

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS - ARE YOU EQUIPPED?

December 2012

Communications systems aboard your vessel are the key to your survival if things go wrong out at sea. I'm not just talking about an installed marine VHF radio system here, I'm talking about all the other ways of communicating to anybody that you need help.

Take for instance if you have an electrical fire on board or a large wave capsizes your vessel, the marine radio is probably not going to work for you now, how are you going to let someone know that you need help and you need it rather urgently?

I would imagine as you are leaning out the back of boat trying to get away from the smoke or you are floating around amongst the debris, you may think of trying to use your cell phone, this maybe challenging if it wasn't sealed in a plastic bag prior to the accident, as well as the issue of whether it would actually pick up a cell tower from your fishing or sailing area to activate your call to 111.

By now you are probably looking for your 3rd communication option, flares, at least they are sealed in a floating container. Hopefully you have a life jacket on and you don't need the flare

bucket as a buoyancy aid, however that's another story. Unscrewing the container to take a flare out to fire, do you really know how to activate it? Trying to read the instructions bobbing around in the water or worse (remember it was a fairly large wave that capsized you in the first place and if you had a fire on board you are probably in the water by now as well). You also may be in this predicament at dusk or night – are you that familiar enough with it that you can you fire off a flare by feel alone?

You may have foreseen these circumstances and invested in your 4th communication option, an EPIRB.

Of course if it is a manually operated model you will need to swim around and find it, to turn on the switch. If you have done this or it has automatically activated then rescue services will be with you in a very short period of time – we will know you are in trouble and where you are.

If you haven't got an EPIRB your last remaining hopes of communicating that you are in trouble and need help, is before you leave home, tell your family or friends where you are going and what time you intend to be back,



also, you should always radio in to Coastguard (VHF channel 82) your trip report as you are leaving port. You may have to wait a long time in the water for this option to work especially if your accident happened at the start of your boating day....

Think about it, communications can save your life; make sure you have enough communication systems on board and you know how to use them.

On behalf of Coastguard may I wish you all a happy Christmas and safe boating holiday season.

Dick Hilton
President Coastguard Hawke's Bay

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT COASTGUARD HAWKE'S BAY

If anyone noticed our rescue vessel (CK Rescue) doing many trips out of the Napier Inner Harbour on Sunday 9th December, then you are quite correct. It was our Xmas function and a chance to thank our skippers, boat crew, radio operators, committee and associated families for the dedication of our volunteers time in operating what we believe, is now a professional and sincerely dedicated "Saving Lives at Sea" service to the community of Hawke's Bay.

It was also a chance for the young children of our families to have the experience for a ride on "CK Rescue". The young ones are our future, they will be the ones to continue this most important role, they will never forget the experience.

Can you believe it, our President Dick Hilton (*he's the one on the bottom right of the picture giving a wave*), this is the first time he has had a trip on "CK Rescue" since the boat was launched over 3



years ago? Dick has been instrumental in the fund raising, construction and ongoing support for our \$1 million dollar vessel. Dick loves the sea, he is a dedicated volunteer, on the Coastguard New Zealand Board, loves his fishing and more importantly, leads one of the most dynamic Units of the 69 Units in New Zealand.

On behalf of Coastguard Hawke's Bay may I wish everyone a safe boating

Xmas and festive season, the chance to enjoy and appreciate the benefits of the open ocean at our doorsteps, to relax and spend time with family and friends. Please treat the sea with respect – conditions can – and will – change rapidly.

Best wishes and we hope Santa treats you all well.

P Boshier
Treasurer / Editor



From The Shed...

OPERATIONS REPORT

Although our Winter months proven to be quiet on the call out front, they did provide us with a number of training opportunities as well as showing just how wide a range of services we provide to the people in the Hawke Bay. Celia Knowles Rescue (CK) was on the water 50 times from 1 July and we ran her for 85 hours.

Late July provided one of those 'just in the nick of time' rescues. A couple of men had taken out a boat they had recently purchased for a fish when on the way home they broke down off Marine Parade. With a strong Easterly wind they were rapidly drifting towards the beach. We finally got a line onto her when they were literally 1 wave off the beach. They were then towed to safety. All over and done in just over an hour.

Then in late October we had a job almost 12 nautical miles off shore after a boat broke down near the Gwen B. This particular job took 3 hours.

In between those two extremes were a couple of tows, one involving a boat which had lost their prop and the other was a small boat which had broken down off the Port.

Then there were a few very small jobs in the Inner Harbour as we moved boats to and from the travel lift.

In addition in early September CK was used to help the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Team contain a diesel spill in the Inner Harbour. CK was used to tow the oil booms from the Port and then put them into place so that the diesel was contained.

In mid October we were involved in a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) off Waipatiki. The exercise involved the



Low Rescure Helicopter, two inflatable's from Surf, a fixed wing aircraft crewed by our Coastguard Air Patrol as well as CK Rescue. In addition we had a big team, which also involved the Police, in our Operations Room managing the whole search. Having a SAREX is all about learning how to work together in a realistic way so that when it is for 'real' we understand the capabilities of the other agencies so that we can operate as truly operate as 'One Team'.

