



SHIPMATE

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary
Central & Arctic's
Newsletter



Jack Kruger
CCGA, C&A President

“TEN MONTHS INTO IT”

In January 2005 when I became President of Central and Arctic my initial thoughts were how would I be able to fulfill my role nearly 3000 miles from our business office. I tended to focus on the obvious issues such as finance, administration and issues that may have been construed as controversial in nature. I wanted to retain the status quo and keep the Region on an even keel. In Police circles this is called “keeping a lid on it”...

I have been extremely fortunate to have people working with me that provided guidance and direction when I was heading off course and believe me I have had to make a number of course alterations. I set a goal of six months to establish a strategy and direction for Central and Arctic. This is not to say that we were floundering however, we were not. I saw many things that seemed OK just because they were OK and had been for years. I saw the men and woman of our organization out in the boats saving lives, members doing Courtesy Exams, boat shows, education and devoting hundreds of volunteer hours whereas the focus seemed to be administrative and political with the “grunts” at the bottom of the food chain.

I recognize that Central and Arctic is unique particularly from a geographic perspective. We cover four Provinces and two Territories including the High Arctic. Each District and indeed each Unit is different and have totally different needs and requirements both from equipment and training to the method of doing business. I have had the pleasure of attending strategy meetings with Pacific Region where optimism translates into getting the job done and how. I saw first hand the Units in District 1 and 2 in operation and the pride they took in their vessels and mission. ISAR has been a real eye opener with the quality of our Members being recognized internationally. We do not take a back seat to anyone and we do our business well.

Well Folks, thanks to the tremendous pool of knowledge, ability and drive we have started a process of progressive change. We can think outside the box. Our new business

Laura performed an outstanding job of establishing a new start in our administrative process. Nick DORALP has without a doubt what I feel made history for C&A with his developing and maintaining our new website. It is truly gratifying to go onto the site and not see “Merry Christmas 2003”. This site has allowed us to develop a data base of Members, Vessels, Inventory, Training and a myriad of other tools. Nick amazes me as I work with two computers and when I run into trouble on the site I email him on the other computer. Before I get back to the problem it is fixed. We have a firm control of our finances thanks to Lou LOCHNER and of course Shannon. I feel we have without a doubt one of the most solid relationships with the Canadian Coast Guard of any Region in Canada. We are looking at developing new initiatives in training to address areas that have been identified as needing attention. This will be accomplished with input from the boat drivers and crews and will be underway before the AGM in January.

Don LIMOGES aside from his duties as Director of Training is the Chair for ISAR 2007 to be held in Toronto. He and his Committee have a good handle on the organization and are well on the way to making this an event that will be remembered.

We have three operational Units in Nunavut (District 10) as well as a new Director Sam TUTANUAK, in Rankin Inlet.

Our Honour Guard has been the showcase of C&A appearing at Mosport and other events as well as in more formal settings such as funeral services for some of our members who have passed away. Their devotion to this mission is greatly appreciated.

Our association with our counterparts in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is an example of International relations second to none and we will build on this in the next while.

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With the transfer of Boating Safety to Transport Canada we have had to learn a new way of doing business, but with Les READING and others we have met and surpassed our mandate. We face a few issues in the next few months however, I am confident that given the impetus of our Members we will continue this success story.

I am asking that you give your support in these initiatives. I am not trying to reinvent the wheel or change the world but I do not want fences built to keep change out.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you, to the Canadian Coast Guard, JRCC and the Families who sit home when we are out. I am proud to be associated with all of you.

Jack KRUGER

IMPORTANT NOTICE O.B.S. Spending

I have just received the dollar figures required to fund the remainder of the OBS operations to fiscal year end. (submitted by Les Reading)

Amount spent to date	\$21,000.00
Spending Cap	<u>28,000.00</u>
Amount left to spend	7,000.00

Amount required to finish our OBS events	\$21,800.00
Amount left in our budget	<u>7,000.00</u>
Shortfall	\$14,800.00

Because of the large shortfall, I must ask for an OBS spending freeze from this date forward (Sept 24, 2005) until the priorities have been worked out. (no charge events are exempt)

Lou Lochner
Secretary / Treasurer
Central & Arctic Region

Boating Safety Report

The boating safety world within CCGA Central and Arctic Region continues to evolve.

