

# THE JETTIES



Vol. 22 Issue 5, A publication of Flotilla 38, 1NR, Newburyport, Mass. Dec 03 - Jan 04

## FLOTILLA 38 MEMBERS AT THE FALL CONFERENCE and they never looked better!



The fall 2003 district conference just happened to coincide with Halloween, so of course the commodore's banquet became a costume party. *(Photo above-left)* Party goers included rodeo-rider Charlie "Tex" Pencinger, who was accompanied by Lois "Bat-girl" Pencinger. They are flanked by clerics, "Mother Superior" Lil Booth and "Father" Ron Booth. Two of the most outstanding costumes of the night were by Pearl and Phil Sirois *(above-right)*. They had an advantage, Pearl and Phil are "professional clowns," (and we mean that in a serious way) who regularly entertain at Shriners Children's Hospitals. *(Photos by Frank Keslof, DSO-PB 1NR)*

### UPCOMING FLOTILLA MEETINGS

at the Plum Island Boathouse

Saturday 13 Dec 03 at 1630

HOLIDAY PARTY

&

Thur 8 Jan 04 at 1930

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 13 Dec Flotilla Holiday Party  
Plum Island Boathouse; 1830  
19 Dec Hanukkah begins  
25 Dec Christmas Day

### JANUARY

- 1 Jan New Years Day  
2 Jan District Board & Staff meeting  
3-4 Jan District Conference & Change of Watch  
Marriott Hotel, Newton, Massachusetts  
8 Jan Flotilla meeting  
(one week later due to New Year holiday)  
16 Jan USCGC RELIANCE, ship's holiday party  
VFW hall, Portsmouth, NH  
19 Jan Martin Luther King Holiday

### FEBRUARY

- 16 Feb President's Day Holiday

#### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

*Unless noted otherwise, above*

3rd Friday of the month - District 1NR Board & Staff Meetings.  
Last Thursday of the month - DIV 3 Board & Staff Meetings.

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### **PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE**

*Dolly Thomas, FSO-PE*

The fall 2003 Public Education course is complete. Thank you to all instructors and aides who helped out including: Bill Graham, Jim Maranto, Fran Hunt, Frank Swain, Ron Booth, Charlie Pencinger, Terry Kalil, Fred Beaulieu, Jason Esposito, Charlie Grossimon, and Dave Stickney.

The winter Public Education course starts soon. Boating Skills and Seamanship begins on 13 January at 1900. We will be at the usual location, the Pentucket Middle School on Route 113 at the West Newbury - Groveland town line.

Below are some photos that illustrate why the Coast Guard Auxiliary public education mission is important!



Perhaps you heard about this one, speed and alcohol were the combining factors for this crash onto the south jetty at the mouth of the Merrimack River. The boat was a total loss after the tides completed the destruction started by the operator. (Photo by Joe Grande, FL 38 member and Newburyport Deputy Harbormaster.)



(Photo right) This operator definitely missed Terry Kalil's lecture on aids-to-navigation. However, he didn't miss the ATON. (Official USCG photo.)

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### **THE SHIPPEES ARE SHIPPING OUT**

Two of our members are fleeing the frozen north and heading to Florida. Frank and Bert Shippee, AKA Flash and Splash, are planning to sell their home in Amesbury and move to the Port Charlotte area soon. Everyone wishes them well and hopes they enjoy the balmy weather, our December blizzard is quite a send off for them!

However, they did indicate that they will be staying in touch. When the balmy Florida weather becomes torrid in the summer, they plan to come back and see us when the New England weather is more agreeable.



The person towing this boat definitely missed Frank Swain's lecture on trailering. However, he definitely chose quality when he bought that trailer hitch! (US Dept. Trans. photo.)

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## VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

*Charlie Grossimon, VFC*

In very short order, the year will wind down and with that, new elected officers will take their seats in Flotilla 38.

Ron Booth, the outgoing flotilla commander, will of course, remain active in his role of immediate past flotilla commander. I don't think we'll let Ron drift too far away, his dedication to Flotilla 38, will hopefully, benefit us for years to come.

Over the last two years, there have been many wonderful milestones in Flotilla 38. Membership is doing very well, it seems we always have three or four at one time in Basic Qualification classes and our ranks have really swelled.

