



# WINGS AND WAVES

Official newsletter of Division 10 1SR

November, 2012 Edition  
Volume 1 No. 11

## OFFICERS

DCDR: Gus Formato

VCDR: Fred Simmons

IPCDR: Claud Macchieraldo

SO-CM: Sal Arico

SO-CS: John Parker

SO-FN: Kevin Leeds

SO-HR: Mary Prusko

SO-IS: Peter Byme

SO-MA: Sal Bio

SO-MS: Michele Rollino

SO-MT: Kevin Fear

SO-NS: Alfred Olsen

SO-OP: Patricia Ermilio

SO-PA: Vera Reed

SO-PB: Linda Reda

SO-PE: Arthur Kramer

SO-PV: Patricia Espejo

SO-SR: Gwendellyn Radloff

SO-VE: John Yskamp

Directorate Chief Logistics:

Marjorie Korteweg

Directorate Chief Prevention:

Helen Glass

Directorate Chief Response:

Pat Ermilio

## Commander's Comments



I'd heard of her, we all had. We heard she was coming to town, but she wasn't the first to visit and she'd probably be a lot like her sister Irene and her brother Isaac. As Sandy approached, we quickly realized that she was different. She was mean and unforgiving, like her friends Camille, Donna and Gloria.

What we didn't realize was that life as we knew it would change drastically. When Sandy arrived, she didn't come empty handed. She brought with her indiscriminate destruction, flooding, widespread power outages, food shortages, fires and gas lines. She took as well. She took lives, homes, memories and hope.

Those fortunate to have electricity and heat sat in front of their televisions watching horrific images of death, destruction and despair. We had seen such images before, but they were always a half a world away. Not this time. This time, the images were in our neighborhoods, our back yards.

Continued.....

As the images of Staten Island, Manhattan, Sandy Hook, Raritan Bay, Freeport, Rockaway, Long Island, Westchester and northern New Jersey and so many others flashed before us, it became abundantly clear that these were our own neighborhoods as well as the neighborhoods and homes of our shipmates and Auxiliary family. Homes washed off foundations, trees through homes, boats turned into guided missiles, homes burning out of control, entire neighborhoods under water.

Now, in true US Coast Guard Auxiliary fashion, we'll pick ourselves up, and reach out to help those less fortunate than us. We're here to help. It's what we do. We're Semper Paratus.

May we keep all affected by Sandy and her aftermath in our thoughts and prayers.

---

### For assistance, from Steve Trupkin (DSO-AV):

Hurricane Sandy Hotline – The Governor of New York has established a hotline for resident seeking more information on disaster relief. For more information, call 855-NYS-SANDY (855-697-72639) (the phone number has 8 digits instead of the usual 7) or visit [www.ny-alert.gov](http://www.ny-alert.gov).

American Red Cross – The Red Cross can provide shelter for you and your loved ones or help you reach a loved one that you may have lost contact with. Contact the Red Cross at 877-733-2767 or visit <http://www.nyredcross.org>.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) – Each agency has their own EAP contractor. Please consider making your employees aware of their contact information and the services they provide.

Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) – Federal employees may be eligible to receive no-interest loans of up to \$1,000 and grants of up to \$500 to assist with hurricane recovery. The short application form is available at: [www.feea.org/Disaster](http://www.feea.org/Disaster) <<http://www.feea.org/Disaster>>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – FEMA can help employees find shelter, disaster assistance, crisis counseling, legal services, and unemployment assistance. Apply for assistance by calling 800-621-3362 or visiting their website at <http://www.fema.gov/disasters>.

Salvation Army – In addition to helping track down loved ones, the Salvation Army accepts donations of clothing and household items to help those in need. To contact the Salvation Army in New York, call 212-337-7200; the New Jersey Emergency Disaster Services bureau can be reached at 908-851-8238. You can also visit <http://www.salvationarmy.org>.

# Division News

Election Results: At the October meeting, Gus Formato and Fred Simmons were re-elected for another year as Division Commander and Division Vice Commander, respectively. Congratulations!

---



Bruce Pugh (20-13) is presented a 25-Year Award from Gus Formato, DCDR.

---

## Upcoming Events

- **T**he Division Change of Watch will take place on January 18, 2013 at Michael's Riverside in Lyndhurst. Cost will be \$50 per person. Details will be available at a later date.
- **F**lotilla elections will take place in November.
- **T**he November Division meeting date has been changed to 28Nov2012.
- **O**ur holiday party will be held on Dec 19, 2012, to replace the regular division meeting. This is open to all members of the division. Cost is \$10. Details will be available at a later date.
- **T**he District Conference will be held at the Mystic Marriott the weekend of Mar 15 to 17, 2013 in Groton, CT. Check the district website for more details.

