

The

SIGNAL BRIDGE



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
December, 2009 Volume 35 Number 12

Flotilla 4-5 Meeting

December 2, 2009

19:30 Hours

NO UNIFORM

Party Afterword



Official Publication of Flotilla 4-5 9 ER
U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Rochester, NY
Robert Drost, FC Leonard Carpenter, VFC
Thomas D. Forsyth, FSO-PB
81 Indian Spring Lane, Rochester, NY 14618



Birthdays & Events

Dec 2

Flotilla 4-5 Meeting & Party

Dec 5

Christmas Party at 4-2 base 18:00 hrs

Jan 16

Division change of watch

Feb 6

Flotilla 4-5 change of watch with 4-8 18:00 hrs \$15.00

December birthdays

11 Daniel Stearns

11 Jean Williams

29 Frank Bialkowski

FSO-FC

Flotilla Commander

Robert R. Drost

First of all, thanks to all the members who provided a vote of "confidence" to Len and myself to continue as VFC and FC for the coming year. We will do our best to live up to your expectations.

Also, I'd like to thank all the Flotilla staff for their hard work this year. It's been a pleasure working with each one of you. Looking ahead, we have several staff officers who have agreed to continue in their current position and a couple who will try new positions in the new year. There are a few staff positions which need to be filled, so if you have not been a staff officer before, why not consider one in the new year.

By the time you read the Signal Bridge, Thanksgiving will have come and gone and hopefully everyone will enjoyed the holiday. Christmas is just around the corner; if any of you are not sure what to get me, I am registered at West Marine!! LOL!!

Don't forget the Division Christmas party on December 5. It starts at 18:00 hours at 4-2 base. Santa will be there and parents are asked to bring a wrapped present for their children.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Spend time with your family, be careful on the roads, and pause to remember those men and women serving in our military who can't be home for the holidays.

Bob

FSO-PE

Public Education

Richard Fishpera FSO-PE

I would like to thank the Flotilla Bridge for their work in 2009. It was a trying year but the Flotilla motto, "CAN DO," spirit came out. I would also like to congratulate the Flotilla Bridge for 2010. I am sure they will carry on in the same fine manner as the past Bridge did.

I also hope that all members had a great, safe and thankful Thanksgiving. On that note I also hope that our Flotilla family has a great Christmas and I hope that everyone gets what they deserve. Please, during the holiday season, think and pray for those service men and women who cannot be home for the holidays. If you see anyone in uniform go over and thank them personally and wish them the best for Christmas and New Years. Some of these fine people may be away from home for the first time so make them feel welcomed.

For the next year I requested that I step down as FSO-PE. This position takes a great deal of time and is a big responsibility and this Officer needs to be there for the public classes. Because of my continuing health problem, I cannot guarantee that I will be available for all the classes. Therefore, I must stand down from this post. I will, however, continue to do the record keeping and will assist the new FSO-PE in becoming familiar with his job. I am, like Gordy, burned out on this position and would welcome a change. George, Gordy, myself and others have held our current positions for many years and some new blood is needed. Here are some members who have not volunteered for an officer position and who have the time to help. I informed the Commander that I would work in member training, which is an easier job for me with my schedule. Rick

FSO-PS

Personnel Services

Gordon S. Aman

First the good news! I would like to congratulate our newly elected bridge for 2010, Commander Robert Drost and Vice Commander Leonard Carpenter. We are grateful that they will represent Flotilla 4-5 again. Their leadership has been outstanding and I know with both of them at the helm we can expect more of the same.

Also, we are approaching the start of a new year and this is a good opportunity to become a Staff Officer. Our new Bridge will be seeking volunteers to fill these positions. Please consider helping by accepting when asked. Some of our current staff have been in these positions for a very long time and I'm sure they could use a break.

I would also like to welcome our latest new member aboard, Robert Avalone, who is transferring from Flotilla 4-4. Let's make him feel at home. Thanks!

Now the bad news. This past year has been a very traumatic year for one of our members, Bryan Williams, who lost the love of his life Kathy to cancer. It has taken a toll on him and his daughter Kira, but they have managed through Kathy's strong support and the strength she showed them during her ordeal. After much debate, Bryan has decided to resign from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Flotilla 4-5 so he can devote 100% of his time to Kira and his family. I know he will be missed physically, but we will remember all the good he has done for us and I hope he will stop by to say hello once in a while. He will always be welcome.

My last words are, as always, RECRUIT! RECRUIT!

Gordy

FSO-AV

Air Operations

F. Robert Bialkowski FSO-AV

Here it is November 17 and a beautiful day, not a cloud in the sky. I think maybe it might be spring. It's been very slow on the AV side so I won't bore you with details.

It's only a month until Christmas so we all have a lot to do. I have enclosed my Christmas card to all of you.

Bob



**George Moore receiving an award
photo by Richard Fischpera**

FSO-PB

Signal Bridge Editor

Thomas D. Forsyth

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To all the members of Flotilla 4-5, may you all have a great Thanksgiving and a very merry Christmas and New Year. To the new Bridge, congratulations on your new posts and may you all have a great and productive year.

Tom



**FC Robert Drost and VFC Leonard
Carpenter**

Photo by Richard Fischpera