



Champlain Eagle

FLOTILLA 15-8
PLATTSBURGH, NY
DISTRICT 1SR



November 2012

Commander's Comments

As we begin to wind down 2012, our accomplishments for the year are many. For those of you who were at the Division Change of Watch you saw some of those accomplishments because our flotilla took most of the awards. It was a good feeling to see so many of our members who stood up to the plate after giving of their time and talents. Senior Chief Daniel Murray instituted an award for members who gave five hundred (500), hours to the Coast Guard for First Northern District and our flotilla obtained almost fifty percent of the total. I congratulate everyone in our flotilla for helping to make this possible.



I also want to thank everyone for your confidence that I remain Flotilla Commander for another year, and Charlie Schenck as Vice Flotilla Commander. We still have our Change of Watch coming up and I believe we have an excellent program for you and a good meal.

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving this year with family and friends. Giving thanks is what this season is all about. I sincerely hope that Christmas will give you time to reflect on family, to include our Coast Guard and Auxiliary family. The recent hurricane caused a tremendous amount of damage to the Coast Guard at Sandy Hook. Our flotilla donated over two hundred dollars in supplies to help those families. Thanks for all that you do.

Carl Duford, Flotilla Commander

Member News

Ed Susdorff, 1930-2012

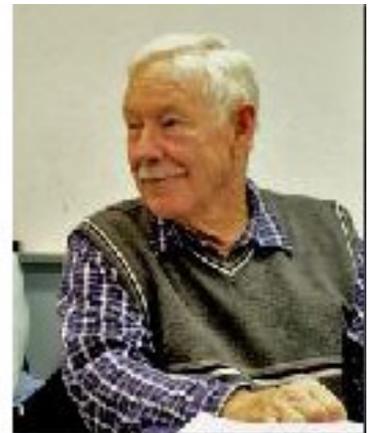


With great sadness we note the passing of a friend, shipmate and flotilla member, Ed Susdorff.

A member of the Auxiliary since November 5, 1995, Edmund L. Susdorff Jr., 82, of Lake Street, Port Kent, died Sunday, Nov. 18, at the CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburgh with his family by his side. He was born in Port Kent, July 15, 1930, the son of Edmund and Margaret (Muir) Susdorff.

Ed graduated from Arizona State University and later received his Master's degree in Education from Plattsburgh State University. Although Ed held many positions throughout his life, his true passion was teaching. He retired from Peru Central School Primary in 1992.

He was a member of the Keeseville Kiwanis Club, Civil Air Patrol, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 15-8, and a longtime supervisor at the Peru Central School Federal Credit Union. He enjoyed an active lifestyle driving his antique cars, flying his seaplane, motorcycling, and boating on Lake Champlain.



A Slate of Winners



Flotilla 15-8 scooped up a lot of awards at the Nov. 17 Division Change of Watch in Glens Falls. We had an 80% participation rating for our flotilla membership. The highest rated participating members throughout the Division were Frank Williams, left, with 1238.5 hours; Peggy Burgess with 569.5 hours; and Carl Duford, 750.5 hours. Other flotilla members credited with commendations were Bob Shivokevich, Don Craig and Hugh Conners. The contest for Flotilla Of The Year was tight and we were near the top. However, that award went to Flotilla 15-10, Lake George.

Election Notice

We're happy to report that Carl Duford, FC, and Charles Schenck, VFC, were successfully re-elected for 2013 at our Nov. 8 Flotilla meeting. Many thanks to Gregg Trask, DCDR, for traveling north to officiate at the election.

The 40-Year Man



Flotilla 15-8 is proud to claim a member who has 40 years of service in the Auxiliary. Mike Ratner, seated, received his 40-year certificate of accomplishment on Nov. 23 from Carl Duford, FC, pictured, and Frank Williams, IPFC, behind the camera. Mike, FSO-CS, is our erstwhile webmaster who keeps our website up to date (see last page of this newsletter for the link). Mike also is the marine stores manager for the Plattsburgh Marina. He says that in one way or another he has worked for almost every marina on the northern New York side of Lake Champlain. Mike joined the Auxiliary on 17 June, 1972.

Boat Electronics and Engine Maintenance

The Champlain Sail & Power Squadron, Plattsburgh, is offering two courses this fall and winter, one on boat electronics, the other on engine mechanics. For more information contact Bob Shivokevich, FSO-PE and Power Squadron member: rshivokevich@yahoo.com.

New Members



Carl Duford, FC, swears in four new members at our Nov. 8 Flotilla meeting. From left to right, Michael Abare, George Maynard, James Postlethwait and Nanette Postlethwait.

Hurricane Sandy

One of our flotilla members, Aline Pepe, FSO-MS, travelled to the New York area earlier this month to help with relief efforts there following Hurricane Sandy. Pepe has many years of prior disaster relief training and did this entirely on her own with no pretense of representing the Auxiliary. In this photo, she's tying on her boots getting ready to head out to distribute supplies. In the bottom photo, her daughter Athena looks over a map of the affected area. Here are some of Alene's comments:



“ Well, first I knew I wanted to go help. So I made a list of things people would be needing and posted them about town leaving one at Keene Valley Congregational Church. I

was very happy as calls started coming in with donations of needed items, one lady even giving me some gas money, another sending me a check from Vermont to buy supplies. But my mouth dropped open when I got a call from the church, telling me they could have a couple of people there to help me load the car, it was just unbelievable how many things they collected. I had to spread it all out on the driveway, organize it and then packing and repacking until it all fit!

