



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Quarters Boat Taggatz christened

Photo by Sonya Goines



Photo by Sonya Goines

Maureen Taggatz, right, widow of the late Harold Taggatz, christens the Quarters Boat Taggatz, May 15, in St. Paul, Minn. At left is Robert Gross, captain and master of the dredge fleet.

**Command Corner
By Col. Jon Christensen
St. Paul District Commander**



Team,

The end of the fiscal year is fast approaching, and what a year it has been. You responded wonderfully to the many challenges set before you. Together, we have conquered the floods along the Red River, laid the foundation for success in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA projects, and overcame obstacles on the high visibility projects such as Devils Lake, Lock and Dam 3, St. Bernard Parish (New Orleans) and the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Study.

These projects, along with our normal workload, will continue to provide opportunities to excel in the next fiscal year. On top of this, we will face the additional challenges presented by the district move and changing organizational structure as we move farther along the path towards regional interdependence. As hard as it is to imagine, the next fiscal year may prove to be even more exciting than the last.

We must continue to deliver on the schedules we set for ourselves, while finding ways to do things better, faster, greener and with more transparency and collaboration. Our journey down the road to enhanced regional interdependence will help us accomplish these goals.

As a result of the July Command Council decisions, we embarked on a path to regionalize our division's contracting, planning and real estate functions. The first step was to assign district responsibilities for these functions under the "POD" concept. After much discussion and debate, St. Paul became the responsible district for planning for the upper three districts, and we have begun to formulate plans on how to implement these new duties.

A similar process assigned real estate to Rock Island District and contracting to St. Louis District. The next round of Command Council decisions in October will approve the detailed path forward for these PODs and also explore possible regional interdependence methodologies for the engineering and construction community. We expect these regional changes will have profound impacts on how we do business and will enable us to:

- 1) Improve Mississippi Valley Division's flexibility and adaptability to deliver large and complex projects with short deadlines;
- 2) Increase regional responsibility and accountability while decreasing the amount of stress placed on one district;
- 3) Build and enhance technical capability;
- 4) Maintain a keen focus on customer and stakeholder relationships;
- 5) Better leverage the resources of the entire region to deliver projects;
- 6) Promote a regional perspective on watershed issues;
- 7) Provide greater developmental opportunities; and
- 8) Achieve greater consistency in project delivery throughout MVD.

Together, we can make these goals a reality. Please approach these changes with an open mind and provide the leadership with your ideas on how to best set up these new structures.

As always, thanks for all you do.



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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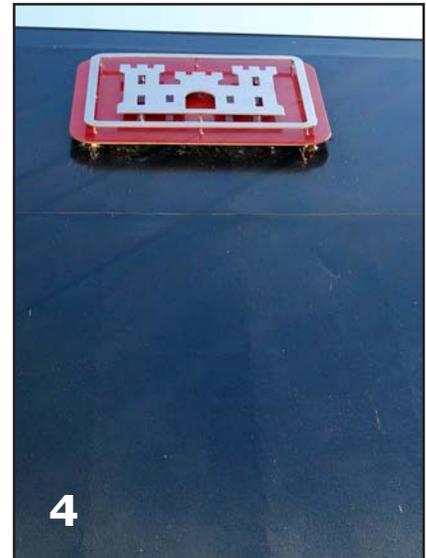
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By Sonya Goines



Corps christens new quarters boat, holds open house aboard dredge fleet

By Sonya Goines, Jacksonville District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, christened the Quarters Boat Taggatz as the newest addition to its dredge fleet May 15. The christening took place aboard the Taggatz, docked at Harriet Island Regional Park in St. Paul, Minn. The christening was followed by an open house aboard the three vessels in the fleet – the Taggatz, the Dredge Goetz and the Motor Vessel General Warren.

The fleet is used to maintain the nine-foot navigation channel on the Upper Mississippi River.

The Taggatz, named for the late Harold E. Taggatz, a former Corps' employee, completes the district's dredging fleet. The fleet replaces the Dredge William A. Thompson, which dredged the waters of the Mississippi River for 70 years.

