



# THE LAKE PILOT

Flotilla 81

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Tom and Betty Lamons, Editors

5629 Brahma Road, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia 24018-3203

(540) 774-7726

tomlamons@cox.net



## Sunshine Report

### BIRTHDAYS

David Chaplin	4/21
Jeff Demers	4/2
Tom Merriman	4/25
Elizabeth Dressler, wife of Douglas Dressler	4/10
Melissa Popowitch	4/15

### Anniversaries

Douglas and Elizabeth Dressler	4/21
Kerry and Elinda Eakins	4/29
Jim and Kelly Fulghum	4/15
Ron and Sue Gordon	4/29
Harold and Carrol Snodgrass	4/16

Our best wishes go to Kathy Nimax, wife of Dean, and to Jeff Demers who spent time in the hospital during February.

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING JANUARY 24, 2009

**Unit officers Present:** FC Foster, VFC Lowe, MT Nimax, NS Thompson, CS/MA Demers, PS Merriman, CM Popowitch, VSC Popowitch, PB Lamons, Sunshine Davis.

**Guests Present:** Ben Blankenship and Warren Walker.

**Condensed Version of Reports and Motions Voted:** FC Foster called the meeting to order at 1500 hours followed by the Pledge lead by VFC Lowe. Welcomed guests B. H. Blankenship and Warren Walker.

Staff reports given – copies attached with unit record – available for review by anyone wishing to read. Also attached are original notes taken during meeting.

Very important we complete our 99 forms. Goal from the 2009 Officers were met and exceeded, job well done. Announcements of upcoming events on SML were reviewed.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** District looking at generator for SARDET; need transfer switch. K. Eakins will address. Don and Mary Davis need new antenna. This is highest priority. Comments: Question about adding more power outlets and lights to the dock. Addressed by Vince.

Meeting ended at 1625 followed by potluck dinner.

**Unit Training Topics Presented:** None.

**Next Business Meeting:** 22 February 09, 1500 SML SARDET.

### THE BOATING SEASON HAS ARRIVED!

With the beginning of March comes the warmer weather we have been waiting for, and that first safety patrol is just around the corner. It's time to check out all of your equipment and patrol gear that was packed away about 4 months ago.

Let's start out with that patrol vest. It's just like doing a VSC. Look for fray, torn or worn out seams, loose stitching, torn or worn out reflective tape. Check the zipper, all straps and snaps for proper operation. Check all the Velcro on the pockets for loose stitching, as well as the pockets. The CG Auxiliary lettering on the back shouldn't be peeling or cracking. The vest itself shouldn't be a faded color resembling pink or peach.

Next, check the survival equipment. The battery in the strobe light or marker light should be replaced. If you use the cyalume type PML, check the expiration date. Check your whistle and signal mirror for cracks and/or damage. If you carry the small aerial flares, check the expiration dates. Some of us carry survival knives. Check the knife blade and handle for rust and damage. Make sure that each piece of your survival gear is attached to your vest with a 36" piece of 1/8" nylon line. Just like your vest, check your float coat and mustang suit. The annual maintenance instructions are printed in the CG Survival Systems Manual. If you need a copy of the maintenance instructions, I can make them available by request.

Your uniform is just as important. We need to look sharp and professional as we represent the Coast Guard. Check shirts and pants for loose buttons, worn out zippers and torn seams. Is your patrol hat faded? Are all of your nametags and devices up to snuff? When in doubt about your uniform devices, just ask someone for help. Not everyone knows the correct manner and placement.

Now on to the facilities. The first item to check is the battery. Did it survive its storage and trickle charge, or is it too old to remember when you last bought it? Install your battery and check all of your systems. It may have worked when you winterized it, but any little critter could have chewed on it, or made a home in it. Navigational lights, blowers, horn, bilge pumps, VHF radio to name a few. If you winterized your engine properly, it should start right up. How do your mooring lines, towlines and anchor lines look? Check over all of your extra PFDs and Type IV devices. When in doubt, replace them. Check the dates on your flares and on some of your first aid supplies. Make sure to look at the fire extinguisher nozzles. Mud daubers and bees love them for hives. Patrol signs – are they cracking, peeling or faded? Are your patrol ensigns faded and worn out? Is your application for Operational Facility up-to-date? Have you submitted your annual OPFAC inspection for this year?

Check the trailer lights, safety chains, wire connectors, tires, and repack the bearings. Make sure that you still have the license plate attached and that the decals are not expired. And last, be sure to locate your boat's drain plug! Let's have a safe and great 2009 Patrol Season.

Dean Nimax, FSO-MT 81

## COMING UP

21 March – Sector HR Workshops, 0815 – 1630 hours, Yorktown, VA.

22 March – Flotilla 81 meeting, SML AUXSARDET, 1500 hours, followed by potluck dinner. Tom Merriman will host.

28 March – Eight-hour TCT (Team Coordination Training) Class, SML AUXSARDET, 0930 hours; Mickey Frece, instructor.

4 April – Division 8 meeting, 1000 hours, Lynchburg Police Academy, Lynchburg, VA.

13 and 14 April – Boat Virginia Course, Brambleton Center, 3738 Brambleton Ave, S. W., Roanoke, VA, 1830 hours.

23 – 26 April – Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament, hosted by Parkway Marina at SML. Patrol boats needed.

25 April – Debbie Robbins State Farm/Flotilla 81 Boating Safety booth, SML Business Expo, 1200 – 1800 hours, Downtown Moneta (West Side of Rt. 122 between Moneta Library and Mayberry Hills).

