

Lifeline

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

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Flotilla Staff Officer Monthly Reports:

Communications Services (CS)

Our Flotilla website is in current compliance with "National Directives" related to national security alerts be present on flotilla homepages. In addition, I am working to resolve issues related to cgaux276.org auxiliary email accounts' ability to forward mail to auxiliary members personal email accounts. Finally, any member experiencing this issue should contact me via email; I have an email link on the bottom of our flotilla webpage <http://www.cgaux276.org/> and a personal email account that is listed in AUXDIRECTORY.

Darryl Stevenson, FSO-CS

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, and allow 2-3 weeks delivery time when placing an order.

Jimmy Deleon, FSO-MA

Next Flotilla meeting is Tuesday 17 May at 7:00PM

Member Training (MT)

The Spring portion of the weekend college has come to a close, with it being a success - I know of at least three people who have earned their AUXOP because of our class. During the upcoming months, in class training will be rare as our focus

shifts to operations for the upcoming patrol season. Our Boat Crew School is poised to graduate 12 trainees on the 18th. Underway training starts the following weekend.

Dan Toms, FSO-MT

Operations (OP)

Crew school is wrapping up with the swim test scheduled for Saturday, May 14 - 10:00 @ Drexel U Recreation Center.

Brian Lynch, FSO-OP

Human Resources (HR)

April saw two new members join the flotilla, bringing us to 69 members. Currently there are five prospective members in contact, with luck they will be at the new member training in June. On the 21st of May is Delaware River Day, and I will be down there manning a booth doing MS and HR work - anyone who wishes to come with, let me know.

Dan Toms, FSO-HR

Vessel Examination (VE)

Boating Season is here and the Vessel Examination Inspections are on the way. For any qualified VE in need of Forms and Stickers, or for those that needs to be qualified, don't hesitate to contact me at carioca@comcast.net or by phone 215-582-2972. For the completed VE Inspections, Please submit ALL the forms necessary to record your time and the Inspection.

Please take the time to come out and interact with the public while having Fun. The Flotilla need your assistance.

Paul Parravicini, FSO-VE



May 1942

First Auxiliary offshore patrol boat "Two Pals" departs 3rd ND, Station Ft. Tilden, NY.

Crew of Coastal Picket Force sailboat on the hunt for German submarines, 1942-45. *Source: history.auxpa.org*

COMMERCIAL POSTAGE STAMP TRANSITION-009/11

1. Effective 29 May 2009, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) stopped printing penalty mail stamps (i.e. - the eagle stamps commonly received from the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC)). The USPS continued to provide these stamps as long as stocks were available, but ultimately shifted to commercial postage stamps. Commercial postage stamps are no different than the stamps that the USPS offers consumers.

2. ANSC still has a considerable supply of penalty mail stamps in stock and will continue to distribute them for Auxiliary use until that stock is depleted. At that point, ANSC will begin providing commercial postage stamps in response to Auxiliary orders. This is expected to begin later this summer, 2011.

3. Commercial postage stamps shall be subject to the same policies and practices for usage as penalty mail stamps. They shall only be used by Auxiliarists for the support of official business associated with their Auxiliary activities. Because commercial postage stamps obtained from ANSC can be so easily integrated with personal mailings, it will be even more incumbent upon Auxiliarists to exercise utmost care, attention, and integrity in their restricted application for official business purposes.

As with other material orders submitted to ANSC, flotilla level authority to order stamps remains limited to the Flotilla Commander (FC) and Flotilla Staff Officer for Materials (FSO-MA) (see the ANSC Catalog at <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/default.asp> for a complete listing of ANSC ordering authority). Provisions of section 5.F. of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction 16790.1 series), which deals with official business mail, also remain applicable.

4. On behalf of the Coast Guard's Mail and Shipping Manager, the following information is provided to help guide usage and handling of official business mail in the course of your Auxiliary activities:

a. Insufficient postage will result in either the recipient paying postage due upon delivery, or the mail piece being returned to the originator for additional postage.

b. Pricing and shape structure guidelines that went into effect in May 2008 affect all units that generate official mail. Previously, the first class rate was the same for all types of mail. Nowadays, a distinction is made for letter, flats, and parcels. The new shape-based rates reflect the difference in processing costs unique to each mail shape.

c. The maximum weight for letter-sized mail is 3.5 oz at a cost of 95 cents. Any letter-sized piece exceeding this limit, will be charged at the first class "flats" rate, which is almost double the cost of the letter

rate.

d. A letter printed on an 8.5 x 11 inch paper weighing 1 oz or less and mailed unfolded costs the mailer 88 cents. If the same letter were folded and placed in an envelope measuring no more than 6-1/8 inches by 11-1/2 inches, the cost would be 44 cents - a savings of 50 percent. All documents that can be folded without negative impact should be folded to fit into smaller envelopes. Use envelopes measuring 6-1/8 x 11-1/2 inches, as this keeps the mail piece in the "letter-sized" rate category, provided you do not exceed the weight limit of 3.5 ounces.

e. More detailed information about USPS shape-based rate can be found on the site: <http://tinyurl.com/2odtrd> (Long URL - http://www.pb.com/cgi-bin/pb.dll/jsp/Postalinfo.do?sitelet=RCEducation&catOID=-19118&editorial_id=ed_ECEd_Shape_Based_Price&lang=en&country=US)

5. Point-of-contact for Coast Guard postal matters is Mr. Ed Larson at (202) 475-3517 or edwin.b.larson@uscg.mil.