Public tours continued on May 16, when the fleet moved to Lambert's Landing for an all-day open house. More than 400 people boarded the three vessels to hear firsthand from the men and women who work on the dredge. The fleet then headed downriver to begin a two-week dredging project near the St. Paul airport.

This was a rare appearance for the three vessels in the Twin Cities and the first opportunity for the public to see the new 160-foot quarters boat. The fleet is based out of Fountain City, Wis.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers castle logo on the smokestacks of the Dredge Goetz (above logo) and Quarters Boat Taggatz are similar.

Photo by Peter Verstegen



The Quarters Boat Taggatz Christening



Photo by Sonya Goines

Above is the Quarters Boat Taggatz, docked for the christening at Harriet Island Regional Park in St. Paul, Minn. , May 15, 2009.



Photos by Peter Verstegen



St. Paul District Commander Col. Jon Christensen (left photo) and Ben Wopat, retired assistant chief of construction-operations division, paid tribute to Harold Taggatz in remarks during the ceremony.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Left to right: Brian Krause, boat operator and second mate; Chris Hill, marine equipment operator; Bruce McFarlin, deckhand; Jacob Bernhardt, chief engineer; and Robert Gross, captain and master of the dredge fleet, after the christening of the Quarters Boat Taggatz.



Photo by Sonya Goines

Michael Seibel, leverman, hosted visitors and answered questions about the dredge fleet after the christening.

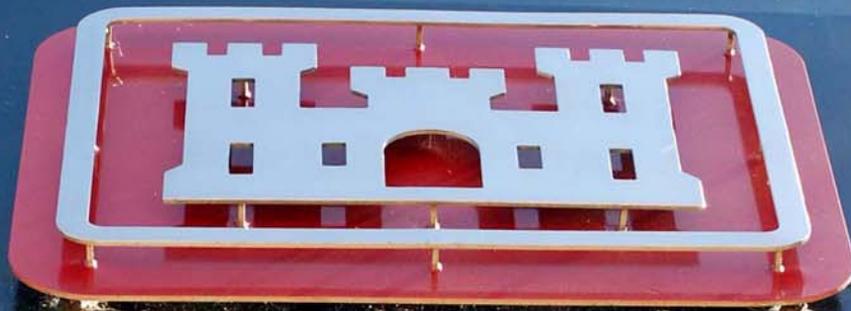


The dredge fleet open house



Photo by Peter Verstegen

The Motor Vessel General Warren (left), the Quarters Boat Taggatz(center), the Dredge Goetz and support vessels docked together for an open house in St. Paul, Minn., May 16. This fleet is based out of the district's service base in Fountain City, Wis., and used to maintain 850 miles of the Upper Mississippi River and its navigable tributaries in the basin, including the Illinois River and other rivers throughout the Midwest and southern portions of the nation. This fleet replaced the district's former dredging vessel, the self-propelled Dredge William A. Thompson and its sleeping quarters. The Taggatz is part of the Corps' minimum fleet of 12 dredges used for self-defense and emergency dredging work. It is the only cutter-head dredge operation within the minimum fleet. There are also three dustpan dredges in the Corps' fleet, all within the Mississippi Valley Division with the remainder of the fleet consisting of ocean-going dredges on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts.



Photos by Peter Versteegen

Angel Stellmach (above, second to right), deckhand and tender-operator-in-training, answers questions during the open house in St. Paul, May 16. Jack Grossell (photo at left), a retired deckhand and service base foreman from the district's Fountain City, Wis., Service Base, attended.



Photo by Sonya Goines

Dan Hentges, second mate with the dredge fleet, staffed the Environmental Management Program display and answered general questions about the district's navigation mission during the christening and open house.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Nancy Peck, cook-steward, and Phyllis Hedberg, food service worker, aboard the galley on the Quarters Boat Tagatz. Hedberg now works as a deckhand aboard the Dredge Goetz.



