

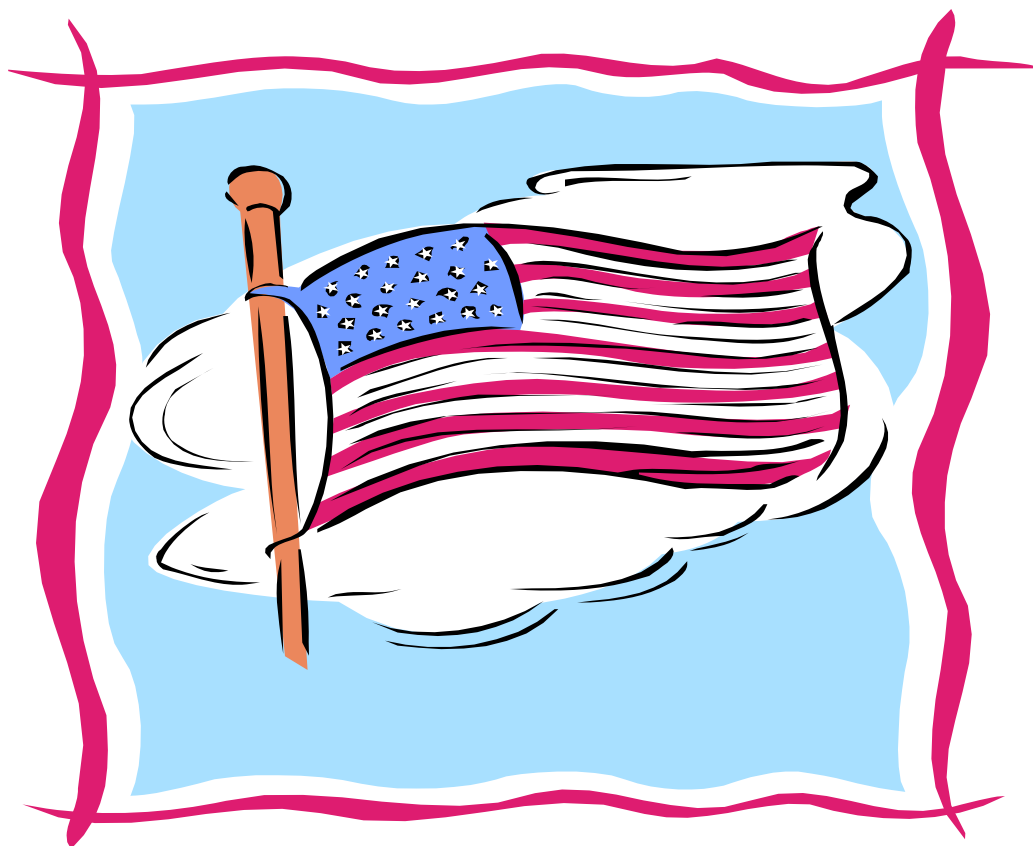
The
Signal
Bridge

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



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Memorial Day
May 26, 2008
We Shall Never Forget Them!

Official Publication of Flotilla 459 ER
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The Commander

Sarah Jo Fischpera

Can you believe it- the weather is starting to change and it is almost time to start putting the boats in the water. Please make sure your inspection forms are completed correctly and sent in on time. It is also time to pull out your equipment and start checking it to make sure it all ready for the season. Check your lights, coxswain please check your epirb's, and make sure you have registered them again this year, and test them. If you own radio's make sure they are working correctly.

Chief Engle and BM3 Damian Leonard attended our April meeting and was great to see them. They have been very busy this year already. They have the boats back in the water. Chief Engle talked about Safe Boating Week kick off 17 May at the station. Participants will include Auxiliary, Sheriff, Coast Guard and DEC. There will be 100 ft of dock reserved for VE's that they will need help with. Equipment demonstrations and boating class sign up area will be available. He is asking for all the help he can get from the Division. Please see if you can keep this day free so we can help support this **Huge** function. It will be a great opportunity to get involved with the public and let them know what we do. This will be advertised in the papers and media.

The boating classes for Gander Mountain are filling up so please if you can help please let the FSO-PE know. He will need all the help he can get for these days. April 26 and May 10th are the dates. We also have been asked to do a PA booth at the Lake Shore Fire Department some time in June for their recruitment day. There will be more information once we find out a date.

We are getting into our busy time of the year. Please make sure before you commit to a function that we will be able to have enough members to participate and also check the Division Calendar and our event page. If you need help please let Bob or me know we are here to help.

I hope the weather stays nice and hope to see you all at the next meeting.

May Flotilla Meeting - May 7

Mothers Day - May 11

Safe Boating week kickoff - May 17

Breakfast n' Bed - May 18

Memorial Day Ceremony - May 26

The Vice Commander

Robert A. Drost

How many can feel it? Spring in the air! Soon we'll be into the full swing of summer activities...boating, mowing, boating, washing cars, boating, gardening ... did I mention boating ??

The Spring Conference was held April 3-5 and was very well attended. I was unable to attend the Friday festivities but found plenty to keep me busy on Saturday. The morning started bright and early with the first part of the Operations program. OTO Clark gave a very interesting and informative presentation on inspecting facilities. Those qualified VE must make sure to check every thing to ensure the facility is properly prepared for the safety of the crew. Without the assurance that the facility is ready for patrol, everything else becomes impossible.

