

Lifeline

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Newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 2-76 5NR

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Letter From the Flotilla Commander

As 2012 opens, let us celebrate a fresh start for our flotilla. 2011 brought us some challenges and many accomplishments. As you may know, flotilla 02-76 is considered to be the flagship of Division 2 because of its vast size and abundance of training programs. In recent years the division has suffered due to the economic downturn, as have all of its flotillas, including 02-76. Our flotilla, however, has not let the economy become a deterrent and has encountered many of the challenges head on. 2012 will bring its own set of challenges, but it is my strong belief that we, as a great team of dedicated hard working professionals, students and volunteers, can overcome these challenges and become not merely the flagship that we are accustomed to, but, instead, a mighty carrier, a carrier that is loaded with talent, ideals, and the drive not only to make the flotilla better, but to share those same interests with the division as well. To achieve this we will need to combine our strengths to shore up and repair some weaknesses, as well as to chart and plot new courses in support of the United States Coast Guard's operational, administrative and logistical requirements.

The following are some of the top priority goals for 2012:

1) **Deployment of New Public Affairs Initiative:**

The bottom line is that Public Affairs is the link to the American people, and without it, no one will know that we exist. This Initiative will introduce a strong advertising campaign through any available means in conjunction with appearances at special events.

2) **Revitalization of Vessel Safety Checks, Marine Dealer Visitations and Public Education:** With the deployment of the new Public Affairs Initiative, we can improve the performance of VSC's, MDV's and increase awareness by the

boating public of the great boating courses taught by our knowledgeable and experienced instructors.

3) Revitalization of Communications Program:

Communications play a vital role in obtaining and passing information to the resources that are most needed at a moment's notice in the event of a disaster or planned event. Our flotilla, along with the entire division, has suffered greatly in this department. The plan is to increase the number of Telecommunication Operator trained personnel through further training and establishing the first ever mobile telecommunications trailer. This mobile telecommunications platform could serve as a multi-functional asset to the gold side as an operational, training and logistical asset as well as an asset to the auxiliary as a powerful recruitment and Public Affairs tool. Some of the objectives, however, will need to be viewed as long term goals.

4) Operations Augmentation:

In Oct 2011 we lost the only coxswain and facilities, both boat and radio, the flotilla had. This came as a major setback to the crew members of the flotilla. The division as of right now is reliant on one boat facility with no radio facilities. It is imperative to find new facilities that can replace what was lost, and begin training and acquiring new coxswains as well as new crew members to continue the upward trend in operations.

5) Increase Flotilla Fellowship:

One of the most important cornerstones of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is fellowship. The last but most important goal for 2012 is to increase the investment of fellowship in the flotilla by creating outings, trips, picnics, and many other preplanned events to increase the flotilla's commitment to fellowship and unite us closer as a family, and be able to express gratitude and pride for the work we chose to do for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

With all this in mind, 2012 has a great deal of logistical endeavors ahead, however, if we unite as a team and work to accomplish just a single goal this year, then the mission will be a success. It will require the assistance of the membership, staff officers, and elected leadership to bring these goal(s) to attainment.

In closing, I am confident that we can rise to any occasion as a unit, as team members, and as a family to help steer this mighty carrier, powered by your commitment, talents, ideals, and pride in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, to chart a new course for success in flotilla 02-76.

Semper Paratus

Jose G. Roman-Rivera FC 053-02-76

The next flotilla meeting is Tuesday, 17 January at 7:30pm

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Flotilla Staff Officer Monthly Reports: Materials (MA)

All members that are in need of any materials please e-mail me at jimmyde46@aol.com. It is important that you e-mail or send by text or letter any material request. Please provide name, address, id number, and what you are requesting to be ordered. Allow three weeks for delivery although you may receive an order earlier.

Jimmy Deleon, FSO-MA jimmyde46@aol.com

Member Training (MT)

Happy New Year! The holidays are over and it's now time to get educated. The winter months may be off-season for boating and patrols, but its high season for training. Dan Toms, who is now the coordinator for the Weekend College, has set up this year's schedule, available through our website: www.cgaux276.org Upcoming courses include Auxiliary Navigation Specialty Course (AUXNAV), given over two weekends beginning 21 JAN. Whether boat crew or not, all Auxiliarists should consider taking this excellent coastal navigation class. The Part B exam for this course will be given on Saturday, 4 FEB. Part B is Chartwork and cannot be taken online.

