



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

Ronald Collins	June 5
Karl Elsea	June 23
Larry Johnston	June 1
Michael McDaniel	June 5
Vicky Morgan	June 13
Carrol Snodgrass, wife of Harold Snodgrass	June 13

Anniversaries

Larry and Sandi Johnston	June 18
Jun and Peggy Looney	June 3
Tom and Sandra Merriman	June 15

Earnest F. Sommer, Jr., has moved to Hickory, NC, and will be transferring his Auxiliary membership to Flotilla 26-05. Our best wishes go with Earnest as he relocates.

AUXILIARY OFFERS VARIED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

By Jeff Demers

As I was preparing for the QE session scheduled for this month, it occurred to me that there were many training opportunities available to us as Auxiliarists we probably are not aware of.

In addition to the time and effort many of our Flotilla members devote each month to training us to keep our qualifications current, the National Training Department website <http://www.cgaux.org/training> has many online courses available with various topics.

Some courses are specific to a particular qualification, such as a Public Affairs Specialist. Others are general to the Auxiliary, such as *Proper Wearing of Uniforms*, or *Administrative Procedures* (which is useful to anyone desiring to hold an office of VFC or above, or for some of the Marine Safety PQS's).

The E-Learning portal, C-School, AUXOP, and links to the FEMA ICS courses are a few of the educational sources available to us.

We are also fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the Coast Guard Training Center at Yorktown for specialized education. The courses taught by the instructors during Advanced Skills Weekend (ASW) at Yorktown are excellent. Each instructor is knowledgeable of the subject matter and provides practical experiences that each student can relate to.

I recently attended the AUXSEA course at Yorktown with two other members from Flotilla 81. I'm sure they would agree that this was an excellent training opportunity.

During one part of the lesson, the instructor, Ted Potter, reviewed the types of

steering available on different vessels. He told us of his experience while on patrol when he lost steerage on his facility. In order to return to port, he had a crew member use a cutting board from the galley as a rudder.

For many of us, time for activities other than those outside of work and family is at a premium. Many of us are unable to take the time off from work to travel to Yorktown for these classes. Additionally, the cost of gasoline can be a factor as well.

As an alternative to traveling to Yorktown, there are three of the core AUXOP courses that are not terribly difficult that can be completed by self-study.

AUXWEA - Weather
AUXPAT - Patrols
AUXSEA - Seamanship

If you are interested, please contact me for training manuals.

Once you've finished covering the course material and review questions at your own pace, you can take the exam online with one of our Flotilla members qualified as a proctor/mentor to oversee the testing process.

As the FSO-MA for our Flotilla, I encourage you to try to make the time for some of these training opportunities.

Also, if there is a particular course you are interested in, contact our FSO-MT (Dean Nimax). If there is enough interest, he may be able to schedule the course locally.

Jeff Demers
Flotilla 81
FSO-MA

COMING UP

16 May – VSC (Vessel Safety Check) Mega Weeks began.

23 May – VSC (Vessel Safety Check) Station, Bridgewater and Crazy Horse Marinas, 0900 – 1500 hours.

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

24 May – VSC Station, Bridgewater and Crazy Horse Marinas, 0900 – 1500 hours.

24 May – Flotilla 81 meeting and picnic, SML AUXSARDET, 1500 hours, Danny Foster and Susan Lowe, hosts.

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 70th Anniversary.

28 June – Flotilla 81 meeting, SML AUXSARDET, 1500 hours.

4 July – Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Display, Parkway

Marina, Huddleston, VA. Fireworks begin at dusk.

4 July – VSC Mega Weeks end.

18 July – Wakeboard Tournament, *Battle of the Bull Run*, sponsored by Wake N Skate. Details TBA.

26 July – Flotilla 81 meeting, SML AUXSARDET, 1500 hours.

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

19 September – SML Antique and Classic Boat Show, Mariner’s Landing, Huddleston, VA

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

2 – 4 October – SML Charity Home Tour.

5 December – VA Dare Flotilla for Toys Christmas Boat Parade. Boats leave the VA Dare Marina at 1900 hours.

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 81
March 1 thru April 25, 2009
Financial Report**

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$3,030.45
Income	\$45.00
	<u>\$19.00</u>
Total Income:	\$64.00
Expense:	
Division SARDET Fee:	\$390.00
Office Supplies:	\$0.00
Name Badges	\$0.00
Sunshine:	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Expense:	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expense:	\$390.00
Cash Flow:	\$326.00
Cash Balance 4/25/2009:	\$2,704.45

MAY MEETING TO FEATURE FLOTILLA PICNIC

Flotilla 81 will hold a short meeting at 1500 hours at the SML AUXSARDET on 24 May. Following the meeting will be a fun picnic. Hotdogs, hamburgers, condiments, and drinks will be furnished by our hosts, Danny Foster and Susan Lowe. Lettuce and onion will also be supplied. Those attending are asked to bring side dishes or desserts suitable for picnic fare. Families and guests are welcome!

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, turn left – look for the AUXSARDET sign on the left.

