

Prior to the July meeting the Board & Staff had a cookout, which began at 6:30.

The meeting was then called to order at 1905 at Station Merrimack River. Bud Kuran, FC 34, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was had for all those who have crossed the bar and who serve in harms way.

Board and Staff present: Ron Booth, DCP; Henry Marchi, VCP, PE; Dick Lemar, FC-33, CS; Bud Kuran, FC 34, AN; Gerald (Jeff) James, FC 35, MT; Alan Gould, VFC-37, VE; Scott Crocker, VFC 38, PS; Gary Stapleford, CM; Joe Antanavich, IS; Wayne Cedres, MA; John Merrill, OP; Bob Deschene, PA; John Swenson, PV; Sheryl James, SR.

Guests: Fl 33 – Dick Muir, Fl 38 – Charlie Grossimon.

FLOTILLA REPORTS:

Flotilla 33 – Dick Lemar

- *Dick gave a very moving tribute to Hugh McLaughlin (a 20 year member of Fl 33) in remembrance of his passing last Thursday, July 19th. He died quietly at his home.*
- On 19 July we had our monthly Flotilla meeting at the Chelmsford Police Department with 10 members in attendance.
- Our FSO-VE reported that VSC's are ongoing at Cashman Park.
- We decided to cancel the August meeting due to vacation schedules of several members.
- We have a tentative date of September 8th for our Annual Raw Chicken Bar-B-Q at John Carver's Estate in Pepperell MA.
- Motion was made to reimburse Joe Antanavich for refreshment's for the June Division 3 meeting. The motion passed by a small margin.
- Under New Business our FSO-IS Joe Antanavich explained the proper procedure for reporting VSC's to IS.
- Awards were presented to COMMO Eugene Bernstein and Joe Antanavich from the US Department of Transportation. Oops, maybe it should have been the Department of Homeland Security.
- A reminder was made that elections are soon approaching and that members should think about running for elected office. Our FSO-MT COMMO Bernstein said that we could get a waiver that would allow me to stay on for a 5th term as FC (Fat Chance of that happening).

Flotilla 34 – Felix (Bud) Kuran FL-34

- Will be starting on Private Aids with a patrol next Wednesday up the Essex River and a Saturday patrol to Hampton.

Flotilla 35 – Jeff James

- We had no July meeting. Our next meeting will be the Flotilla Rendezvous on Saturday, August 4th, at Palmer's Cove Yacht Club (PCYC).
- We conducted a Mass Safe Boating Class at PCYC for members and their children on Saturday, July 21st. The exam will be this Saturday, July 28th.
- Still doing a lot of work on Sea Partners with Sector Boston.
- Our newest member, Ted May, just received his number.
- A member of 35 was involved in an Operational Support mission for Station MR playing boats.
- Our elections will be held at our November meeting on November 1st at the LPD Community Room.
- Candidates for FC and VFC are Fred Murphy (1182823), FC, and Stephen Arena (1223088), VFC.
- *Members of Fl 35 were also involved in a beach cleanup at Constitution Beach in East Boston with Coastie & PFD Panda in conjunction with MST 3 Aurea Vasquez and children from the YMCA summer camp.*

Flotilla 37 – Rick Lutes

- No Report.

Flotilla 38 – Charles Pencinger

- The July monthly meeting was a cookout at the Plum Island boathouse on 29 June. Approximately 30 members and guests enjoyed the evening and the spectacular sunset on the Merrimack River.
- The next meeting will be on 6 September as the Flotilla voted to skip the August meeting.

DIVISION 3 STAFF REPORTS:

Aids to Navigation – Felix (Bud) Kuran, SO-AN:

- *Will be starting Private Aid's patrols next Wednesday with a patrol up the Essex River and a patrol on Saturday to Hampton.*

Communications – Gary Stapleford, SO-CM:

- All COMS normal.
- Sunday Radio Net active. My HF station was also active and reported in to the SHARES Program office each week. Will be starting an HF Radio net for Div-3 and 1NR within the next few weeks.
- Anyone interested in getting on the USCGAUX HF Net or the SHARES program please contact me at gstapleford@verizon.net

Communication Services – Richard Lemar, SO-CS:

- **Updated the following Division 3 pages**
 - **What's New page:** Added June Minutes, July meeting notice and cleaned up old items. Added the Hugh McLaughlin Memoriam and Link to his Obituary.
 - **Calendar Page:** July Photo Calendar. This month features the two SCS (Steamboat Channel South) Buoy's eight feet apart with one barely on the surface at low tide. Buoy was originally reported missing to Station MR by OPFAC 181082 while on patrol.
 - **PE Page:** Cleaned out old classes.
 - **Home Page:** Updated Division 3 July Meeting date.
 - **E-mail Address Change:** E-mail address link changed for Ron Booth DCP.
 - **Flotilla 33 What's New Page:** Added the Hugh McLaughlin Memoriam and Link to his Obituary.
 - **Craigslist:** Placed an ad for Flotilla 33 Membership drive.

