

# Lifeline

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

Hank Harrison, FC Jose Roman-Rivera, VFC

Liz LeFever FSO-PB/Editor  
[elefever@msn.com](mailto:elefever@msn.com)

## Remembering 9/11



*A Coast Guard rescue team from Sandy Hook, N.J., races to the scene of the World Trade Center terrorist attack. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Tom Sperduto.*

*Source:Coast Guard Compass*

Shipmates,

This week marks the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. This is a day to pause, reflect and honor those who were lost, including the more than 400 first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice while attempting to rescue their fellow citizens, as well as the thousands of service members who have selflessly given their lives in the overseas contingency operations that have

followed. We will never forget them. Their sacrifice strengthens our commitment to serve.

While the events of 9/11 were tragic, our Service can take great pride in our response. Immediately following the first plane crashing into the World Trade Center's North Tower, junior personnel from then-Activities New York, though they were witnessing the unfathomable, instinctively responded. They were able to meet this challenge by drawing upon the leadership, training and culture passed down by over two centuries of Coast Guardsmen. They also leveraged our strong maritime partnerships. When they put out the call for all boats to respond to lower Manhattan, hundreds of merchant mariners piloting tug boats, ferries and every other type of waterborne conveyance formed a boatlift that safely evacuated 500,000 people in just nine hours - an amazing, heroic and largely unknown feat.

Meanwhile, our entire Service sprang into action. Our versatile cutter fleet was repositioned from offshore to inshore and served as command and control platforms in our ports. Our reserve and Auxiliary forces mobilized and reported for duty - many before they were called - and our civilians worked tirelessly to support these enhanced operations. Our culture of adaptability, agility, and empowering our people to act, combined with our multi-mission vessels and aircraft allowed us to quickly shift our focus toward confronting this new threat.

Looking back, it is amazing to see how our Service and our Nation have changed since 9/11. Almost half of our current active duty members joined the Service post-9/11. Eighteen months later, in March 2003, the Department of Homeland Security - our new home - was established. Our response also proved the value of the Activities concept, now called Sectors, and we have made it the model for how we deliver Coast Guard services to the public. We have enhanced our maritime domain awareness through membership in the Intelligence Community, increased vessel and aircraft patrols and partnerships with government and private entities. We have also constructed a layered maritime defense strategy to improve security of the maritime transportation system, starting with international port security.

Our capabilities have also evolved. We now have teams of highly trained deployable specialized forces to protect our ports and respond to the full range of maritime threats. We continue to recapitalize our fleet with new aircraft and cutters outfitted with advanced sensors that are fully interoperable with both DHS components and DoD assets.

However, we must never forget that what made us strong on 9/11, and what

continues to make us strong today: you, the men and women of the U. S. Coast Guard. You are the heart of our Service. Your vigilance helps ensure our homeland, ports and waterways are safe and secure. Your dedication to duty keeps us Semper Paratus - Always Ready - to serve our great Nation.

Throughout the week, the Compass Blog will feature stories and imagery on our 9/11 response and how our Service has evolved over the last ten years. I encourage you to visit and learn more about this formative day in our history and to honor those who were lost.

We are Coast Guardsmen. We work as a crew. We serve as a family.  
This is our way. This is who we are. This is what we do.  
Stand a taut watch.  
Admiral Bob Papp  
Commandant

**The next Flotilla meeting is Tuesday, 20 September at 7pm.**



*Two Division Two members, Frank Williams (FC 02-04) and Daniel Toms (FSO-MT/HR 02-76) were awarded the AUXOP designation at the fall conference awards banquet.*

## **Flotilla Staff Officer Monthly Reports:**

### **Communications (CM)**

#### **DuPont in talks on Pollution Cases**

The DuPont Company disclosed in a recent SEC filing that it is negotiating with State and Federal environmental regulators to settle claims of alleged discharging of pollutants into the Delaware River. The discharges allegedly took place at the Edge Moor facility north of Wilmington between 2005 and 2010. State officials initiated the talks and center on allegations of noncompliance with the federal Clean Water Act. The Federal EPA joined the discussions in 2009. Many of the discharges resulted from breakdowns in the plant's wastewater-treatment system and others were related to storm water runoff after heavy rain. EPA spokesman David Sternberg said Federal Regulators have not issued a complaint. Many times a complaint and a settlement are issued concurrently and would be published in the Federal Register. Collin O'Mara, DNREC Secretary, said DuPont has been very responsive and all groups are committed to having long-term solutions that will avoid these day to day incidents.

