



THE LAKE PILOT

Flotilla 81

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COMMANDERS CORNER

I'll start out by thanking everyone who came out to our Change of Watch; if you missed it, you missed out on a great meal and some great company. My thanks go to Tom and Betty Lamons for printing the program and to Susan for lining up the event. Also thanks to the new Division 8 Commander(elect), Ed Hollowell, and his wife for coming down to our COW, and Division Vice Commander (elect), our own Tom Merriman, and Sandy for being there.

Seems like just a little while ago we had the 2008 COW, and now we are at the 2009 COW. Boating season will be here before you know it, so let's remember to get our facilities in order for the coming year.

On the Staff for Flotilla 81 this year there are some new faces; I know you will make them feel welcome. There is a list of the new officers in this newsletter – please make note of the changes. One main one is that Tom Lamons will not be the IS officer for 2009. Al Perdue will take over this position. So remember all forms should be sent to Al instead of Tom.

The boat show will be our next major event; please help if possible. Dean Nimax will be doing our training this year. He will be doing coxswain and crew training at the station. For more information on this, contact Dean or Vinnie Popowitch as to times and dates. We also would like to welcome Mickey Frece back as our OP's officer; I know he will be sending out the calendar soon for patrols and radio watch at the station for the upcoming year.

Danny Foster



Sunshine Report

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Susan Lowe and her family upon the recent death of her uncle.

Slim Lockerman sustained bruising when his car was struck by another vehicle. Don Davis also suffered bruising and a possible broken rib from a fall shortly after Christmas.

Peggy Looney was sick in early December, causing her and Jun to miss the Flotilla Christmas party.

May 2009 bring healing and improved health to everyone who has been ill or suffered injuries!

BIRTHDAYS

Sandra Merriman wife of Tom Merriman

01/10

Victor Baranauskas	02/09
Sue Gordon	02/22
Jun Looney	02/01
Neal Strong – husband of Debbie Robbins	02/20

ANNIVERSARY

Neil Strong and Debby Robbins	01/05
Bill and Charlotte Broyles	02/25
James and Suzzane Graboski	02/21

MINUTES OF THE FLOTILLA 81 MEETING November 23, 2008

Unit Officers Present: Foster FC, Lowe VFC, Thompson OP, Lamons IS, Lamons PB, Merriman IPFC-PS, Demers SO-CS, Dickey MA-FN, Frece AN, Howell PE, Looney FFO, Popowitch VE, and Perdue MT.

Guests Present: Ginger Ellis, DCDR-8.

Opening: FC Foster called the meeting to order at 1400 and VFC Lowe led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Paul M. Howell.

Staff Reports: Those FSO's present reported on their pertinent activities. Copies of individual reports will be kept with meeting minutes for anyone who would like to view them.

Crew members needed for the Christmas Boat Parade patrol, 6 Dec starting at 1800.

Flotilla 81 ran 7 Boat VA Safe Boating Classes with 276 certificates awarded.

Articles and photos for the next Lake Pilot will be due by 14 Dec.

Deadline for submitting paperwork is 30 Nov.; all reports received after that date will be 2009 activity.

Ending balance on financial report is \$4,345.00.

Boat docking at the SARDET will be limited next season due to low water and maintenance issues.

DCDR Remarks: Ginger Ellis attending to preside over the annual Flotilla election for the 2009 Bridge. Ginger thanked all for their support in having a very good year performing the missions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Ginger Ellis noted that Flotilla 83 is close to completing plans for their new SARDET at Claytor Lake. Division will have three SARDETS, Smith Mountain Lake, Lake Anna, and now Claytor Lake next season.

Old/New Business: Flotilla Christmas party will be at Don and Mary Davis', 13 Dec. at 1700. Flotilla Change of Watch banquet will be 6 Jan. at the Parkers Sea Food Restaurant.

Elections: After the nominating committee submitted the names of Danny Foster for Flotilla Commander and Susan Lowe for Vice Flotilla Commander, both were unanimously elected for 2009.

Unit Training Topics Presented: Al Perdue, FSO-MT, presented a class participation discussion on the U. S. C. G. and C. G. Auxiliary history.