We adjourned for a lunch of beef on wick sandwiches (isn't that the same menu we had last year?) and presentation of awards. Dan Stearns received an award for all his hard work maintaining the various websites. It's always a pleasure to see one of our recognized for his efforts. Well done, Dan !!!

Following lunch, we continued the Operations program with a presentation on the new Mentor program. This will be a big push to get mentors qualified to help our crew trainees ready for their QE exam. I hope most of our current crew will give serious consideration to taking part in this effort.

I also attended the UPV workshop. There are many charter boats in our area and we need many more UPV qualified examiners. It's a lot of work but it's also appreciated by the CG.

There were several other workshops ... scuba, air, information services, to name a few. I was unable to attend the banquet Saturday evening but rumor has it that everyone had a great time.

By the time you read this, I hope to have my boat in the water and ready to start patrols. It occurred to me that we should have our PPE equipment checked and Len has offered to inspect it. I'm sure he'll be happy to take a look if we bring it to a flotilla meeting.

Don't forget our upcoming Breakfast n' Bed in May. Gordy will be sending out more information about that soon. Also, the Memorial Day ceremony at Braddock Bay Marina. Let's see if we can have most members present for this important event.

Next issue deadline - May 10

Personnel Services

Gordon S. Aman

Spring is here! I can tell because Bob Drost has uncovered his boat and he's pacing the floor. I was also planning to go down to the marina to get my boat ready for launch and I realized that for the first time in twenty years I DON'T HAVE ONE!!! What am I going to do all summer without a boat? Does this mean my wife is going to get some of those things on the "Honey Do" list done!

We have had some excellent responses from potential new members this spring and I hope that they will follow thru with their paperwork. So far the following people have been invited and have attended one of our Flotilla meetings, Todd Goodrich, Richard Drouin, Brian Boehm and Valerie D'Ambra. Thomas Forsyth has received his member number and is waiting for his Security check results. I am looking forward to swearing him in soon.

Also this month, May is our Annual "Breakfast n' Bed" as mentioned at our April Flotilla meeting. The date has to be confirmed but I am going to try to have it on Sunday, the 18th of May. This has turned out to be a great time for our family's to get together so they can get to know everybody and also enjoy a good breakfast. The Parkway Restaurant has always appreciated doing this for us and their service is the best! I hope you can all come this year to start the boating season with us. I have asked Bob Verstreet to attach the flyer so all can mark their calendars.

PS: It is very important that you RSVP to me as soon as you can and let me know if you can or can't make it!!!

Member Training

Marsha Carpenter, FSO-MT

Hooray spring is here. Let's get those boats in the water and go for a ride.

There is a new mentoring program for the district that was presented at the spring conference. If you are interested in mentoring new crew or coxswains you will attend a training program with a QE, and then take the Operations Policy Manual exam online and a test given by the QE trainer. It is a quick and easy program to assure all of the mentors are on the same page throughout the district. If you wish to become a mentor please let me know.

Congratulations to Len who has completed the required training to become a TCT facilitator. He just has to teach the course with certified instructor and he will be ready to go. I'm sure he will be very busy this summer.

Any members that would like to become crew or coxswain please let me know and we will get you a mentor and get going. Also any crew or coxswains that need the requals this summer let me know so we can schedule a QE check ride for you.

Have a great summer and stay safe.

Air Operations

F. Robert Bialkowski, FSO-AV

The weather gremlins grounded Aux-Air for most of the month of March. Due to the luck of the schedule Bill Bach and I seemed to draw all the bad weather days. However we did manage to get three patrols completed for a total of eleven and a half flight hours.

On the 27th I flew a patrol to Messina and observed a lot of freighter activity on the St. Lawrence pre the opening date.



Two freighters positioning at the lock in Messina. Photo by Bob Bialkowski

On a Personal Note

Joyce S. Verstreet

I hope that everyone will take a few minutes on Memorial Day to attend our ceremony and pay homage to the brave Americans who have given their lives for freedom.

Happy Mothers Day

May 11

Public Affairs

Bryan T. Williams, FSO-PA

Hello Flotilla, I hope this finds everyone well. In case you forgot who I am, I generally sat up front on the left near the doors to greet guests (heavy set, person short hair cut). I am the Public Affairs officer and although due to my school schedule I have not been able to make any meeting recently I am still promoting the flotilla's upcoming advents.

Spring has finally arrived (I can tell by the number bagged leaves and debris I put out for the garbage collector) and I hope you are all ready for an exciting summer. I continue to promote the Safe Boating Courses and I will be sending out media releases on safe boating, etc. I hope everyone has put away their heavy winter coats and is gearing up for a productive summer. Take Care.

A Time to Pay Tribute

Robert J. Verstreet Sr., FSO-PB

Sadly, our freedom and the freedom of other nations comes with a price tag, the precious lives of our Service Men and Women . ***FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!***

Please take a few moments on Memorial Day, May 26, and attend our ceremony at Braddock Bay Marina. The preferred uniform is Service Dress Blue if you have it. Next preference is Tropical Blue Long or civilian and don't forget a jacket. I don't need to remind you how unpredictable the weather can be. In case of rain we will all squeeze into the WYC building.

Hope to see you all there.