Other upcoming classes:

- 11 FEB – Good Mate. This is a 1-day Marine Safety class.
- 12 FEB – Instructor Development Course. There is always a need for good instructors to carry our safe boating message to the public. This is a good class to start your qualifying process.
- 18 FEB – Appointed Officers Training (AOT) for flotilla and division officers. Location is Maritime Academy Charter School.
- 18-19 FEB – Auxiliary Communications Specialty Course (AUXCOM). A must for boat crew members and a definite plus for all other Auxiliarists. One of the three core elements for earning the AUXOP device.
- 25-26 FEB – Auxiliary Weather Specialty Course (AUXWEA). Nothing influences your boating pleasure as much as weather. Learn about weather and how to predict possible changes that may endanger your boat. Another core AUXOP element.

Look over the Weekend College schedule. If you need some training and it's not listed, please talk to me about that at the Flotilla meeting.

Pat Cunningham, FSO-MT hawsingham@comcast.net

Navigation Systems(NS)

The Auxiliary has issued a new PQS for AIDs Verifiers
Qualified Auxiliarists as an aid verifier (AV)

- support and augment the Coast Guard's navigation systems (NS) program.
- verify position and characteristics of private aids-to-navigation (PATON), after qualifying may assist and support aids-to-navigation (ATON) units in servicing Federal aids after receiving proper Coast Guard training.
- may also help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE)
- by updating nautical and aeronautical charts and publications.
- by supporting and augmenting bridge surveys, investigating and by providing information regarding waterways safety and navigation situations pertaining to the bridge program, and providing direct assistance and support to bridge program personnel

Consider becoming an AV. A presentation will be made at the AOT on 11 Feb 2012.

Matt O'Brien, ADSO-NS mobrien12@aol.com

Operations (OPS)

Operations, as always, shifts into the training phase during the off season. The flotilla's boat crew school starts 1/9, every Monday through May 14 from 1830-2100. This year's class is promising, filling up in 2 weeks - record time. We have 17 new students, 4 auditing the class as means of maintaining knowledge, as well as 4 new mentors, 3 of which are crew from our 2011 class who are now qualified. The OTO CWO4 Sean McGarical will be there on the 9th as a special guest speaker. January will consist of operations training, which will be the same through May. Currently we have no facilities or coxswains, however I will be attending Coxswain school starting on the 28th. I urge our members to recruit able boaters so we can have a facility for the 2012 Patrol Season.

Dan Toms, FSO-OPS danielandrewtoms@gmail.com

Public Education (PE)

The Spring 2012 season of PE classes is upon us; this is an appeal to all those who are IT qualified (or in REYR) to volunteer to teach and/or assist during upcoming class sessions - we cannot successfully execute the PE mission without your support.

Scheduled Public Education courses for Spring 2012 are listed below. Note that the ABS series begins in March and is projected to run through August, subject to demand and instructor availability. Also, Weekend Navigator and How to Read a Nautical Chart will run on Wednesday evenings, while Sailing Skills and Seamanship will run on Monday evenings. To register for a course, students can send email via the sign-up form on the www.cgaux276.org website, or send an email to pe276@usa.com. Thanks to Dan Toms' and Darryl Stevenson's efforts, we now have a functional form that directs student requests for registration directly to the PE email address, and that is really a great improvement.

A color PE flyer, similar to last year's, is being prepared and will be available soon. Auxiliarists are urged to help publicize these courses by taking flyers to local marinas, bookstores, recreation centers, and marine supply stores. Instructors are being contacted about the spring teaching schedule. The courses listed below are now on Craigslist also.

About Boating Safely (ABS)

Saturday 1-day courses 8:00-5:00 pm Registration begins at 7:30 am

Dates: Mar 3, Apr 14, May 5, Jun 2, July 7, Aug 4, 2012

Cost: \$65.00 (includes lunch); Discount for second family member \$ 50.00

Location: USCG Sector Delaware Bay -- USCG AUX Flotilla 2-76 --Penn's Landing, Washington & Columbus Blvd. , Philadelphia PA.