Remarks: Ginger Ellis presented the following awards to our members: Tom Lamons – 9th Sustained Service Award; Vince Popowitch – 3rd Sustained Service Award; Susan Lowe – Annual VE/Program Visitor Award; Vince Popowitch – Annual Service Award for Operations; Susan Lowe – Annual Service Award for Operations; Jeff Demers – Certificate of Completion Navigation A; Kerry Eakins – Certificate of Completion Patrols; Karl Elsea – ICS 210 Certificate.

Next business meeting: 1500, Sunday, 25 January, 2009, Smith Mountain Lake Station.

Submitted by: T. R. Merriman.

COMING UP

17 January – Division 8 Meeting and Change of Watch, Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center, Staunton, VA; refreshments at 0900 hours, meeting at 0930 hours, followed by a luncheon at 1330 hours, and an awards ceremony and installation of officers at 1430 hours.

25 January – Flotilla 81 meeting, SML AUXSARDET, 1500 hours, followed by potluck dinner. Tom and Betty Lamons will host.

31 January – Boat Virginia Course, Saunders Volunteer Fire Dept. Building, Route 626 Huddleston, VA., 0900 – 1630 hours. Lunch, sponsored by the Fire Belles, will be available.

13 – 15 February – District 5 SR Winter Conference, Mariott, Chesapeake, VA.

15 February – Massing of the Colors, sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars, The New Life Christian Ministries Church, 5745 Airport Road, N. W. Roanoke, VA, 1500 – 1630 hours.

27 February – SW Virginia Boat Show, Roanoke Civic Center, Roanoke, VA, 1300 – 2000 hours.

28 February – SW VA Boat Show, RCC, Roanoke, VA, 1000 – 2000 hours.

1 March – SW VA Boat Show, RCC, Roanoke, VA, 1000 -1800 hours.

6 – 8 March – Advanced Skills Weekend, TRACEN Yorktown, VA.

2 May – SML Triathlon, 0900 hours, SML State Park.

26 September – Big Lick Triathlon, SML State Park, time TBA.

FLOTILLA 81 BRIDGE RE-ELECTED AT NOVEMBER MEETING



Danny Foster and Susan Lowe were unanimously elected to serve second terms

as Flotilla Commander and Vice Commander at the Flotilla 81 meeting held on 23 November 2008 at the SML AUXSARDET. Ginger Ellis, DCDR 8, presided over the elections.



At right and center, Ginger Ellis and Don Davis applaud as Tom Lamons receives his Ninth Sustained Service Award.



Vince Popowitch is congratulated by Ginger Ellis upon receipt of his Third Sustained Service Award and an Annual Service Award for Operations.



Susan Lowe, at left, is the recipient of Annual Service Awards for Operations and Vessel Examinations.

6 DECEMBER PROVES BUSY WITH TRAINING AND BOAT PARADE



The ICS 300 Course was held at the SML AUXSARDET on 6 December 2008. Here, at far left, Susan Lowe, SO-MT 8, presents the course material to members of Division 8.



The *Virginia Dare* Flotilla for Toys was also held on 6 December. Pictured left to right are some of the Flotilla 81 members who patrolled the parade: Melissa Popowitch, Tom Lamons, Carl Elsea, Dean Nimax, Vince Popowitch, Mickey Frece, Bob Thompson, and Tom Merriman. Don and Mary Davis served as watch standers for the patrol.

The Flotilla for Toys, sponsored by the owners of the Virginia Dare Marina, features boats decorated for Christmas and is an event looked forward to every year. Participants and spectators donate new toys which are distributed by the Lake Christian Ministries to families in need during the holiday season.

FLOTILLA MEMBERS FEATURED IN SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKER MAGAZINE

Flotilla 81 members Karl Elsea, Danny Foster, and Tom Merriman are pictured on page 90 of the January/February issue of *Smith Mountain Laker Magazine*. Their picture was included with others in conjunction with the Flotilla for Toys boat parade.



