



THE AUXILIARIST

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Vol. 1, 1990

Dear Member:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the first edition of "The Auxiliarist", a quarterly newsletter dedicated to members of the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary (CMRA).

Since its inception in 1979, the CMRA has played a vital role in preventing the loss of life on Canadian waters by responding to Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents and through participation in SAR prevention activities. Today, the CMRA's 3600 members respond to approximately 25% of marine SAR incidents in Canada and perform countless hours of prevention work. When the Auxiliary was first formed, not many people would have been able to predict the impact it would have within the context of the National Search and Rescue Program.

Given the importance of communications to organizational effectiveness, the Auxiliarist has been designed to supplement the existing communication links between CMRA members and the Coast Guard. While your respective CMRA regions do an admirable job keeping you up to date on the latest developments, many must often wonder what activities are currently being undertaken by the Auxiliary and Prevention Division of the Coast Guard's Search and Rescue Branch. This newsletter is one way to inform members of the work being done within SAR Headquarters to strengthen the Auxiliary and ready it to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

I encourage you to take advantage of this new forum to express your views on the future course of the Auxiliary and to bring to our attention any other newsworthy items. This newsletter is meant to recognize the efforts you have made, and I look forward to hearing from you in subsequent issues of "The Auxiliarist".

Yours Sincerely,

R.A. Quail

Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard

Training Opportunities

For those of you interested in honing up on your skills, you may be interested in the following programs.

In the fall of 1989, SAR Branch of the Canadian Coast Guard submitted a New SAR Initiative proposal to the National Search & Rescue Secretariat seeking funds for enhanced training and equipment for members of the CMRA.

Funding for the proposal was approved in the spring of 1990 and training plans are currently being finalized. The funds allocated to advanced training and equipment will be divided amongst the following projects:

1. Rigid Hull Inflatable Operator Training

Auxiliary coxswains from those regions where inflatables see extensive use will be selected to undergo a one week training course consisting of SAR procedures, survivor recovery and boat handling under varied sea conditions.

2. First Aid Training

Approximately 60 Auxiliary members in each CCG region will be eligible for training to the certified level of Industrial Class "B" First Aid and CPR.

3. First Aid Kits

A kit designed specifically for use in marine rescue situations is in its final stages of development. The portable kits will stock the supplies often required in rescue situations and eliminate many of the items found in the traditional type "B" First Aid Kits.

CCG SAR believes that these three initiatives will enhance the capabilities of CMRA members and enable them to better respond to the needs of mariners in distress.

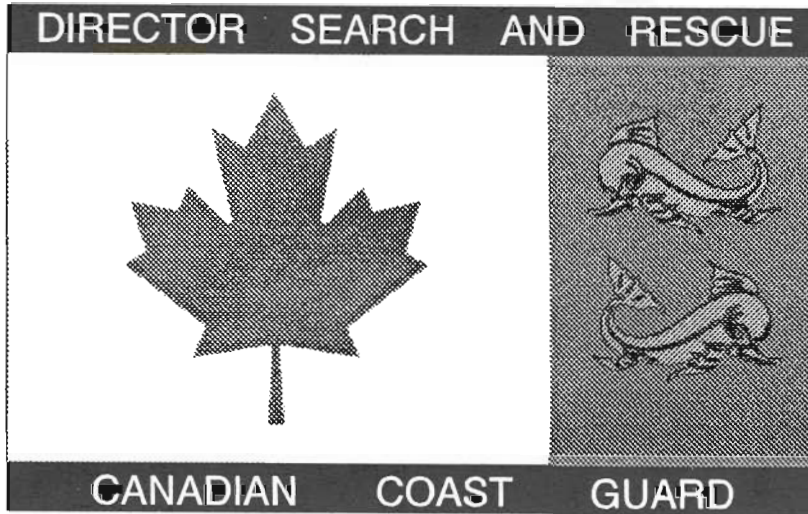


Canadian
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Certificate of Merit for Volunteers



Do you know of a fellow CMRA member who has made a significant contribution to SAR through outstanding work or service? If you do, why not nominate them for the Director, Search & Rescue, Certificate of Merit for Volunteers.

The Certificate program being implemented by SAR

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News items and photographs should be sent to:

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and may not always represent official TC/CCG policy

Headquarters is designed to bring National attention and recognition to efforts made by individual CMRA members within the framework of the Coast Guard/Auxiliary Contribution Agreement.

Following, are some of the procedures and guidelines for nominations:

1. The Certificate is available to be awarded every year in each of the five Coast Guard Regions.
2. Nominations can be made, in writing by any CMRA member.
3. Nominations must include the candidates name, reason for the nomination and any additional information you deem to be relevant.
4. To be considered, nominations must be endorsed by the regional CMRA President and the Regional Manager, SAR.
5. Nominations must be received by the Director of

SAR no later than three months before your regions Annual General Meeting.

6. The Certificate(s) will be awarded at the Annual General Meeting of the Regional CMRA.

Please consult the official procedures and guidelines for full details.

Uniformity

The question of uniforms is a sticky one among members of the Auxiliary. Some don't want anything to do with them while others take great pride in wearing a uniform identifying themselves as part of the CMRA.

For those who do wear the uniform, you are no doubt aware that several different variations exist across the five regions. This situation is one which has been discussed on and off over the years, and SAR Branch believes that the time has come to develop an official uniform policy.

Given that the Auxiliarist represents the CMRA, and is often perceived as representing the CCG in dealing with the public, it is important that a uniform and professional image be conveyed.

To this end, CCG SAR is considering developing a National Auxiliary uniform. However, prior to doing this, we would like to hear your thoughts and suggestions on the topic. Realizing that the wearing of a uniform is a personal choice, it should be noted that if one is introduced, wearing it will not be mandatory.

