

SHOALS BEACON

Vol. 18, No .1

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 08E-24-04, Florence, Alabama

January 2009



Photo by Sally Akin

Among those attending the Christmas dinner are, from left, Preston and Nancy Barclift, Myra and John Finch, and Sam and Paula Brentnall. Preston is the Flotilla's Ancient Mariner with 33 years of membership and John and Sam are two

Turnout great for dinner

We had a great turn out for our Christmas dinner on December 2 at the Hospitality House on the campus of Northwest Shoals Community College.

Some of you brought friends. Retired member Paul Gillon and his wife, Kay, came from Guntersville to share the evening with us. Duncan and Lois Wilkinson from 24-7 in Scottsboro also honored us with their attendance.

Bob England again made the arrangements for our use of the NWSCC Hospitality House. Ray

Styles did a great job working out the meal with Rhoda Plain, the caterer. Ray, Sally and Gary Akin decorated the tables for the evening.

Attending from the Flotilla were Gary and Sally Akin; Preston and Nancy Barclift; Sam and Paula Brentnall; Dave and Laurel Duca and their guests Jane Lovelace and Ron Fowler; Bob England and Tiffany Boyd; John and Myra Finch; Sonny and Ann Holman; Jim and Betty Jackson; Jim and Janene Jenkins; Cliff

Continued on page 2

Earthquake preparedness efforts urged

By Gary Akin, IPFC

MST1 Joey Dore, from MSD Nashville, and I recently attended the two-day New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) Catastrophic Earthquake Planning Workshop in Florence. We should continue to pursue the preparedness we began in 2008. A few points are shared below.

- It is easy to become alarmed. Alarm and fear are best calmed by knowledge and preparedness.
- Unlike weather events, we have little or no the ability to forecast earthquakes. Also, earthquake information will come from agencies most of us know little about—The United States Geological Survey and respective state geological surveys (i.e. the Alabama Geological Survey).
- The preparations we make for other natural disasters are useful in earthquakes, but earthquakes present additional challenges. For example, hurricanes and tornadoes don't have aftershocks. The aftershocks of the 1812 New Madrid quake reportedly went on for about two months with the

Continued on page 3



Photo by Sally Akin

From left, Ray Styles' guests Judy and Bruce Devay, and Doris Denton, and Ray pause for a photo at the Christmas Dinner.



Photo by Sally Akin

From left, Janene and Jim Jenkins visit with Betty Jackson.

Christmas party well attended

Continued from page 1

and Kay Klein; Emily and NeVille Stewart; Ray Styles and his guests Doris Denton, Bruce and Judy Devay, and Billy Long; and Mike 'Zack' Zacharski and Juli Moritz.

Del Horton and Tracy Kramer had planned to attend, but at the last moment could not. The FC presented certificates of appreciation to the Flotilla staff officers of 2008.

Also receiving certificates of appreciation were Bob England for his role in securing the Hospitality House for the past four years; Ray Styles for handling the catering arrangements and decorating for our Christmas dinners; Jim Jenkins for the more than 350 hours of service he has rendered as a physician assistant to the CG Health Corps at Aviation Training Center-Mobile; and, to Betty Jackson, IPFC, for her valuable counsel and support to the FC. The evening was a fitting conclusion to a good year of service by the Flotilla



Photo by Sally Akin

From left, Dave and Laurel Duca and their guests Ron Fowler and Jane Lovelace at the Christmas Dinner.



Photo by Sally Akin

From left, Gary Akin, Cliff Klein, Tiffany Boyd, Bob England, and Kay Klein are caught hovering near the buffet line before dinner.



Photo by Sally Akin

From left, Juli Moritz and Kay Gillon visit before the dinner. In the background, Paul Gillon enjoys one of the many tasty treats available before dinner.

Quake preparedness efforts should continue

Continued from page 1

largest magnitude shake thought to have occurred toward the end of the period. Psychological impacts may be a big issue as continuing aftershocks will undoubtedly raise the cry, “when will it ever stop?”

- We need to continue preparing personally and as a Flotilla. We need to plan to be self-sufficient for at least seven days. If you can be self-sufficient for 10 to 14 days, so much the better. It has been said that all we really need are food, clothing, and shelter. However, don't forget the prescription drugs that you may take that are critical to your daily, as well as long-term, health. And don't overlook your pets. Tall or wall-mounted appliances, book cases, cabinets, and water heaters should be securely attached to the wall. It might even be helpful to view your home as if it were a vessel you are making ready for sea.
- Alabama has no “current-standards” seismic building codes. Wood-framed residential structures typically fare pretty good because they are somewhat flexible. Chimneys and other unreinforced brick and concrete block structures may be damaged, if not destroyed. Schools, hospitals, fire and police stations, jails, and high-rise buildings are often damaged or destroyed in earthquakes.
- Communications will be disrupted – to what magnitude no one can say. The more modes of communication we possess the greater our chances of being able to communicate.
- Public utilities and private water systems will be disrupted. After the 4.9 magnitude Fort Payne earthquake of April 2003, the town of Valley Head, Alabama had to find a new water source as their wells were so disturbed that they could not be pumped due to the high silt content. Restoring damaged electric lines, gas, sewer, and water pipelines will take longer than in the aftermath of ice storms, tornadoes, and hurricanes.