Jake Bernhardt, chief engineer; Bill Heublein, engineer equipment operator; and Sam Banicki, deckhand, wrap up the open house in St. Paul and prepare for the next dredging job on the Mississippi River near St. Paul.

Photo by Peter Verstegen

St. Paul District Civil Servants of the Year 2009

By Shannon Bauer

The St. Paul District presents the Civil Servant of the Year Award annually to the top three of its 625 employees for the year. The district and the Federal Executive Board of Minnesota honored Chris Afdahl, Kathy Halverson and Mark Koenig and award recipients from other federal agencies throughout Minnesota at the 32nd Annual Minnesota Federal Civil Servant of the Year Awards in Bloomington, Minn., May 8.

Chris Afdahl

Afdahl has worked for the Corps of Engineers for more than 24 years. She is a senior level civil/site engineer, as well as the district's computer-assisted design systems manager.

Kathy Halverson

Halverson has worked for the Corps of Engineers for more than 17 years and is an office administrator at the district's field office in Fargo, N.D.

Mark Koenig

Koenig has worked for the Corps of Engineers for more than 30 years. He is the district's chief of construction activities quality assurance program.

See profiles for Afdahl, Halverson and Koenig on pages 11-12.

Civil Servant of the Year

Chris Afdahl



Position Title: Civil Engineer

Duties: Senior level civil/site engineer, as well as CAD systems manager in design branch. This consists of laying out the features of a project and compiling the drawing package together for construction. I also consult and provide technical advice to peers. As the CAD systems manager, I assist the users with the design software as well lead the region in CAD matters.

Total Years with St. Paul District/Corps of Engineers: 24

Total Years with federal government: 24

Previous Positions/Employment: I started working with Corps in the drafting department a few weeks after I graduated high school. After graduating, I was hired on the training program, where I completed a 12-month rotation. General engineering (now civil section) became my home. I did a six-month detail in hydraulics in 1994.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Hobbies: My hobbies include spending time with my family and friends, golfing, drinking wines, bowling, exercising, reading and playing cards.

Residence: Elmwood, Wis.

Family: husband of 12 years, three children (22, 17, 10) and one granddaughter (1).

Comments: "I enjoy working with the Corps with the different opportunities that I have received and the different people that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with. I am honored to be nominated and selected as Civil Servant of the Year under Leadership and Professional."

Civil Servant of the Year

Kathy Halverson



Position Title: Secretary/
Office Administrator

Duties: Office
Administration

**Total Years with St. Paul District/Corps of
Engineers:** 17 years

Total Years with federal government: 17 years

Previous Positions/Employment: Mom, surgical
technician, owner/operator of daycare center

Education: Two years of college

Hobbies: Traveling with my daughter and visiting
my son and his family in California

Residence: West Fargo, N.D.

Family: My son and his family reside in California
and my daughter teaches in West Fargo, N.D.

Comments: "I was truly surprised with receiving
this award and honored. It has been a learning
experience from the day I started, and I owe this
achievement to the great people I work with
everyday."

Civil Servant of the Year

Mark Koenig



Position Title: Chief,
Quality Assurance

Duties: Responsible for
oversight of the quality
assurance program for construction activities within
the St. Paul District. Part-time assistance to the safety
office in administration of the district's safety program.
Additional concurrent emergency management
responsibilities include: flood engineer (Little Falls,
Minn., to Prescott, Wis.), housing planning and
recovery team subject matter expert and resident
engineer for contingency operations - Forward
Engineering Support Team Maintain, or FEST M.

**Total Years with St. Paul District/Corps of
Engineers:** 30

Total Years with federal government: 30.5

Previous Positions/Employment: U.S. Army -
2nd Lt.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Hobbies: Running, all sports and coaching youth
athletics

Residence: St. Paul, Minn.

Family: Married 33 years and 5 children

Comments: "The civilian sector of the Army Corps
of Engineers plays a vital role in support to our nation
and to our men and women in uniform. I am thankful
to have had the opportunity to work alongside our
troops, as well as being a part of all the history that has
been forged during my tenure with the St. Paul
District."