Early in the season the Auxiliary was provided with a number of vans and trailers by Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety. There were some stipulations for use of this equipment one of which was a requirement for operator training. A number of courses were provided but more operators and training of operators is required before the next boating season.

The Office of Boating Safety continued to support the boating safety program and offered training courses to our members. Unfortunately there was a shortage of decals and pads for the completion of Pleasure Craft Courtesy Checks and several newly trained members for that program did not receive decals or pads in a timely fashion thus negatively impacting the program. All districts have been asked to submit their training requirements to myself and the Office Boating Safety in Sarnia so that a training plan may be established.

In 2006, the region will receive at least two Bobby the Safety Boats from CCGA National which are remotely operated units similar to Andy the Ambulance which some of you may be familiar. Operator training will again be required as these are expensive units and proper maintenance is a requirement.

The Auxiliary has been involved in approximately 200 boating safety events in the first nine months of 2005, including boat shows, PCCC Days and presentations to various organizations.

Submitted by Leslie Reading

Congratulations to Glynis Withyman!!

Glynis is the first female Commander in the 38 year history of COMRA and the first non Coxswain of the organization who has been elected to this position.

She replaces Brad Levantis who has completed his 5 year term of office as Commander of the unit COMRA.

John Levantis

Check out the Changes to the Regional Website !!!!

www.ccgga-ca.ca

Fairwell words to John Levantis

On behalf of the Search and Rescue Program, I would like to thank John for his excellent service as the President of our Region's Coast Guard Auxiliary over the past 4 years.

John has done a superb job of leading the Board of Directors and representing the Region while participating in the Coast Guard Auxiliary's national Council.

It is with John's direction that we've seen the SAR training system change from a text book oriented system to an on-water training environment which is where most of the operational work of the CCGA takes place.

John also did an excellent job of hosting the National 25th anniversary of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary in Kingston in 2003.

Having John as the President and friend over the past 4 years has definitely made my job as the Superintendent, Search and Rescue program easier and a pleasure.

John's work is not finished, in his capacity as past President, I have asked John to join Danny Coultis and myself in carrying out a complete review of our SAR resources.

Again John, many thanks

Andy Maillet
Superintendent, Search and Rescue Program
Canadian Coast Guard
Central and Artic Region

(Originally spoken at the 2004 AGM)



Left—Right
Andy Maillet, CCG, John Levantis, Past President
CCGA and Danny Coultis, Joint Rescue Control Centre

Photo by
Francois Venzois



Fred Perkins

Fred Perkins passed away
September 28, 2005 at
Ottawa General Hospital
in his 59th year.

Fred was the Regional Manager Search and Rescue (like today's Superintendent) for the first 15 years of the Auxiliary's existence.

We extend our sympathies to his wife Sharon and their children Daniel and Jaime

Lawrence Swift

Farewell to France Chaput

Welcome to Gina Belrose

Just a quick note to let you all know that I am leaving this position and returning to my substantive position. I would like you to know that it has been a pleasure working with all of you and a great learning experience. If I have the opportunity to work with you again, I would not hesitate.

Please join me in welcoming Gina Belrose to our section, who will be working in this position. Please forward any EAN requests or post events, PCCC pads and decal requests to Gina at Belroseg@tc.gc.ca or call using our usual toll free number.

Sincerely,
France Chaput

Tentative Boat Shows for 2006

Nov 4-6, 2005	The Fall Cottage life Show
Jan 14-22	Toronto International Boat Show
Feb 10-12	Chatham Sportsman & Recreation Show
Feb 23-26	Ottawa Boat, Sportsmen's Show
Feb 23-26	Outdoor Adventure Show
Feb 24-26	London Boat Fishing & Leisure Show
Mar 15-19	Toronto Sportsmen's Show
Apr 1-3	Cottage Life Spring Show

Gina Belrose

Water Incident Research Alliance
Visit the WIRA Web site...www.waterincident.ca
Providing injury & fatality information

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary C&A Website Rebuilt

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Central and Arctic Region, website located at www.coga-ca.ca on the Internet has seen a major renovation and rebuild over the past half year. Much of the credit for the changes must go to our webmaster, Nick Doralp, from District 2, who in consultation with the Board of Directors and a steering committee comprised of members of the Board of Directors have taken the website in a much needed new direction.

