

From the Bridge

Quarterly theme – QE check rides

The many competency changes are available on the web.

Communication Services

Ephraim Botnick (FSOCS) is our web master and the “go to” person if you are having problems negotiating our site.

Important Dates

13 – 15 Apr 2007 - Diligence Tours/Azalea Festival

17 Apr 2007 - Flotilla meeting 1900 hrs – USCG Station OI

18 Apr 1790 - Benjamin Franklin died

18 Apr 2007 - Radio Drill on 21 alpha

28 Apr 2007 - Picnic at Waterway Park, St James for members and guests.

Call Chris Halladay, FSOPA for details

5 May 2007 - Public GPS for Mariners Course – members should consider

19 May 2007 - Expo Oak Island at the Station

16 Jun 2007 - Public ABC course

3 Aug 2007 - Masterchiefs Change of Watch at Station OI

Recognitions

Division Captain Jim Beecher visited 10-05 on 20 Mar 2007. As is his habit, he served as a crew member on a safety patrol, becoming red faced from the sun and also being anointed with Cape Fear river water. During the meeting he praised the energy and enthusiasm of 10-05, stating that we are the Division’s largest. He encouraged us to share resources and work with our neighboring flotillas, which we have been doing. Jim suggested the Division’s website as an additional source of information and also invited contributions to the Division’s newsletter.

Visit the flotilla web page: www.a0541005.uscgaux.info

The USCG and the auxiliary received a Presidential Unit Citation for meritorious service during Hurricane Katrina. Fire Chief Frank Harrison informed us this Presidential Citation is the first the USCG has received since its birth 28 Jan 1915 when Woodrow Wilson signed into law a bill forming the United States Coast Guard.

Bert Felton, staff officer for member training, received his 10-year Member Service Award.

Sick Bay

Diane Chaney continues to improve.

Bill Coggins – is recovering from rotator cuff surgery as is Vince Coubey.

Condolences from all of us to Anne Gordon and her family for the 20 Mar 2007 passing of Anne's father.

From the Galley

Ephraim Botnick, is our nutritionist for the 17 Apr meeting.

Operations

Dosher Hospital donated many blood born pathogen kits so that each facility will have some on board.

All of us think of AIDS when we consider our potential exposure during a medical emergency. However, Hepatitis B is 10 times more virulent than the AIDS virus, hence much more infectious. Hep B vaccine is recommended by the Center for Disease Control for health care and public safety workers who may have exposure to blood in the work place. Hepatitis A is not an issue but Hep A is often included. Also, the AIDS virus is often smaller than the holes or pores in most gloves. Since Hep A & B vaccine for all OPS members is not practical. We are appreciative that Dosher Hospital is providing quality kits.

Marine Safety

One of MSU's major concerns is the inspection of containers, which is a specialty of the Trident program. Container ships are maxing out. Currently, there are 4000 box carrying ships afloat and another 1300 have been ordered. The Emma Maersk, which was launched in 2006 is approximately 1200 feet long, and 150 feet wide with a draught of 60 feet. She carries 11,000 20-foot containers. A train carrying those containers would be 44 miles long. Fortunately, the Emma couldn't sail the Cape Fear River. Because of these mega ships, the people of Panama voted to expand the Canal's capacity.

Lat/Lon

In cooperation with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, the Long Bay Artificial Reef Association (non profit) developed an artificial reef building program creating 7 sites in our area.

Can you find the Lat/Lon of our fishing reefs?

1. AR 420 - Tom McGlamery Reef – 3.0 NM from the CF sea buoy
2. AR 425 – Yaupon Reef – 4.4 NM from the CF sea buoy
3. AR 440 – Brunswick County Fishing Club Reef – 4.5 NM from the Lockwood Folly Inlet
4. AR 445 – Dale McDowell Reef – 9.3 NM from the Lockwood Folly Inlet
5. AR 455 – Dale Ward Reef – 6.2 NM from the Lockwood Folly Inlet
6. AR 460 – Fisherman's Reef – 3.0 NM from the Shallotte Inlet
7. AR 465 – Gary Ennis Memorial Reef – 30.0 NM from the Lockwood Folly Inlet

Fish that run in the spring are flounder, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, spade fish, sea bass and cobia.

Doc Talk**Fire Ant Stings**

Red fire ants were introduced into the US in the 1930's by ships from South America that docked in Mobile, Alabama. Fire ants are now active throughout the southeast. These 2-5 mm reddish brown critters often build their mounds in grassy areas. When their mound is disturbed, they swarm in a very aggressive way. The ant holds on with its mouth, wheeling its body around and inflicting many stings. The stings introduce an alkaloid venom and form a dotted circular pattern. Instantly, an intense burning pain is experienced. Small pustules develop after about 30 minutes and evolve over several days. Unless the pustules are scratched and become infected, they resolve on their own. In the absence of fever or infection, treatment consists of over-the-counter antihistamines, topical corticosteroids and analgesics. Some people are sensitized to the venom and can develop anaphylaxis. So – be aware that fire ants are part of our landscape.

From the Chain Locker

- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- Babies are born without knee caps, which don't appear until 2-6 years of age.
- If you think nobody cares, try missing a few payments.

Back In Time

In 1964

- An RCA color TV cost \$549.95
- A Pair of Ranger Oxford shoes from L.L. Bean cost \$12.85
- A first class postage stamp cost 6 cents
- Gasoline cost 27 cents a gallon

That's all, folks

Jack Hisley, FSO-PB

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