

Lifeline

Newsletter of USCGAUX Flotilla 2-76 5NR December 2010 Vol. 35 No. 7

Clark Edwards, FC Hank Harrison, VFC

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Happy Holidays!

Information Systems (IS)

On 7th DEC 2010 all Mission activity Logs (7029) and Mission Activity Reports (7030), have been turned in to Division. I would like to thank everyone who made the extra effort to get their hours turned in on time. And a special thank you to the members who volunteered to record and forward hours for members without computer access. In the upcoming year I'm planning, (if everything goes well) to have a portable computer at Sector to record and submit hours on location before and after regular meetings. This will help ease the paperwork congestion that can sometimes arise, and helps the SO-IS as well. Will keep you updated on this.

Jose Roman-Rivera, FSO-IS

Next Flotilla meeting is Tuesday 18 January at 7:00PM

Materials (MA)

All members that are in need of any materials please e-mail me at jimmyde46@aol.com. Please include your full name, address and member ID number.

Jimmy Deleon, FSO-MA

Operations (OP)

Flotilla 02-76 is preparing to host boat crew school program.

All crew members are now challenged to maintain operational boat crew skills during the off season.

Brian Lynch, FSO-OP

Public Education (PE)

During Fall , 2010, Boating Skills and Seamanship was held on Monday evenings from 7-9 pm . The course began on Sep 13 and is running through Dec 13 (13 weeks + exam night). There were seven students who signed up for BS&S , although attendance fell off somewhat towards the end of the course. The exam will take place on Monday Dec 13, and the number of graduates will be included in the next report.

Instructors who staffed this course were Pat Cunningham (3 sessions) , Marc Batt (1 session), Dan Toms (2 sessions), Matt O'Brien (1 session), Hank Harrison (1 session), Janis Hawes (1 session), John Mosley (1 session) , Lee Roach(1 session), David Hayward (1 session) and Jose Roman-Rivera (1 session). Dot French attended most sessions of the course as FSO-PE for 2-76 and John Mosley , the liaison for PE , attended several sessions also. Many thanks to the great support from the instructors --we could not have done this without you.

A flyer advertising Spring 2011 courses has been produced by Pat Cunningham . The following courses will run in Spring 2011, and along with the ABS and SS&S courses , there are some new offerings that we hope will attract some attention.

Sailing Skills and Seamanship will run on Monday evenings from 7-9 pm for 14 weeks, starting Feb 7 and the cost is \$75.00 .

About Boating Safely (ABS) will run from 8 AM - 5 PM on Feb 5, Mar 5 , Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, each being the first Saturday of each month. Cost is \$ 65.00 which includes lunch .

Five sessions of the First Aid, CPR and AED course are planned to run on Sundays as a 1-day course, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Jan 9, Feb 6, Apr 17, July 10 and Oct 9. Cost is \$55.00 and includes lunch. John Mosley, a Red Cross certified instructor /flotilla member/instructor will teach these courses.

How To Read a Nautical Chart, a three week course, will be offered twice, starting on Feb 10 and Aug 25. The course is held on Thursdays from 9:00pm. Cost is \$50.00.

Weekend Navigator, a new 10-week PE course, will be held in spring and fall of 2011. The Spring series begins March 3 (Thur 7-9 pm) and the Fall series starts Sept 15. The cost is \$75.00.

Instructors, led by Pat Cunningham and Dot French, have begun to prepare for the roll-out of the new WN course.

Many, many thanks to all the Instructors and staff who made the 2010 PE series of courses a success.

Advertising: Although efforts were made early in the season to post the Fall PE course offerings on our 2-76 web site, this proved difficult for various reasons. It is very important to get our information updated in a timely manner. It will be worth the effort because it is really the best way for our information to be broadcasted.

The spring 2011 courses are now listed on the 5 NR Division website (Dot French is the contact) and this may make a difference in enrollment for the Spring 2011 courses.

Dot French, FSO-PE

Ready, Set, Goals in 2011

Do you know what your Flotilla's goals are for 2011?

If not, consider attending the January meeting on the 18th at the Base. The new meeting time is 1900 (that's 7pm in 12-hour time). The Flotilla's budget and plans for 2011 will be discussed and your input is valued towards setting and achieving our goals.