Canadian Safe Boating Council

Search & Rescue Branch of the Canadian Coast Guard is pleased to announce that it will be joining the recently formed Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) as an associate member.

The CSBC is a non-profit corporation composed of government, volunteer and industry organizations, whose mandate is the promotion of safe recreational boating. To achieve its mandate, the CSBC and its member organizations will work together on a variety of projects including National Safe Boating Week 1991 (June 2-8).

The CSBC will be holding its first annual meeting April 3-5th in Ottawa.

Members to date:

- Canadian Coast Guard
- Canada Safety Council
- Allied Boating Association of Canada
- R.C.M.P
- The Royal Lifesaving Society of Canada
- Canadian Red Cross Society
- Institut Maritime du Quebec
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ontario Provincial Police Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons

As the RAP program is expected to be popular among retailers, we are seeking the support of Auxiliary members in administering the program. If you are interested in offering assistance to the program (display set-up, soliciting retailers etc.), please contact your regional Auxiliary & Prevention coordinator.

Facts & Figures

- * During its first year of operation the CMRA had 700 members and 300 vessels. Today the CMRA has over 3,600 members and 1,300 vessels; representing a five fold membership increase.
- * Mechanical Failure continues to be the number one cause of SAR incidents, representing over 40% of the total.
- * Since its inception, CMRA vessels have been tasked over 18,000 times. In 1989 CMRA vessels responded to over 2,000 incidents.
- * CMRA Western has close to 1,300 members and 350 vessels. CMRA Maritimes has 1/3 the membership, however, they have more vessels with close to 400.
- * Pleasure craft account for over 65% of reported SAR incidents.

Marine Retailer Awareness Program

As part of the Canadian Coast Guard's continued efforts to encourage safe boating practices on behalf of Canadians, a new promotional program involving marine retailers is being developed.

The Marine Retailer Awareness Program (RAP), which is scheduled to begin in the summer of 1991, will involve the placement of Coast Guard boating safety information racks in marine retail stores. The intent of the program is to get boating safety information into the hands of as many boaters possible. In addition to offering a potentially large network for boating safety information, marine retail stores are a logical place to make such information available.

Years of Service Pins



In recognition of those who have volunteered their time and energy to the CMRA over the years, the Canadian Coast Guard has designed a new line of lapel pins honouring years of service in the Auxiliary. The handsome pin (pictured above) comes in five year denominations and will be distributed to CMRA members in the coming months.

**“WEAR IT WITH
PRIDE”**

Lemon Hart Award

For Denis Nyren and Alec Bill, February 1, 1989 was a dark and stormy night. That was the night the two Vancouver Island members of the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary rescued three members of the Oak Bay Sea Rescue Vessel "Responder", which was in turn trying to rescue two radio technicians stranded by bad weather on Chatham Island.

Representatives of Lemon Hart Rum and the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons presented Nyren and Bill with the 1990 Lemon Hart Rum Regional Safe Boating Award at the False Creek Yacht Club. Lemon Hart and CPS started the awards in 1982 as a way of honouring heroism displayed by boaters.



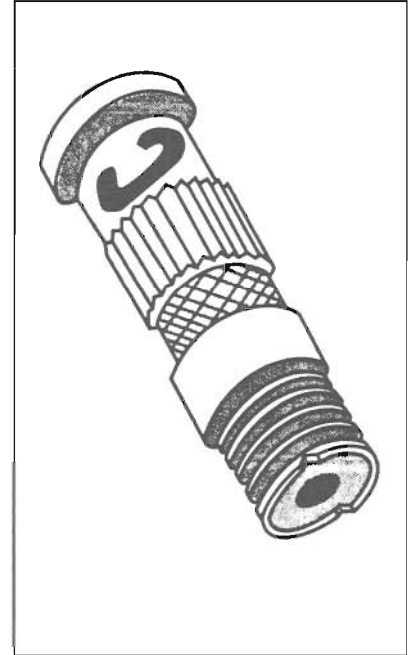
Nyren, 34 and Bill, 29 crew "Auxiliary 35", a Coast Guard Zodiac used for inshore rescue work. They had been dispatched the evening of February 1 to assist the crew of the "Responder", which had flooded after striking a rock in Baines Channel. With 20-26kt winds from the northeast, driving snow and freezing spray in the 11 degree weather, the "Responder's" crew had radioed for help and scrambled to a higher rock.

"Auxiliary 35" arrived on the scene at 2022hrs, after being towed several miles by a pilot boat. Nyren and Bill managed to get the Zodiac's motor started in spite of the ice that had encrusted it. Then they conquered 8' seas breaking close to the rock in the rising tide, picked up the "Responder's" crew and took them to the tug "Evco Buccaneer", which was standing by.

The crew survived their dark night in the cold with mild hypothermia and one mild concussion. The radio technicians they had been trying to assist were later picked up by a Canadian Forces helicopter. Nyren and Bill went back to their regular lives. Nyren as a real estate sales person, Bill as a law student at the University of Victoria.

(Courtesy Pacific Yachting)

Backing Up Your Radio Antenna



Is your main VHF radio acting up? , Need to get a call out? Use your hand-held right!

But what about the 6" flexible antenna - its gain and range are not up to that of your main 8' or masthead antenna. Will your call be heard? The solution is simple if your portable radio has a (BNC) output jack (most do). Hook the main antenna to your handheld with an adapter.

The Radio Shack part number 278-120, a BNC male to female, will work in most applications, and costs less than \$5. Cheap insurance that allows you to be heard when you need it.

If your radios have other types of jacks and plugs, there are numerous other adapters available. If you cannot find the correct one, you could make up a short RD-58 cable with the appropriate connectors on each end.