



POINT NO POINT

Our Location, not Our Philosophy
Flotilla 24-2
Stratford, CT

Summer, 2012

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Volume 1, Issue 2



Welcome to SUMMER !!!!!

In this issue there is a message from our beloved commander, stories about some interesting activities our flotilla has been up to this quarter and a plea for help, to which, I am certain, many of you will respond.

I do apologize for the paucity of pics; however, due to technical difficulties, not too many were available. We'll try to improve for next issue.

Please remember, we hope that you, the members, will help the effort by providing ideas and information about what you have done that may be of interest to us all. You can write the piece or provide an idea that our talented editorial staff will happily flesh out. A suggestion may be a recent experience on a patrol. You could even tell about a vacation, especially a boating vacation, letting the membership know about your destination, the trip, accommodations, etc. Pictures are gratefully appreciated. Please submit your ideas to the E-mail address on the mast head above.





Flotilla Commanders Corner -

Good things are happening for the Recreational Boating Safety season in Stratford. Our programs are flourishing. We have had several Vessel Examination days at local marinas where vessel exams are being conducted; our RBS and Marine Observation Missions are being visited, and our PE classes continue with our schedule for the season almost half way completed. We have several prospective members in the loop, and we have welcomed new program visitor and instructor Francine Vallillo. Also, Tom Chesney has passed his IT exam and is well on his way to becoming a welcome addition to our teaching staff.

Patrick Dew is on his way to becoming a vessel examiner, and we welcome him as well. In addition, Rob Ortiz and Melissa Montanez are working on their Marine Safety Ribbons and we look forward along with both of them to their successful completion of that program. We are also in the planning stages of offering a course for new members. We recently did a Public Affairs event at Beardsley Zoo, where we not only had arts and crafts for the children but we also had a Marine Safety Display coordinated by our Division Vice Commander Mark Bennett. And the Division's beloved Coastie was in attendance, much to the delight of the kids.

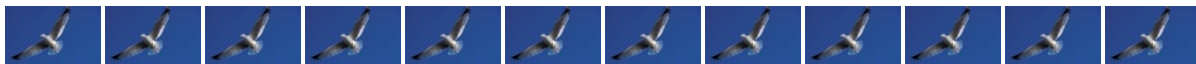
On Tuesday June 19 Brian Opp, Francine Vallillo and I presented a boating safety talk to a cub scout/boy scout troop led by member Brian Opp. The talk consisted of topics geared towards youngsters with an interest in boating. The importance of a float plan, a survival list and demonstrations of knots and life jackets are among the topics that were covered.

Thanks to the efforts of Rob Ortiz, we have been presented with a donation of some hi tech equipment from Sacred Heart University which will make the presentation of our boating classes more efficient.

And last but not least, we do have some Good and Welfare to report. Bob Gesullo, Immediate Past Division Captain, Bill Rohland and I recently visited Bob Flower, a long time member who has had some medical issues at his home in Orange. Mr. Gesullo presented Bob with his 20 year Sustained Service Certificate. Plans are being made to visit Fred Clemens, another long time member. Kit Burke is recovering from surgery, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

So that's it from the Commander's Corner for now

Donna Bisson FS 24-02



Meet the Newbie

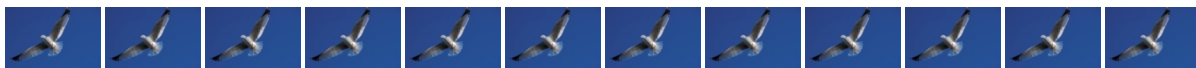
Welcome to one of our newest members, Sue Knecht. You may not have seen too much of Sue, as her job keeps her jumpin'. Sue is a Firefighter with the Stratford, CT Fire Department. At the FD, Sue is also an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and is a member of the Fire Department marine patrol. Her interest in firefighting started when she volunteered at 16. She stuck with it, making it her career. As I said, this lady keeps rather busy.

Sue became interested in the Auxiliary through her work on the marine patrol. Both she and her superiors saw this as an opportunity for a liaison between our two organizations. This especially as public education and safety are two of the main objectives that we both strive for.