#### **Port of Paulsboro**

After 10 years of planning to build the first new port on the Delaware River in 38 years, the South Jersey Port Corporation finally began dredging in May. The Port of Paulsboro plans to accommodate four deep-draft cargo ships. The \$48MM job is being done by Weeks Marine and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. This is a 24/7 operation and the new channel will be dredged to a depth of 40 feet. Should the US Army Corps of Engineers move forward with the plan to dredge the central channel to a depth of 45 feet, additional dredging will take place at the Port of Paulsboro. The entire cost of the project is estimated to be \$300MM including a State Department of Transportation grant for \$23MM. So far the port corporation has raised \$175MM through the sale of State backed bonds. Approximately 247,000 cubic yards of river bottom will be removed. Reusable material will be separated and contaminated material (approximately 86,500 cubic yards) will be trucked to a county owned landfill in South Harrison at an additional cost of \$3.9MM.

*from Nick Noderer, DRYC*

Matt O'Brien, FSO-CM



## **Communication Services (CS)**

Evaluating our website compliance with CGAux National's new Website Requirement Checklist,

"[http://itgroup.cgaux.org/IU/all\\_cs/website\\_requirements.php](http://itgroup.cgaux.org/IU/all_cs/website_requirements.php)".

Darryl Stevenson, FSO-CS

## **Materials (MA)**

All members that are in need of any materials please e-mail me at [jimmyde46@aol.com](mailto: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

## **Member Training**

2-76's member training program was on hiatus during the summer, however with September the fall semester of the Weekend College opens. The full class list can be found at here: <http://www.cgaux276.org/?page=memberTraining.php>

A word of note, the September 17-18 FLC will be rescheduled for December, date to be announced.

Dan Toms, FSO-MT

## **Operations (OPS)**

Patrols continued as weather permitted during the past few weeks. Storm impact was very obvious on the Delaware this weekend as debris filled the river. Marinas were also impacted as many mooring, docks, etc. were shifted and damaged. Preparedness is the key to reducing potential risk of injury and property damage especially in the marina business.

The marina operators are not only tasked with protecting their customers investment in their vessels - there is also a responsibility to protect the environment from debris washing into a water way which could become a hazard to navigation. Of special concern is hazardous materials contaminating the water way and or a container (fuel, chemical storage) floating into the waterway.

When on patrol an AUX Boat Crew may actually observe a floating container - what to do? Good topic for next month's Patrols Report.

Hopefully we will experience favorable weather for the final month of the patrol season.

Brian Lynch, FSO-OPS

### **Public Education (PE)**

The Fall 2011 season of PE classes is upon us; thanks to those who have volunteered to teach sessions.

The three week course, **How to read a nautical chart**, did not run, as no-one was enrolled. The sequitur course, **Weekend Navigator**, has, at this time, only one student enrolled and it may not run either.

However, **Boating skills and seamanship** has several students signed up and it will start as planned on Sept 12. The October **First Aid, CPR, AED** course has several students enrolled and it will probably run. This demonstrated how important it is to get information about our PE offerings out there. We still have copies of the flyer for the Fall 2011 PE courses. Auxiliarists are invited to take copies and give them to friends and/or place copies at marine stores, libraries, marinas --wherever they can be seen. Also, Auxiliarists who are new to the flotilla are invited to take courses, and the PE mission is always interested in members becoming IT -certified so they can join the team of instructors who teach these courses. Here is information about the Fall 2011 PE offerings:

#### **Boating Skills and Seamanship Course:**

Mondays: 14-week course, 7:00-9:00 pm. Registration begins at 6:30 pm. Start Date: September 12, 2011. Cost: \$65.00 to public (\$25.00 to Auxiliary).

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

A comprehensive course designed for both the experienced and novice boater. Eight required and five elected modules include: which boat is right for you; legal requirements; safety equipment; trailering; boat handling; aids to navigation; navigation rules; piloting; engines; lines and knots; weather; radio; inland boating.

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.

**Weekend Navigator Course:** Thursdays: 10-week course, 7:00-9:00 pm  
Registration begins at 6:30 pm Start Date: September 15  
Cost: \$75.00 to public (\$40.00 to Auxiliary). 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.

**First Aid, CPR, AED Course:** One more session of the First Aid, CPR and AED course is planned to run on Sunday, Oct 9 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Cost is \$75.00 to public (\$45.00 to Auxiliary) and includes lunch. This course is taught by John Mosley, a Red Cross Certified instructor, and it covers First Aid basics, CPR, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), medical, injury and environmental emergencies, and special medical concerns and emergencies for boaters.

We are advertising these PE courses on our website and with brochures, and it may be time to have a Facebook page for the Flotilla. Meanwhile the PE team is still appealing to 2-76 Auxiliary members to **GET THE WORD OUT for the fall courses!**

### **Human Resources (HR)**

August saw the addition of one new member to the flotilla. Currently we have four prospective members in contact with the flotilla.

