

USCG Auxiliary Division 3 Minutes
May 2006

The annual memorial service at Station Merrimack River commenced at 1830 with presentation of the colors by Station personnel, an invocation by Frank Keslof (IPDCP/ RCO-Sector Boston) and a moment of silence for all who have crossed the bar and who are serving in harms way, and the laying of the wreath by Ron Booth, DCP.

The meeting was then called to order at 1845.

Board and Staff present: Ron Booth, DCP; Henry Marchi, VCP, SO-PE; Frank Keslof, IPDC, RCO-Sector Boston; Dick Lemar, FC 33, SO-CS; Jeff James, FC 35, SO-MT; John McDermott, VFC 35, SO-MS; Rick Lutes, FC 37; Alan Gould, VFC 37, SO-VE; Charles Pencinger, FC 38; Scott Crocker, VFC 38, SO-PS; Bud Kuran, SO-AN; Wayne Cedres, SO-MA; John Merrill, SO-OP; Al DePietro, SO-PA; Sheryl James, SO-SR.

Guests: Station Executive Officer Dave Andreesen

FLOTILLA REPORTS:

Flotilla 33 – Richard J. Lemar, FC:

- On 18 May at 1900 we had our monthly Flotilla 33 meeting at the Chelmsford Police Station with 16 members and 1 guest, Peter Sicurella, present.
- The FSO-SR minutes and FSO-FN report was approved as read.
- Flotilla 33 has initiated Safety Patrols in the Merrimack River with one in April and two in May. Most recently on 21 May we were engaged in mapping the bottom of the Merrimack River with Side Scan Sonar on loan to us from the Side Scan Sonar team at Sector Boston.
- The final plans have been concluded for our June dinner meeting, to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Chelmsford, MA, on 24 June at 1830. In addition to our June dinner meeting we will have regular membership meetings in July and August.

Flotilla 34 – Joe Amore, FC:

- Flotilla meeting held on 11 May 2006 with 10 members in attendance.
- Staff reports were given and accepted.
- We completed our BS&S spring class and gave our final exam on 10 May. 28 students took the Aux. Exam, all passed. Two teens took the State exam and passed. Twelve took the NH exam, all passed. Five students for one reason or another could not take the exam on the 10th and we have scheduled a make up on 24 May at the Station.

Flotilla 35 – Jeff James, FC:

- Our last meeting was held on May 4, 2006 at the Lawrence Police Department Community Room and a quorum was present.
- Our next meeting will be held on June 1st at Michael's Sweetheart Inn in Methuen, MA.
- We have a new member, Stephen Arena, currently doing his BQ.
- We have been discussing recruitment for the Flotilla to see if we can beef up our numbers with some younger people. We have a person spearheading our plans, Trish Morrison, who is doing very well.
- Two of our members, Sheryl & Jeff James, just became qualified as MEES-PQS (Marine Environmental Education Specialist).
- **ADDENDUM:**
 - *There will be a dinner for the enlisted personnel at Station MR on Saturday, June 3rd. Alan Gould*

has volunteered to cook lasagna. Steak tips & potato salad will be provided as well as a garden salad and deserts.

- *Under New Business I will be asking for a special meeting sometime in June to cover a 4 part agenda.*
 - *What seems to be a new policy of replacing manuals with CD's?*
 - *Recruitment of younger people from other than our PE classes/ web pages. We don't seem to have even scratched the surface.*
 - *To address what we can do as a Division, including research, to address the problem of ethanol gasoline used by boats and how to educate the public.*
 - *And lastly a Bravo Zulu for Dick Lemar and Bud Kuran for the work they performed on the MR mapping the bottom.*

Flotilla 37 – Rick Lutes, FC:

- One flotilla OPFAC pulled during the flood expected to return to dock at the end of the month. The OPFAC is trailerable.
- PE course exam May 30th for New Hampshire, Mass, and BS&S all lesson modules, at the Ipswich VFW.
- FSO-AN getting ready to go to C-school.
- Complaints from some flotilla members regarding the “Old” information being published in the new district directory.
- Students from this BS&S class show interest for a short run BCN class in June. We may offer this if we can get the resources together quickly enough.
- Condolences sent to Frank Conrad.

