinson, Doug Jansen, Jeff Towle, Gene Kellogg, and Nick Critelli. Photo Courtesy of Gene Kellogg

Flotilla 4 And DNR Encourage Life Jackets

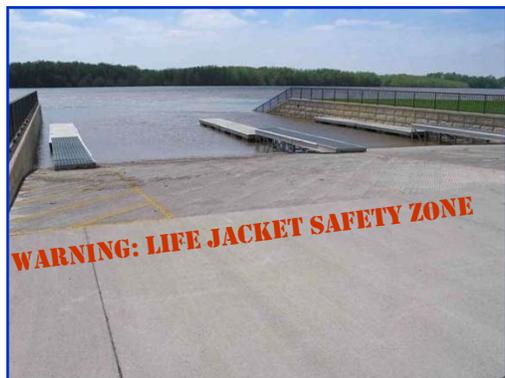


Photo Courtesy of MuscatineBoatShow.com

Flotilla 4 and the Safe Boating Department of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources have agreed to work together in the Spring of 2009 to paint large signs on 43 of the boat ramps in the Iowa state parks that will say: "Warning: Life Jacket Safety Zone". The joint committee will be headed up by Susan Stocker of the Iowa DNR and Jeff Towle of Flotilla 4.

"This program should help to further encourage boaters to wear a life jacket for their safety," said Jeff Towle. This program will further emphasize the need for Iowa's boaters to wear their life jackets.

"This program should help to further encourage boaters to wear a life jacket for their safety"

A New Idea In Throwable PFD's

The people at "[The Personal Retriever](#)" feel that they have a superior product. Their disk based device is thrown like a Frisbee, it has 100 feet of line wound inside of the disk, and the most interesting part is the fact that the disc floats. This device has been certified by the Coast Guard as a type V personal flotation device. They have sent us one to try out. We only have this device for the next few weeks, but in that short time we will put the retriever through its paces to see what it can do.



Photo Courtesy of WaterRescueDevice.com



Photo Courtesy of John Halbrook



Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Travis Daniels
 Flotilla Commander
fc@flotilla4.org

OCTOBER 2008

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	

October 11 & 12—Flotilla Training Weekend

Location: Camp Dodge Building B-62

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—AUXSAR

Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—AUXSAR

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: ODU

October 26—Proctor for AUXSAR Exam

Location: TBD

NOVEMBER 2008

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						

November 8 & 9—Flotilla Training Weekend

Location: Camp Dodge Building B-62

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—AUXNAV

Saturday: 1800—2100 hours—Holiday Party (Civilian Attire)

Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—AUXNAV

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting & Elections

UOD: ODU

December 13 & 14—Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—TBD

Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—TBD

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: ODU

DECEMBER 2008

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			

January 10 & 11 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—TBD

Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—TBD

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: Tropical Blue Long

January 10, 2009— Division 33 and Flotilla 4 Change of Watch

Location: Embassy Club in Des Moines, IA, 1800 hours

UOD: Dinner Dress White or Appropriate Civilian Attire