Public education remains one of our strong points. Each year, we have three classes at Pentucket Middle School, many of which are filled to capacity. Many flotilla members support our PE program, thanks to each and every one of them, but special thanks to Dolly Thomas, Fran Hunt, Ron Booth and Charlie Pencinger who devote a great deal of time to this mission. They and the rest of our training cadre have worked hard to develop an outstanding course of study, which is all intended to save lives and property and promote safe boating.

In the past year we gained two coxswains, Steve Noyes and Charlie Pencinger, both of them worked extremely hard to achieve that qualification. However, they didn't rest, they went right on to provide training to upcoming boat crew and coxswain candidates, as well as, performing safety patrols.

Speaking of Steve Noyes, he was the first member in Division 3 to train and qualify as a crewmember on Station Merrimack River's 47-foot Motor Life Boat. Now Steve is taking watches at the station and working right along side his active duty counterparts.

Flotilla 38 continues to have, the most enviable newsletter in not only the Auxiliary, but in the entire Coast Guard, kudos to Matt McDonald for doing an outstanding job. We've also posted some great numbers on our mission reports in the marine dealer visitation program and the Coast Guard Academy Introduction Mission thanks to tremendous efforts by Patty Critchlow, Jim Critchlow and Dolly Thomas.

Frank Keslof, who wears many, many hats in not only the flotilla level, but also on the division and district level continues to be quite an asset to the flotilla. It is people like him, who give consistent, long-term service that keep Flotilla 38 in the forefront.

In the area of long term, consistent, dedicated service, special congratulations to Marilyn Swain who just received the **CG Auxiliary Membership Service Award** denoting **30 years of service**. Flotilla staff officer-secretary/records is not a high visibility mission area, but its one of those jobs that must be done, and Marilyn always made sure it got done.

The USCG Cutter RELIANCE mission is still going strong. First Aid and CPR training for the ship's crew continues to be provided by Frank Keslof and Fred Beaulieu. Charlie Grossimon and Ron Booth have fully qualified in the Damage Control Personnel Qualification Standard and stand full watches, fully relieving one of the active duty crewmembers on watch. Bob Gaudet is very close to taking his board and will soon be qualified as well.

As I sit here and write this, I realize there are many, many more people that deserve such recognition. Plus, there is a whole host of new members who are chomping at the bit to get involved. It will be my challenge as the incoming Flotilla Commander to get these people ready and utilize them to the best of our and their abilities.

As Ron Booth leaves elected office, I think he can sit back and feel that he left the flotilla in good shape. It will be my challenge and that of the new vice commander, Charlie Pencinger, to keep things running well. We have big shoes to fill and it will be through the assistance of all of our members that we will be able to succeed.



When Auxiliarists from our flotilla were training aboard the USCGC RELIANCE, one of the most helpful crewmembers on the ship was Carl Becker. He took Flotilla 38 members "under his wing" and made us feel welcome. Carl has since transferred on to a new assignment in New York where he was recently promoted to Chief Petty Officer. Here he is being congratulated by Rear Admiral Vivien Crea, USCG, Commander of the First Coast Guard District.

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## THERE LANDED THE PILGRIMS, THEN CAME THE AUXILIARY

*Matt McDonald, FSO-PB*

On 31 October I had the opportunity to travel to Plymouth, Massachusetts for the district conference. While there I had the opportunity to see the sights, including Plymouth Rock and the *Mayflower* replica. This inspired me to re-educate myself about the Pilgrims, so I thought I would share some of what I learned.

In late December of 1620 one hundred and two men, women, and children began to establish the second permanent English settlement in America. It would be difficult to understand why they left their homes in Europe without knowing something of their mindset. In the sixteenth century Henry VIII created the Anglican Church and while this was a radical move at the time it did not satisfy the Puritans who wanted to "...return to a simpler church..." English Puritanism borrowed heavily from Martin Luther and John Calvin who preached against corruption in the established churches and emphasized a personal covenant with God. Many Puritans wanted to reform the Anglican Church but some, known at the time as Separatists, believed this impossible and formed an illegal separate church. All English people at this time were required to join the Anglican Church and those who did not were subject to persecution in the form of fines and imprisonment. It was for these reasons that they left England and settled in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands had a policy of religious tolerance and the Separatists settled in Leyden in 1608. Over the years they were joined by others who were exiled from England. William Bradford, a member of the group who wrote about his experiences forty years later in New England, states that there were several reasons for the groups decision to leave the Netherlands. However, two reasons seem to me to be paramount. First, a treaty between Spain and the Netherlands was about to expire. The Pilgrim separatists feared that this would renew the threat of persecution in the form of the Spanish Inquisition. Second was the fear of acculturation into Dutch society. Many of the children in the group either had not known or could not remember much of England and it was feared that they would lose their language and culture and cease to be English.