Flotilla 38 – Charles Pencinger, FC:

- The most recent meeting of Flotilla 38 was held on 4 May 2006 at the Plum Island Boat House with 16 members and 0 guests.
- The PE class graduated 25 students on 9 May.
- The Youth Boating Safely Course graduated 11 students on 8 April at the River Valley Charter School.
- The Flotilla conducted 11 VE's so far this year. The ramp was closed at Cashman Park for our Flotilla's VE weekend on 20 May.
- Lew Burrige is now helping the Division IS officer as an assistant.
- FL 38 is organizing a day on the water boating party in lieu of the usual July cookout on 29 July 2006. Other flotillas in the Division are welcome to participate.
- My boat goes in the water tomorrow 26 May.

STAFF REPORTS:

Aids to Navigation – Felix H. (Bud) Kuran, AN:

- **Division 3's ATON's Workshop:**
 - An ATON's workshop for members of Division 3 was held 20 May at the MRCG Station. The session ran from 0900 to 1200. Frank Larkin, the District ATON officer was on hand for the presentation. The session covered most elements of ATON activity, but concentrated mainly on reporting of Federal Aids and on Private Aids. Members of Division attending were Jeff & Sheryl James, Barbra Vogel, Dick Muir, Rex Kelly, and myself.
- **Rex Kelly to attend CG C-school.**

- Rex Kelly from Flotilla 37 has applied for and has been accepted to attend an ATON training session this June in Virginia. Congratulations to Rex and welcome to the Division 3 ATON team.
- **Side Scan Sonar survey of Merrimack River from Newburyport to Haverhill.**
 - Sector Boston directed MRCG Station to conduct a side scan sonar survey of the Merrimack River to check the bottom for debris, sunk boats, etc. which could cause a hazard to navigation. The station requested the Auxiliary boat Defiant (R. Lemar – Cox/ B. Kuran – crew) to conduct a mission from Newburyport to Haverhill with the side scan sonar equipment set up and with a crew member from Station MR who has been trained in the sonar’s use. The mission was successfully completed and the bottom mapped. The recorded data will be sent in to Boston for further review of the river bottom. It is noted that there appeared to be nothing of significance found in the channel. In the area of the Groveland Town anchorage a small boat with mooring chain attached and the block was clearly seen. It was theorized that a small boat moored at the anchorage swamped and settled to the bottom still attached to its mooring.
- **Missing and Off Station aids to navigation on the Merrimack River.**
 - The recent rain and flooding of the Merrimack River played havoc with the aids on the Merrimack River. Many have been dragged down river off station and are in the wrong location while many have just disappeared. The ANT from Boston has been in the river since Monday (22 May) repositioning the buoys to their correct location. Be very careful when navigating on the Merrimack. There is much debris still drifting down river, some very large trees. Docks have been seen to be adrift in the river with most under water. There is a large section just before the Chain Bridge on the Newburyport side of the channel. This dock is sometimes completely underwater and sometimes exposed. This has been reported to Station MR.
- **Severe Marina Damage due to flooding of Merrimack River.** During a safety patrol on Sunday May 20 a quick survey of Marinas along the Merrimack revealed various levels of damage:
 - Crescent Yacht Club – Haverhill – Docks not in water.
 - Kashmire Marina – Haverhill – moderate damage with many dock units damaged.
 - Davy Jones Marina – Merrimack – docks on shore
 - MacKenzie’s Landing – Amesbury – all docks in water broke loose crashing into Hatters Point Marina and carrying down river.
 - Hatters Point Marina – Amesbury – upriver section saw severe damage from being hit by MacKenzie’s docks. The Coast Guard 25-ft boat responded night of the 15th and 16th.
 - Larry’s Marina – Amesbury – no damage to docks. Flooding of yard and 1st floor of building.
 - Ferry Landing Marina – Newburyport – extensive docks down river from his boat ramp.
 - Boat Works – Newburyport – heavy damage to some docks.
 - North End Boat Club – Newburyport – no apparent damage to docks.
 - Cove Marina – Salisbury – some damage to main dock leading from shore.
 - Rivers Edge Marina – Newburyport – no apparent damage to docks.
 - Bridge Marina – no apparent damage to docks.
 - Dawn Marina – Salisbury – some damage to docks.
 - MacKenzie’s Channel Marker Marina – Newburyport – no apparent damage to docks. The docks, which broke free from, MacKenzie’s have managed to be filed together at several locations down river. A large pile is located just down river from the Marina location with a long rope run ashore to the riverbank. A 2nd pile is located at the bend in the river, just upriver from the Rt. 95 Bridge in the alternate channel. This pile also has a long rope attached to the shore holding it in place (these lines were provided by the CG, one is the towline from the 47-ft boat and the other the towline from the 25-ft boat).