Originally based on the work which Nick had done within District 2 in the development of their District website the region's website has seen a major renovation and rebuild which all members with access to the Internet should take the time to view. If you have not visited our website recently because it lacked interest for you it is time to go take a look. You will like what you see and be able to appreciate the new direction in which the website is heading.

The 'new' website is not just for viewing but has a number of interactive features on both the Public and Members Only sections. This site is also updated on a very regular basis to keep it fresh and interesting.

On the Public side of the site, available to anyone for viewing is information on who we are, what we do, how to reach us, how to offer their time to the Auxiliary, links to related information, who needs and how to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, boat show information, photos of the organization and its people at work and an opportunity to ask a question on line. A very useful area of the Public side of the site is a news page that any

continued

“Weather Savvy” Course being offered in District 3

We may have the opportunity to offer a course during the winter months dealing with weather. We can often get a great deal of information as to the kind of weather pattern approaching by simply taking note of changes in the conditions around us. With this in mind, it is our hope that this course could provide us with some techniques to become more "weather savvy" when on the water.

I need to know if you or any of your crew would be interested in taking part in such a course. If enough interest is generated, we will make the necessary arrangements. Any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

Jamie Kerwin
District 3 Training Coordinator
jkerwin3@cogeco.ca

Continued

member can access to post valid, newsworthy information. This will help us sell our organization to the public and let them know who we are and what we do. No longer does the Auxiliary need to be the best kept secret.

On the Members Only side of the site is some very interesting and useful information which can be accessed by members only. Some areas of the Members Only side is restricted to certain individuals within the organization for privacy and security reasons. Some areas are restricted to coxswains and above for Unit information or to members of a District's executive for that District, etc. for example.

Available information on the member side includes access to manuals on-line, SAR Operations Reports for completion purposes, travel/activity request forms, travel expense claim forms, SAR algorithms, etc. Individual members can also access their information pertaining to their training status, address information, etc. thus ensuring that the Auxiliary is able to keep up with the on-going changes which affect the membership. Also on the member side is a number of Bulletin Boards open to all members to post thoughts, exchange ideas and information, etc.

Elsewhere in this edition of "Shipmate" is additional information pertaining to the website, access by members, etc. Please, take the time and take a look at what has been done to not only improve the site but provide timely and useful information to the membership and members of the public.

www.coga-ca.ca

***The most important thing in communication
is to hear what isn't being said***

New Unit formed in District 3

Canadian Coast guard Auxiliary, Central & Arctic Region recognized the formation of Unit Number 343 on Saturday, March 5th, 2005

The unit will be composed of those members of the District involved in boating safety activities who are not attached to any other CCGA unit involved in SAR activities.

Congratulations to Neil Jardine District 3's Safe Boating Coordinator for developing this unit and becoming the unit leader.

Les Reading

District 3

District 3, its units and members have been quite active this year.

The district and its units have been active in on-water training, both with unit based training and involvement with CCG coordinated SAREX activities. The CCG SAREX program got underway for the season in District 3 and finished in District 3. The SAREX season began in late April in Amherstburg. Unfortunately the weather was not cooperative with 'heavy snowfall warnings' in effect. Winds were strong and the snow/rain/sleet mix compounded the situation. The exercise was modified to say the least. To close the SAREX season an encore exercise was scheduled in Amherstburg in mid September and the weather was a perfect summer like weekend. Regardless, members learned something from both of the exercises. A lot of personal gear and preparation lessons were learned from the April exercise in particular.

A few units were affected by various circumstances this season, "Nor Bob" returned to service in Bayfield; SARU is making an effort to regroup and the "Contender" was out of service due to mechanical issues not of their making. Hopefully all units will be back in service for 2006.

The district participated in the SAR Challenge where great fun was had and a few lessons learned. Included in those lessons was the need to have your prescription glasses with you for chart reading purposes.

The boating safety program was again in place throughout the district. Several locations were visited, PCCC Days were held in a number of locations, group requests were handled and hopefully a lot of good information was passed to the boating public so that their needs were met with the result being a reduction in the need for SAR services.