STATE FARM INSURANCE AND FLOTILLA 81 TEAM UP AT BUSINESS EXPO



Debbie Robbins State Farm Agency and Flotilla 81 teamed up again this year at the Smith Mountain Lake Business Expo to promote boating safety. This year’s event was held at Downtown Moneta on Friday, 24 April. Here, left to right, manning the booth are Betty Lamons and Debbie Robbins of Flotilla 81, and Debbie’s husband, Neil Strong.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE APRIL MEETING



Three Flotilla 81 members received RBS (Recreational Boating Safety) Incentive Awards at the meeting held at the SML ASUXSARDET on 26 April. Paul M. Howell, left, received awards for Public Education and Vessel Examinations, and Betty Lamons, right, was the recipient of an award for Public Education. Susan Lowe, not pictured, received an award for Vessel Examinations.

FLOTILLA 81 MEMBER EARNS CAPTAIN’S LICENSE



Gary L. Fisher, one of Flotilla 81’s newest members, recently earned his 50 Ton Master’s License through the U. S. Coast Guard. Gary will serve as a relief captain for *The Virginia Dare*. Congratulations are in order, as this is no small accomplishment!

Captain Gary L. Fisher

FLOITLLA 81 VISITS ROCKY MOUNT ELEMENTARY



Susan Lowe and Betty Lamons met with teachers at the Rocky Mount Elementary School on Monday, 27 April, to discuss life jacket requirements for the school's upcoming field trip aboard *The Virginia Dare*. Here, left to right, holding Type I life jackets, are Rocky Mount Elementary School teachers Judy Hutchins, Jennifer Brubaker, and Dana Giles.

SAFETY PATROLS PROVIDED FOR RECENT LAKE EVENTS



Members of Flotillas 81 and 85 provided safety patrols for two recent events at Smith Mountain Lake. Daily patrols were run during the Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament held on 23 – 26 April. On 2 May, three Auxiliary vessels patrolled the SML Triathlon. Here, Tom Merriman, at left, and Tom Conroy are seen aboard 792 during the Triathlon.



The Smith Mountain Lake Marine Fire and Rescue Company

were also on hand during the Triathlon. Here swimmers pass by one of the fireboats.

SML AUXSARDET HOSTS QE WEEKEND



Division 8 Qualification Examiners gathered at the SML AUXSARDET to observe Auxiliarists qualifying and re-qualifying as crew and Coxswains during the weekend of 8 – 10 May. Here Susan Lowe, SO-MT 8, conducts the TCT refresher course. She also taught the ICS 215 course.



Auxiliarists prepare to get underway during exercises during QE Weekend at the SML AUXSARDET.

During exercises conducted over the weekend of 9 and 10 May, there were four boats on the water on Saturday and two on Sunday. Tom Shepherd, Jr., Flotilla 84, made the trip to assist, acting as both a QE and a QE Mentor and did his usual outstanding job. The new QEs in training, Danny Foster and Karl Elsea, performed both competently and professionally.

During the course of the weekend two new crew members, Joe Nicholson and Jeff Demers, were qualified. Three-year check rides were completed for four coxswains, Tom Lamons, Paul M. Howell, Robert N. Thompson, Sr., and Al Perdue. Four crew members, Paul V. Howell, Bill Tice, Gail Elsea, and Don Davis also completed three-year check rides. Susan Lowe and Tom Merriman, coxswains, and Betty Lamons, crew member, completed their check rides during the previous weekend.

Susan Lowe and Vince Popowitch qualified for the Operations Excellence Award during the weekend.

F. M. "Mickey Frece, QE and Operations Officer, SML

FLOTILLA 81 HOLDS FOURTH BOAT VIRGINIA COURSE



Flotilla 81 held its fourth Boat Virginia Course of 2009 on 13 and 14 April with 29 persons enrolled. All successfully completed the course. Pictured above, Gary Fisher, Instructor Trainee, goes over workbook questions with the students. Instructors for the course which was held at the Brambleton Center in Roanoke, VA, were Paul M. Howell, Karl Elsea, Tom Lamons, and Betty Lamons.

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

The next Boat VA Course is slated for 15 and 16 June at the Brambleton Center. Class will begin at 1830 each evening.

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

THIS AND THAT

Is your contact information correct in AUXDATA? Look at your information to see if it is correct. If the information is not current, submit a Change of Information Form to AUXDATA. Also check the Flotilla roster to see if everything is correct. Tom Merriman, FSO-PS, and Betty Lamons, FSO-PB should also be notified of changes in mailing addresses immediately.

The *Just for Boaters* brochure has been updated. All old pamphlets should be discarded.

Don't forget! First class postage has been increased to 44 cents for a regular sized envelope weighing one ounce or less.

Let Jeff Demers, FSO-MA 81, know if you need manuals, supplies, or stamps.

Your editors are unable to be everywhere! Submissions of photos and articles on Flotilla 81 activities which we may not be able to cover are always welcome! Deadlines fall on the fifth of each month. Late submissions will appear in the next issue of *The Lake Pilot*.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK
MAY 16-22