Communications – Gary Stapleford, CM:

- All communications are normal.
- Sunday Radio Net is active.
- No new members.

Communication Services – Richard Lemar, CS:

- **Accomplishments** – Updated the following Division 3 pages
 - **Staff page:** Rearranged photo's and condensed the page for easier reading.
 - **What's New page:** Link added for the GAR Model Risk Calculation. Added the D-3 April minutes.
 - **Links page:** Added link for the Flotilla 34 Website.
 - **Assisted Flotilla 34:** Worked with Flotilla 34 Webmaster with the website setup as directed by the DSO-CS.

Finance – John Carver, FN

Approved as read.

Information Services – Joseph Antanavich, IS

- Absent, no report.
- **All 99 forms should now go to Lou Burridge, Flotilla 38**, at 14 Lucey Drive, Newburyport, MA 01950-1781; (H) 978-465-4153; lew@burridge.us.

Materials – Wayne Cedres, MA:

- The Material Center will be shut down the last week in June for the annual audit.

Marine Safety – John McDermott, MS:

- Jeff & Sheryl James have completed their Auxiliary Marine Environmental Education Specialist (AuxMEES) training requirements and now hold competencies to act as Marine Environmental Education Specialists.
- Dick Muir reports that Marine Mammal Observer trips to Stellwagen Bank aboard the Prince of Wales out of Newburyport began on Saturday May 20th.
- The Joppa Flats Audubon Society's Biodiversity Day (environmental friendly alternative choices) is scheduled for June 4th (rain or shine). Coastie is scheduled to be there.
- In April Fran Hunt conducted two Commercial Fishing Vessel Examinations. Both vessels passed their examinations.

Member Training – Jeff James, MT:

- The VE School was an absolute non-event. I hope that all of our VE's are as good as they think they are. After contacting 3 Divisions (2, 3, & 4) we actually had 2 ladies from Flotilla 34, Linda Piergerye and Pattie Rae Miliotis. One had already taken the test and was unsure of her self. The other lady had not even submitted her new member paperwork yet. Consider that both the VE department and RBSP department will be on their own from now on.
- The ATON workshop on May 20th with Frank Larkin, DSO-AN, doing Federal aids and discrepancies as well as going over the paperwork involved was a much better showing. I am happy to say that every Flotilla was represented.
- Over the summer (June, July, August, & September) will be on-the-water training with mentors. We will need crews for the boats.
- The ISAR crew is in training for the competition on June 17th at Point Allerton.

Operations – John Merrill, OP:

- The Division 3 Operation workshop was held on April 29th at the Plum Island Boathouse. There were 17 members in attendance. Also would like to thank the Station Crew for taking the time to stop into our workshop.
- I am encouraging all of our operations missions to use the GAR for evaluating risk of their planned missions. Check in with the OD or fax the information over prior to getting underway. This is currently a requirement for all surface facilities working under the CGSTA Gloucester. The form for completing the GAR with instructions has been posted on the Division website.
- Waiver Form personal Protective Equipment (PPE, i.e. Mustangs). This form has also been submitted for inclusion on the Division website.