SAR operations were undertaken by at least seven of the units within the district, ranging from groundings to mechanical issues to providing safe escort and towing services as tasked by JRCC.

A winter training schedule has been developed to address the needs of the members for SAR training and planning is underway already for the 2006 on-water training.

Leslie Reading

Auxiliary Member recognized by Governor General for Act of Bravery

Friday, February 4, 2005 was a proud day for Manitoulin Island as two Island women were presented with Medals of Bravery by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, for their heroic actions nearly two years ago. Denise Sheppard, of Mindemoya and Kathleen Merrylees were awarded the medals for saving the life of a man who was involved in a traffic incident that occurred on June 19, 2003.

The two women were travelling in separate vehicles near Evansville, along highway 540, when they spotted a car on fire. Each woman stopped to help the man trapped inside and worked together along with Norm Leppan (a third passerby) to free him before the entire car was engulfed in flames a short time later.

The Bravery Awards were originally set up by Queen Elizabeth in 1972 to honour those Canadians who have put forth a courageous effort to help others in need. The silver award resembles an "army medal". It's front is emblazoned with the maple leaf, while the word "bravery" is engraved on the back, and the recipient's name is engraved underneath. The medal comes with a certificate and a brief write-up of the act for which the recipient was awarded the honour.

Both ladies were also recognized with certificates from Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskaing MP Brent St. Denis at a local ceremony to recognize their bravery

Denise Sheppard is an Auxiliary member of Unit #78. This unit is lead by her father George Pervis.

Rudy Mulak

*excerpts taken from
The Manitoulin Expositor
Wednesday, February 9, 2005*

Congratulations Denise!

Transport Canada Driver Training Course

All OBS members who will be operating a Transport Canada towing vehicle **MUST** have completed the Driver Training Course to be eligible to book the a display unit.
Participants need to be OBS 1 & 2 qualified BSS members

Rescue Challenge 2005

Held in Penetanguishene
August 6th, 2005



Towing



Simulator VHF



Lines and Knots

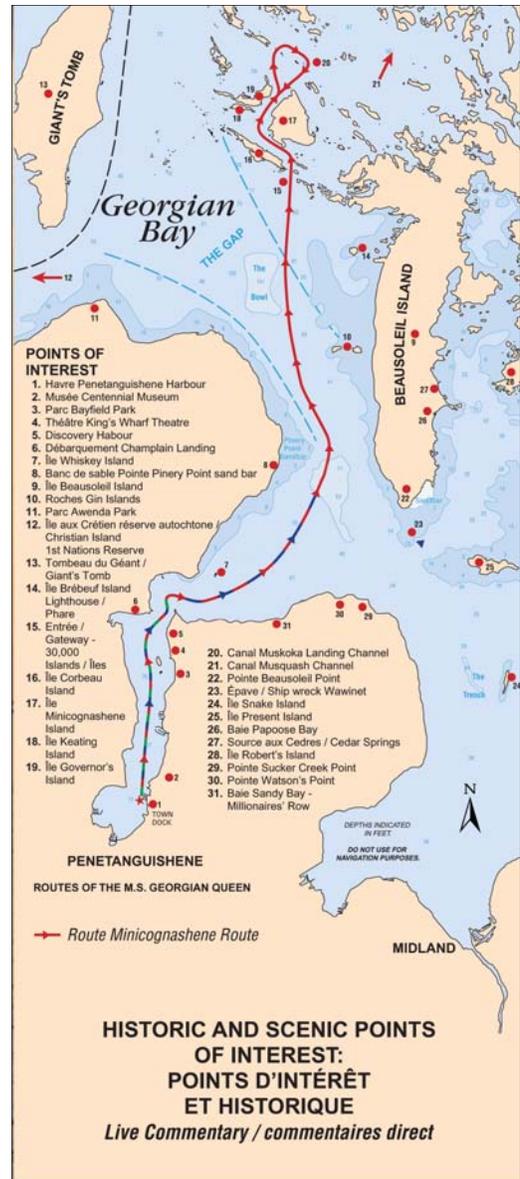
"Dinner Cruise"

Our sunset cruise on the "MS Georgian Queen" was from Penetanguishene Harbour north passing Discovery Harbour, the west side of Beausoleil Island, where we followed the range taking us towards Minnicognashene Island, through the Whalesback Channel into the Muskoka Landing Channel and return to Penetanguishene.

