



MILFORD



BEACON



Timothy Mulherin, Commander

Jeffrey Cieplak, Vice Commander

February 2009

Volume 10, Issue 2

Recreational Boating Safety Award

Flotilla Meetings

First Tuesday of month
19:00 Training
20:00 Business
Milford Training Center



Special points of interest:

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Conference Registration pg3

2009 flotilla budget accepted during the February meeting.

Cost-cutting measures established in anticipation of fewer students.

The Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Visitation Certificate of Appreciation and RBS device were presented to Steve Foisey during the February flotilla meeting.



Recreational Boating Safety Visitors Program is designed to assist marine dealers, marinas and the recreational boating community with safety information, access to Coast Guard resources for recalls and consumer complaints.

The RBS Device was established to recognize members who support the Auxiliary's programs and activities within, or related to, the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program. The award of the device is based upon the member earning 120 points per year for two consecutive years (total of 240 points to qualify).

Stephen Foisey has been tireless in providing boating safety material to ten marine dealers, yacht clubs, marinas and sporting good stores in the area, visiting them monthly, since 2002, to replenish pamphlets and to spend time chatting with the managers.

Steve assisted store managers in promoting boating safety by organizing and staffing safety booths in a number of marine supply stores answering questions and handing out material.

Congratulations and Well done!



Flotilla Newsletter Changes Format

Starting with this edition, the meeting minutes will no longer be included in the Beacon.

For the last three years, the Milford Beacon has been the primary source for disseminating the minutes of the flotilla business meeting, along with highlights of flotilla activities. With the advent of a more formal distribution by the FSO-SR, the minutes of the meeting in the Milford Beacon has become redundant.

The Beacon will continue to present highlights of flo-

tilla activities along with detailed back-stories of events being planned.

The reduction in size of the Beacon will reduce overall printing and distribution costs along with a smaller file size for posting on the flotilla website.

Staff officers are urged to use the Beacon as a platform for disseminating information, schedules and activities in their respective areas.

Schedule of Activities

March

- 1 PE registration
- 3 Flotilla meeting
- 4 Division meeting
- 7 About Boating Safety
- 9-10-11 Chart, NAV, GPS
- 14 Kayaking
- 16 Sailing (4 nights)

April

- 7 Flotilla meeting
- 8 Division meeting
- 19 PE registration
- 25 About Boating Safety
- 28-29-30 Chart, NAV, GPS

Boat Basin

AT

<http://a01424.uscgaux.info>

The Milford Beacon is the official publication of Flotilla 24-3 and is published at no cost to the U.S. Coast Guard

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Awards

Annual Service Performance Award PE: Bob Bowolick
RBS Visitation Certificate of Appreciation: Steve Foisey



Navy 44's To Visit Milford Harbor

Four of the Naval Academy training sailboats will be visiting Milford Harbor during the July 4th holiday. The boats will be tied alongside Lisman's Landing and will be available for inspection and rides (time permitting).

The 73 will be escorting the vessels into the harbor on their arrival. Visit the Naval Academy link below to get more information on these training vessels.

<http://www.usna.edu/SailingTeam/training/boats/navy44/navy44.html>

To get more information on the Luders 44 go to:

<http://www.navypaxsail.com/Yawls.htm>

Base & Boat

Base No planned activity for the near future.

Boat The 73 has been used for winter operations and training, accumulating twenty-eight hours of operation since January 1.

Members are requested to plan for a short haul maintenance work party in late March or early April.

Staff Officers

John Longobardi	FSO AN
Peter Purcell	FSO CM
Jeff Cieplak	FSO CS
Steve Perrone	FSO-DA
Bob Parker	FSO FN
Bob Brill	FSO IS
Steve Foisey	FSO MA
Steve Perrone	FSO-MS
Mike Gabriel	FSO MT
Pending	FSO PA
Bob Bowolick	FSO PB
Steve Perrone	FSO PE
John Godfrey	FSO OP
Bob Bowolick	FSO SR
Steve Krawczyk	FSO VE
Steve Foisey	FSO PV
Pat Collins	FSO-PS
Steve Weiss	PPE

Training Center

The weather has taken its toll on the logo and sign that adorn the front of the training center. It was announced during the February flotilla meeting that plans are underway to replace the signs. The designs will be duplicated in vinyl and mounted on an aluminum base, reinforced with a weather resistant wood material.