And finally, in literally the last few weeks we have been exercising with the Low Rescure Helicopter. This has involved the helicopter coming in and practising winching to and from CK's deck as well as recovering people from the water. When it has finished we plan to upload some video to our website www.hawkesbaycoastguard.co.nz log in some time and see what Coastguard is all about.

Henry Van Tuel
Operations and Vice President

THE SECRET LIVES OF RADIO OPERATORS

You may think that all radio operators look like this! Geeky, nerdy. Whatever adjective suits best.



However, I beg to differ. We have several permanent, volunteer radio operators in Coastguard Hawke's Bay. We provide a communication service for boaties out in the Bay and provide communications for our Rescue Vessel whenever the vessel is involved in a search and rescue incident. Our role is vital to ensure the smooth running of communications in all situations.

Now. In our group of volunteers we have a page 2 (sorry calendar) girl, who is on personal terms with Royalty. One operator is on personal terms with the Mongrel Mob in Wairoa and he used to run the hotel where they had their headquarters. We have an ex chicken farmer (who raised baby chicks, sometimes thousands at a time), a computer software designer and someone who did flight planning for remotely controlled aircraft. And others have done all the normal events like riding a motorbike around the Isle of Man on Mad Sunday, going west to east on the Ruahine Ranges, run a garage, done a triathlon, been in the Navy and someone in musicals, involved in finance and in the law (not the same person!!)

As a group of people there is a lot of variation so if you would like to bring your varied skills to us please contact me, Juliet 021 258 8015 for further information.

Have a great Christmas and New Year and safe boating.

Juliet Clarke
Senior Radio Operator

RAIN NO DAMPENER FOR ROYAL VISIT AT COASTGUARD

Drizzling rain and cloudy skies were no deterrent to His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, who arrived by boat at Coastguard Northern Region's Headquarters today as part of his royal visit to mark The Queen of New Zealand's Diamond Jubilee.

A last-minute vessel switch due to a rogue Auckland downpour meant that Prince Charles travelled aboard Howick Rescue One, a HamiltonJet boat skippered by Coastguard volunteers and not Coastguard Rescue Vessel Hibiscus Rescue 2 - a Sealegs amphibious powerboat - as originally planned.

Prince Charles travelled from Devonport across the harbour to the Auckland Marine Rescue Centre at Mechanics Bay, the hub of Coastguard Northern Region's Communication Centre.

Patrick Holmes, Chief Executive of Coastguard New Zealand, says: "As the long-standing Patron of Coastguard New Zealand- the charity saving lives at sea - Prince Charles was keen to include a visit to our headquarters during his tour of New Zealand.

"We were all delighted to have the chance to meet our Patron - today has been a very proud day for Coastguard New Zealand and without our network of committed, dedicated and passionate volunteers, Coastguard could not exist," says Patrick.

A total of 17 Coastguard volunteers from all over New Zealand were selected to meet Prince Charles and be recognised for the tireless role they play in helping keep Kiwis safe at sea.

Coastguard relies on the dedicated commitment of the network of over 2,400



Erin Lawrence, Coastguard Hawke's Bay Committee member and Training Officer chats with Coastguard New Zealand Patron HRH the Prince of Wales in Auckland recently.

trained volunteers who offer 350,000 hours of time every year, which equates to a value of \$10 million annually.

It is the primary provider of maritime search and rescue services to boaties in New Zealand and is a charity that relies on the generosity and donations of New Zealanders.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HARBOURMASTER

HAWKE'S BAY NAVIGATION SAFETY BYLAWS

The Navigation Safety Bylaws have been in force since 15 January 2012 and every opportunity has been taken through personal contact and the media to raise awareness of the requirements in the bylaws, particularly in regard to wearing lifejackets. Council's contract with Coastguard for education has been extended for a further 12 months, and the emphasis is to be on educating the Maori and Polynesian community, in addition to the usual education programme undertaken by Coastguard.

With increased monitoring this year every effort is being made to ensure that Council staff are not in the same location as Coastguard while CG is educating; should a clash eventuate Council staff will leave the area.



MEDIA CAMPAIGN

This summer will see more spent on advertising in support of navigation safety than ever before. In addition to the media releases that have been drip fed throughout the winter, a more concentrated campaign began with the publication of Council's newsletter "Our Place" in November. The inclusion of articles on waka ama, a centre spread primarily focused on lifejackets and a colouring competition, have got the campaign off to a positive start. Firmans Marine has sponsored the children's lifejackets to be given as prizes in the colouring competition and the entries are to be judged this month with prizes awarded before Christmas. A follow up photograph competition is planned for January when the best photographs of families wearing lifejackets in their boat will again receive prizes of children's lifejackets. Firmans Marine has sponsored these prizes also and their contribution and support is greatly appreciated.



NAVIGATION AIDS AND SIGNAGE

Signage at launching areas from Mahia to Porangahau has been updated with the signs now including reference to the requirement to wear lifejackets on all craft 6 metres in length and under and on all paddlecraft.