During the cruise, we enjoyed a barbecued steak dinner, watched the sun set behind the 30,000 Islands of Georgian Bay, and topped off the evening with the Awards Presentation.

It was a relaxing cruise after a fun filled day of competition!

Ginny Wood



Photos by Butch Dompierre

ISAR 2005 – Halifax – September 30 & October 1



The Central and Arctic team consisted of:
Mike Dietl, Terry Van Anandel, Steve McCallum and Allan Platt

Our Region also sent a fifth member –
Herb Paetzold - to ISAR. This person was part of the 6th Canadian team and has become known as TEAM CANADA. (The US has 6 Regions while we have 5.) Herb is from the Mysis crew in Kincardine.

Check out the website for Herb's photo!

Although the gold medal still eludes our Regional team, our team from District 2 performed well and won top honours in the SAR planning event.

However, with a little stretch of the imagination, since TEAM CANADA did win the gold and since we had a person on that team, it could be said that Central & Arctic did win the ISAR 2005 championship!!

Don Limoges



City of Thunder Bay Safety Day

District 7 participated in the 6th annual City of Thunder Bay Safety Day held at Thunder Bay Telephone on May 4/05. This year we invited Constable Tim Buckland of the OPP to assist with information on boating safety. The OPP and CCGA, District 7 have partnered in the local Boat Shows with great success in the past 3 years. Over 400 City employees attended this event and the booth and information was well received.

In the picture Left to right , Jim Aitken , District Training Officer, Constable Tim Buckland, Community Services Officer, OPP and Rick Oldale Director District 7.

London Boat Show

Mike Taber (front) of Transport Canada working together with Neil Jardine, District 3's Safe Boating Coordinator at the International London Boat, Fishing & Leisure Show . The show ran Feb 25 thru 27.



Centered on the table is a photo of the CCGA unit vessel 'Harpoon' operated by Adam Godfrey who was also present . This CCGA personal touch added interest in to operations of the Auxiliary and questions regarding how people may become involved.

Thanks to the members of OBS who gave their time to cover this event.

Irene Jardine

Rescue Challenge 2005

The event was held in Penetanguishene on August 6th with perfect weather conditions.

As usual the adjudicators created a series of ten (10) very high quality events and the teams were quite busy for the whole day. I'm told by the judges that the performance standards had improved considerably over last year.

Five Districts were represented: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 9. Kathleen Getty kindly stepped in to fill the blank spot on one "Alternate team".

The winning team was from GAMRU in District 2 (Grimsby) and the participants where: **Mike Dietl, Terry Van Anandel, Steve McCallum and Jason Reidt.**

The other participants where:

District 1:	Scott Logan Ray Ferry Mark Visser Mel Smith	District 3:	Harold Thompson John Eaton John Findley Wayne Tracey
District 4:	Herb Paetzold Marcel Dorey Brian Luinstra Peter Porter	District 9:	Paul Cobban Lorne Gushue Liz Halina Dan Halina

The Adjudicators:

First Aid: Jim Snow
Towing: Jim Gram
Search Patterns: Peter Graham
Simulator: Rodney Turcotte
Dewatering Pump: Jamie Kerwin

Piloting: Nancee Adams
Dead Reckoning: Fergus Reid
Line Toss / Ring Toss: Jim Adams
VHF Radio: Al Limoges
Marlinspike: Jim Hepple

ISAR in 2006 will be held in Portsmouth Virginia

If you plan on competing at the Regional competition in 2006, please ensure that you can legally travel to the United States. As well, you really should have a passport and a credit card. If you don't have a credit card, let us know and we can make arrangements for the hotel accommodations.

The Support Crew:

Butch Dompierre, Bill Wood, Ginny Wood, Wayne Cotton, John Grant, Garry Endicott, Les Reading and Danny Pellerin

Canadian Coast Guard Staff:

Anrdre Maillet, Mark Gagnon, Kathleen Getty and the crews from IRB 1000 and CCGC Cape Providence.

A BIG thank you to all for an excellent effort.

Now all we have to do is wait for the CCGA Calendar!