Debris teams move in to clean up from record Red River flooding

Effort removes more than 70 miles of emergency levees and 12 million sandbags throughout the valley

By Shannon Bauer

What goes up must eventually come down.

At least according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After the district spent more than a month-and-a-half last spring building emergency levees and providing millions of sandbags in the Red River of the North river valley, the Corps was tasked by FEMA to remove the temporary flood protection materials placed during the flood fight. The district, as well as the division, has not had a similar mission since after the 1997 floods in the same river basin.

The division's debris team, the Vicksburg District Debris Planning and Response Team, led the cleanup mission and was supported by the St. Paul District, although several individuals from around the Corps also deployed to assist in the cleanup.

This particular effort involved removing more than 70 miles of emergency levees and 12 million sandbags throughout the valley. What was complicated about it is it involved two FEMA regions (V and VIII), two states and numerous individual cities and counties, as well as the awarding



Photo by Shannon Bauer

From the left: Ed Claypool, Vicksburg District; Bill Venneman, St. Paul District; Stephanie Dupey, St. Paul District; and Eddie Milton, Vicksburg District, all real estate specialists, look over maps of Fargo, N.D., to determine where rights-of-entry need to be obtained in FEMA's Fargo Area Field Office, April 29.

of 18 different debris removal contracts and the collection of hundreds of right-of-entry forms.

What took only a few weeks to put in place ended up taking around two months to remove – mainly because under emergency conditions, the Corps did not need to obtain the permission, or right-of-entry, of each of the individual landowners to work on his or her property during the flood fight as it did during the cleanup. Additionally, it did not need to follow the same environmental and cultural regulations during the placement as it did when removing the materials.

Further, mid-June, as the work was close to completion and members of the team were departing the area, FEMA extended the deadline until August for communities to apply for debris removal assistance. As such, three more communities, to include Valley City, N.D., requested assistance. Another debris team from outside the division, the Mobile District Debris PRT, was called in for this mission.

Three more contracts have been awarded and cleanup in the basin continues to this day. All work should be completed by the end of October, with Valley City being the final community.

News and Notes

Army honors Koopmeiners

The Department of the Army awarded U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' St. Paul District employee Tom Koopmeiners its Small Business Programs Manager of the Year award in Las Vegas at the fifth annual National Veteran Small Business Conference and Expo Awards Luncheon, July 21-23.

Koopmeiners was selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Small Business Programs Manager of the Year last December. As recipient of the Corps' award, Koopmeiners competed against other award-winning small business program managers throughout the major commands of the Army to be selected as the Department of the Army recipient.

Koopmeiners has been the St. Paul District's small business program manager since 2002 and a Corps' employee since 1998, when he started as a contracting officer. As the small business program manager, Koopmeiners assists small businesses in obtaining government contracts.

Koopmeiners received this award for his expert management of the district's small business program. Through his leadership, the district exceeded its small business goals for two years in a row, as well as ranked third in the nation, Corps-wide for overall success.