Recognized by the US Coast Guard and approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, this course is a unique 8-hour study program covering the fundamentals of boating. **Individuals successfully completing this course qualify for the PA Safe Boating Certificate.** Pre-registration recommended.

How to Read a Nautical Chart:

Wednesdays: 3-week course, 7:00-9:00 pm Registration begins at 6:30 pm

Dates: Feb 8, Feb 15, Feb 22

Cost: \$50.00 Discount for second family member \$ 40.00

Location: USCG Sector Delaware Bay -- USCG AUX Flotilla 2-76 --Penn's Landing, Washington & Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia PA

Learn about types of charts, chart scales, symbols used, and information given. Be able to plot boat courses and bearings, determine direction and distance, and plot latitude and longitude. Includes text, chart, plotter and dividers.

Weekend Navigator

Wednesdays: 10-week course, 7:00-9:00 pm Registration begins at 6:30 pm

Start Date: Feb 29 - May 2

Cost: \$75.00; Discount for second family member \$ 50.00 Location: USCG Sector Delaware Bay -- USCG AUX Flotilla 2-76 --Penn's Landing, Washington & Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia PA

This is a comprehensive course designed for both experienced and novice power-boat and sailboat operators. The course is divided into two major parts designed to educate the boating enthusiast in skills required for a safe voyage on a variety of waters and boating conditions.

Topics include: Fundamentals of Waypoint Navigation; Navigation Tools; Planning and Navigating with GPS and Paper and Digital Charts; Avoiding Dangers; Double-Checking with Instruments; What to Do If the GPS Quits; Tides, Currents and Wind; Using Radar, Depth Sounder, Radio and Autopilot; and Adverse Conditions. Chart work is an integral part of this training course.

Take *How to read a Nautical Chart* and *Weekend Navigator* at discount:

HRNC + WN COMBO = \$100 Discount for second family member \$ 75.00

Sailing Skills and Seamanship:

Mondays: 14-week course, 7:00-9:00 pm Registration begins at 6:30 pm

Start Date: **Feb 6 - May 7**

Cost: \$65.00; Location: USCG Sector Delaware Bay -- USCG AUX Flotilla 2-76
--Penn's Landing, Washington & Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia PA

Whether you're a novice or an experienced sailor refining your sailing skills, this course covers everything needed to make your sailing safer and more enjoyable.

Modules include: What Makes a Sailboat, How a Boat Sails, Basic Sailing Maneuvering, Boat Handling, Legal Requirements, Aids to Navigation, Rigging and Tuning, Heavy Weather, Navigation Rules, Lines and Knots, Engines for Sailboats, Trailing, Radio, Inland Boating, and Piloting.

Individuals successfully completing this course qualify for the Pennsylvania Safe Boating Certificate. This certificate is recognized by PA state officials requiring proof of a safe boating course.

First Aid, CPR, and AED for Boaters: Sundays, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Cost is \$ 75.00 (\$50 for second family member) and includes lunch. This course is taught by a Red Cross Certified instructor, and it covers First Aid basics; CPR; Automatic External Defibrillator (AED); medical , injury and environmental emergencies ; special medical concerns and emergencies for boaters.

Dates: Jan 15, Mar 11, May 20, July 15 Sep 9, Nov 4

Dot French, FSO-PE frenchdot@gmail.com

The KYW school closing # for meeting cancellations due to snow is 1253

Test Your Weather Knowledge

The approach of deteriorating weather is indicated by a

- a. falling hygrometer
- b. rising barometer
- c. falling barometer
- d. falling speedometer

A north wind blows from the compass direction

- a. 360 or 000
- b. 270
- c. 180
- d. 090

An approaching cold front would be indicated by _____ , _____, and _____ clouds.

- a. cirrus, cirrocumulus, altocumulus
- b. cirrus, cirrostratus, altostratus
- c. cirrus, cirrocumulus, nimbostratus
- d. altocumulus, cirrocumulus, cirrus

Learn the answers and much more in the Auxiliary Weather Specialty Course (AUXWEA) 25-26 February.

Register at <http://www.cgaux276.org/?page=memberTraining.php>