Public Affairs – Al DePietro, PA:

- No report

Publications – Charles Grossimon, PB:

- Absent, no report.

Public Education – Henry Marchi, PE:

- Most classes from the Division have been completed or will be within the next couple of weeks. According to the numbers Division has processed at least 100 students in Regular BS&S or BCN and an additional 11 students in the Youth Boating Safety Program from Flotilla 38. The North End Boat Club will add another 22 students bringing the total to 133 students in some form of Boating Safety for our spring session. This represents over 100 hours of PE class hours for the Division.
- We also managed to process around 45 people for the NH Marine Patrol certificate. This has been a good draw for advertising the BS&S class of the USCGAUX.
- This was a great effort and A JOB WELL DONE for all the DIVISION.

Personnel Services – Scott Crocker, PS:

- Division 3 still light on personnel activity. Two new member contact done, one for Division 4 and one for FL 38. Still don't have a "working" office yet. 9 weeks without internet/ computer/ telephone. Call my cell phone if you need me; 978-804-0767.

Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor – C. John Swenson, PV/ DSO-PV:

- **Achievements:** The PV training class, planned for Saturday May 13th, was cancelled by the SO-MT when he discovered practically no students! Apparently the inclement weather kept them home! I stand ready to provide training whenever Division 3 or any of our Flotillas call for it. SO-MT James put considerable effort into planning the training and I prepared a course curriculum, all to no avail. It is discouraging.
- **Problems/ Concerns:** As I have stated many times, while serving as SO-PV, RBSVP cannot flourish without the active support of the elected "Bridges" at all levels! I have seldom heard discussion of PV activity at Division or Flotilla meetings unless I initiated it. Concern over PV activity must be initiated by the elected officers if RBSVP is to provide the support the Auxiliary so sorely needs.
- **Looking Ahead:** The National Safe Boating Campaign will be here soon. All units should plan to participate. May comes early in the Merrimack Valley but we should all have plans for the month of June. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

Vessel Examinations – Alan Gould, VE:

- The VE schedule for Cashman Park has begun. The first Saturday was a good weather day and 11 VSC's were conducted, 10 by Flotilla 37 and 1 by Flotilla 38 (assisted a couple more – thanks).
- John Swenson was able to do his required supervised inspections in order to have his REYR status turned off.
- Fran Hunt, FSO-VE Flotilla 38, showed up to provide additional assistance. His assistance was appreciated.
- Flotilla 34 had 2 members complete a VE school provided by Jeff James. SO-MT, Rick Lutes, offered his boat for hands on inspection to provide some hands-on training to augment the classroom material. Flotilla 34 is scheduled with Flotilla 37 at Cashman Park and I look forward to having these new VE's join us there on the 1st Saturday of the month, 0800-1200.
- I just want to clarify the incentives for VE's this year. In addition to official Coast Guard Auxiliary awards, as the SO-VE, I (not the Division, not my Flotilla) am offering two "Unofficial Awards". The first award is to the Flotilla with the largest increase of VSC's completed this year compared to the number completed last year; the winning Flotilla will be able to select the Saturday they want on their schedule at Cashman Park for 2007. The 2nd award is a \$30 dollar gift certificate to the Starboard Gallery Restaurant and it goes to the individual VE with the greatest increase in VSC's from the winning Flotilla. There is not a perfect incentive to get people to do the job they volunteered to do, but this is my attempt to reward those that do. How it affects different Flotillas will vary. Flotilla 38 completed a large number of VSC's (more than the rest of the Division combined) last year and it may be very difficult for them (maybe impossible, that is for the Flotilla to decide) to have the largest increase of VSC's this year. They are the largest Flotilla and have the greatest number of VE's and frankly seem to have a number of

