

The
Signal
Bridge

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



July, 2008 Volume 34 Number 7



On patrol at Rochester Harborfest. Photo by Heather Ladue.

Official Publication of Flotilla 45 9 ER
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Rochester, NY
Sarah Jo. Fischpera, FC Robert R. Drost, YFC
Robert J. Verstreet Sr., FSO-PB
1826 Maiden Lane Rochester, NY 14626-1917
E-mail Wa2rx@aol.com

The Commander

Sarah Jo Fischpera

Well we made it through the month of May and June and all events were covered. I want to thank those who were able to help out. Without you we could not have accomplished all that we did the last 2 months.

Our first VE Blitz was be at Sandy Creek on 5/31 and even though the weather was not very cooperative we still ended up doing around 10 vessel exams and the owner of the marina was impressed and asked up to come back again later in the season to get the rest of the boats done. I want to thank Shawn, Heather, Rick and Eileen for braving the weather and the wind and making this work. We were all able to get enough boats to get us on our way to exceed last year's numbers.

On June 1st we were at the public ramp for the Rochester Power Boaters to do vessel examines on their boats we also had boats come that were going to launch their boats. This was a very productive day I think after the day was done we had done over 24 boats. Thanks to Rick who worked hard in setting this up and Heather who was there in the morning to help and Mike Nau from 48 and Mark Farmer from 42 and myself. It was amazing some of the boats that we were able to inspect. One fast boat said that if he opened the boat up it would go 110 miles an hour and he would burn \$200 worth of gas in that hour. UNBELIEVABLE but I do not think I would like that ride and I like to go fast but that is WAY to fast for me.

Fairport Canal Days were a big disappointment. Bryan, Rick and I headed out there Friday night after work with our trucks full and ready to set up and then enjoy some of the night. Well it did not turn out to be an enjoyable night, we found the lady that showed us our spot and I was VERY upset that we were going to be in a parking lot, they were not able to put us up by the canal and on the water this year. After talking about that with the lady for awhile we then found out we COULD NOT set up until Saturday morning and it had to be done before 900 they suggested begin there at 500 or 600 am. Not happy about that either. So Rick and Bryan decided that Bryan would take the stuff from our truck that was needed and he would arrive around 800 or so to set up and Bob, Eileen and I would meet him there around the same time. So Saturday comes and Bob and Eileen pick me up and we are on our way to set up. We are prepared with lots of water and goodies for the long day ahead of us. On our way there my cell rings and it is Bryan, HIS TRUCK WOULD NOT START, and he has all the PA stuff, tent and table in his truck. He said he was going to try and get it started and head out so Bob continued on his way to the site. Once we arrived they would not let us near where our booth was we had to park across on the other side of the bridge. We search a security person out and they let us drive closer but then we could not find parking so we parked where we could and walked to were our booth was suppose to be, at first we could not find it because we were set in between 2 vendors and in front of our booth would be a

band and right next to them were food vendors. I thought to myself this is NOT going to be a good day. Then the dreaded phone call from Bryan that he could not get his truck going and he would not be able to bring the table and tent and PA materials. After several phone calls to Rick, we decided that without a tent and the rest of the PA materials we would not be able to do this. Then the fun begins trying to get a hold of the members of other flotilla's that offered to help which just happened to be the Captain Peter and Carol Urgola. Well, I ended up leaving a message on his home phone because no one could reach him by cell phone. They did end up just missing us by minutes and after we all cooled off and settled ourselves down we were able to laugh about it. But it was a GREAT effort by all and I can not tell you how much I appreciate everyone begin patience and going with the flow. I think I was more upset about it then any one. Next year we will have to really think about doing this event if they can not get us near the water. But in the long run we did have a great time even though things did not work out the way we planned it.

Our last event was 14 June at the Lakeshore Fire department recruitment drive. Once again I was thrilled with all the members that showed up. The weather was not good but 7 members attended and we were able to talk to some of the public, but because of the rain not a lot of the public showed. We were asked if we would come back later in the season which I did tell them we would. It was great talking to other volunteer organizations to see how they work.