Finance Officer – John Carver, SO-FN: Accepted as given.

Flotillas should be in the final stages of membership dues collection. I have received the Division 3 bank account debit card and intend to keep it securely in the Division 3 financial record file and not move it from that location.

Information Systems – Joe Antanavich, SO-IS:

- *Problems with reports – people are not reading what qualifications are required for certification and where to send the letter when completed. It does not go to the SO-IS Officer.*
- *If e-mailing your reports please send the e-mail version, not the regular hard copy version. The difference is 9 extra pages and toner that I do not need and that the Division should not have to pay for.*
- *The 7029's go to Lou in Fl 38.*
- *I am willing to do IS instruction for the Flotilla's if asked.*

Materials – Wayne Cedres, SO-MA:

- District store has closed except for conferences. Nothing else to report.

Marine Safety – John McDermott, SO-MS:

- AuxMEES PQS Training – Jeff James reports that the Auxiliary Marine Environmental Education Specialist class at USCG Sector Boston for the AuxMEES PQS continues with Trisha Morrison Flotilla 35 and Bruce Dewire Flotilla 38 from Division 3 in that class.
- Marine Mammal Observer – FSO-MS 33 Dick Muir reports that he completed Observer trips out of Newburyport aboard the Prince of Whales on June 21 and July 5. Humpback whales were observed on these trips and no violations by other commercial whale watch boats in the area were reported. Dick continues to remove plastic bottles from the Merrimack River while doing ATON inspections.

Member Training – Jeff James, SO-MT:

- MEES training is ongoing with 2 members at the LPD Community Room.
- Am in the process of training 2 instructors in conjunction with their MEES training as this is part of their required PQS.
- On water training will start very soon (honest) with Lazy Daze, which is now up and running.
- Training for the kayak people will soon begin at Parker River Wildlife Refuge (PRWR)/ Joppa Flats in conjunction with MS ecological missions.
- I have had no direct calls for tests as of late.
- The "Exam Gateway" link has changed from the Director's web site to the Training Department and now requires a password to access. This process can take up to 24 hours to complete but only needs to be done once.
- **Open Book Exams in the Field (New Member, VE, RBSVP, IT, etc.) – the DSO-MT has requested a polling of all the Flotillas for a list of the exams and the editions you have in your possession in order to verify that they are the current edition and that all units have a complete set. This will ensure that the proper answer key is grading the proper exam. This information should be returned to me ASAP.** There has been a lot of confusion with exams lately because of all the updates, etc. Be patient now that you know the problems.

Operations – John Merrill, SO-OP:

- *Check rides are slow to be done for those requiring the 3-year check-ride this year.*
- **ICS: Required by December.**
 - 100/ 700 required for Crew*
 - 200/ 800 required for Coxswain*

Public Affairs – Bob Deschene, SO-PA:

- *Next week is our big week and the USO will be there. Senior Chief Paul Duffin of Waterways Management will be there on August 1st and 2nd but not the 3rd to the 5th.*
- *The Hammerhead (a 125 ft. cutter) will be at the town dock instead of the Flying Fish.*
- *Dedication Ceremony at the Museum will be 5-7 on Friday. Uniform is Tropical Blue Long.*
- *A booth will be set up behind the Museum on Saturday and Sunday with Coastie. Hours will be 10-4 on Saturday and 10-7 on Sunday. **We still need people to man the booth, even in 2-hour shifts.** I will be busy taking pictures on Saturday at 2 locations so will definitely need help for the PA booth at the Museum.*
- *The Admiral will not make the dedication ceremony Friday night but will be here on Saturday.*
- *Also will need instruction on running Coastie and I will get my lesson on Sunday, July 29th, at the Parker River Wildlife Refuge Headquarters.*

Publications – SO-PB:

- **Unfilled.**

Public Education – Henry Marchi, SO-PE:

