

OUTDOORS

The Hour

Norwalk Sea Scouts get taste of USGC life

"It was a terrific day," remembers Sea Scout Ship 6 Skipper Kai Horan about the group's recent visit to the United States Coast Guard Station in New London.



KAREN JEWELL
Water Views

plug it the best way we could. It was also really interesting to see where the Coast Guard works. At the end of the day, they got a call to help a boat that was stuck. You realize that they are always on duty."

About 50 high school age Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets from various ports were on hand for the July 19th demonstrations.

"Despite the heat, the crews had a lot of fun and learned some cool stuff along the way. It was a really early start — the crew was a little bit grumpy at 6 a.m. — but well worth the effort. I couldn't possibly have put together such a terrific and highly valuable day and really appreciate the effort the USCG New London Station and Sea Scout Ship 584 put into organizing the event, including lunch. I'm so glad Ship 6 was able to participate."

Skipper Horan was not the only one from Norwalk's crew who felt that the Sea Scout/Sea Cadet Safety at Sea Day was a hit amongst all those partaking in the events that day.

"It was a good opportunity to try things that you wouldn't normally do," says 17 year old Michael Kropf, a four year veteran of the Norwalk Ship 6 program.

"It was a very interesting day," Kropf added. "They did simulated leaking and we learned different ways of sealing the leak, which was very cool. They would push a button and the boat would start leaking. Our team then had to

In addition to the simulated leaking demo described by Kropf, other stations included a Law Enforcement Demo where the students were introduced to tactics, personal defense weapons, handcuff use, and an informational video about Coast Guard Law Enforcement; Cold Water Survival where the junior sailors were able to enter the water in survival suits and participate in hypothermia exercises with ice water from the pier; Damage Control where the Scouts used a DC Wet Trainer and a De-Watering portable P-6 Pump to prevent a mock ship from sinking; Fire Fighting where they practiced using a CO2 extinguisher to put out a real fire in a controlled environment; and Rigging and Line Handling where they learned knot tying and how to throw heaving lines. They were even treated to a ride aboard one of the official Coast Guard's 41' cutters.



The Norwalks' Sea Scouts Ship 6 crew prepares for their Cold Water Survival drill at the USCG Station in New London recently.

"This place is amazing!" said 16-year-old Akum Hawthorne, now in her second season with Ship 6 'Celebration.' "It was really an incredible multi-event at the Coast Guard Station. I don't think that I would ever have been able to do this without joining Sea Scouts. It was very fun and very interesting."

Hawthorne was so enlightened by her experiences that day that she realized something new about herself. "I actually now think I would like to join the Coast Guard, and I've never really been military-oriented. I think that says a lot."

"It was a fantastic day, full of new experiences that can be directly applied to when we are out on the water," adds Skipper Horan. "I can now count on my crew to be aware of both the dangers and the solutions to various potentially dangerous situations

ranging from cold water exposure to galley fires to heaving a line to another boat that needs help to plugging holes in the hull...although I hope that is never an issue for us. It was great to see the crew interacting with youth from other Sea Scout programs, making new friends, and gaining self-confidence."

Was the day a success? I'd have to say yes after hearing Akum's personal view on it all.

"I was absolutely and still sticky with seawater from the earlier cold water survival activity when I grinned up at my Skipper, Kai Horan. There was the feeling of tired glee..."

For more information on Norwalks' Sea Scouts program and the Ship 6 'Celebration', please visit their website at www.norwalkship6.org.

Why not recycle the caps?

Dear EarthTalk: Everyone knows we should recycle metal, glass and plastic cans and bottles, but what about all the lids, tops and caps? I see people recycling plastic bottles, for example, with their caps on, but I've always been told to throw them out. Is that wrong?

— Stefanie Gandolfi, Oakland, Calif.

Many municipal recycling programs throughout the U.S. still do not accept plastic lids, caps and even though they take



the containers that accompany them. The reason is that they are not typically made of the same kinds of plastics as their containers and therefore should not be mixed together with them.

"Just about any plastic can be recycled," says Signe Gilson, Waste Diversion Manager for Seattle-based CleanScapes, one of the west coast's leading "green" solid waste and recycling collectors, "but when two types are mixed, one contaminates the other, reducing the value of the material or requiring resources to separate them before processing."

Also, plastic caps and lids can jam processing equipment at recycling facilities, and the plastic containers with tops still on them may not compact properly during the recycling process. They can also present a safety risk for recycling workers. "Most plastic bottles are baled for transport and if they don't crack when baled, the ones with tightly fastened lids can explode when the temperature increases," says Gilson.

Some recycling programs do accept plastic caps and lids, but usually only if they are off their containers completely and batched separately. Given the many potential issues, however, most recyclers would rather avoid taking them altogether. Thus it is hard to believe but true: In most locales the responsible consumers are the ones who throw their plastic caps and lids into the trash instead of the recycling bin.

As for metal caps and lids, they, too, can jam processing machines, but many municipalities accept them for recycling anyway because they do not cause any batch contamination issues. To deal with the potentially sharp lid of any can you are recycling (such as a tuna, soup or pet food can), carefully sink it down into the can, rinse it all clean, and put it in your recycling bin.

Of course, the best way to reduce all kinds of container and cap recycling is to buy in large rather than single-serving containers. Does the event you're holding really require dozens and dozens of 8- to 16-ounce soda and water bottles, many of which will get left behind only partly consumed anyway? Why not buy large soda bottles, provide pitchers of (tap) water and let people pour into re-usable cups?

