

January 2007

Flotilla 8-3 Newsletter

4th Edition

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 8-3 8th Eastern Region

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IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving as your commander these past two terms. The 8-3 has once again proven itself "the little engine than could"!

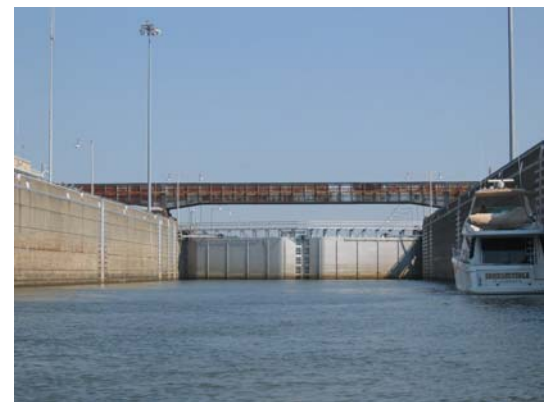
Public appearances spreading safe boating information included participation at river industry events along the Ohio and at the foot of Broadway, as well as, television, radio, and newspaper public affairs announcements.

In addition to several safe boating classes, our instructors were asked to provide training to the Paducah Fire Department, the project engineers at Olmstead Lock and Dam, and most recently to the east Marshall County Fire and Rescue Squad. Over 100 first responders benefited from America's Boating Course delivered by flotilla instructors.



This year's Christmas get together saw all hands on deck. Stories of past cruises recalled the special use of underwear as a make shift fuel filter, preparing for a trip out of the Port of New Orleans where what seemed like a good size suitcase turned out to be more of a steamer chest, too big for the gang way, and getting stuck in the Mississippi mud, or "gumbo" as it was called, while trying to position a cruiser for a tow to safe harbor. The 8-3 has never been at a loss for good fellowship!

Several members received certificates of appreciation for many years of volunteer service to the Coast Guard. They include: Mike Duda and Byron Mc Gill, 20 years, and James Jones, 15 years. Jim Elwood probably holds the record for being most decorated member, based on the various specialty courses he has mastered. Commander Lewis was named Kentucky Coordinator for the Coast Guard Academy's recruiting efforts and AIM program. And, both Elwood and Lewis were trained as Sky warn severe weather spotters by the Paducah office of the National Weather service. In addition, the Flotilla received recognition by the Safe Boating Council for its work in the classroom and on the water. Resources along the entire 65 mile stretch of Ohio River from Smithland Dam to the mouth at the Mississippi were photographed, both from the shore and on the water along with the 58 mile stretch from Smithland Dam to Shawneetown (water-side only), in support of an MSU Paducah security project.



Unfinished business for the coming year includes having the donated float boat certified as an operational facility, continued recruitment of new members, and participating in local boat shows .

Thanks to all for your support during these past two very busy years. Semper Paratis!

Bob Lewis, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander.

Boaters Must Not Operate 121.5/243 MHz EPIRBs After 31 December 2006

The Coast Guard reminds all boaters that beginning January 1, 2007, both 121.5 and 243 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) are prohibited from use in both commercial and recreational watercraft. Boaters wishing to have an emergency rescue beacon aboard their vessel must have a digital 406 MHz model.

The January 1, 2007, date to stop using 121.5 MHz EPIRBs is in preparation for February 1, 2009, when satellite processing of distress signals from all 121.5/243 MHz beacons will terminate. Following this termination date, only the 406 MHz beacons will be detected by the International Cospas-Sarsat Satellite System which provides distress alert and location data for search and rescue operations around the world.

<h2>Flotilla 8-3 Change of Watch</h2>
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Come join us for the 8-3's Change of Watch

Date: 20 January 2007

Time: 1800 Fellowship

1900 Dinner

2000 Program, awards, etc.

Place: Montego's Restaurant 1201 E. 8th. Metropolis, IL

Dress: Casual attire

Reservations not required

National Changes for 2007

The Individual Training Status and Unit Training Status Reports have been updated to show the 2007 Boat Crew Requirements of 12 hours underway time and the new QE Approval Dates which change from 5 year to 3 year cycle.

This will not affect the REYR flag for underway hours for 2006. The anticipated date for the REYR flags to be set is 1 February. You may want to run your Training Status Reports and get any problems cleared up during January and not wait until the REYR is run and have to fix the problems after-the-fact.

2007 Workshop News

The USCG Auxiliary has released the 2007 VE, PV, and IT Workshops. These workshops are not mandatory but units are encouraged to hold the workshops to better the knowledge of their Vessel Examiners, Program Visitors and Instructional Techniques. The 2007 TCT Refresher Training IS MANDATORY for all Crew, Coxswains and PWC Operators.

The VE and PV Workshops can be found at: <http://www.safetyseal.net/workshops>

The IT Workshop can be found at: <http://www.cgauxed.org/elib>

The TCT Workshop (student material) can be found at;

<http://www.auxodept.org/documents/2007%20TCT%20participant%20reference.pdf>

US Passport Requirements now include Canada, Caribbean and Mexico

All US visitors to Canada must now have a valid us Passport or other approved identity card. Don't have a passport. For \$97 and a few items and a few weeks, you can get one. Or, if you don't have a passport, you'll need to carry an original of your birth certificate (photocopies can be refused) and a picture ID with your home address. Children traveling with parents will also need to have ID; a birth certificate is usually sufficient.

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Official Business

Upcoming Calendar Dates

13—January	District Change of Watch Echo Charlies—Eddy Creek Marina
20—January	Flotilla 8—3 Change of Watch Montegos—Metropolis, IL
19—25 may	National Safe Boating Week