Plans are in the works for a Division recruiting drive. Details will be released within the month.

Dan Toms, FSO-HR

### **Vessel Examinations (VE)**

Remember to turn in your VE Inspections along with the appropriate Forms. For those who need additional Forms or VE stickers, don't hesitate to contact me.

Paul Parravicini FSO-VE



## **CHANGE OF WATCH: SAVE THE DATE!**

**CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB**  
**SATURDAY, December 10, 2011, 1200-1600**  
**Luncheon Buffet**  
**The cost will be \$35.00**

**If you have any questions, call Muriel Lewis at  
(610) 642-2442**

### **Change of Watch**

We had to guarantee a minimum of 29 people (in order to guarantee the price. There is NO CHARGE for the room). There will be cold hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The menu will be announced soon.

The deadline for your reservations is November 30. Please try to make your payment long before then. It's no fun trying at the last minute to get attendees. This is YOUR Flotilla. We have been fortunate to go back to the Corinthian, as you requested. We've dropped the price from \$40 to \$35. I think we've done remarkably well.

PLEASE don't let us down. We're big enough and strong enough to get at least 35 to 40 people. We need reservations in order to make up seating arrangements. If you want to sit with anyone in particular, please include their name(s), so that we can honor your request.

Thanks so much. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Muriel Lewis, PFC 2-76



### **Flotilla Staff Officers**

W Henry Harrison	FC	<a href="mailto:knah8@attglobal.net">knah8@attglobal.net</a>
Matthew J O'Brien	FSO-CM	<a href="mailto:mobrien12@aol.com">mobrien12@aol.com</a>
Darryl A Stevenson	FSO-CS	<a href="mailto:dnetman@gmail.com">dnetman@gmail.com</a>
Philip M Giangiordano	FSO-FN	<a href="mailto:pgjazzpro@aol.com">pgjazzpro@aol.com</a>
Jose G Roman-Rivera	FSO-IS	<a href="mailto:romanj692@aol.com">romanj692@aol.com</a>
James M Deleon	FSO-MA	<a href="mailto:jimmyde46@aol.com">jimmyde46@aol.com</a>
Caroline E Shipsey	FSO-MS	<a href="mailto:ces93@drexel.edu">ces93@drexel.edu</a>
Daniel A Toms	FSO-MT	<a href="mailto:danielandrewtoms@gmail.com">danielandrewtoms@gmail.com</a>
Matthew J O'Brien	FSO-NS	<a href="mailto:mobrien12@aol.com">mobrien12@aol.com</a>
Brian P Lynch	FSO-OP	<a href="mailto:brian.lynch@drexel.edu">brian.lynch@drexel.edu</a>
Monica M Santoro	FSO-PA	<a href="mailto:ms@pennslandingcorp.com">ms@pennslandingcorp.com</a>
Elizabeth G LeFever	FSO-PB	<a href="mailto:elefever@msn.com">elefever@msn.com</a>
Dorothy M French	FSO-PE	<a href="mailto:frenchdot@gmail.com">frenchdot@gmail.com</a>
Daniel A Toms	FSO-HR	<a href="mailto:dtoms@ymail.com">dtoms@ymail.com</a>
Clark F Edwards	FSO-PV	<a href="mailto:clark.edwards@cgaux276.org">clark.edwards@cgaux276.org</a>
Caroline E Shipsey	FSO-SR	<a href="mailto:ces93@drexel.edu">ces93@drexel.edu</a>
Paul Parravicini	FSO-VE	<a href="mailto:carioca@comcast.net">carioca@comcast.net</a>
Jose G Roman-Rivera	VFC	<a href="mailto:romanj692@aol.com">romanj692@aol.com</a>
Clark F Edwards	IPFC	<a href="mailto:clark.edwards@cgaux276.org">clark.edwards@cgaux276.org</a>

### **This month in CG Auxiliary History**

September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda terrorists hijack four commercial airliners, three of which are flown into World Trade Center towers, New York City and the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., resulting in ca. 3,000 deaths (following collapse of towers, building damage at the Pentagon, and crash of fourth airliner in PA). Nationwide call-out of Auxiliary. In the 1st District (SR) that comprises the New York region, Auxiliarists responded immediately to help close the Port of New York and backfill at local CG stations; from September 11 to November 7, 2001, 755 personnel conducted 266 security patrols, accounting for 1,765 mission hours. Awards issued: blanket Coast Guard Unit Commendation (O device authorized); Secretary's Gold Award; Dept. of Transportation 9/11 Award. For Auxiliarists' stories from across the country please visit <http://www.teamcoastguard.org/2011/Sep/A110911/index.htm>