- Transportation will be disrupted. Even if we are unaffected locally, increased traffic responding to the affected areas may impact us. Fuel of most forms may have limited availability as many pipelines transporting these commodities cross these seismic zones. Bridges or bridge approaches may be unusable. Even river navigation may be adversely impacted.
- While much attention is being given to the NMSZ, we need to know that Alabama has two other significant seismic zones (SZ) – the Southern Appalachian SZ which extends from West Virginia to the Birmingham-Tuscaloosa area, and the Bahamas Fracture SZ, which includes Pensacola, the Mobile Delta and extends into southeastern Mississippi. The South Carolina SZ that was responsible for the Charleston earthquake of 1886 could also affect Alabama. A question geologists cannot answer is can a big event in one zone trigger an event in another one
- They can only say it is a possibility.



Photo by John Miller

Troy and Cindy Bates pose with FC Gary Akin after receiving their certificates certifying them as vessel examiners. Flotilla 24-4 now has 19 vessels.

Members brave cold weather at Counce parade

With the temperature hovering at a chilly 27 degrees, members of the Pickwick Detachment smiled and waved to onlookers during the Counce (Tenn.) Christmas Parade December 5th.

Pickwick Sales donated the use of a pontoon boat and trailer, and even provided an assortment of candy for the yuletide event. Some 700 residents lined the two mile parade route stretching from the Pickwick Dam and through the center of Counce.

In spite of the cold temperatures, everyone seemed to enjoy the festivities and the “frozen” candy thrown from the parade floats and vehicles.

Prior to the parade, members Tommy Thomas, Sonny Holman, Cliff and Kay Klein, and Del Horton decorated the boat with banners and flags, and were treated to a dinner of ham and pork tenderloin on dinner rolls and the Pickwick Deli's own “chili” courtesy of Sonny and Ann Holman.

Although recovering from shoulder surgery, Serenity Wilbanks made her second appearance as “PFD Panda” to the delight of everyone. The Holman's granddaughters Courtney and Sonni, helped man the float, while their parents, Joel and Michelle Hiatt and Ann Holman enjoyed the parade from the tow vehicle.



Photo by Serenity Wilbanks

Cliff Klein (l) and Del Horton (r) secure the banner top lines while Tommy Thomas (l) and Sonny Holman (r) secure the bottom ties.

Many thanks to all for making this event a success.

– Del Horton, FC

Upcoming events

Jan 3	Division Change Of Watch, Huntsville
Jan 6	Flotilla Meeting
Jan 10	Bay Hill/Rogersville Det. Meeting
Jan 10	Pickwick Detachment Meeting
Jan 17	ICS-210, Birmingham, tentative
Jan 22-25	Huntsville Boat Show--Fri noon-9pm; Sat 10am-9pm; Sun 11am-5pm
Jan 29	BS&S Tentatively begins at UNA East
Jan 31	Annual FN/MA report deadline for reaching Division Commander
Feb 3	Flotilla Meeting
Feb 5	BS&S Chapter 3
Feb 7	Div. Board & Staff Meeting, Huntsville
Feb 7	Bay Hill/Rogersville Det.Meeting
Feb 7	Pickwick Detachment Meeting
Feb 12	BS&S Chapter 4
Feb 19	BS&S Chapter 5
Feb 21-22	ICS-210, Nashville tentative
Feb 26	BS&S Chapter 6
Feb 28	TCT, Guntersville



Photo by Sally Akin

Gary Akin presents Immediate Past Flotilla Commander Betty Jackson a certificate of appreciation for her counsel and support during his term as Flotilla commander.



Send comments
and articles to:
Bob Stansell, 1105
Sunset Beach,
Florence, AL 35633
Email to
pierpost@juno.com
Fax to 256-767-
2327

SKYPE communication has advantages

In 2008, several of us in the Flotilla began using SKYPE for voice and video calls, and chats over the Internet to learn more about the things we might accomplish using the various tools afforded by SKYPE.

Best of all, it is free. We can have up to nine folks in a conference call originated by us and again at no cost. The number that can be in a chat conference is high also.

We found video-conferencing does not work well with more than two people because of the bandwidth requirements. We found that using voice and chat together was a useful tool because conversation could happen in real time, and at the same time chat messages could be used to pass dates, files or references to all in the chat.

Two people could stay in the conversation, but conduct a chat between themselves to pass info that did not need to tie up the voice conference.

Most of us continue to use it and some of us have almost daily contact via SKYPE.

It would be helpful if more of our members enrolled and used SKYPE. It will work, but not well over dial up because the speed on dial up is slow. We even tried it with

satellite provided Internet service and it works, but there is a noticeable lag in voice delivery due to the greater distance in the satellite circuit.

However, if you have a land-based broadband connection it works quite well. To chat you need nothing but your computer and keyboard. For voice, you will need a microphone and speakers. For video calls, you need a camera tied to your computer.

If you wish to try it, simple go to www.skype.com, download the program, and install it. You will then need to register with SKYPE and get a user name. When you get a user name, let me know and I will send you the user IDs of the other members. Hope you'll join us on SKYPE.

– Gary Akin, FSO-CS

Member accomplishments

Cindy and Troy Bates –Received their VE Certification