The same kind of approach can be taken with many if not all of the bottled and canned grocery items we buy routinely for the home. If more people bought in bulk, apportioning out of larger, fewer containers, we could take a huge bite out of what goes into the waste stream.

CONTACT: CleanScapes, www.cleanscapes.com.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk_c/o_E/TheEnvironmentalMagazine_P.O.Box_5098_Westport_CT_06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earth-talk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earth-talk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earth-talk/archives.php.

Finally, navigation quiz questions answered

A simple navigation quiz (as previously published in The Hour), along with the answers. The quiz was not designed to trick or deceive but to provoke thought.



CAPTAIN BARRY NATALE

1. The eastern most point in the United States is in what state?
2. The western most point in the United States is in what state?
3. How many lines of latitude are there?
4. How many lines of longitude are there?
5. At what line of longitude will you find the Arctic Circle?
6. At what line of latitude will you find the Prime Meridian?
7. Which lines of longitude, if any, are great circles?
8. Which lines of latitude, if any, are great circles?
9. When cruising along on what true courses will longitude theoretically remain the same?
10. When cruising along on what true courses will latitude theoretically remain the same?
11. When cruising along on what true courses near the equator will latitude and longitude appear to change at approximately the same rate?
12. If installed correctly on fixed ATONs, why do solar panels in the northern hemisphere generally face the same direction?
13. The nautical mile is defined by a minute of latitude. (true/false)
14. A minute of latitude at the equator is equal to 2,000 yards. (true/false)
15. A minute of longitude at the equator is equal to 2,000 yards. (true/false)
16. Deviation is the same for all vessels. (true/false)
17. Variation is the same for all vessels. (true/false)
18. The earth tilts at approximately how many degrees?
19. What regular changes on earth are the result of the tilt referred to in question No. 18?

ber of lines of latitude.

4. While there are 360 degrees of longitude, there are an infinite number of lines of longitude.

5. The Arctic Circle is found at every line of longitude.

6. The Prime Meridian is found at every line of latitude.

7. All lines of longitude are great circles.

8. The equator is the only line of latitude that is a great circle.

9. Longitude will theoretically remain the same when you are cruising along courses 000 degree or 180 degree True.

10. Latitude will theoretically remain the same when you are cruising along courses 090 degrees or 270 degrees True.

11. When near the equator, and cruising along courses 045 degrees, 135 degrees, 225 degrees or 315 degrees True, latitude and longitude will appear to change at about the same rate.

12. If installed correctly, solar panels mounted on fixed Aids To Navigation in the northern hemisphere generally face south. Even on the first day of summer here in Norwalk, the sun never gets above the Tropic of Cancer. This northern limit of the path of the sun is a result of the tilt of the earth.

13. The nautical mile is not defined by a minute of latitude. It is defined by a minute of arc of longitude at the equator (please see Bowditch glossary).

14. A minute of latitude is not equal to 2,000 yards; it is equivalent to a nautical mile which is closer to 2,025 yards or 6,076 feet. Although 2,000 yards is a commonly accepted equivalent for the nautical mile, it is an approximation none the less (please see Bowditch glossary).

15. A minute of longitude at the equator is not equal to 2,000 yards; it is closer to 2,025 yards or 6,076 feet (please see answer to question # 14).

16. Deviation is not the same for all vessels.

17. Variation is not the same for all vessels. It is, however, the same for all vessels in the same general location.

18. The earth tilts at approximately 23.44 degree (23 degrees 26 minutes).

19. The tilt of the earth causes its inhabitants to experience changes in climate (aka the four seasons).

Answers

1. The eastern most point in the United States is in Alaska. The Aleutian Islands straddle the 180 degree line of longitude. Therefore, it holds the distinction of being both the eastern and western most points in the United States.
2. The western most point in the United States is in Alaska (please see answer to question # 1).
3. While there are 180 degrees of latitude, there are an infinite num-

Out on the Sound



Photo by CHRIS BOSAK
Double-crested cormorants crowd a sandbar on Cockenoe Island off the coast of Westport as Peck's Ledge Lighthouse looms in the background.

OUTDOOR BRIEFS

AMC to hold annual hike & bike

REDDING
The Appalachian Mountain Club will hold its 5th Annual Hike Bike and BBQ Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 15, by the lakeside at Putnam Park in Redding. In the morning there will be several hikes and bike rides in or close to the park, finishing in time for participants to be at Putnam Park for a BBQ lunch.

Members and non-members are invited to join the morning activities and then come for lunch or just to come for lunch. Morning events are free and the BBQ lunch is \$6. The BBQ lunch will start at 12.30 pm and finish at 3.00 p.m. No reservations are needed. The events are being organized by the AMC's Fairfield County Group.

For more information, go to www.ct-amc.org or e-mail ThomasCarruthers@yahoo.com

Great Pumpkin Classic set in Trumbull

TRUMBULL
The 18th running of the annual Great Pumpkin Classic at Trumbull High School will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19. The four-mile race also features a Kid's Fun Run and a two-mile health walk. Proceeds will benefit the Trumbull High School Scholarship Fund and the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce Community Grant Fund, which is used to support town activities.

SSponsors, runners and day-of-race volunteers are needed to help. Interested persons may call (203) 452-8390.