

# The Waterline

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## Flotilla 04 Gains Four New Members

Jeremy Butzen (shown at left) became the newest member of Flotilla 04 on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the regular Flotilla meeting. While awaiting the opening of the new facility, the flotilla is meeting on the mess at the Station. Rick Rosenwald administered the oath while Andy Burkart (VFC) and the other flotilla members look on.

In the past three months, four new members have joined our ranks. Beginning in January the flotilla will sponsor regular boat crew training classes, which will continue through the start of the boating season. In addition to the classes at the station, the FC will assist the new

members in obtaining a mentor should they desire one.

While all members of the flotilla are involved in

recruiting new members, Lloyd Sargent deserves special recognition for his untiring efforts in processing the paperwork.



Rick Rosenwald (FC) and Andy Burkart (VFC) prepare to swear Jeremy Butzen into the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Jeremy became FL-04's newest member during the September 21st Flotilla meeting at CG Station Sheboygan.

## Boating Safety & Seamanship Class Underway at YMCA

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, lead Instructor Dave Given (FSO-PE) and Chapter 1 instructor Lloyd Sargent (FSO-PS) welcomed 10 new students to the Fall-2006 Boating Skills and Seamanship class. This fall's class is being held at the Sheboygan YMCA. Special thanks to the "Y", as they allowed us to use their facility at very

short notice. Originally scheduled to be held at CG Station Sheboygan, security concerns, the delay in opening the new facility, and crowded conditions on the mess decks prevented the use of the Station.

Over the course of the course of the eight weeks, (11 Oct – 29 Nov, 1900-2100) the



Bob Heiser, Jeremy Butzen and a third BS&S student follow along in the books as Dave Given reviews the week two materials with the class as Lloyd Sargent (left rear) looks on.

attendees will work through the following schedule:

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11 Oct: Which Boat is For You? – Lloyd Sargent

18 Oct: Equipment for Your Boat – David Given

25 Oct: Trailing Your Boat – Dave Given

1 Nov: Handling Your Boat – Roy Hundt

8 Nov: Your Highway Signs– Jim Eichelberger

15 Nov: Inland Boating – Jim Eichelberger

22 Nov: The Rules You Must Follow – Roy Hundt

## Four Flotilla Members Attend the 9WR Fall Conference

On the weekend of October 13-15, four members of Flotilla 04 attended the CGAUX Fall Conference 2006 in Schaumburg, IL. In addition to Roy and Linda Hundt, who attended as

both representatives of Division 04 and as members of FL-04, Dave Given (FSO-PE) again served as the official photographer for the event. Jim Eichelberger, FSO-PB (who also

normally takes photos at such events) attended the Navigation Rules class and managed to pass the exam on Sunday morning, but photos weren't foremost on his mind!

Con-  
ducted



Dave Given, at left above, (FSO-PE) enjoys the camaraderie with Ray Kostiuk (FC-06), Len VanDenack (VCP-04) and Lee Behcall (VFC-02) during the awards luncheon.



Jim Eichelberger ponders some of the finer points at the Navigation Rules class (*please note, he had a full head of hair when the class started*). Photo by Dave Given.

on Friday night and all day Saturday, the class offered the students a chance to take the Navigation Rules Qualification exam on Sunday morning. Five of the 14 students passed the examination, which must be taken every five years.



## CHANGES ANNOUNCED TO AUXILIARY BOAT CREW QUALIFICATION PROGRAM

*From the NACO, Gene Siebert.* Many of you have become aware of the impending changes to the Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Program and I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on these changes.

These changes do not imply any change in the importance or priority of the Auxiliary Surface Operational Support to the US Coast Guard. ***Auxiliary operational support to the Coast Guard has been and will continue to be a critical component of our mission mix.*** These programs are absolutely vital to the Coast Guard.

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- Incorporation of a Qualification Examiner (QE) Guide to the Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual.
- Changed some initial qualification tasks from optional to required, removed some optional tasks, and changed some optional tasks to waivable by DIRAUX.

- Changed the required number of underway time from 8 hours to 12 hours per year, which can be earned as either coxswain or crew. (That is, coxswains can serve as crew members to achieve the new 12 hour requirement!)

- Annual currency maintenance tasks have been removed!

- Five year QE Check ride will be reduced to every three years. (Implementation plan pending approval.) But if you are due in 2007 or 2008, be looking for the new task list. You will probably be completing the revised check ride with a QE sometime in 2007.

- Check ride tasks are being revised and will be published when approved. There will be a few additional tasks in the new check ride taken from the qualification check ride tasks. Nothing you haven't done before, but you might not have done some for a while.