Thank you again to all the members that helped make ALL these events successful with out you we would not be the "CAN DO FLOTILLA" **THANK YOU AGAIN EVERYONE**

Fellowship

Eileen Drost

The July Flotilla 45 meeting will be held at Braddock Bay Marina in the Willows Yacht Club Building on Wednesday July 2nd starting with dinner at 6:30 PM

Dinner will be Hamburgs and Hot Dogs with a dish to pass. There will be a \$6.00 donation .

Please RSVP so the we can plan the menu and how much is needed by June 20th. to help cover the cost of the food.

The Vice Commander

Robert R. Drost

Is it just me or does this year seem to be passing by quickly? We waited so long for the weather to improve and now the sunny, warm summer days are here.

This has been a busy year so far. We've had so many events that it's hard to keep track of everything and we'll be even busier going forth. Our flyboys are spending many hours supporting the CG, the Boating Safety Classes have been full and the instructors are doing a great job. Len and I attended the IBOT training under the direction of OTO Clark in May and it was a very productive weekend. The DBOT (on water) training is scheduled for July and it would be great if our crew members were available to learn from one of the best.

We had planned to be present at the Fairport Canal Days but that turned out to be a situation were anything that could go wrong, did! Rick and Sarah tried to get our booth setup on Friday, only to discover we were in a parking lot and we had to wait until Saturday morning. Then Saturday, Bryan's vehicle had issues and he couldn't get the tent and tables to us. When we arrived Saturday, we discovered we had to park on the opposite side of the canal and haul everything across to our site. The final straw was discovering that someone had already taken our assigned space.

On June 14 the Lakeshore Fire Dept. invited us to join them for their annual recruitment drive and seven of our members were there. We shared space with the Fire Dept, Greece Volunteer Ambulance, and the Sheriff. Unfortunately not many people showed up but we did give information to several and managed to schedule a couple vessel exams.

The June 20-22 weekend is the annual Harborfest and we had two facilities offered for use. We also have a VE blitz at Stony Point Marina in I-Bay on June 29.

There are several members who need the TCT refresher course. This only takes one hour of your time and Len has offered to teach it. I'm beggin' ya! Talk to Len and get this necessary training completed !!

Thanks to those who have been supportive of our activities. Without your help we'd have had to cancel events. We still have a busy year ahead and we need every TEAM (notice there's no "I" in team?) member to be supportive!

Don't forget our July 2 meeting at Braddock Bay. Dinner is at 6:30 and please respond to Eileen whether or not you will attend!!

Next issue deadline

July 10

Personnel Services

Gordon S Aman FSO-PS

On May 18th Flotilla 4-5 held our Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Braddock Bay Marina Auxiliary Flagpole. This event has been conducted by 4-5 for more than 20yrs. It has been well attended by the Town of Greece, the American Legion, Greece Police, Greece Volunteer Ambulance, VFW, Willows Yacht Club, and several hundred people. It is a time to Remember and Honor all those That gave so much so we can live our lives without fear. I would like to" Thank all" for participating and making this event such a tribute to our servicemen and women some that gave all, A special"Thank-you" to the bugler for his playing "Taps" and our man with the firing of the "Cannon Salute" who always surprises me even when I know it's about to happen! To those who helped with the flowerbed and to Joyce Verstreet for the weather, also Bob Verstreet for keeping the tradition alive. God Bless the Service men and women all over the world!

At our June Flotilla meeting we also swore in our newest member after what seemed like a long wait, Congratulations to Thomas Forsyth. Let's get him involved. Hopefully others will follow his lead.



FC Sarah Jo Fischpera swears in new member Tom Forsyth. Photo by Rick Fischpera.

Flotilla Dinner Meeting

July 2, 6:30 PM

WYC building

Braddock Bay Marina

Air Operations

F. Robert Bialkowski, FSO-AV

During the month of May Bill Bach and I flew three patrols for a total of 8.4 flying hours. Pleasure craft and fishing vessel traffic appears to be at an all time low. I think the price of fuel has something to do with this.

