



Champlain Eagle

FLOTILLA 15-8
PLATTSBURGH, NY
DISTRICT 1SR



December, 2012

Commander's Comments

Well the end of my first term is almost at hand. We have had a great year as a Flotilla and we have the stats to prove it. Everything accomplished was because of your willingness to step up to the plate and make a difference. Our recent Change of Watch was an opportunity to have some fun, fellowship, and acceptance of those most valued awards you received.

Our new Division Commander, Lynn Enny, told me that she was most impressed with our Flotilla because she saw teamwork, members getting along and having a great time. She told me that she will be a Division Commander who will be available to help in any way to continue the success of our Flotilla. That said a lot and I am grateful for the support from within our Flotilla and up the chain.

A few weeks ago I was at the Coast Guard Academy for a leadership conference and training. I talked with our New Commodore and Chief of Staff, again they told me they had heard good things about our Flotilla. This shows me that your accomplishments this year mattered. I believe we are on track and I look forward to even greater things for 2013. We have a great team and I am very proud to be a part of that team.

I sincerely hope that you and your families had a wonderful Christmas and are ready to ring in the New Year. I know we only have 14 staff positions and approximately 40 members. Even if you were not selected for a staff position there are a multitude of things that everyone can do to support the Flotilla. Finally, thank you for all you do and lets get ready for another great year.



Carl Duford, Flotilla Commander

Member News

December was a quiet month for Flotilla news. Our big event was the Change of Watch Dinner which we held on Dec. 13 at Anthony's Restaurant in Plattsburgh. We had a good turn out of about 30 people. It was festive, everyone had a good time. Awards were handed out and staff officers, old and new, were sworn in.

We were very pleased to have as guests our new Division Commander Lynn Enny and George Enny, SO-NS, Flotilla 15-10, who drove up from Whitehall; and Nick Flora, IPFC Flotilla 15-2, from Burlington.

Here are some pictures of our visiting guests and Flotilla 15-8 members:



Frank Williams, IPFC 15-8; Scot Zaremba-Woodward, FSO-NS (Navigation Systems); George Enny, SO-NS; and Lynn Enny, Division Commander.



Lynn Enny, DCDR; Brigitte and Ted Alwine, 15-8 FSO-HR/VE;
and Scot Zarembo-Woodward, 15-8 FSO-NS.



Lynn Enny, DCDR, Flotilla 15-10; Peggy Burgess, FSO-MT/IS,
Flotilla 15-8; and Nick Flora, IPFC, Flotilla 15-2 Burlington.



Don Craig, FSO-PA/PB, receives an award for 2263 hours of service from 2008-2012 from Carl Duford, FC.



Ted Alwine, FSO-VE/HR, receives an award for 793 hours of service 2010-2011 from FC Duford.



The Flotilla Staff Officers for 2013, sworn in at the Change Of Watch meeting, left to right: Don Craig, FSO-PA/PB; Ted Alwine, FSO-VE/HR; Hugh Conners, FSO-TR/CS; Lois Duford, FSO-SR; Scot Zaremba-Woodward, FSO-NS; Frank Williams, IPFC; Charles Schenck, VFC and FSO-MA; Stephanie Lago, FSO-MS; Peggy Burgess, FSO-MT/IS; John Meredith, FSO-PV; Robert Shivokevich, FSO-PE; and Carl Duford, FC. All flotilla officers are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Also, Bob Shivokevich received an award for 35 hours of Public Education service, the highest in the division; and a Sustained Service Award for 750 hours.

Frank Williams received an award for recruiting 7 new members in 2012.

Scot Zaremba-Woodward received his Vessel Examiner certification.



Crossing The Bar

At our Change Of Watch dinner meeting we recognized the passing of a flotilla member, Ed Susdorff of Port Henry, who died in November. An empty table and place setting was laid for him, a tradition for a friend gone missing.

Another maritime tradition is to recognize that the shipmate has “crossed the bar.” What does that mean?