2 May – SML Triathlon, 0900 hours, SML State Park.  
Take Pride in SML Cleanup Day.

8 – 10 May – Operations weekend at SML AUXSARDET. ICS 210 will be taught. Details TBA.

11 and 12 May – Boat Virginia Course, Brambleton Center, 3738 Brambleton Ave., S. W., Roanoke, VA, 1830 hours.

16 May—VSC Mega weeks begin.

16 – 23 May – National Safe Boating Week.

23 – 25 May – Vessel Safety Check kick-off by USCG AUX and Power Squadron, details TBA.

15 and 16 June, Boat Virginia Course, Brambleton Center, 3738, Brambleton Ave., S. W., Roanoke, VA, 1830 hours.

22 June – U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

18 – 20 September – District Conference, Chesapeake, VA.

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

### MARCH MEETING TO BE HELD AT SML AUXSARDET

Flotilla 81 will meet at the SML AUXSARDET on Sunday, 22 March, at 1500 hours. A potluck dinner will immediately follow the meeting. Those staying for the meal are asked to bring a salad, vegetable, casserole, meat, bread, or dessert to share. Ice and soft drinks will be provided by Tom Merriman, host.

## 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.



### FLOTILLA 81 MANS SAFETY BOOTH AT ANNUAL BOAT SHOW



Flotilla members joining forces on Thursday, 25 February, for set-up of this year's boat show display were Ron and Debbie Collins, Jeff Demers, Paul M. Howell, Susan Lowe, and Tom and Betty Lamons.



Susan Lowe, VFC 81, discusses boating safety with visitors at the Southwest Boat Show on 26 February.

The 2009 Southwest Virginia Boat Show, sponsored by the Southwest Virginia Boat Dealers' Association, was held at the Roanoke Civic Center from Friday, 27 February through Sunday, 1 March. As in years past, Flotilla 81, along with Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, held a boating safety booth at the event.

Manning the booth over the three day event were Ron and Debbie Collins, Tom Conroy, Kerry Eakins, Karl Elsea, Jim Fulghum, Paul M. Howell, Tom and Betty Lamons, Susan Lowe, Butch McCoy, Tom Merriman, and Bob Thompson. Howell, VA Region II Boating Education Coordinator, also represented DGIF, along with Conservation Police Officers.

## SECOND BOATING CLASS CONDUCTED



Flotilla 81 held its second Boat Virginia Course of the year at the Brambleton Recreation Center in Roanoke, VA, on 9 and 10 March. All eleven persons enrolled received certificates of completion. Instructors for the course were Karl Elsea, Paul M. Howell, Betty Lamons, Tom Lamons, and Tom Merriman.

Sponsors for the course were Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; *The Smith Mountain Eagle*; U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; the Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council; the SML Boating Association; and Debbie Robbins State Farm Agency.

### DEBBIE COLLINS APPOINTED FSO-SR

Debbie Collins has graciously agreed to accept the position of Staff Officer for Secretary/Records for Flotilla 81. *All staff officers are asked to assist Debbie by providing her with a written staff report each month.*

Flotilla 81 is still in need of an "Officer for Fun and Fellowship." Please let either Danny Foster or Susan Lowe know if you would be willing to accept this position.

### KARL ELSEA RECEIVES TRIDENT AWARD



Karl Elsea received the Trident award at the Winter District 5SR Conference held in Chesapeake, VA, 13 – 15 February. Karl is one of only four recipients of this award so far within the District. The award was presented at the banquet held on Saturday, 14 February.

Persons completing the Trident Program are committed to serving with the active duty Coast Guard. The original concept

is for work in Marine Safety (MS). One must become expert in four active duty specialties and commit to a minimum of 96 hours' service each year for four years. The program may be completed provisionally in two years, but the award will be rescinded if there is a failure to serve the committed hours.

Karl's areas of expertise are: Marine Environmental Education Specialist; Harbor Specialist, which includes maritime observation missions at Hampton Roads; Contingency Planning Specialist for the Coast Guard; and Administrative Specialist in Marine Safety.

### THIS AND THAT

Coxwains are reminded that patrol dates for the 2009 boating season should be submitted to Mickey Frece, FSO-OP, as soon as possible. Radio operators are also needed. Please contact Vince Popowitch, FSO-CM, with the dates you are willing to stand watch.

Vessel 055 is presently in Portsmouth, VA, for servicing and should return to SML before the patrol season commences.

Just a reminder – completed patrol orders need to be submitted to Mickey Frece within 5 days of a patrol's completion.

Tom Merriman, FSO-PS, has the 2009 Fifth District calendars available for those who need them.

Merriman also reminds Flotilla members to check the expiration dates on their Auxiliary ID cards. Prior to the ID card's expiration, one should notify Tom Lamons so that a new picture can be made and a new form filled out. The renewal package will be given to Tom Merriman who will forward it to DIRAUX.

Vessel Examiners should let Melissa Popowitch, FSO-VE, know when they will be available to conduct Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs).

Paul M. Howell, FSO-PE, and Region II Boating Education Coordinator for VADGIF, has announced that a second on-line course has been approved for the State of Virginia. There is a fee for the on-line courses which are programmed for a minimum of a six-hour completion time. For the latest listing of approved courses go to [www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating) and click on "classes."

DIRAUX will pick up gas expenses for persons who must travel more than 60 miles to their patrol destinations. *Prior approval is necessary!*

Flotilla 81 is still in need of hosts for July, October, and November. Please let Susan Lowe, VFC, or Betty Lamons, FSO-PB, know if you are willing to host one of these meetings.

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