The photo is a close up of the bow of the Adam E Cornelius. We shot this on May 5 while inspecting the vessel to determine what was being discharged through the hose on the starboard side.



Public Education

Richard Fischpera, FSO-PE

Shipmates! Flotilla 45 the "CAN DO FLOTILLA" has just completed their spring boating classes. Here are some facts over the past 6 months; 207 students taught and passed ABC/ABS course with 46 students being under 17 years old. Evil question # 1 on fueling that has given us so much trouble has now been conquered, but question # 35 stand on and give way vessel now has become an issue with NYS question # 51 on speed limit close to shore now coming into our sights. The Flotilla is on the verge to have a new instructor Shawn Putnam is on the doorstep and threw the efforts of FSO-PS Aman 1 new member and 1 prospective member will be joining our ranks. PayPal at first was a bit confusing to me, but with careful instruction from FSO-CS Stearns this program has worked well. No longer will we have to play the wait and see game on how many students show up for a class. Online registration and prepayment is a great time saver. Our students have come from all over the western part of NYS and we have also taught

students from New Hampshire and Maryland. These students know that they must take their states part of the course. The Flotilla also has bought a great super laptop thanks to Mick for doing this search and gee maybe we could buy a new projector as a back up! Wouldn't Royce really be smiling with all the accomplishments over the past few years! We have done so well and calls still come in for classes that I have added a class at Gander Mtn in October. By the way Jim Fehrman from Gander Mtn has been really great to us and I feel that we should present him with a certificate for partnering with Flotilla 45. Others who should be thanked are Linda and Kathy from the Town of Greece for allowing us use of an awesome meeting room. I am not sure who made the contact with the Town but it is a great idea and I am sure this partnership will continue.

Now I would like to thank all those who have helped:

Instructors

Len Carpenter
Marsha Carpenter
George Moore
William Mosgrober
Dan Stearns
Lindsay Stearns
Mick Williams
Shawn Putnam-instructor in training

Aids

Gordy Aman
Robert Drost
Eileen Drost
Sarah Jo Fischpera

Bryan Williams for the great job in getting the word out about the class schedule. I knew when Bryan put an ad in the paper as my phone would ring off the hook. One day the phone rang so much I had to leave the house for awhile just to get the ringing out of my ears.

Again thank you all for a successful 6 months and please put Saturday 4 October 2008 on the calendar for the class at Gander Mtn.

On a Personal Note

Joyce S. Verstreet

Our July Birthdays

25, Tom Forsyth
30, Rick Fischpera
31, Sharon Grigsby

Have a Safe 4 th Of July!

Volunteer Recruitment Day

Richard Fischpera, FSO-PE

Shipmates! This past 14 June 2008 Flotilla 45 was part of a recruiting day held at the Lakeshore Fire Department on the corner of Long Pond Road and Edgemere Drive. When the Chief Bill Vasey contacted me on this idea I thought it was different and should give it a try. Other agencies also were represented for the Town like the Greece Police, Greece Volunteer Ambulance, Search and Rescue K9 unit and a few other groups. All groups were hoping for a good turn out, but Mother Nature did not cooperate as it rained much of the afternoon. I thought we should have contacted Joyce Verstreet to do her famous sunshine dance, but I forgot. We still had many people come through even with the bad weather. We handed

out allot of PA material and it was real interesting to talk with the other agencies. We talked about different SAR problems and also compared notes on the ICS FEMA courses.

It was a good day we met more of the public and even got a person sign up for a VE.

The following members helped with this event;

FC Sarah Jo Fischpera along with granddaughter Alexis

VFC Robert Drost

FSO-PS Gordy Aman

FSO-SR/VE Heather Ladue along with her new dog that wore a PFD

FSO-FN George Moore

Eileen Drost



L to R Gordy Aman, Eileen Drost, Sarah Jo Fischpera and Bob Drost.
Photo by Rick Fischpera

Have a Happy and Safe

July 4th