“Its always hard to see the hardship when disaster strikes, but it was particularly disturbing to see NYC and surrounding areas as I grew up there. The pictures I was looking at on the TV were places I knew very well. I don't advise people to just head down to a disaster area and maybe becoming part of the problem. But with the internet and social media it is easy to find out how or where you can best help, they will be needing volunteers for this disaster for a long time to come. Occupy Sandy is a group always looking for help in the NYC area and they are now heading into New Jersey.



“Water, wind and fire... We had a hard time driving to some areas because of the sand and debris in the roads. I had first taken my husbands car due to more room for supplies and better gas milage, (at the time the lines for gas tied up the roadways and I didnt want to drain their limited gas supplies) but on my second trip down, I took my jeep and was glad I did, the roads were a mess. It still doesn't seem possible, the destruction we saw. The pictures just don't capture how many homes and people are affected. In Rockaway, people in 17-story buildings, with no heat, lights, water..and....no elevator!

“On our second trip we volunteered with the Red Cross at the Miller Field staging area. We helped load four trucks full of supplies and then headed out to the neighborhoods, honking the horn to let people know we were there and going door to door, asking what people needed and helping them get it from the trucks, until the trucks were empty. They asked us to come back the next day and we did the same thing. National Guardsmen were everywhere and many church groups from New Orleans helping people muck out their homes and clearing the streets. The sanitation trucks seemed to never stop clearing debris and I could really see improvement between visits. We told the Red Cross we were headed to Breezy Point with the last of our own supplies before we headed back home

and they gave us some more of theirs to share as well. Also, I had gotten Carl's (Duford, FC) email about the Coast Guard families that needed some supplies. I could almost walk to FT Wadsworth, so Athena and I went there and found out where they were collecting and shared a large box of cleaning supplies with them as well."



The Little Flotilla That Could

Some interesting news from the Southwest:

"One of the smallest US Coast Guard Auxiliary organizations, Flotilla 9-7 of District 11SR, was honored by Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatU.S.) with the prestigious "Best Flotilla in the Nation" Award for 2011 at this year's Auxiliary's National Convention held August 22-26 in San Antonio, Texas. The flotilla, which has just one patrol vessel and the bare minimum number of members to sustain a unit, bested over 1,000 other flotillas from across the US for the top honors.

"Located in the southern portion of Lake Mead Recreation Area in Cottonwood Canyon on the shore of 67-mile long Lake Mohave, Flotilla 9-7's six Vessel Examiners managed to complete 1117 Vessel Safety Checks, over 400 more than the previous year. In addition, their single patrol boat, manned by 9-7's coxswains and crew, completed 21 safety patrols, verified the latitude and longitude of 33 Aids to Navigation, completed public affairs and educational missions, and provided recreational boating safety information to thousands of lake visitors."

So why do we care? It seems that our very own Peggy Burgess, FSO-MT/IS, started her Auxiliary career as a member of Flotilla 9-7 in 1998. She went on to become Flotilla Commander there and eventually Division Captain. Good news for us, she relocated back to Plattsburgh.

Change of Watch Meeting

This is important folks. After a year of high-pressure activity, this is our chance to exhale and let go.

We are having our dinner meeting on Dec.13 at Anthony's Restaurant & Bistro, a fine and long established eatery in Plattsburgh. The choices are beef, salmon, chicken or veggies. The cost is \$30 a plate, a good deal for eating at Anthony's. It's a cash bar, you're on your own. Let's make this a good meeting, please show up. Contact Hugh Conners, lonesail@charter.net.

Favorite Website: Towmasters - The Master of Towing Vessels Assoc. Forum

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.

This is one of those “everything under the sun” and “something for everyone” websites. While it's aimed primarily at coastal and off-shore work and people who drag ships around, there is much information and links for personal gear, navigation gear, apps for your smart gadgets and helm computers, photo galleries, Coast Guard blogs and journals and many other blogs and websites on everything maritime:

<http://towmasters.wordpress.com/home/>

This site is dangerous because you can get sucked into hours of browsing and reading. Ask me how I know.



Coming Events

13 December, Flotilla 15-8 Change Of Watch and dinner meeting, Anthony's Restaurant, Plattsburgh. \$30.00. Contact Hugh Conners, lonesail@charter.net.

Flotilla 15-8 Staff Officers for 2012

Carl Duford, Flotilla Commander, Human Resources and Materials.

Charles Schenk III, Vice Flotilla Commander.

Frank Williams, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, Operations.

Ted Alwine, Vessel Exams.

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.

Aline Pepe, Marine Safety/Environmental Protection.

Mike Ratner, Computer Services.

Robert Shivokevich, Public Education.

Angelique Zarembo-Woodward, Diversity and Inclusion.

Scott Zarembo-Woodward, Navigation Systems.

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dcraig@westelcom.com.

Photo credits: Aline Pepe, Don Craig, Frank Williams, Plattsburgh Press-Republican.

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.

The information contained in this document is subject to the provisions of the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 and may be used only for Official Business of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Bluff Point Lighthouse, Valcour Island