



Champlain Eagle

FLOTILLA 15-8
PLATTSBURGH, NY
DISTRICT 1SR



January/February 2012

Commander's Comments

I want to thank everyone for coming to show support for our January Meeting. I was overwhelmed by the support from the committee's so we could get business done. The Staff Officers gave an insight of their respective goals for 2012 and really put a lot of effort into this. Having said that, I believe that we are off to a very good start. The tragedy with any flotilla doesn't lie in not reaching a goal. The tragedy is not having a goal to reach. We filled all 16 staff positions and found a back up person to fill in when necessary. That tells me you are committed. I am excited about where we are going this year. Some of our goals are to increase membership by 15; instructors by 4; Operational Facilities by 3; the establishment of an Honor Guard for Ceremonies, and increase COXSWAINS by 3. We intend to increase our ABS classes, and recruitment by twenty percent. Our flotilla is extremely fortunate, and I am honored to be the Flotilla Commander, with Charlie Schenck as Vice Flotilla Commander.



Respectfully,

Carl Duford, FC

Member News



Ted Alwine, FSO-VE, received a handful of awards and certificates at the February meeting. Carl Duford, FC, made the presentations: a certificate for appointment as FSO-VE; a certificate for passing the Administrative Procedures Course; an award for most RBS visits, 3rd place in the Division; and two certificates of appreciation, one from the Flotilla and one from Division. Alwine also has

passed his Navigation Rules exam and is beginning study for Coxswain.

Meet the Staff Officers

FSO-PE: *The Flotilla Staff Officer of Public Education will exercise staff responsibility and supervision over all matters pertaining to the Auxiliary's public education program, on the Flotilla level, including the scheduling, organization and conduct of Flotilla boating safety courses and activities.*

Robert Shivokevich has taken over as FSO-PE for 2012. Besides being an Auxiliary member, he's also an instructor and past commander of the Champlain Power Squadron.



"With the start of a new year, the Flotilla needs to start thinking about how we offer our basic boating course, About Boating Safely (ABS)" says Shivokevich.

"This is an 8-hour course that can be done in one day and then tested. However, I believe this is not a good method. The course also can be offered in two days, four hours each and then tested on the second day; or over two to three consecutive weeks.

"I find that the more time you have in contact with the students, the better are the chances of recruitment. With shorter classes, the students

have more time to get to know us, ask questions about the Flotilla or boating in general.

“How we do this all depends on the instructors, who is available and how many we have. We cannot expect one or two instructors to teach all the classes.

“When we schedule our classes, we need to be aware of others who are also teaching a safe boating course, such as the Clinton County Sheriff's Department or the U.S. Power Squadron which is offering a six-week course at Clinton Community College. We should avoid scheduling on those dates.

“So my goals for the upcoming year, as your Public Education Officer, is to have at least four to five boating courses offered; introduce some new programs; and to have enough new instructors.”

Currently, Shivokevich is organizing an ABS class for 14-15 March at the South Plattsburgh Fire Department, and there are three new instructors waiting for certification.

Cabin Fever Cure



The climate was warm and humid inside on Sunday, 5 Feb., on the veranda overlooking the swimming pool at the Best Western hotel in Plattsburgh. The Champlain Power Squadron was hosting it's annual mid-winter Pool Party, a nice break from the cold outside. Flotilla 15-8 was invited since there is a large cross-over in membership between the two organizations. Seen above, left to right, are Chris Deming; Luke Murray; Hugh Conners; Ted and Brigitte Alwine; Bob Shivokevich; Carl Duford; Don Craig; Gill Murray, and Hank Schwartz. Frank Williams behind the camera.

LightSquared and GPS

Many of us have been following the story of LightSquared, a company that plans to develop a wholesale 4G LTE wireless broadband communications network integrated with satellite coverage across the United States. The concern is that this plan will interfere with GPS navigation signals used by aircraft, the military, ships and boaters, cars, farmers, etc. On Jan. 13, a federal committee investigating this issue reported that LightSquared's plan will not work. Here's a Feb. 8 story from the aviation industry:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-08/lightsquared-would-ruin-u-s-aviation-with-system-carriers-say.html>

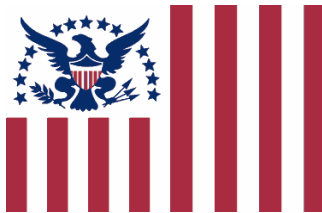
Favorite Website: Coast Guard At War

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.

At a recent Flotilla meeting it was mentioned that the U.S. Coast Guard has served and fought in every war in United States history since 1790. That was a surprise to many of us. Most recently, Coast Guard facilities were deployed to the Iraqi conflict in 2003. Here's the complete history:

http://www.uscg.mil/history/articles/h_CGatwar.asp

It's a lengthy article but worth reading, or at least worth a scan, and there are some interesting pictures. Enjoy.



Refreshment Schedule For Monthly Meetings

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| March | Frank Williams & John Meredith |
| April | Peggy Burgess & Don Craig |
| May | Lois & Carl Duford |
| June | Margaret & Tom Malone |
| July | Bill Rowe & Bob Shivokevich |
| August | Philip Shivokevich & Catherine Zatylny |
| September | Scot Woodward & Eric Trotman |
| October | Hank & Patricia Schwartz |
| November | Ted Alwine & Stephanie Lago |
| December | Change of Watch dinner meeting |



Coming Events

8 March, monthly flotilla meeting, South Plattsburgh Fire Department.

14-15 March, About Boating Safely (ABS) course, South Plattsburgh Fire Department.

24-25 March, D-Train District Conference, Mystic, CT.

31 March & 1 April – Champlain Valley Boat Show, Crete Civic Center, Plattsburgh.

19-25 May, National Safe Boating Week.

8 September, Military Appreciation Day, Crete Civic Center, Plattsburgh.

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Photo credits: Don Craig; Frank Williams.

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

Please visit our website at <http://www.uscgaux15-8.org/> for back editions of the Champlain Eagle.

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Bluff Point Lighthouse, Valcour Island