You have probably seen the new sign on Pandora Bridge; it is fairly difficult to miss. Pleading ignorance is now going to be increasingly difficult if someone is caught on the pond with a powered craft.

The leads at Pourerere were washed out in last year's floods and have been replaced with poles that will hopefully withstand similar conditions should they reoccur. Negative feedback on the poles led to the installation of highly reflective triangles being added to the poles and feedback has since been positive.

The intensity of the Inner Harbour sector light was increased as a result of feedback from the consultation process for the bylaws review. All comments have so far been favourable with the light now better seen against the backdrop lighting.

I am presently investigating the feasibility of placing a light on the 5 knot speed buoy at the entrance to the Inner Harbour and a decision will be made in the next few weeks.

MARITIME RULE PART 90- PILOTAGE

Commercial and recreational vessels encroaching into the fairway during pilotage movements continues to be a problem. I can only repeat the same message as last year and emphasise the disastrous effect upon the Bay's economy should the port close for any reason and the possible environmental effects of a shipping accident. This is clearly one part of education that is not being taken on board.

We again look forward to working closely with you throughout the coming season. On behalf of Martin, David and myself I wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe boating new year.

Captain Phil Norman
Regional Harbourmaster
Hawke's Bay Regional Council



VISIT TO COASTGUARD AIR PATROL

On December 5 instead of boat clean and boring fish and chips we meandered over to CAP in Bridge Pa to see what they get up to. The ladies were chauffeured in a Jag and the guys just drove. Even though we were a bit late (*and got told off for it*), we were all taken for a ride (*in the air that is*) by the flyboys.



We experienced low level flying over a river bed, circling over a target, steep banks and turns and learnt firsthand about the role of a spotter. Then the co-pilots took over (*scary!*) and flew us back to the airstrip.



We did look at the interesting parts of CAP as well once we had come down to earth. The incredibly restricting orange suits they have to wear, and how they plan and execute their searches.



The evening concluded with a barbecue.

Thanks very much to all the CAP personnel who made us so welcome and gave us such a neat experience.

Juliet Clarke
Senior Radio Operator

ANNUAL COASTGUARD SUMMER LOTTERY

The annual Coastguard Summer Lottery commenced 19th November 2012. This is "our" chance to promote Coastguard in the public arena and increase the profile of a dedicated volunteer "Saving Lives at Sea" service to the public of New Zealand and more importantly, the community and public of Hawke's Bay.

We have 1000 tickets to sell, we receive \$7.00 of every \$10.00 ticket sale, thereby benefiting Coastguard Hawke's Bay \$7000.00 in ticket sales to assist with funds to operate the local volunteer

unit. If you see us on the street, please support us. We enjoy getting out and meeting the public and appreciate all the support.

The Lottery closes on the 8th February 2013, drawn 15th February and results published on the Coastguard NZ website and major newspapers on the 21st February 2013.

We have one of the prize boats here at the moment and the above photo shows the volunteers outside Pak N Save Napier on Tuesday 11th Dec.



If anyone would like to purchase tickets, please contact Peter Boshier – Mobile 0274 427 805 or email boshp@extra.co.nz.

Alternatively, please phone the Coastguard Napier office – 834 1345.

AROUND THE REGION

These are exciting times for Coastguard. Patrick Holmes has been at the helm of Coastguard NZ for nine months now. He and the National Board have started to plot the next leg of Coastguard's journey. Over the next 12 months Units will likely be asked to consider a number of issues ranging from nationwide membership to national web portals.

In the Eastern Region, Peter Healy (see June 2012 edition) is already making a significant contribution in his new role. Peter is focused on assisting Units with their operational capability studies. He is also working closely with Unit Training Officers (UTOs) to ensure that each Unit has a comprehensive training plan for all its volunteers. "Well trained volunteers and a Unit with

good operating procedures is what the Coastguard reputation is all about" says Peter.

The world economic climate continues to make all charities rethink the way they do things. Change is not optional. Coastguard is grateful that its community funders continue to support important capital projects. In the coming months Waihi Beach, Maketu, and Turangi Coastguard Units will all be launching new Coastguard Rescue Vessels (CRVs). These vessels would not have been possible without considerable community support.

Funding for operational expenses is becoming harder to find but not impossible. The Eastern Region is working with Units to build their planning and financial management

capability. Good planning at all levels is increasingly important. Succession planning is particularly important as many volunteers retire or move on to non-operational roles. "Many Coastguard Units rely on one or two key individuals for a range of planning, management and fund-raising skills" says Graeme Hull, Regional Manager for the Eastern Region. Units are starting to look at what skills they need and where they will come from in the future.

For more information about what is happening in Coastguard Units around the Eastern Region visit <http://www.facebook.com/CoastguardEast>

Graeme Hull
Regional Manager, CER

ONCE AGAIN... THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for their continued support.



- **The Southern Trust** for funding support to assist with the graphics/design, printing and postage of our newsletters.
- **The Lion Foundation** for diesel fuel for our Search & Rescue (SAR) boat - CK Rescue.
- **Eastern and Central Community Trust** for administration and operational costs.
- **Napier City Council** community services grant.
- **Napier City Council** community services property grant.



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