Newcomers

Matthew Anderson, natural resources student, Pokegama

Adam Arnoldy, natural resources student, Blackhawk

Whitney Austfjord, natural resources student, Lake Ashtabula

Bob Ayotte, program management

Francis Beauchamp-Perez, project management

Sean Berens, natural resources student, Cross Lake

Karl Berg, engineering intern

Garrett Blomstrand, engineering student

Kevin Bokay, librarian

Travis Brantner, Lock and Dam 4

John Bostrack, physical support, Fountain City

Nathan Campbell, environmental

Wade Carr, Lock and Dam 2

Kevin Casserly, real estate

Miguel Cedeno-Morales, engineering intern

Maura Conlin, natural resources student, Eau Galle

Jeff Cook, natural resources student, Cross Lake

Todd DeCosse, Lock and Dam 2

Ellen Engberg, engineering

Jacob Fall, engineering intern

Larry Fisher, Lock and Dam 3

Gloria Franke, natural resources student, Eau Galle

William Grinde, Lock and Dam 7

Steve Grote, Lock and Dam 1

Jeff Hallam, Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam

Abby Hansen, civilian personnel

Michael Hanks, Lock and Dam 4

Sarah Johnson, natural resources student, La Crescent

Elizabeth Killian, engineering

Chanel Kass, engineering

Bradley LaBadie, natural resources student, Eau Galle

Greg Larson, regulatory

Carolyn Ann Latour, project management

Long (Alex) Le, engineering student

Bryanna Linscheid, environmental

Sam Mathiowetz, Lock and Dam 1

Shaun McClary, real estate

Matthew McDonough, Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam

Regina McKonly, regulatory

Josh Mitchell, Lock and Dam 2

Kyle Moore, Dredge Goetz

Gary Morin, natural resources student, Sandy Lake

Guy Munson, Lock and Dam 1

Alexander Nelson, engineering
Peggy Noplos, Upper St.

Lt. Col. Brown becomes deputy commander

Lt. Col. Kevin Brown joined the St Paul District on May 15, 2009, as the district's deputy commander and deputy district engineer. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

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News and Notes, from Page 14

Anthony Falls Lock and Dam
Mark Odegard,
 Lock and Dam 1
Kelsey Olson, natural
 resources student, Cross Lake
Marcus Patterson, operations
Cheryl Paulson, resource
 management
Rodney Peterson, real estate
Nickolaus Phillips, natural
 resources, Gull Lake
Richard Polta, Upper St.
 Anthony Falls Lock and Dam
David Potter, environmental
Lawrence Puchalski,
 environmental
Apryl Radel, Blackhawk Park
Benjamin Reeser, Lock and
 Dam 3
Ben Reile, natural resources
 student, Lake Ashtabula
Damien Reinhart,
 environmental student
Audrey Rich, operations
Damon Roberts, office of
 council
Megan Roberts, natural
 resources student, Sandy Lake
David Saddoris, project
 management
Zachary Santjer, natural
 resources, Lac Qui Parle
Greta Schmalle, engineering
 student
Luke Schmidt, engineering
 intern
Thomas Schmit, engineering
Keith Schindler, Lock and
 Dam 7
Joe Schroetter, project
 management
Michael Setering, regulatory
Bruce Sherwood, Lock and
 Dam 3
Jerome Stussy, Lock and Dam 9
Brandon Svejda, Lock and
 Dam 9
Eduardo Torrens-Bonano,

engineering intern
Todd Vandegrift, engineering
 student
Aaron Wallace, natural
 resources student, La Crescent,
 Minn.
John (Jack) Westman, project
 management student
Tom (Phil) White, security
Bobby Wunderlich, Dredge
 Goetz
Mike Wyatt, project
 management
Valerie Yarbrough, civilian
 personnel
Cheryl Yeschenko,
 engineering

Retirees

Rita Beaudry, Baldhill Dam,
 with more than 27 years federal
 service
John Berger, Jr., Lock and
 Dam 4, with more than 25 years
 federal service
Ralph Berger, construction,
 with more than 31 years federal
 service
Karen Cassidy, construction,
 with more than 34 years federal
 service
Tom Clay, Lock and Dam 7,
 with more than 31 years federal
 service
Greg Dasovic, engineering,
 with more than 37 years federal
 service
John Fisher, engineering, with
 more than 21 years federal service
Esther Gilbertson, Lake
 Traverse, with more than 21 years
 federal service
Carl Gray, engineering, with
 more than 23 years federal service
Linda Haberkorn,
 environmental, with more than 36
 years federal service
Brent Johnson, program
 management, with more than 38