Some goals that each of us, as members of Flotilla 2-76, should consider for 2011:

- Increase membership and participation;
- Publicize any and all community service activities;
- Teach more Public Education (PE) classes and increase attendance in them;
- Have every member take at least one Member Training (MT) course, or teach one, or assist at one;
- Perform more Vessel Safety Checks and increase participation in the RBS (Marine Dealer) Visiting program;
- Have more Fellowship, including boating activities;
- Increase involvement in Division meetings and in District conferences.
- Assist the elected officers to efficiently manage the Flotilla.

Consider bringing your friends into the Flotilla. When I first joined, there were three of us, all friends, and we supported each other in our involvement with the Auxiliary. Don't overlook your spouse or significant other – Janis and I were just an “item” when we joined the Flotilla. There are many activities in the Auxiliary that interest all aspects of membership. See job descriptions for Flotilla Staff Officers (FSO) at:

http://users.mo-net.com/district8wr/public/staff_positions_defined.htm).

We need every member to promote our PE classes. This is our major source of revenue, which allows the Flotilla to operate throughout the year. The portion of your dues retained by the Flotilla is not a significant source.

We really don't need your dues as much as we need your involvement in the various Flotilla missions and activities. We need boat crew and air observers, radio operators, instructors for PE and MT, vessel examiners, marine dealer visitors, computer techs, publicists, editors, financial wizards, secretaries, information specialists, buoy checkers, recruiters, and pinch hitters and relief pitchers to augment CG personnel. And we need managers – lots of them.

If you're going to manage, then start as a Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO), or assistant. As such how would you formulate your objectives and strategies to achieve them? Begin planning now and bring those ideas to the January meeting. See you there!

Pat Cunningham

2010 Flotilla Officers

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FROM: Dan Murphy

Saturday, 11 DEC, I went to the Coast Base in Philadelphia to play the role of Santa Claus at their annual "Breakfast With Santa" Christmas event. It was for the children of Coast Guard personnel assigned to the base. My son joined me as Santa's Helper (AKA official photographer).

We arrived at the base about 8:05 AM, met up with the officer in charge of the event, and was escorted to his office that would double as my dressing room. At about 9:30 AM he came to his office and said the kids were ready, and that I should wait outside the door to the big meeting room until the kids gave me a countdown. I heard him say to the kids that Santa had just landed on the roof and they should count down from ten to zero. When they said, "Zero" I walked through the door, waved to the audience and said,

"Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas everyone!"

You should have seen their faces. It was one of those precious moments in life that I shall never forget.

There were upwards of 50 kids with their parents and they were all screaming. No sooner had I sat down, a little boy about 3 1/2 came up the aisle and gave me a Christmas ornament that he had made himself. They all got in line and waited to see Santa. I sat in a chair between a Christmas tree and a buckets of toys containing a gift to be given to each child, along with a candy cane.

Some came up to Santa alone, some with one or both of their parents, some even brought along their grandmothers,. If they had a camera they took a picture. If they didn't, we took down their name and address and my son took a picture, I'll mail them a photo. Some wanted group shots, some wanted other variations, like one mother who sat on my lap.

When it came time to leave, the officer in charge of the event said loudly,
"Come on Santa, I'll show you the way up to the roof."

All the kids waved back and said either, "Merry Christmas Santa" or "Thank you Santa."

The Santa suit didn't come with any padding. I should have done this three years ago before I lost 40 pounds. I tried a foam pillow but my son said it was so stiff that I looked like I had a cookie sheet under the suit so I took it off. The belt buckle was straight when I entered the room - some kid probably tried to test out his/her pickpocketing skills on Santa.

We only had two "criers" that couldn't be calmed down to sit with me. At that point I wished the facility had one of those slides like they had in the movie *Christmas Story* so I could kick those two down the slide (just kidding), Oh yes, we had only one "beard puller," a little girl of about 18 months who wouldn't let go of my beard.

Would I do it again? You bet. My son and I both had a ball.
Breakfast for the kids was prepared by seven Coast Guard Auxiliarists, graduates of the Sector's AUXCHEF program.

**Coming soon to a theater near you....
Look! Isn't that the Easter Bunny??? (I can't wait)**

Have a **GREAT CHRISTMAS!!!**

Dan Murphy

U.S. Coast Guard Veteran (1959-1967)

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (2001-PRES) Flotilla D5NR-02-76, Philadelphia

Auxiliary Liaison, Coast Guard Cutter Cleat, Sector Delaware Bay, Philadelphia

Auxiliary Liaison, Coast Guard Recruiting Office, Philadelphia

U.S. Coast Guard Historian (1959-PRES)