Training Center

The existing public education sign at the training center will be overhauled in the near future

What started out as a convenient way to change dates and specialty class offerings has turned into a major task due to the sun's rays deteriorating the sign's magnet materials.

A committee has been established to assess the available options for materials, the content and format of information that will be displayed. Serving on the committee are Steve Perrone, Jack Godfrey and Tim Mulherin.

District Awards Conference Registration Information On-line

Planning on attending the District Awards Conference? Not sure of what is or is not available? Don't know how to register for the activities? All is not lost! Visit the conference page on the District website and click on the "Over the Bow" Conference edition. The link is provided for your convenience.

http://www.d1south.org/Downloads/Documents/General/OTB_Conference_Special_2009.pdf

Members who have not attended a conference should consider attending this one, at the Mystic Marriott on Saturday, March 28th. There are workshops and seminars for all the major activities starting at 08:30 and continuing all day until 16:00. Need to take an AUXOP Specialty Course exam? Can Do on Saturday.

The Awards Banquet is the culmination of Auxiliary activities for 2008. The best of the best are acknowledged for their outstanding performance during 2008.

So visit the website and register to go, you will not be sorry.

Spring is Coming!

When Sand Beneath the Snow is Free

There is nothing more magical than to be
ghosting along on a quiet sea.

Sails full, light breezes blow,
setting sun casts an orange glow.

These are the thoughts that come to be
when sand beneath the snow is free

T'is time to think of going to sea
when gentle breezes blow.

The dream of far horizons
In the heart will grow.

These are the thoughts that come to be
when sand beneath the snow is free

Gentle waves against the hull,
or the call of a soaring gull,
wispy clouds in the sky,
sailboats moving slowly by.

These are the thoughts that come to be
when sand beneath the snow is free

Feel the tiller in your hand,
where far astern is the land.

The sails pull, the ship goes fast,
Spring is here at long last

These are the thoughts that come to be
when sand beneath the snow is free

By the editor

February is an awkward month. Still too cold to think of boats and weeks away from Spring. How often, as we walk, do we think of the melting snow being a sure sign that Spring is near, only to be surprised by another snowfall? How often do we gaze at the trees and shrubs looking for that newly formed bud that is proof positive that Spring is near?

They say that in the Spring a young man's fancy turns to love. Could it be that he knows no better? We, who have been youth-deprived for some time, know very well that in the Spring it is time to caress the bottom of a boat, polish the brass, wax the hull and dream of getting underway on the first warm sunny day.



District Website

The 1st District (SR) website has a new look. It is clean, easy to navigate and contains a wealth of information.

It's the place to go to meet the District Bridge, Chief of Staff, District Captains, Department Chiefs and Staff Officers. Need information for a specific staff position? Follow the links. Find out who the ADSOs are and access contact information.

For the convenience of the viewer there are the usual links to Coast Guard and Auxiliary websites.

Place the District website on your desktop for easy access to the gateway for all Auxiliary information.

<http://www.d1south.org/pages/home.php>

Flotilla Schedule

The secretary suggested that staff officers and bridge create a flotilla activities schedule that will identify all the planned activities for the entire year.

We know that the boat crew schedule encompasses every weekend and that schedule is prepared and released to boat crew. However, there are scheduled events such as vessel examinations, public affairs events, boat maintenance and certain flotilla activities that are known but not planned ahead of time.

By having a composite schedule with specific dates published, members can set time aside well in advance of the activity, thereby ensuring that the activity will be well staffed.

Staff officers and bridge have been requested to provide those planned activity dates to the secretary for compilation into a flotilla schedule.