years federal service
David Kriesel, physical
 support, with more than 37 years
 federal service
Tom Kupietz, physical support,
 with more than 19 years federal
 service
Fred Maule, Lock and Dam 4,
 with more than 37 years federal
 service
Regina Mckonly, regulatory,
 with more than 26 years federal
 service
Jeff Pfannes, safety, with more
 than 31 years federal service
Jan Pream, operations, with
 more than 39 years federal service
George Rodriguez, Lower St.
 Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, with
 more than 27 years federal service
Rob Roffler, physical support,
 with more than 32 years federal
 service
Jim Ryan, Lock and Dam 1,
 with more than 37 years federal
 service
Terry Schneider, Upper St.
 Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, with
 more than 24 years federal service
John Shyne, environmental,
 with more than 38 years federal
 service
Orville Taylor, physical
 support, with more than 30 years
 federal service
Keith Traynor, physical
 support, with more than 36 years
 federal service
Bill Vennemann, real estate,
 with more than 37 years federal
 service
Bob Whiting, regulatory, with
 more than 36 years federal service

Taps

Chris Beaman, former St. Paul
 District then Kansas City District
 safety, passed away May 22.

News and Notes, see page 16

News and Notes, from Page 15

Eugene Brummel, retired real estate, passed away Jan. 13.

Marsha Gilliland, retired contracting then construction, passed away July 12.

Kenneth Hovell, retired, Lock and Dam 5A, passed away Feb. 19.

Doug Hoy, retired design, passed away Jan. 13.

Burton Morris, retired Lock and Dam 7, passed away May 3.

Joseph Stoltman, retired Lock and Dam 5A, passed away March 2.

Weddings

Kurt Heckendorf, design, married Roshell Mills, in Wausau, Wis., Jan. 17.

Births

Jason Hauser, Leech Lake, celebrated the birth of a son, Colton John, Dec. 15, 2008.

Mark Nelson, real estate, celebrated the birth of a granddaughter, Genevieve Irene O'Sea, Dec. 13, 2008.

Announcements

Tamara Cameron, regulatory, was selected as the chief of regulatory Dec. 18.

Robert Gross, physical support, was selected as the captain of the Dredge Goetz fleet April 22.

Gordon Holman, Lock and Dam 4, was selected as lockmaster Dec. 15.

Tom Sully, project management, was selected as the district's executive assistant June 16.

St. Paul District employees donated a total of 1,288 pencils for Iraqi school children last fall as part of a Gulf Region Division's Marking History Campaign. For its efforts, the district received a certificate of appreciation.

Mead, Knutson rescue family at Lock and Dam 3

By Sonya Goines
Jacksonville District

A family of four that set out for a Saturday fishing trip at the end of the day became the catch-of-the-day for two trained and observant Corps of Engineers lock operators.

Lock Operator George Mead, by force of habit, was keeping a watchful eye on a small fishing boat, Saturday, May 2, as it maneuvered from bank to bank on the Mississippi River at Lock and Dam 3 near Red Wing, Minn. Mead noticed the boat had veered into the restricted area.

All dams have restricted areas as dams can create dangerous currents that pose special hazards to boaters. Restricted areas are marked with signs, buoys or lights to warn boaters of the dangers that exist as they get closer to a dam, but it is not uncommon to see boaters in the restricted areas.

Mead says Lock and Dam 3 is a fairly small dam, and boaters have little time to react when they're inside the restricted area. "In the spring, you have heavy flow of water from the winter snow melt. That, along with a fairly small dam, makes navigation more difficult."

When Mead sees a boater in the restricted area, he uses his trusty bull-horn to warn them. But on this day, the family was not heading his warning.

As Mead used his bull-horn to tell them to move upstream, the family began waving their life vests at him.

"A universal sign that there's trouble," said Mead.

Mead said he yelled to them to throw out their anchor but said he was pretty sure it was already out, and they were still sliding toward the dam.

It was then that Mead's training and years of experience took over.

"I yelled to Neal [Knutson] to come quick, we had a rescue to do."

Neal Knutson, lock operator, and Mead raced to the Corps' rescue boat and got it started.

Mead said the wind was blowing hard,*9 and they had a difficult time getting the boat unhooked from the hoist. In spite of the wind, he and Knutson were on their way to the family in about one minute.