individuals that spend a lot of time doing VSC's. The AFFECT of the program is it will require that Flotilla 38 do (hopefully) a tremendous amount of VSC's to win the awards. Hopefully the effect of the program will energize Flotilla 38 to prove that they are in fact the BEST Flotilla, not just the BIGGEST!!!! **ALL SAID WITH MY TONGUE FIRMLY PLANTED IN MY CHEEK**). The affect on the other Flotillas will be that they have to do far less VSC's to have the greatest increase in VSC's. Some of the reasons for the lack of performance in the past may be small membership, few VE's, or simply lack of interest in the VE mission. I do not know exactly why. However the effect of the awards hopefully will be a slight nudge or incentive for their VE's to spend a little more time and a little more effort to increase their involvement in the VE program. Nothing more, nothing less!

- As far as the individual VE, he/she must have been a VE last year and MUST have done a minimum of 5 VSC's last year. So here is the challenge – get out and do some VSC's and prevent me from using the gift certificate to take my wife out to dinner!

VCPREPORT:

- Still waiting on a home phone.
- My computer will soon be up and running.

IPDCPREPORT:

- Sector is looking for support for landside patrols for the M-Department. Prevention Section = low risk sites such as marinas, etc.; Enforcement Section = high-risk areas (government sites, etc).
- Regional Exam Center is looking for help (1-2 people) as proctors on Mondays & Tuesdays. Mileage will be paid.

DCPREPORT:

- Station MR had their first call out using the new plan because of the water problems in the district from the rain. Ron Doescher, Alan Gould, and Ron Booth answered the call from 0000 to 0400.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANDREESEN:

- Thanks to Dick Lemar and Bud Kuran for doing SONAR patrol of the Merrimack River.
- Will continue to try and help out with the VE exams on Saturdays.
- Senior Chief Jackson will be advancing to Warrant Officer on Friday and will be leaving the middle of August.
- BMC Brent ADSO? will be replacing Chief Jackson. joseph.a.Haskins.uscg.mil ?
- Patrols – e-mail the patrol number, crew names and numbers, and area of patrol.

OLD BUSINESS:

- PSI – Mr. Cleary will be having a party on June 1st in Boston suspending qualifications of those who have not submitted their paperwork.

The meeting was suspended at 1930 for refreshments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dinner Cruise (instead of the Station picnic) – this would be aboard the party boat on Plum Island. If we book space during one of the public cruises it would be \$35-\$36 dollars with food supplied by the Starboard Galley, approximately 6:30-9:00. Discussion took place about subsidizing the price of the tickets for the Station personnel (35 x 20 = \$700). Research was also done on how much the Starboard Galley would charge to cater the event at the Station (approx. \$12.95 - \$19.00 depending on the menu) and Woodman's was going to be looked into by Alan Gould. However this would also involve doing the tent, tables, and chair routine.
- A motion was made and seconded to subsidize the event up to \$700 for Station Personnel no matter what type of event was held. The motion passed.
- A motion was made and seconded to hold the event at the Station with a commercial vendor doing the cooking. There were 3 yeas and 4 nays.
- A motion was made and seconded to have a dinner cruise. The motion carried with 4 yeas and 3 nays.

- The Flotilla Commanders will return to their membership and obtain a consensus as to how many would go and what dates would be best. The final decision will be made in June.

GOOD OF AUXILIARY:

- **Awards:** None presented.
- **Station Dinner, Saturday June 3:** An evening meal will be prepared for the crew. Flotilla 37 has offered to do lasagna. Flotilla 38 is doing a salad and dessert. Flotilla 35 is doing steak tips and potato salad. Dave Andreesen will put together a weekend schedule of when they have no cook on duty at the Station. Will e-mail this to Henry Marchi, VCP.
- **Deceased members:** Frank Conrad from Flotilla 37 and former DCP of 3 just had his wife pass away. A sympathy card will be sent.
- The next Division meeting will be held on June 29th and COMO Pendergast will be attending.
- Host Flotilla will be FL 34.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045.

Respectfully submitted
Sheryl James, SO-SR

Note: *Italicized print = new information added to distributed reports.*