

Lifeline

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

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Fellow shipmates,

This year has started off in a positive way for us with increases in membership. However, we have encountered some stumbling blocks in our Public Affairs (PA) department which has adversely impacted our Public Education (PE), Vessel Exams (VE) and Program Visitations (PV) departments. This challenge will require the attention and support of all our members to find solutions to the problem. As your Flotilla Commander it's my belief that all members should be aware of what's going on, and provide insight into correcting these situations.

Despite the good start, we are experiencing some difficulty in gathering interest from the public. As you are probably aware, our Public Affairs efforts have been concentrated on limited media outlets such as the Internet, which is a great tool and is the mainstay of communications for the Auxiliary. However, I think it is time for a new approach, whereby we advertise in newspapers and community magazines or newsletters, as well as the Internet. By utilizing print media, the advertisement will reach an audience who still reads the paper and searches for classifieds. The objective of this plan would be to spark interest of any type, shape, or form for the boating enthusiast, amateurs, and non-boaters alike who wish to learn about our public education offerings, boating safety and environmental protection. Your assistance is highly sought in this matter, for every member knows their community best and can better relate with their local media outlets. Members would be tasked in gathering the name of the local newspapers, community newsletter, or magazines right down to the Church newsletter, and provide them to the committee in charge. We will need a group of volunteers to

develop a template that can be used for the ads so we can distribute them to the local media.

I'm confident that this could be accomplished if we all work at it together, and it might not happen overnight, but it is a step forward.

Lastly, let us be reminded that the Coast Guard is now looking at the Auxiliary more than ever. Training is always available somewhere in the 5NR and our classes are posted on the website. However, attendance from our own flotilla is still low, hopefully we can change that. We are never too old to learn something new, so please take advantage of all the offerings available to you and make yourself ready when we are called upon. Just recently national released a new program for members interested in participating in the medical field. This program is known as AUXMED, and it encompasses those who have skills in practicing medicine such as doctors, nurses, medical technicians and EMTs/ Paramedics. Members can provide assistance in teaching CPR and AED to active coast guard personnel or even our members of the auxiliary. Any member that is interested in this program please send me an email or reach me at the flotilla meeting.

If you have questions or would like to find out more about training or what's news to the auxiliary, please ask a staff member, the Vice Flotilla Commander, or yours truly the Flotilla Commander.

Semper Paratus

Jose Roman-Rivera

FC 053-02-76

The next flotilla meeting is Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30pm

Flotilla Staff Officer Monthly Reports:

Finances (FN)

Nothing to report at this time.

Phil Giangiardano, FSO-FN pgjazzpro@aol.com

Information Systems (IS)

Using **AUXDIRECTORY**

Have you ever wondered how to find someone to help you with your auxiliary needs? **AUXDIRECTORY** is the way to find someone because it lists everyone

who is in the auxiliary and their contact information. It also describes the organizational structure of the auxiliary and who fills those roles.

The information in AUXDIRECTORY comes from AUXDATA, the central database for all auxiliary data. It is my job to keep AUXDATA up-to-date with the information you report. At the end of February 2012, I am enrolled in the AUX-10 C-school. When I return I will be able to update AUXDATA and use AUXINFO. You, too, can use AUXINFO! I will tell you how to do it when I return from school. In the meantime, all members should learn how to use the AUXDIRECTORY, also known as AUXOFFICER.

You can get to the AUXDIRECTORY by using the following link:

<https://auxofficer.cgaux.org>. You will need two things,

- your employee ID
- your member zone password

Just click on the link to try it out. Your employee ID is on your ID card or in the letter that welcomed you to the auxiliary. Anyone who has access to the AUXDIRECTORY can get it for you. Your member zone password is the one you use to get to national and local auxiliary information. If you have forgotten it, you can get a new one. If you never got one, just go to AUXDIRECTORY and you can set it up.

The first thing you should do is verify that your record in the directory is correct. If it is not, I will help you correct it as follows. By navigating to your directory record you will see that the relevant personal information can be updated. Just correct it on the screen and press update. I will get a system-generated request with the information you want changed, and I will update it in AUXDATA. Otherwise, please send me an email or call me with the information.

Hank Harrison, FSO-IS knah8@attglobal.net

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

Marine Safety (MS)

The MS presentation originally planned for last month's meeting was postponed due to an already busy agenda. I am working with SO-MS Frank Williams to reschedule the presentation.

Caroline Shipsey, FSO-MS ces93@drexel.edu

Member Training (MT)

At the national level, the Auxiliary and the US Power Squadrons (USPS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU states that the two organizations will work together to enhance public safety. One of the aspects of this cooperation is in education - more specifically for me, in Member Training. The USPS is the premier organization when it comes to maritime education, both public education and member training.

