

Lifeline

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

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Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season



2-76 Elected and appointed officers for 2012 with VADM Sally Brice-O'Hara

From L-R: FSO-IS Hank Harrison, VFC/FSO-OP Dan Toms, FSO-SR/MS Caroline Shipsey, FSO-CS Darryl Stevenson, VCDR Clark Edwards, FSO-HR Judi Lynn Blue, FSO-PE Dorothy French, FSO-MT Patrick Cunningham, FC Jose Roman-Rivera, VADM Sally Brice-O'Hara

The Coast Guard Ethos:
I am a Coast Guardsman.
I serve the people of the United States.
I will protect them.
I will defend them.
I will save them.
I am their shield.
For them I am Semper Paratus.
I live the Coast Guard core values.
I am proud to be a Coast Guardsman.
We are the United States Coast Guard.

Flotilla Staff Officer Monthly Reports: Communications (CM)

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MONITORING STATION PROGRAM

As part of the United States' effort to meet International agreements regarding the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) broadcasts Weather Facsimile (WEFAX); Voice Broadcasts (VOBRA); Urgent Marine Information Broadcasts, using Narrow Band Direct Printing (NAVTEX); and Ice Information, using Ship Telex Over Radio (SITOR) messages and WE FAX.

Recreational, governmental and commercial vessels within the United States' (U.S.) 200-mile territorial limit must be able to receive those transmissions error-free to help ensure the safety of life and property at sea.

The USCG regards the end users of the broadcasts as its customers and considers itself in a provider/customer relationship. Therefore, maintaining a high standard of broadcast quality for the broadcasts (the product) is important to the USCG. Customer satisfaction is dependent upon timely, quality data that is received aboard a vessel in a readable and error-free format.

The USCG is responsible to provide a sufficient signal density throughout the 200-mile territorial limit to ensure a receivable signal by its customers using commercial-off-the-shelf (i.e., average) receiving equipment.

Currently, the only mechanisms available to the USCG to gauge the effectiveness of their broadcasts are

- 1) self-monitoring on a limited basis, when and where possible, from USCG fixed and ship stations (as operations permit); and,
- 2) feedback from its customers, which usually only comes in when a problem exists.

Neither mechanism affords the USCG the reliable and proactive (preemptive) means of quality control it needs or desires.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide a new mission for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) in support of the USCG, as authorized by existing regulations.

For further details contact mobrien12@aol.com

PA Boating Law Change

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission passed a new regulation at its September 27, 2011, meeting on life jacket wear during cold weather months. This regulation takes effect November 1, 2012, and states that:

a person shall wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) during the cold weather months from November 1st through April 30th while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak .

Matt O'Brien, FSO-CM mobrien12@aol.com

Computer Services (CS)

Our Flotilla Website is back online and fully operation and being updated by Dan Toms and myself. In addition, our associated email addresses will be back up and running soon. Finally, Each auxiliarist who has a email linked to cgaux276.org domain, will be notified with a new default password, which will need to be changed upon first login.

Darryl Stevenson, FSO-CS

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

Operations (OPS)

USCG AUX Boat Crew School sponsored by Flotilla 02-76 registration is now open.

TCT Class was successfully held at SECTOR on Sunday, December 11. The class was well attended by USCG Reserve and USCG AUX.

Excellent instruction was provided by USCG AUX Instructor Mr. Ira R. Dolich. Have an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season!

Brian Lynch, FSO-OPS brian.lynch@drexel.edu

Public Education (PE)

The Fall 2011 season of PE classes has concluded; many, many thanks to those who volunteered to teach and assist during class sessions - we could not have successfully executed the PE mission without your generous support.

Below are the scheduled Public Education courses for Spring 2012: To register for a course, students can send email via the sign -up form at www.cgaux276.org, or send an email to pe276@usa.com. Auxiliarists are urged to help get the word out on these courses. To this end, a flyer is being prepared and should be available soon. Instructors will be contacted about the spring teaching schedule. Meanwhile PE wishes everyone a very happy and safe holiday season.