Members of the Leyden Congregation made the decision to leave the Netherlands, but they were uncertain of where to go. They could not return to England for the same reasons they left. It would seem that English America was the closest substitute for Old England, and they would be free to worship as they saw fit. The Leyden group favored the support of a group of private backers led by Thomas Weston rather than join the Virginia Company. Through Weston's support the group acquired a set of sponsors and a prospective location for their plantation.

The Leyden assembly recruited sailors, workers, and artisans in London and set sail aboard the *Mayflower*, on 6 September, 1620. Of this group, now known as the Pilgrims, only thirty-five were from the Leyden assembly, the rest were from England. They made landfall on 19 November, 1620 at Cape Cod but did not find a suitable location until 19 December. They chose a place with a well protected harbor and high grounds, suitable for defense, and named their new plantation New Plymouth.

And of course in another century, the First District - Northern Region, USCG Auxiliary found it most suitable for a conference. However the Pilgrims, who had no sense of humor, would not have found it amusing to see a bunch of Auxiliarists running around in Halloween costumes!



The *Mayflower* replica ship in Plymouth Harbor.  
(Photo by John McDonald, DSO-SR)

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## STEVE NOYES OFFICIALLY QUALIFIES AS A CREWMEMBER OF CGSTA MERRIMACK VESSELS



Steve Noyes, FSO-OP, was presented with his formal certificate of qualification as a crewmember for vessels at USCG Station Merrimack River. The presentation was made at the station during a Division 3 Board and Staff meeting. Making the presentation (*in photo above right*) was BMC Rob Craighead, USCG, Officer-in-Charge.

Steve is now routinely working along side the active duty Coast Guard personnel when his watch section is on duty. Despite the onset of winter weather, he's still putting in a good deal of underway time, including a lot of time at the helm of the 47-foot motor lifeboat. Steve is the first member of Flotilla 38 and Division 3 to achieve this level of proficiency and qualification.

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### THIS EDITION'S WEATHER TIP

*Matt McDonald, FSO-PB*

I often pass on weather tips that are useful to all boaters, especially Auxiliarists. But occasionally I come across anecdotes that fall under the category of lore or legend. Some may be useful; some are just "old wife's tales," such as:

- Halo around the sun or moon signal rain or snow very soon.
- Mackerel sky, mackerel sky, soon we'll be wet and no longer dry.
- Speaking of fish: legend has it that fish bite the least when the wind is from the East. Fish bite the best when the wind is from the West. If the wind is out of the North stay by the fire and don't go forth. Should the wind blow from the South twill blow the bait out of their mouth.
- Clear moon, frost soon. Hazy sun, get work done.
- If a rooster crows before he goes to bed, he's sure to rise with a rain soaked head. (Our neighbor keeps chickens and we once did too, so we can vouch for this one.)
- A snowy March means a hot, dry summer. A frigid November becomes a winter to remember.

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### REPORT FROM THE RELIANCE

We got underway from Kittery on Nov 15th and immediately discovered a problem with our controllable pitch propeller system. So, we went into Boston for repairs. We found that we had gotten contaminated hydraulic fluid while in the CG Yard this summer/fall. So, the yard workers came up and fixed the problem. It took a while, though, as they had to flush the entire system.

We're glad to be back underway, as we need the training after spending 10 weeks in the shipyard. We rode the nor'easter out in Cape Cod Bay. We were very glad not to have been recalled for a search and rescue mission.

We have scheduled our **ship's holiday party for Friday evening, Jan 16th**. It will be at the same venue (the **VFW hall in Portsmouth**) as it was last year. It was a good event, so we hope to repeat the success. You are all invited, of course!

Happy Holidays,  
Fair Winds,

CDR Sandra Stosz, USCG  
Commanding Officer, USCGC RELIANCE



**The latest new members to come aboard are administered the membership oath by Ron Booth, Flotilla Commander 38. (From left to right) Tim Downs, Mike Dumaresq and Kirsten Johnson. (Photo by Steve Noyes, FSO-OP)**

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