Sue was interested in boating since she was a girl. She does not yet a boat of her own, but spent a lot of time on her father's 32 foot Beneteau sailboat. In fact, She spent much of her youth on the water, working on three tall ships, The "Spirit of Massachusetts", The "Clearwater", out of the Hudson River area and the "Ticton Castle" then out of Nova Scotia. On the Spirit and the Ticton, Sue served as a deckhand, while on the Clearwater, she was the boatswain, in charge of all the ships maintenance. As the Spirit was a teaching vessel, Sue spent two weeks at a time with a group of teenagers, showing them the way of the sea.

In the Auxiliary, Sue would like to pursue instructing, Vessel Exams and is currently in the process of qualifying for boat crew on the 313. I really believe that Sue has a future as a Coxswain as she now drives the hook & ladder truck for the fire department and if she can drive that, she can drive anything.

Good luck, Sue, and welcome aboard!!!



Safe Boating Week Kick-Off At Bisson Base



Our own Bill Rock as MC



313 & Coast Guard in towing exercise

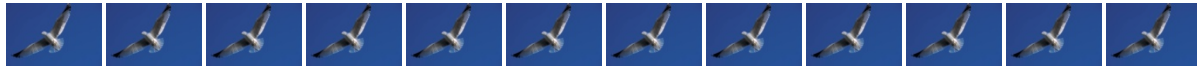
On May 21, as part of National Safe Boating Week, Bill Rock, FSO – Public Relations, organized and acted as Master of Cerimonies at a unique on the the wter press conference at Bisson Base. The event focus was promoting boating safety and guest speakers included the Mayor of

Safe Boating (cont'd)

Stratford, the police, and Fire Chiefs, the Harbormaster 24-2 Flotilla Commander, paddle craft experts and a Coast Guard spokesperson. Also included were vessel demonstrations with the Stratford Police, Fire and Harbormaster boats, Sikorsky fire rescue, Milford Police, Stratford and Milford flotilla vessels and an RBM-45 from the New Haven Coast Guard station.

Present at the press conference were Hartford Channel 30, WVIT TV, Connecticut News channel 12, Fairfield County public access channel 79, The Connecticut Post, New Haven Register and (whew!!!) the Stratford Star. It will also be covered by *Over the Bow* and *The Navigator*. The conference and event were sponsored jointly by USCGA Flotilla 24-2 and the Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission. Since Bill Rock is not one to blow his own horn, I'll do it for him and tell you that Bill is in his 9th term as chairman of the commission.

By all accounts the event was very successful and a hearty and well deserved Bravo Zulu goes out to Bill Rock for all his efforts.



OPEN HOUSE at NEW HAVEN

Coast Guard station New Haven held its annual open house this year on May 19th. Once again, we are proud to say that the event was MC'd by Flotilla 24-2's own Bill Rock. Also as in the past, our flotilla had a table from which we distributed pamphlets about life jackets, Connecticut and federal boating regulations, coloring books, and stickers to name but a few items connected with boating safety and the Auxiliary in general. We even had some interest from passersby who requested information about our flotilla and indicated that they wanted more info about what we were all about and possibly joining. This was all passed on to Sue Case, FSO- Human Resources. Many thanks to Donna Bisson, Francine, Vallillo and Cindy Chesney for their efforts in staffing the booth.

The 313 was present and made quite an impression after having been waxed, polished and generally spruced up for the event thanks to the efforts of flotilla members Bill Rohland, Patrick Dew and Francine Vallillo. We send out an urgent plea to the entire flotilla to help in keeping the 313 looking its best throughout the boating season and especially now as it gets ready for Op Sail 2012.

In addition to the boats on display, the Black Hawk helicopter and the Coast Guard Chopper, one of my personal highlights was the visit Captain of the Port, Joseph Vojvodich, made to our booth to meet and greet all of us. His message of thanks for the help from the entire Auxiliary was much appreciated.

Bravo Zulu to all flotilla members who contributed to making this a successful event.



SIMON & GARFUNKLE WERE RIGHT!

It is all happening at the zoo.

As part of its observance of World Oceans Day, the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, CT invited Flotilla 24-2 to hold an information event in the zoo craft building. This was arranged by Jeff Trombly, FSO- Communications Services & Member Training, Jeff has been a volunteer at the zoo for many years and his hard work paid off in a successful presentation .