DON AND MARY DAVIS HOST FLOTILLA CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Flotilla 81 Christmas party on 13 December was again graciously hosted by Don and Mary Davis at their beautiful lakeside home, *Stone Manor*. The annual event was a success with members and their guests enjoying both fellowship and a bountiful spread. Here, Danny and Janice Foster, at left, chat with hosts Mary and Don Davis, at right.

After dinner, Betty Lamons served as emcee in the absence of Officer for Fun and Fellowship, Peggy Looney, who was ill. Following a reading of Judy Reap's humorous poem, "The Night before Christmas at Smith Mountain Lake," the Greedy Santa Game was held with everyone a winner!

PARKERS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT IS SETTING FOR FLOTILLA 81 CHANGE OF WATCH



At left, Susan Lowe, VFC 81, and Danny Foster, FC 81, are administered the oath of office by Ed Hollowell, DCDR 8(elect), as Tom Merriman, DVCDR 8(elect), looks on. Earlier, Merriman had read the prologue during Flotilla 81's Change of Watch Ceremony held at Parkers Seafood Restaurant on 6 January.



Flotilla 81 Staff Officers present at the Change of Watch are sworn in by Danny Foster, FC 81. Staff officers, from left to right are Paul Howell,

FSO-PE; Betty Lamons, FSO-PB; Ron Collins, FSO-PV; Susan Lowe, FSO-MS; Jeff Demers, FSO-CS and FSO-MA; Bob Thompson, FSO-NS; and Tom Merriman, FSO-PS.



At left, Susan Lowe holds a certificate awarded Karl Elsea who was named Flotilla 81's Auxiliariest of the Year for 2008. Karl holds a certificate awarded Gail Elsea, Crewperson of the Year 2008. Betty Lamons was named Instructor of the Year 2008. At far right is Danny Foster who, along with Susan, made the presentations. Other awards for those not present at the Change of Watch will be presented at the January meeting.

FLOTILLA 81 STAFF OFFICERS FOR 2009

Communications – Vince Popowitch	Marine Safety – Susan Lowe
Computer Services – Jeff Demers	Materials – Jeff Demers
Finance – Betsy Dickey	Member Training – Dean Nimax
Information Systems – Al Perdue	Navigation Systems – Bob Thompson

(Staff Officers continued next column)

Department of Homeland Security
 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
The Lake Pilot
 FSO-PB 08-01 5SR
 5629 Brahma Road, S.W.
 Roanoke, Virginia 24018-3203

Operations – Mickey Frece	Publications – Betty Lamons
Personnel Services – Tom Merriman	Program Visitor – Ron Collins
Public Affairs – Kerry Eakins	Secretary/Records – to be filled
Public Education – Paul M. Howell	Vessel Exams – Melissa Popowitch

FLOTILLA 81 POSITIONS

Chaplain – Bob Thompson	Sunshine – Mary Davis
Historian and Uniforms – Betty Lamons	
Fun and Fellowship – Peggy Looney	

SUSAN LOWE NAMED TO DISTRICT 5 STAFF

Susan Lowe has been named District Staff 5 Officer for Member Training. Susan also serves as Division 8 as Staff Officer for Member Training. On the Flotilla level she holds the office of Vice Flotilla Commander and is Flotilla Staff Officer for Marine Safety and Environment.

JANUARY FLOTILLA MEETING TO BE HELD AT SML AUXSARDET

Flotilla 81 will hold its first meeting of 2009 at the SML AUXSARDET on Sunday, 25 January, at 1500 hours. *Please note:* we return to our regular meeting time of 1500 hours for this meeting. The meeting will be followed by a training topic to be announced. Tom and Betty Lamons will host, providing ice and drinks. Those staying for the meal are asked to bring a favorite salad, vegetable, casserole, meat, bread, or dessert to share.

DIRECTIONS TO THE SML AUXSARDET

Directions to the SML Search and Rescue Detachment are as follows: from Rt. 122, turn on Merriman Way Road (Rt. 666) at the Epworth Methodist Church. Turn left on Oldfield Road, then right on Oak Grove Lane. Follow Oak Grove Lane to the end, then turn left – look for the USCG AUXSARDET sign on the left.