Rescue Challenge in 2006 will be held on June 24th at Port Colbourne.

Don Limoges



Special Thanks
to Don Limoges
for another
Successful Event

Please note that we will not be running a Regional Challenge in 2007

That means in 2006, we will be deciding who will compete at ISAR in '06 and '07. How we will arrive at that decision has yet to be determined, and will ultimately be left up to the first and second place teams. The main drawback with this arrangement is that it mandates very long term planning for one team.

Don Limoges

District Six Events, Training and News

District Six covers an area from Iron Bridge, west to the City of Sault Ste. Marie and north to the town of Marathon on Lake Superior. Following Highway 17 the distance is approximately 531 kilometres or 330 miles. The shoreline with its countless bays, coves and islands significantly increases this distance.

It is mighty and majestic Lake Superior, with her many moods, that can make for a logistical challenge. To respond to a tasking in this pristine, beautiful and isolated area can task the resources of any mariner. It is with this in mind that inter-agency on-water training exercises are held.

Two inter-agency on-water training exercises were held during the boating season with vessels of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and vessels from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Provincial Police, Sault Police Services and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The first was held on July 17th, west of Sault Ste. Marie in Whitefish Bay, Lake Superior and was attended by six vessels. The second training exercise, held on October 9th, was not as well attended due to the lateness of the season. Vessels were taken out for repairs or prepared for winter storage.

On-Scene Coordinator Dennis O'Reilly makes these exercises realistic, interesting and challenges the skill of coxswain and crew. Various search patterns are involved with vessels being re-tasked to investigate reports of debris.

The purpose of this on-water training is to evaluate our ability to develop a search plan when provided with all pertinent data regarding a maritime SAR incident and to complete this evolution in the time allotted.

These exercises bring together the resources needed for an actual tasking and are invaluable in getting to know and work with our partners of Team Search And Rescue.

Boating safety and education are very important elements of our activities in District Six. During early spring, summer and into the fall Boating Safety Specialists, John Hooper and Mike Ketola scheduled and attended many presentations. Other CCGA members attend many community events and authorized patrols.

On September 24th, CCGA members Norm Lloyd (District Five) and Hugh Wyatt attended the Fall Conference of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, 9th Central Region, held in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

As partners, sharing a common border, with the same interest and concerns, our attendance and spirit of cooperation was recognized and appreciated.

During the winter of 2005 – 2006 a SAR Course will be scheduled at the Mac Nicholson Rescue Centre, the home port of founding member CCGA Unit 5, Sault

Search And Rescue. We would like to acknowledge and thank Sault Search And Rescue for the generous use of their training facility and equipment.

Dave Rosso has taken over the responsibility of Unit Leader for the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit Five, Sault Search And Rescue. Don Mertes was the former Unit Leader and District Director for many years. Members of Unit Five thank Don for his many years of service and look forward to his continued input to achieving our goal of "Volunteers, saving life on the water".

Members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Central & Arctic), District Six, were unable to send a team to the Search And Rescue (SAR) Challenge in 2005, but plan on participating in 2006.

Hugh Wyatt

Director - CCGA District Six

Special Thanks to Francois Vezina

Francois has included past copies of Shipmate onto the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary website as well as to the Regional site.

Francois has also supplied photos for Shipmate from his collection of photos taken at the Annual General Meeting

1st Class to Complete Transport Canada Driver Training Course, May 14-15, 2005



Left to Right Back: D3-Irene Jardine, D3-Les Reading, D2-Nick Doralp, D2-Shannon Wilson, D1-Wayne Burke, D1-Harold Spissinger, D4 Nancee Adams and D4-Jim Adams

Instructors: Willy Geigner & Vic Whitcroft

Visual Basics-Steering the Perfect Search Pattern Mark Simoni DVC-OS

Mark Simoni is a USCG Auxiliary member from Saginaw, Michigan. He is responsible for Surface Operations training at the National level for the USCGAux.

Aren't GPS plotters great? The newer ones can do everything but change your engine oil, and I think the manufacturers are working on that.

One neat thing you can do with a chart plotter is to "eyeball" the accuracy of your search patterns. If you have ever looked at your plotter after having run a search pattern, you may have been dismayed to see that the turns were not crisp and accurate.