- *Flotilla 35's next Boating Skills and Seamanship class will be a 9 lesson class held at Northern Essex Community College, North Andover Campus, and will run from October 1st thru December 3rd.*
- *Flotilla 33 Starting Sept 17 and Oct 15 back to back ABC Courses.*

Personnel Services – Scott Crocker, SO-PS:

- *Have two prospective new members for Fl. 38 (Barraclough/Janson) and one for Fl. 34 (Kelly) for this period.*

Program Visitor – C. John Swenson, SO-PV:**• ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- *As of 12 July there are 63 certified Program Visitors in First Northern. We have four certified PV's in Division 3, approximately 06% of that total. Considering that there are 12 Divisions in the District we are just above the average needed (per Division) to reach that total of 63 visitors: 05%. Although many more PV's are needed, both in the District & Division 3, it is gratifying to note that the total number of visitors in First District has grown from 47 to 63 in the 30 months I have served as DSO-PV.*

• PROBLEMS/CONCERNS

- *We are only still “scratching the surface” of the mission USCG requests us to meet. PV Certification is one of the easiest qualifications to achieve, using the on-line exam. It is a natural “fit” with the VSC Program. When the Visitation Program (MDV) began a Visitor was required to first be a qualified vessel examiner. This requirement was removed when it became apparent that the growth of the Visitation Program was suffering because of it. Or was it? Growth in RBSVP is still painfully slow. Food for thought, ladies and gentlemen.*

• LOOKING AHEAD

- *In Division 3 the upcoming Newburyport Days Celebration will certainly take precedent over the previously announced “National Marina Day” on 11 August. The Maritime Museum displays & the Past-Captains party here at Merrimack Station will certainly keep us busy.*

Secretary Report – Sheryl James, SO-SR: Accepted as mailed.

Vessel Examinations – Alan Gould, SO-VE:

- *VE's to date: 141*
- *Fl 33 covered 3 weeks in a row at Cashman Park.*
- *If any Flotilla has extra decals we could use some.*

IPDCPREPORT:

- Absent, no report.

DCPREPORT:

- *Humane Society provided a \$23,000 grant for a portable sound system for each Division. They have also approved a 3rd \$23,000 grant to provide radios for the radio net.*
- *Tuesday Station MR asked for support from the Auxiliary to do towing scenarios for their Station evaluation. Bud and Jeff have stepped forward and the Chief is very happy.*

VCPREPORT:

- No report.

Since everyone was still full from the cookout it was decided to continue straight through instead of having a break.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 84 tickets have been sold for the picnic with a few more expected. This amounts to 140 people total with station personnel and reserves counted in.
- August 2nd, Thursday, is the Station Open House from 10:00 – 2:00. Tropical Blue Long is the uniform. We still need a few people to step forward to provide coverage here at the Station.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made and seconded by Charlie Pencinger and Dick Lemar to reimburse Bob Deschene, SO-PA, for the \$80.00 he spent out of pocket for a canopy for the Museum booth.
- Jeff James offered to research pricing for a commercial grade canopy for the Division to have for PA events. This will be presented at the next Division meeting (September).
- Screening Committee (for the Division Elections)
 - Dick Lemar, Chairman
 - Wayne Cedres
 - Charlie Pencinger
 - The committee will check the qualifications for each candidate that decides to run for DCP and VCP. Letters (**not e-mails**) should be sent to Dick Lemar before the September meeting. The election will be held at the October meeting.

GOOD OF AUXILIARY:

- Sunday, July 29th, is the Coast Guard Day event at the PRWR Headquarters on Ocean Avenue for Sea Partners, Waterway Watch, and Safe Boating. Everyone is welcome.
- A list of perspective candidates for FI 33, 34, and 37 are still needed. Don't forget the APC exam is now one of the qualifications for elected office.
- No August meeting.
- September's meeting will have the Director of Auxiliary present. Lets make a good showing.
 - **Ill Members:**
 - Dick Lemar is having knee surgery the end of August.
 - James Baldwin (retired member of 38) had a hip replacement.
 - Joe Amore is having his other knee replaced the end of August.
 - **Awards:**
 - Alan Gould – 5 years of Dedicated Service.

The meeting was adjourned at 2030

The next meeting will be September 27, 2007. Flotilla 35 will be the host Flotilla.

Respectfully submitted
Sheryl James, SO-SR

Note: *Italicized print = new information added.*