- One hour annual TCT review, designed by the Department of Operations, which can be conducted without a TCT facilitator at the local level. (*continued page 3 column 1, bottom*)

## Bits-n-Pieces: Things Auxiliarists Need to Know

**Rescue 21 Comes Online in the Gulf Coast Area.** Last summer, the Rescue 21 system became operational in the Gulf Region. For vessels equipped with Digital Select Calling (DSC) VHF radios the Coast Guard can get an exact location on a vessel in distress.

In addition to saving lives, the new system will reduce hoax distress calls because the caller's identity automatically transmits on a DSC radio. Hoax calls cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year in addition to wasting valuable Coast Guard and Auxiliary resources.

The next areas to come online will be on the West Coast. In the Great Lakes Region, the system is scheduled to become operational between 2008 and 2011, with Milwaukee, WI and Grand Haven, MI being some of the first to go live in the 2008-2010 time frame.

### Boat Crew Qualification Changes Announced (continued from page two)

As a coxswain and QE myself, I know the value of our surface crews and their capability. I respect what you have done for our nation, the Coast Guard and the boating public and I continue to be your strong advocate. I view these changes as simply a course correction for the Boat Crew Program. This is also an opportunity for us to determine our actual position and make the changes needed to provide a ready operational surface fleet, so your noble work can be continue to be accomplished.

**Education Connection Newsletter Published** The Education Department has published it's newsletter, *The Education Connection*. This edition includes: the RBS Device, material for classroom use regarding propeller dangers and DSC radios, AUX-PLUS PE for flotilla use, what the Public Information Division of the E Dept is and does, an article explaining tides, and much more. <http://www.auxedep.org/media/educationconnection09-06.pdf>

**Grant Proposal Submitted.** On October 25th Flotilla 04 submitted a grant application to BoatU.S. for approximately

\$1700 to cover the cost of construction of two permanent bulletin board structures at the Sheboygan Marina and the 8th Street Boat ramp. The money will also be used to construct two mobile 'Square Rigger' public display devices that can be used for PA events and to procure a standing (mobile) display board which will also serve us well at PA events in the mall, at the Sheboygan County Fair, and at the Boating/Fisherman's swap meet.

The FSO-PB is working with the FC and the DCP to submit a second grant which might be used to procure some audio visual equipment. Let the FC know if you have ideas for future projects.

## US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY 09WR 2006 WINTER CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MILWAUKEE MARCH 2-4, 2007

The Four Points Sheraton in south Milwaukee, on Howell Avenue (near Mitchell Airport) has been selected as the site of the 2007 CGAUX Winter Conference. The conference begins on Friday, with meetings of the District Board and continues Saturday with a host of offerings for all Auxiliarists. This is a golden opportunity for the entire flotilla to attend a conference, since it is being held in Milwaukee.

As those who have attended the Fall or Winter Conferences in the past know, a variety of seminar style classes will be offered ranging from the Flotilla Commander's Academy (a two and a half day commitment that requires prior acceptance), to

VSC presentations, Swim qualifications, and updates on Instructor techniques.

In addition to the seminars, the Conference will include an opening session with an opportunity to hear from the leaders of our organization, both the gold and silver sides, about the state of the auxiliary and the plans for the future.

Members will have the opportunity to partake of mediocre food and exceptional company & conversation at the traditional 'Awards Luncheon'. Later Saturday evening will be a formal awards dinner.

The costs will be very minimal for Flotilla 04 and carpooling will undoubtedly be available.

## BS&S CLASS LEARNS SOME BASIC KNOTS

(Continued from Page 1)

29 Nov: The Rest of Our Story  
– Mae Cuellar

On October 25<sup>th</sup> Dave finished going over the course materials with half an hour remaining. Dave, Lloyd, Roy and Jim worked one on one with the students, teaching them some basic knots. John Wagner (FSO-PA) who is also participating in the class, and is already familiar with knots, assisted his wife, Marilyn, who is also taking the course. In addition to John, two of our newest Auxiliarists, Bob Heiser and Jeremy Butzen are taking the course.



Dave Given (right) and Lloyd Sargent (center, standing) demonstrate four basic knots to the BS&S class on Wednesday night, October 25th at the Sheboygan YMCA.

In addition to the prepared course materials, the instructors integrate their own boating experiences with the printed material to reinforce the learning. We are planning on offering the course again in the spring.

## THREE SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

**Flotilla elections** are scheduled for the November meeting. The date for this flotilla meeting will be determined at the October meeting.

**Division Change of Watch** is scheduled for Saturday, November 11th (Veteran's Day) in Manitowoc. The business meeting will begin at 1430, followed by a social event at 1630 and the dinner at 1800.

The **USCG Station Sheboygan 2006 Christmas Party** will be held on Friday, Dec 8th at the Sheboygan Yacht Club. You should already have received your invitation.

### Flotilla 95WR-04-04 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

#### Department of Homeland

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If you would like more information about Flotilla 04 (Sheboygan) or the Coast Guard Auxiliary see our website at: <http://a09504.uscgaux.info/>

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