As you know, the GPS plotter will show absolute, not relative location information; plots are shown "over the ground" as opposed to "through the water". We will assume for this discussion that we don't need to be overly concerned by the effects of current. We will also assume that everyone is interested in running SS (Expanding Square) and VS (Sector Search) patterns more efficiently.

One of the biggest problems our helmsmen have when they are running search patterns is the time it takes to steady up on a new course. This is really critical when running PIW searches that have small track spacing. By the time the boat is steady on its new course, it is almost time for the next heading.

Why do people have trouble with this? Maybe we can blame some of this on compasses that are over damped or under damped. Maybe the helmsman is not aware of how quickly the compass reacts during a turn. In these cases, the helmsman comes out of the turn either too soon or too late, then spends valuable time "chasing the compass" until it settles down and they can steady up on the new course. How do I know this? Been there, done that, but didn't get the tee-shirt.

I am chagrined to say that it was the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary that came to my rescue. During an OPEX we put on at STA SAGINAW RIVER, we invited a couple of Canadian Auxiliarists to attend. One of them, Butch Dompierre, introduced me to a great technique. Most of us find it quite a bit easier to steer a straight line if we point the boat toward some visual reference rather than steering a compass course. We can take advantage of this fact if we follow these steps when running SS and

When the navigator is counting you down towards your turn, say with 5 seconds or so to go, hold out your right arm so that it is pointing straight out the starboard beam, bearing 090 relative. As you recall, when running an SS, all turns are 90 degrees to the right, see Figure 1. Sight down your right arm. Find something, a point on land, a portion of a cloud, or even the relative direction of the waves, and lock on to it.

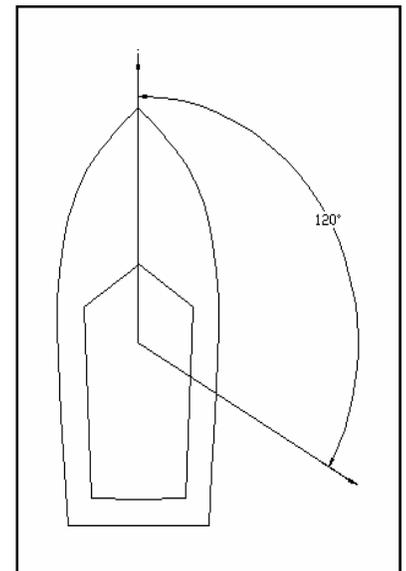
When it is time to make the turn, steer the boat towards the object you have sighted. Steady up the boat on this object, you should be able to do this very quickly. THEN take a look at the compass. You will find that you are within 5 or 10 degrees of the heading you are supposed to be on, and you can easily make a minor adjustment with the helm. With this method, you will find that you are no longer chasing the compass, weaving back and forth after making a turn.

For VS patterns, follow the same procedure, except for one thing. When running a VS all turns are 120 degrees to the right, instead of 90 degrees. To get a 120 degree angle with your arm, face the front of the boat, and put your right arm out, and as far back as is comfortable. For most people, this is about 120 degrees (see Figure 2). Sight down your arm, find a reference point, then when you make your turn, steer towards this point. As noted above, this will get you fairly close, and you can quickly dial in the exact course you need by checking your compass and steering accordingly.

If you practice these tips when running search patterns, you will find that the corners on your patterns will be much sharper and more accurate. We have been teaching this technique for the past few years with great success. Give it a try, you might even be tempted to take a picture of the plotter screen to show your friends!

Fig 1.

SS (Expanding Square)
Hold your right arm straight out to starboard (090 relative bearing).
Sight down your arm and find an object to steer toward as you make your turn.



**Learned anything new lately?
Share your great ideas with us in the next edition
of Shipmate**

Continued next page

District 3 Trains New Boating Safety Specialists

District 3 is happy to announce that 8 members completed their OBS1 on June 11, 2005.

Back L-R Blade Wiess, Jason Salisbury, Geoff Richards, Joe Larose, Cameron Thompson and D3 Director Les Reading

Front L-R CG Instructor Mike Taber, Mollie Richards, Wayne Roodzant and Ron Cairns

Blade, Jason, Joe, Cameron and Wayne Tracey have also completed their OBS 2 and we are looking forward to them representing District 3 at upcoming events



Hold –Up of Materials by Transport Canada

Due to the changes within the Transport Canada, Office of Boating Safety, these CCGA members have not received their decals/pads for 2005.