Mead and Knutson raced toward the family's boat and attempted to hook a carabineer on the eye of their boat. The eye was small and the occupants, frightened and anxious to be rescued, were all crowding to the front of the boat which then submerged the eye under water.

With that, Mead said they decided to just throw them the line and have them hook it onto something, or anything, on their boat.

By this time, the family's craft was less than 10 feet from roller gate number three. Lock and Dam 3 consists of concrete 365 feet long with four roller gates. The roller gates are part of a powerful hydraulic system that help to maintain the pool level.

"If you looked at them from the side, they look like a tin can creating a large whirlpool in the water," said Mead. "This is the area boaters want to stay away from."

Mead said they hooked the carabineer onto their railing and he and Knutson slowly began to pull them away from the dam. “The railing held and that was fortunate.”

After towing them safely to the loading dock, Mead learned their battery had died. Although the family had a cell phone with them, they did not have service in the area and did not have a radio on board.

This is one of those occasions that Mead’s good advice to boaters would have come in handy. He said it is a good idea for people to call ahead and tell the lock operators they will be in the area.

“If they have a radio, they can call us and let us know when they’re going to be out here,” said Mead. Even without receiving a call from boaters, Mead is always

on the look out for boaters approaching the lock and dam. He credits his Corps training with his ability to respond in any situation.

“The Corps spends time and money on training us. It is well worth it. It is worth every penny,” Mead said, adding that saving even one life is worth it.

Knutson later told Mead that one of the boaters thanked him for saving their lives.

Mead also credits his co-worker, Knutson, with the successful rescue. “I was happy to have Neal [Knutson] with me. “He’s one of the best boat operators in the district.” I was glad to have him on the boat.”

After Knutson gave their battery a jump, he and Mead gave them something more valuable – a stern warning about fishing above the dam and about being prepared.

There are hazards like wing dams – unmarked navigation structures (rock piles) that lie just below the water line and are used to direct water flow to the main channel.

In his almost nine years with the Corps, Mead said this is the first rescue that he has been involved in that was a close call. Two other incidents stand out in Mead’s mind.

“A couple on jet skis lost power and ended up going into the gate but they were rescued,” he said, “and once we towed a houseboat over the river during my early years here.”

Fortunately, the incidents are few. “It seems to be something that happens one or two times a year,” said Mead. And when they do, Mead, Knutson and many others at Corps locks and dams all over the country are prepared to respond.

Boating tips from Lock and Dam Operator George Mead

Take a safe boating course through the Coast Guard Auxiliary and take advantage of their free boat inspections. They will tell you if you have the right safety gear on your boat and any other discrepancies or limitations your boat may have.

Practice with your family what you would do in an emergency situation on the water.

Purchase an inexpensive marine radio and keep it in a water-proof bag for emergencies. Charge and/or replace the batteries before each excursion.

Locks and dams often monitor channel 14. A distress call can also be made on channel 16.

Always have life preservers within reach of each person on the boat and not stowed in the cabin.

Know the “rules of the road,” and what the channels markers and other buoys mean.

Purchase and carry a navigation chart for any rivers that you will be traversing.

Corps of Engineers boating safety tips

- Know your boat: check for all required safety equipment.
- Use extra caution around dams. Pay close attention to all signs and buoys that mark areas where boats are not allowed.
- Consider the size of your boat, the number of passengers on board and the amount of extra items that will be on board. Don’t overload the boat.
- In power boats, check the boat’s electrical and fuel systems for excessive gas fumes.
- Follow any procedures the manufacturer suggests before starting the engine.
- Leave the alcohol behind. Work to increase your safety and not increase your risks.
- Check the weather forecast. Listen to the latest weather report and take a weather radio to monitor National Weather Service forecasts.
- Wear your life jacket. Don’t just carry it on board.
- Once on the water, be aware of and alert for navigation aids, such as buoys that mark navigation routes or hazards.