

**The**

# ***Signal Bridge***

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



***October, 2008    Volume 34    Number 10***

---



Looks like the FC is ready to fly on Halloween. Maybe she will team up with Joyce. Photo by Rick Fischpera.

**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

---

Our annual September picnic meeting was a Huge success. Thank you to Gordy and Eileen for doing a great job with the caterer, the food was great. Also, thank you for everyone that helped set up and take down. We all had a great time. It was great to see Shirley Carey and even Edna Coon stopped in for a few minutes for some much needed hugs. Bob and Joyce were truly missed but Joyce was able to keep the rain away. There were a lot of family members that joined us and everyone was able to relax and enjoy the day. Gordy once again surprised his beautiful wife Elaine with a surprise birthday cake. She was surprised once again. We were able to celebrate both Elaine's and John Stillman's birthday.

Thank you for everyone who paid their dues to George already if you have not done so please do so ASAP, George will be sending it in soon.

Flotilla Elections will be held at our November meeting, George Moore has accepted chairing this committee, he has sent several emails out on this already. If you have taken the APC and the ICS 100 and 700 please think about running we will need a Commander and Vice Commander this year. If no one runs then the Captain will have to appoint someone and that does not mean it has to be within our flotilla. There are members that would be capable of holding either position, please get your letter in if you are interested.

The weather is starting to change and there are still members that need crew or coxswain hours. Bob Drost has orders every weekend and is getting very few offers to go out. Remember you need to have 12 hours underway by Dec 30<sup>th</sup> to keep current. If you do not get them you will go in the REYR. Please do not let this happen, get with Bob to get your hours in. You will have a great time.

Since the Fiscal year is almost over, Sept 30, 2008, this means the Division Awards committee will be busy crunching hours and getting ready for the Division Change of Watch. I know you all have been busy but the hours are not showing it. Please take a moment and get your hours in to the FSO-IS soon. They will not count towards awards if they are not in and entered by around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Awards are your paycheck for all the hard work lets make sure you get credit for what you have done all year.

Thank you again to all the members that make up the "CAN DO FLOTILLA" THANK YOU AGAIN EVERYONE

**I hope to see everyone at the October meeting.**

***Next issue deadline  
October 10***

## The Vice Commander

Robert R. Drost

---

Has the summer gone as fast for others as it has for me? It seems like just a few weeks ago we were finished with boating classes and putting our boats in the water ready for patrols. Then we had the Harborfest, fireworks at Eagle Creek, etc.

I was able to actually get into Braddock Bay most of the summer due to the high water level this year. But, the day of our flotilla picnic, I quickly realized that conditions were changing and now can no longer enter the Bay.

Speaking of the picnic, we had a great turnout! This seems to be the one event of the year that really brings our flotilla together. Everyone had a good time and the food was delicious. Thanks to Eileen and Gordy for making the arrangements with Charbroil House. I missed the fun watching some of our more "seasoned" members try to put up the tent but I'm hoping someone has pictures they could share. Rumor has it that it would be a winner on America's Funniest Videos! For those that didn't make the picnic, put it on your schedule next year ... you'll be sure to have a wonderful time.

Station Rochester had its end of season SAR party on Sept. 13. Eileen and I were the only attendees from our flotilla. The 4-2 base was packed! Everyone brought their own special goodie and the station provided hots, burgers, and chicken. Even a little rain didn't dampen the festivities and fellowship.

On a more somber note, there were two very serious accidents on the lake this summer. One of them in June resulted in three fatalities and another in late August had several injuries. I'm sure that there would have been more if not for the efforts put forth by our flotilla, and others, teaching the Safe Boating Course. Many thanks to Rick and the other instructors for all time they spent helping the boating public.

Elections are coming up in November. If anyone is eligible to be an elected officer, please consider submitting a letter of intent to George.



AUXPIC 2008. Under the "Big Top." Photo by Rick Fischpera

## Personnel Services

**Gordon S. Aman, FSO-PS**

---

The sky may have been the color of gray, but you would never have known it under the "Big Top" at Braddock Bay picnic area on Saturday 6 Sept. Our annual AUXPIC 2008 was a "GREAT" success! Thanks to "Charbroil Catering" for providing us not only with good food, but with a 20 X 20 canopy at no charge in case it rained as was predicted by the forecasts. It was a challenge at our first attempt to erect it, but after the second attempt and a lot of discussion, Len had the best idea and it worked.

Thanks, to all the strong backs we were able to get it up in a record-breaking 23 Min's. It worked great, setting under a yellow canopy and not worrying about getting wet and dampening our spirits made the day warm and sunny, at least to all of us.

A GREAT BIG "THANK-YOU" to all that were able to participate in this event. Looking forward to next year and I hope everyone can make it.

## Public Education

**Richard Fischpera, FSO-PE**

---

Shipmates! The 2008 Public Education season is starting to come to a close. We have one more class on 4 October 2008 at the Gander Mtn. store. I am now preparing the 2009 schedule and will be sending those dates to the Greece Town Hall and to the Gander Mtn Store. When the dates are confirmed I will post them on the website. At the next meeting I would like to discuss the cost of the class. Many Flotillas include the fee for lamination with the cost of the PE materials. I would like to consider this as it would save time in lamination at the class. We could do this before classes start and save that time.

Thank you all for this successful 2008 PE season. Shawn Putman will be teaching the first chapter at Gander Mtn and this should put him over the top and we will have a new Instructor. Thanks Again!

Well, another successful picnic meeting. Having it catered again worked out well, less stress on us and more time for fellowship. Having the caterers give us the use of a tent was another great idea. I also think it was a record time for a meeting, well done Commander! Having Shirley Carey show up was nice also then a surprise visit from Edna Coon was also very nice. I am so happy that they came, they are still part of our family. I just wish the weather was just a bit better so Bob & Joyce Verstreet could be there. I missed them. Hats off to the picnic committee Gordy Aman and Eileen Drost, another job well done!

## Air Operations

**F. Robert Bialkowski FSO-AV**

---

During the month of August Bill Bach and I flew eight patrols for a total of 24.1 flying hours  
On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August we performed a joint "man overboard drill" with Grand Island in conjunction with their Division Training Day.

I took this photo on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August between Olcott and Point Breeze. All you sailboat people should enjoy this.



## On a Personal Note

**Joyce S. Verstreet**

---

### **Our October Birthdays**

**7, Joyce Verstreet**

**22, Kathy Williams**

**Have a wonderful day!**

***Happy Halloween!***

**Flotilla Meeting  
October 1, 7:30 PM  
Greece Post 468**