We express our sincere regrets to them for this confusion although it was out of our hands. They will be able to participate fully in 2006 and will receive their materials early in the boating season along with all others involved in doing Pleasure Craft Courtesy Checks.

D3 Director Les Reading
& D3 DBSC Neil Jardine

New Unit in District 4

Britt and Area Fire – Rescue has been enrolled in the CCGA and the crew have completed all their training and formally became an active unit at the end of September.

Their 24 foot vessel was built in Parry Sound and is known as the Water Pal.

Welcome Aboard !! Don Limoges



Boating Safety Specialists??

Contact your District Safety Boating Coordinator or our Regional Training Officer Les Reading if you are interested in completing your OBS1 and doing Pleasure Craft Courtesy Checks (PCCCs) for the safety of our boating public.

Continued

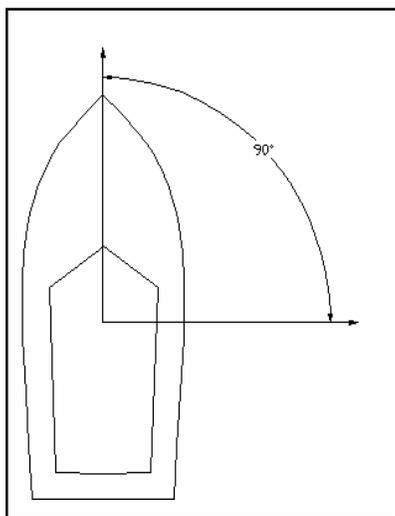


Fig 2.
VS (Sector Search)
Hold your right arm as far back as is comfortable (120 relative bearing).
Sight down your arm and find an object to steer toward as you make you turn.

Les Reading

New Marine Training Facility for Holyrood

St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador - May 5, 2005
- The Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University (MI) will establish a new marine training facility at Holyrood that will help meet the growing need for safety and survival training for the offshore oil and gas industry, as well as the training needs of the marine industry in the province.

"The new facility, which should be fully operational by 2006, will enable offshore survival and small boat operations training to respond to the growing needs of the offshore petroleum industry as well as environmental issues. It will also help foster rural development, particularly around the Holyrood area," said Minister Efford. "The Marine Institute estimates that once the new marine training facility is completed there will be at least 2,500 people a year who will receive training at this new facility."

John Levantis

ATTENTION TO ALL MEMBERS

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Central & Arctic Region's Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, January 14, 2006 at the Stagewest Hotel in Mississauga

Please note that only Unit leaders are eligible for expense reimbursements.
This being said all members are welcome to attend at their own expense.

Member's access to CCGA Website www.ccgga-ca.ca

CCGA C&A Region has undergone some major changes including a revamping of the regional website.

You may still use www.ccgga-ca.ca to view the website, however it has been split into a 'Public' and a 'Members' section. Some changes are also still ongoing. To access forms, etc. you will have to enter the 'Members' side of the website. To access the site:

Log on using [ccga](http://www.ccgga-ca.ca), followed by the 4 digits of your membership number, i.e.: [ccga0123](http://www.ccgga-ca.ca)

On the next line, enter the first six letters of your name. So to enter you will have something like:

[ccga0123](http://www.ccgga-ca.ca)

Boatma (if your name had been boatman)

Pretty easy huh? Any problems, please let me know.
Les Reading



Canadian Hydrographic Services

Les Reading & Neil Jardine shown above at the London Boat Show checking out what's new.

Please view the website below for recent information / changes on the Canadian Hydrographic Services and digital charts.

<http://www.charts.gc.ca/pub/en/help/chsndi.asp>

MARINE RELATED WEB SITES

Department of Fisheries and Ocean

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Canadian Coast Guard

www.ccg-gcc.ca

Transport Canada

www.tc.gc.ca/en/menu.htm

Canadian Safe Boating Council

www.csbc.ca

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are that of the articles authors and do not necessarily represent official Department of Fisheries & Oceans / Canadian Coast Guard / Transport Canada policy

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