

Flotilla 87 Meeting Minutes March 2018

Unit: 113-08-07, Mendocino County

Date: 10 Mar 2018

Meeting Start: 1030 @ Station Noyo River

Attendees:

Bob Gerbi	Madeleine Brink	Bruce Piercy
Steve Nilson	Ken Reynoldson	Harold Hauck
Kath Disney Nilson	Lorraine Cheney	Scott Smith, guest
Anne Eaton Kemp	Helen Mackenzie Morris	BM1 Augusta Lowry

Division Attendees: None

Station Liaison: BM1 Augusta Lowry

AP Status: Helen Mackenzie Morris (?), Bruce Piercy (?), John Fischer

Guests: Scott Smith, recently moved to Fort Bragg, interested in joining the auxiliary.

Quorum was met.

Minutes for Feb 2018 were approved. Lorraine moved; Bob seconded;

Station Liaison Report:

- All 3 boats are in the process of going to the yard; one yard is in Oregon and the other in San Francisco.
- The station upgrade to Windows 10 has taken some time due to insufficient data lines. Rescue 21 has been a problem, so they sometimes rely on sector for that. AT&T should be running new fiber optic cable this summer. Note Ken can monitor channel 16 north of Pt Arena when R21 is down.
- Transfer season is coming up: BM1 Quinn is going to the Eagle in Boston; BM2 Shannon is going to San Diego.
- The crew is looking forward to the upcoming morale luncheon.
- Seaman Hansen enjoyed helping at the recent Pt Cabrillo lens tours. Other crewmen may help out in the future.
- Steve will send Joe the flotilla schedule for the year.
- Mendo Water Days, interagency SAR exercises, will occur 19 MAY at Mendocino Bay; Harold might take pictures. It will be a one-day exercise on a Saturday with a community barbecue afterward. It's a good chance for the crew to meet with locals. The auxiliary is welcome to participate.

Flotilla Commander Report

- All members should have received email re auxiliary wear for formal occasions. This could be a problem for us because tropical blue is the fanciest uniform we normally wear. Note proper wear of the uniform is important. Civilian clothes are often acceptable.
- Helen and Bruce may be BQ. The received letters are unclear regarding whether they have passed their PSI. New IDs are pending computer problems with the Windows 10 conversion at DIRAUX.

Vice Flotilla Commander Report: Summary staff reports were sent out in email

Other Staff Reports: None

Commendations, Awards and Member Recognition

Bob Gerbi was recognized for 10 years of membership.

History

Steve reviewed the history of Pt Cabrillo lens tours.

- In 1999 the auxiliary formed to take care of the light. PCLK (the Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association) came into existence in 2002. Lens tours began about 15 years ago. They were done by 2 flotilla members, one in front of the visitors and one behind. A tour took about 35-60 minutes at a cost up to \$20 per person. Later we changed to \$5 per person, a flotilla member on each floor.

Many more people, including families, could now take the tour, and the money received is also greater. Using only flotilla members was difficult, so a few years ago tour leaders were extended to include PCLK docents. In the beginning, the flotilla was poor and held yard sales, raffles, good of the order drawings, to raise money. Back then, half the money from lens tours went to the flotilla and half to Pt Cabrillo. Lens tours and selling a boat, the Puffin, gave the flotilla a better endowment. [8-8 in Clear Lake still has a raffle or silent auction.] Proceeds were then split per uniform (to the flotilla) and non-uniform (to PCLK). In recent years, the flotilla has returned 100% of its lens tour income to Pt Cabrillo. That may change, as flotilla finances require. The amount returned is voted by the flotilla each year.

- Bob Gerbi, Ken Reynoldson, Mike Petherick, and Bruce Rogerson had boats which were 8-7 facilities. The USCG could tow our facilities for training, but we could not tow their 47s.
- The Puffin was a donation from the Army Corps of Engineers, perhaps from Lake Mendocino. It was a 26 foot facility, an aluminum boat on a trailer. It was stored at Pt Cabrillo, then at Steve and Kath's house on Blair St in Mendocino, finally at Dolphin Isle. The boat had little weight in the stern other than its engines. The Coast Guard decertified the boat, for safety. The boat eventually sold for ~\$3500-\$4000.

Other New and Continuing Business

- This Wednesday is the Morale Luncheon. Helen reports preparations are complete. Entrees include 8 corned beef and 2 roasted chickens. 11:15 setup and 12:00 serving time.
- Harold suggested that the lens tour crib sheet should be changed so a lens tour includes a description of the auxiliary, the modern-day lightkeepers.
- Four physically and mentally disabled people were on the recent lens tour with a single chaperone; they had great difficulty descending the stairs. The single chaperone was confident they were doing fine, but that view was questioned by members. The visitors needed manual guidance from our docents to find the stairs with their feet. Several members voiced concern that it was a dangerous situation; a visitor also was concerned. The potential danger was discussed. It was felt that PCLK should consult a lawyer about limiting access in a case like this, because of ADA concerns.
- PE: Madeleine asked about an early May to June ABS class. Suggestions for her were to plan the class with instructors and a location well ahead of time. Check with 8-8 regarding a Ukiah class. Then submit the USCG Intent to Teach form; put posters in marine dealers; notify the radio stations, newspapers; send to BM1 Quinn for the station's Facebook page. Harold noted it would be valuable to have another member as an instructor. For the ABS class, the instructor should have good boating knowledge.
- Kath: In 1959-1960 Vern Gillespie was a USCG lightkeeper. He lived with his wife Pat in the East House; they had their first child here. Vern is planning a celebration of Pat's life at the station. They would like to see a USCG presence, auxiliary or not, for a ceremony, perhaps a Crossing of the Bar ceremony. It will be around 29 APR. Vern has reserved all four vacation rentals. A USCG color guard is a possibility. Ken suggested Kath check with Ulysses Lopez at Veterans Hall, on Monday and Wednesday 8-5 for ideas. Let Kath know if you may be interested in attending.
- Steve will be getting his shoulder fixed on 21 MAR. He may delay the quarterly major lens cleaning by a week. He has made a checklist. Lorraine noted someone with Steve's normal strength may be helpful at that time.

Good of Order/Fellowship: After-meeting lunch at David's.

Meeting adjourned: 1205 hours.

Important Future Dates:

- **21APR 2018 10:30 Flotilla 87 Monthly Meeting @ Station Noyo River**
- 14 MAR St. Patrick's Day Morale Luncheon at Station Noyo River, 11:15 setup, 12:00 serve
- 17-18 MAR 2018 Whale Festival at Pt Cabrillo
- 23-25 MAR 2018 D-Train in Reno

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Frey, FSO-SR, 113-08-07