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, Trailering, 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

HOLIDAY SUBSTANCE USE AND YOUR SAFETY

1. In the next few weeks many of us will be celebrating special occasions such as Thanksgiving, religious holidays, New Year's celebrations, and major sporting events. These events are often stressful as they require increased planning and travel to meet the demands of work and family expectations. Typically, these activities are full of fun, food, friends, and fellowship. For many, these events will include the consumption of alcohol. If you choose to drink alcohol, drink responsibly. Drinking responsibly means to know your limit and to understand that alcohol impairs your judgment and reflexes.
2. The CG has adopted an alcohol consumption model that fits both our substance abuse prevention strategy as well as our at risk model for both safety and health.
3. The CG has defined responsible drinking. Remember 0,1,2,3. Zero drinks when you must be alert and at the ready. This would include driving, while at work, and preparing for a mission. You should not drink if on prescription medication, pregnant, or preparing for other high-risk activities such as use of machinery, ladders, or cleaning a weapon. Zero is also the choice for any illicit drug or mood altering substance or prescription medicine not prescribed for you. If you do drink alcohol remember 1,2,3. One drink per hour, two for any drinking occasion, and never exceed three drinks.
4. As you engage in celebrations over the holidays, remember that drinking alcohol and driving do not mix. Consuming any amount of alcohol compromises one's ability to drive and reduces reaction time. During the holiday season the roads will be busier than ever. More cars on the road result in more impaired drivers, whether from fatigue, medications, distractions, poor night vision or alcohol use. Simply do not drink and drive or permit others to drink and drive.
5. Seemingly good times often go bad when excessive alcohol is consumed. The CG now has an abundance of data to demonstrate the negative impacts of excessive alcohol consumption. While statistics can never stop excessive alcohol use, it is noteworthy that one out of every two arrests in the CG is alcohol related. Choices such as "having just one more drink," not having an exit strategy, or riding with someone who has been drinking are seen as high risk behaviors.
6. If a shipmate is drinking too much, be a friend and be a leader and get them out of the bar or party. If he has consumed too much alcohol and/or appears drunk, help ensure that they return home safely. When hosting parties and events, include activities and holiday games that don't center around alcohol. Many communities have free or reduced taxi cab services over the holiday period. Call a cab or share a ride, but don't allow your shipmates to drive drunk. If you will be celebrating in a group, select a designated driver, the person who agrees not to drink alcohol and to drive the other group members home safely. Be a leader. Save a life.

7. Commanding officers are encouraged to have their cdars conduct an alcohol awareness inservice this month or in early December. Utilizing and enhancing your exercise regimes, practicing restraint when around the dining table and adding new activities can increase your level of enjoyment, resiliency and overall satisfaction.

8. Happy and safe holiday to all of our Coast Guard family. Make this be a joyful time with your family and friends. Look after each other, use common sense and take care of yourself. Show your dedication and commitment by being substance abuse free.

-RAdm Maura K. Dollymore, Director of Health, Safety and Work-Life

Flotilla Change of Watch 10 Dec 2011



DCOS Kenneth Brown presenting Patrick Cunningham with an award recognizing him as Division 2's Auxiliarist of the Year

All COW photos courtesy Caroline Shipsey



Keynote Speaker VADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard



VFC Daniel Toms and FC Jose Roman-Rivera being sworn in by DCO Harold Robinson



CAPT Austin presenting Dan Toms and Jose Roman-Rivera with Certificate of Appreciation for Mass Rescue Exercise



Daniel Toms receiving the COMO Al Lewis Award from Patrick Cunningham



VADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, Muriel Lewis, Brian Kelly Special Thanks to Muriel Lewis for coordinating the Change of Watch. It was a beautiful venue and a memorable experience!