Peggy Burgess, FSO-MT/IS, read the tribute to Ed Susdorff. She explained that “Crossing The Bar” is a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1809-1892, Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland.

She read Tennyson's poem, “Crossing The Bar”:

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.*

The “bar” refers to the sand bar that often fronts a harbor, where surf can be dangerous. From the deep sea, the bar is crossed inward to a safe harbor. Leaving the safe harbor outward bound, the bar is crossed again, heading out to the ocean and the great unknown.



Challenge Coins

Another military tradition is the presentation of challenge coins. At our Division Change of Watch in November, three 15-8 members – Carl Duford, Frank Williams and Peggy Burgess – each received one of these challenge coins from Sr. Chief Daniel Murray, Station Burlington:



Issued by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern New England (New York, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire), the coins were presented to our members for over 500 hours of service in 2012 beyond operations or other missions. They're now members of the "Lake Champlain 500" club.

According to Wikipedia: "The tradition of coin-giving dates back to Vietnam when soldiers would tote along a piece of "lucky" ordnance that had helped them or narrowly missed them. At first it was small arms ammunition, but this practice grew to much bigger and more dangerous ordnance as time wound on. It became a dangerous practice so commanders banned it, and instead gave away metal coins emblazoned with the unit crest or something similar.

"The main purpose of the ordnance had been when going into a bar, you had to have your lucky piece or you had to buy drinks for all who did have it. The coins worked far better in this regard as they were smaller and not as lethal!

"So, if you go to a military bar, whip out a challenge coin and slam it down on the bar, those who lack one buy drinks! Obviously you have to be careful about this tradition. However, commanders and units give out coins for this and as mementos for services rendered or special occasions."

Favorite Website: Revenue Cutters

From time to time we run across a free website on the internet that is just so good we have to share it. However, we will not list anything here that requires a digital download or payment of money.

One of my personal interests is the history of the early Coast Guard, from 1790 through the War of 1812. In 1790, it was established as the Revenue-Marine, later designated as the Revenue Cutter Service in 1894 and finally the Coast Guard in 1915.

The early vessels were commonly called “revenue cutters”, usually a topsail schooner no more than 60-feet in length. They were fast and lightly armed with one or more deck guns and a handful of muskets, pistols and cutlasses for the small crew who might be expected to engage and board another vessel suspected of smuggling.

Here's a collection of pictures of those early cutters:

<http://www.uscg.mil/history/1812/1812imagery.asp>

I'm even attempting to build a model of one, ask me in a few years how that's going - *Don Craig*



Coming Events 2013

10 January, monthly Flotilla meeting, South Plattsburgh Fire Department, 1830.

15-17 March, District Conference, Mystic Marriott, Groton, CT. Contact Carl Duford for more information.

27 April, Town Hall meeting and Table Top Exercise, Whitehall, NY, 0900.

8 June, Surface Operation Training Day – North, South Plattsburgh Fire Department and Peru Boat Launch.

Flotilla 15-8 Staff Officers for 2013

Carl Duford, Flotilla Commander

Charles Schenk III, Vice Flotilla Commander and Materials.

Frank Williams, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander

Ted Alwine, Vessel Exams and Human Resources.

Margaret Peggy Burgess, Member Training and Information Systems.

Hugh Conners, Finance and Communications.

Don Craig, Publications and Public Affairs.

Lois Duford, Secretary/Records.

John Meredith, Program Visitor.

Stephanie Lago, Marine Safety/Environmental Protection.

Mike Ratner, Computer Services.

Robert Shivokevich, Public Education.

Angelique Zarembo-Woodward, Diversity and Inclusion.

Scott Zarembo-Woodward, Navigation Systems.

Michael Stephenson, Operations

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Photo credits: Don Craig and Frank Williams.

We welcome news articles and photographs relating to Flotilla 15-8 from all of our members.

Please visit our website at <http://wwgaux15-8.org/> for back editions of the Champlain Eagle.

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Bluff Point Lighthouse, Valcour Island
Built 1871, relighted since 2004.