# A Once in a Lifetime Experience

By Mike Botwinick (10-1)



On Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, I received a phone call asking me if I would like to take a trip aboard the Navy's newest commissioned Virginia Class Attack Sub. After some very deep consideration I replied within 20 seconds, emphatically, yes. At that moment I did not know where, when, or for how long this ride would be. Several days later I was contacted by YNCS Michael Shea who is the

Executive Assistant to RADM Breckenridge, Commander of Submarine Group Two. He informed me that I would need to be in Cape Canaveral on Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1700 for briefing and dinner. I would be joining others on this VIP trip: a state Senator of CT, a film producer, an America's Cup sailor, a Blackhawk instructor, a shipping industry government liaison, a Navy League member, and myself.



On Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> I flew to Cape Canaveral to meet with my escorts for the trip the next day on the USS Mississippi. The boat is the Navy's. At 377 feet, it is supported by a crew of 134. On Monday, July 23 at 0930, I boarded the sub for two day trip at sea. Once aboard I was directed to my bunk to drop off my belongings. Prior to the trip I was advised of what I should and should not bring as well as keeping what I packed to bare bones minimum due to obvious space limitations. When I saw my bunk I realized why. Getting in and out of the top bunk required a skill that I had not yet learned in my prior aviation training. Once settled in we were provide an agenda of the two days activities. First stop was the control room where we were shown the sonar, fire control, and navigation centers.

Continued.....



It was here that we were introduced to XO Daniel Reiss who explained how the sonar worked and provided the fire control information. We also found that the periscope was replaced with a pistol grip control that controlled a camera on top of the mast that was shown on big flat screen monitors. The 'periscope' has zoom, infrared, wide angle, and black and white capability able to visualize ships 18 miles away. After about 45 minutes I was asked to put on a harness so that I could climb three decks up to the bridge where I joined Captain John McGrath on the bridge. The Capt. graduated the US Naval Academy in 1990 and is from Neptune, NJ. Once on the bridge, I was belayed so as not to go overboard. For the next 20 minutes I enjoyed a view so surreal I thought for sure I was going to wake and realize it was only a dream. Next stop was lunch in the wardroom where we were further briefed and engaged in a fire drill where we donned gas masks which we attached to an oxygen line above. At approximately 1400 we began our dive to 500 ft with another 2000 ft below us. At 1700 it was time for dinner where we enjoyed a fresh turkey dinner complete with all the fixings. At 1800 I returned to the control room where I was asked to take the pilot seat and drive the boat. My flying experience came in very handy because the boat was controlled by hand joystick. Depth, speed, attitude, and heading were all displayed on a flat screen. Navigation would call out the heading and depth and I would repeat the instructions back and take the boat to the appropriate depth and heading. At 1900 we began maneuvering exercises called 'Angles and Dangles' where we would do rapid ascents and descents. 2000 was movie night complete with assorted fruit and popcorn.

Cont.....

At 2200 it was time to attack an enemy sub complete with a 'water shot'. It was very methodical and quiet how sonar would communicate with fire control (fire the weapons) and navigation would reposition the boat behind the simulated enemy. Once the torpedo is launched it is still controlled by the sub until it sends out a ping to its target. At that moment the torpedo is on its own tracking its target. The newest subs are nearly undetectable. Direct hit.

It was now 2400 and time to hit the sack. Once in, I was comfortable and the sub is very quiet. I woke at 0600 and missed breakfast but there's always a pot of coffee on along with fresh fruit so I was good. The morning was spent hanging in the control room where I operated the periscope, learned more about the systems, and talked to the fine young men on board. It was finally 1100 which meant it was time for the most anticipated lunch of the week; 'Taco Tuesday'. This is the crew's favorite. The only thing missing was the beer. There are no written rules forbidding alcohol but none is on board.

1530 arrived quickly when we had to disembark back at Cape Canaveral. The trip was a once in a lifetime trip but the memory of the faces, the kind, and professional treatment will never leave me. The fine men of the Navy Submarine Group are the best trained sailors in the Navy. Their dedication to go to sea and not see daylight for 6 months at a time is unfathomable.



## **IMPORTANT WEBSITES**

Flotilla 10-1: <http://a0141001.uscgaux.info/>

Flotilla 10-2: <http://secaucus102.homestead.com/uscg102.html>

Flotilla 10-4: <http://a0141004.uscgaux.info/>

Flotilla 10-8: <http://a0141008.uscgaux.info/>

Flotilla 10-10: <http://a0141010.wow.uscgaux.info>

Flotilla 10-13: <http://a0141013.uscgaux.info/>

Flotilla 10-20: <http://www.airstationcaldwell.org>

Division10: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/?unit=014-10>

First District Southern Region: <http://www.d1south.org/>

**There is a wealth of information available to all members at these websites! Be sure to check them often!**

Division meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 33 W. Passaic St., Rochelle Park, at 2000. All members are welcome.

**The next Division meeting will be held on Wed., Nov. 28, 2012.**

### **Privacy Notice**

The information contained in this document is subject to the provisions of the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 and may only be used for official business of the U.S. Coast Guard or the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Plane Facts is the official publication of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, 1st District (SR), Division 10. Published at no cost to the Government. Unless otherwise noted, all pictures were provided by Linda Wolters.

Linda Reda SO-PB

lincol50@hotmail.com