Vice Division Commander, Mark Bennett, was there with his well known display about invasive species in the Sound and pollution prevention. In addition to Mark and Jeff , Rob Ortiz was present with "Coastie". "Coastie" was a joint effort of Jeff on the controls and Rob providing the voice and was a big hit with adults and teens as well as kids. One little girl was so enamored with him that she left a flower on his "bow".

Also present from 24-2 were Bill Rohland, Donna Bisson and Francine Vallillo. The event was very well received and the zoo invited the Auxiliary to come back for future presentations.

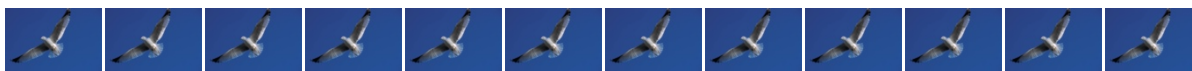
Good job and Well Done to all who participated.



Jeff, Rob and "Coastie"



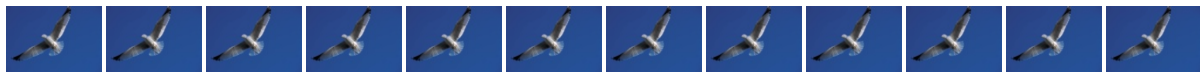
Francine wows some spectators



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This year, the annual 24-2 picnic will be held on Saturday, July 21 from 1:00 (1300hrs) to 4:00 (1600 hrs), at Bisson Base. As always, hamburgers, hot dogs, and the fixin’s as well as soda will be provided. In addition, there will be dishes provided by the members which will augment the fine dining provided by the flotilla. Rest assured, you will be contacted by the intrepid picnic chair concerning who is bringing what. (I knew you would be concerned)

As you all know, the picnic is always fun, whether held outdoors in inside incase of inclement weather. Inside or outside we always have a blast, the details of which I cannot describe and still get this newsletter past the censors. Look forward to seeing all of you there!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



From the Galley

(Editor’s note: Each issue will feature a recipe which is quick, easy, conserves cooking fuel and would be good for use on your boat. If anyone has a favorite recipe they would like to share, please E-mail it to nautum04@aol.com)

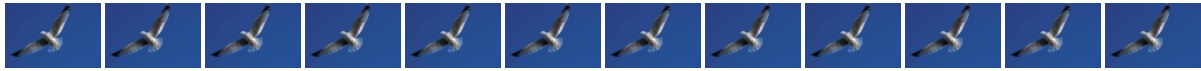
Aunt Pat’s Hamburger Stew

- 1 lb. Ground Beef
- 1 Medium onion (diced)
- 3 Garlic cloves (diced)
- 1 Can of tomato soup
- 1 Can of vegetable vegetarian (Alphabet) soup
- 1 Cup of rice or 1 bag of instant rice

Cook rice according to package directions.
 In a large skillet, brown beef. While beef is cooking, add onion and garlic. Drain off excess grease when done. When drained, add both cans of soup. When rice is cooked, add to skillet. Season to taste (I use salt, pepper, basil, oregano, rosemary and thyme.

Yield is about two servings.

(Recipe re-printed with permission from my Aunt Pat)

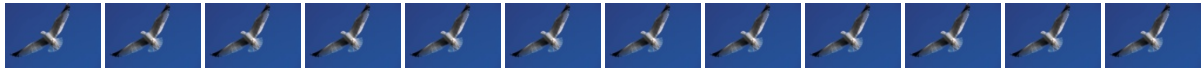


In Pursuit of Trivia

Did you know.....

In the medieval era, ship's wheels had not yet been invented. Boats were, therefore, steered by means of a large board attached to a long tiller. This steering board was normally placed on the right side of the boat. When a boat came into the harbor, it could not tie up on the right side due to the presence of the steering mechanism and would, then, be tied on the left side.

Over the years, the term steering board side of the boat was corrupted through usage and became the "starboard" side. Since the boat was tied up on the left side when in port, that side became known as the "port" side.



Thanks for reading, we'll see you next issue.