

The

SIGNAL BRIDGE



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
October, 2009 Volume 35 Number 10



Photo by Gordy Aman

The Picnic



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



THE COMMANDER

Robert R. Drost

Does anybody recall a summer like we've just experienced? We waited and waited, then waited some more for the warm summer weather to appear, only to be constantly disappointed. Finally, in early September we were presented with our first and only taste of how summer should be! Too little, Too late!! Now we have to start planning for our fall activities.

Despite the weather we did have some interesting events. Remember the Airshow? How about Harborfest? Several of us attended DBOT training in July and the 70th anniversary Coast Guard picnic in August. Our safe boating classes will resume in the spring; hopefully our website will be available for online registrations long before we need it.

September 12 we had our annual flotilla picnic at Braddock Bay Marina. Many thanks to those who attended and provided such an interesting array of "comfort food." I think Eileen and Gordy did a great job coordinating the menu and making the arrangements for the picnic.

On September 19, Marsha and I helped Flotilla 4-2 with the booth they set up for the Fire, Smoke and Courage event at the Port of Rochester. Although most people had come to view the firefighter displays and demos, we did have several people stop by and inquire about the Auxiliary. I hope to have some pics posted soon.

On a sad note, one of our members, Bryan Williams, lost his devoted wife and mother on September 20 after a long and courageous battle. A new chapter in his life now begins and he has many family and friends for support. Please remember Bryan, Kathy, Kira and the rest of their family as they continue through this very trying period.

Don't forget that our election for FC and VFC is coming up on November 4. Anyone who has an interest and meets the requirements for these positions must present a letter of intent to the election committee chair, Rick Fischpera, no later than our October

flotilla meeting.

How do you like the new format for our Signal Bridge? Tom Forsyth has done a great job and I expect to see more of the same in the months to come. Remember, anyone can submit an article, and it doesn't even have to be Auxiliary related. Tell us about your summer vacation, interesting hobbies, etc. Let's give Tom plenty of articles and keep him scratching his head trying to figure out how include everything!!

Bob

Richard Fischpera

First, I would like my deepest sympathy to Bryan and Kira Williams for the loss of wife and mother Kathy. Bryan, you and Kira will always be in our hearts and minds. If you ever need anything from help around the house, shopping, babysitter, or even a shoulder to cry on rest assured that Sarah and I will be there for you.

Well, another year and another flotilla picnic meeting. The day started out with the threat of rain then the miracle lady way up in heaven Joyce did her magic and this turned into a gorgeous day. Bob and Eileen and Gordy did a great job of putting on the picnic. It was nice to see Edna Coon and she looked great! The Commander was getting the business to hurry up the meeting 'cause the food was on and good too. I have enclosed some pictures of the day.

Rick

DO NOT FORGET THE FLOTILLA MEETING AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7!!

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Gordon S. Aman

WOW!! What a fall picnic. First I would like to “thank” God and Joyce Verstreet for a perfect day. Also, thank everyone who made it, all 20 of you. The food was GREAT! We had many choices and if you were like me, you had to sample all of them. Thanks to the people who came early to help with the setup and to Eileen Drost for putting it all together. I think it was one of our better picnics (except maybe the one we had to put up the tent for) which went well after Len Carpenter gave the crew instructions. I am already looking forward to next years and getting hungry.

As you can tell by the changes in the weather we are approaching fall with not many days left to get your hours in for crew so that’s something you should do. Bob Drost has had to go outside of our flotilla to ask for help and he has given us many opportunities offering his boat this year. I had an opportunity to go flying with Bob Bialkowski as a trainee. Boy, did we have a great time in his plane. I think we were up for about four hours and covered our AOR and then some. Bob was even brave enough to let me take the comm. ’s with sector Buffalo for the entire flight and even the controls for a few minutes. After we landed, Bob jokingly said “we cheated death again,” which was the frosting on the cake! I’ll never fly again. Thanks, Bob (just kidding).

I don’t know how many of you remember Adam Servatius, but if you do he joined our flotilla about six years ago. He was interested from the start and after a year he was crew qualified, and got interested in the Coast Guard enough to join. My wife and I were in Vic and Irv’s last week and to my surprise Adam walked in and recognized me right away. He came over and we talked for a few minutes. He said he had been in the CG for six years, and was having a good time on one of their cutters. He said his background in the Auxiliary helped him a lot.

In closing my article, I would remind all members to continue to recruit new members!!!

AIR OPERATIONS

F. Robert Bialkowski FSO-AV

The boating season finally picked up in August. The flotilla aviation section was scheduled for ten patrols. We basically flew standard patrols and had several SAR alerts.

The weather was pretty consistent with rain forecast almost every day. The result of the wet weather was a lot of debris in the lakes and rivers. We were tasked to inspect flood damage in the Cattaraugus Creek area, which was quite substantial. At one point there were approximately 30 vessels that had broken loose from their moorings and had been beached either on the Lake Erie shoreline or the creek bank.

Looking forward to a great fall season.

Bob

SIGNAL BRIDGE EDITOR

Thomas D. Forsyth

tforsyth1@rochester.rr.com

Thank you all for the articles in this month’s Signal Bridge. I finally learned how to include pictures, so I will try to get them all in. Ladies, how about sending in some of your favorite recipes to share with the rest of us? Also, how about some how to articles from you guys on rope tying, and other timely topics. Have a great month!!

Tom

BIRTHDAYS

18 John Graham



Photo by Rick Fischpera



Photo by Bob Drost



Photo by Rick Fischpera



Photo by Bob Drost



Photo by Rick Fischpera

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

FSO-PB 45 9 ER

81 Indian Spring Lane

Rochester, NY 14618-2527

Official Business

FIRST CLASS