The USPS University consists of over a dozen mini-seminars, suitable for presentation to the public or the membership. I intend to use these mini-seminars to increase the readiness of our members by presenting various seminars at our Flotilla meetings. So as to not extend the meeting into the night, these mini-seminars will be presented before the regular monthly meeting, beginning at 1830. The monthly meeting begins at 1930.

The first session, title to be announced later, will be held before the March meeting. Check the next LIFELINE for the subject to be presented.

Pat Cunningham, FSO-MT hawsingham@comcast.net

Navigation Systems(NS)

A presentation was made at the AOT on the new Performance Quality Standard for Aids Verifier in the USCGAUX Navigation Systems program.

Note the software used in the Weekend Navigator course, COASTAL EXPLORER, can be purchased for \$300 at Active

Captain <https://activecaptain.com/> . This is a 25% savings over the manufacturer's direct purchase price of \$400. It is very user friendly software.

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

Operations (OPS)

Crew school is now in full swing and the core class has been established. We have 15 students, as well as 3 trainees auditing the class to refresh for crew. This year's crew school has been a multi-flotilla effort with mentors from 2-4 and Division 13 assisting 2-76's instructors. Crew school will continue through May 14. We are still without coxswain and facility and need to recruit and train from within.

Dan Toms, FSO-OPS danielandrewtoms@gmail.com

Public Affairs (PA)

I will present our Public Affairs long-term goals and short-term plans to the membership at our February meeting, emphasizing areas where they can help.

Dan Murphy, FSO-PA uscgmur@aol.com

Public Education (PE)

The Spring 2012 season of PE classes has begun. The first session of "How to Read a Nautical Chart" took place on Wednesday February 8, with about six students and Pat Cunningham at the helm. The "Sailing Skills and Seamanship" course will begin on February 13. Students are signing up for the first session of About Boating Safely, on March 3rd.

All IT qualified staff who have been assigned to teach are requested to confirm their assignments before meeting their classes. PE thanks all IT and other members for their support of the PE program.

Scheduled Public Education courses for Spring 2012 are listed below [at end of Lifeline]. 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.cgau276.org website, or send an email to public.education@cgau276.org.

Black-and - white flyers were distributed to all attending flotilla members at the January meeting. Meanwhile, auxiliarists are urged to help publicize these courses by taking flyers to local marinas, bookstores, recreation centers, and marine supply stores. The courses are also currently listed on Craigslist Philadelphia.

Dot French, FSO-PE frenchdot@gmail.com

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

Program Visitor (PV)

All Flotillas in the Division are currently involved in the PV program and visits are down. Results may vary among members and active programs.

As FSO-PV my primary function is to ensure that Partners are processed through the SO-PV.

Another important function is to ensure that all Partners in the program are being visited.

This year I'm asking all qualified PVs to forward a copy of all ANSC-7046 forms to me. This will allow me to get the most dependable information about visits and will in turn enable me to identify which partners I need to contact about adjustments. Help is desperately needed in the PV program and I'd like to coordinate with the FSO-MT to encourage the increase number of qualified Dealer Visitors and assist the VE/PV workshops. For questions or comments, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you.

Paul Parravicini, FSO-PV carioca@comcast.net

Secretary (SR)

Emails sent to several members have been bouncing back as undeliverable. I called several of them, and am working on resolving this problem. January's meeting minutes will be sent out soon.

Caroline Shipsey, FSO-MS ces93@drexel.edu

Vessel Examination (VE)

Last year the number of Vessel Examiner Inspections for the Flotilla were way down. We as a TEAM can do a better job and increase the number of participation in the program and assist the Flotilla. This year I am asking the VE's to make a commitment to a least complete the required 5 inspections to maintain their qualifications and submit the paperwork in to me to be processed and recorded accordingly. For any new member interested in the PV or VE program, don't hesitate to contact me at anytime. We definitely can use your help.

Paul Parravicini, FSO-VE carioca@comcast.net

Red Paw Emergency Relief

At last month's flotilla meeting we had a presentation by Red Paw Emergency Relief. The following is from their website:

"In conjunction with the American Red Cross SEPA Chapter, Red Paw provides 24/7 emergency transport, shelter and veterinary care for animals involved in residential fires and other incidents. We work within a network of animal care related facilities, including veterinary care facilities, boarding facilities, kennels and training facilities, in conjunction with animal rescue groups and fosters in the Philadelphia and surrounding counties."

For more info on Red Paw and how to volunteer, visit

<http://www.redpawemergencyreliefteam.org/>

UPDATED ODU AVAILABILITY AT THE COAST GUARD UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION CENTER (UDC)

1. ALAUX 002/12 of February 2, 2012 provided an update to the surplus inventory of many Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) sizes at the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) in Woodbine, NJ. This ALAUX updates the availability of ODU top and pant sizes at UDC.
2. As highlighted in yellow on the accompanying chart (<http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/odu-size-availability-feb12.pdf>), only two sizes are not available. All available ODUs may be ordered in multiple sets.
3. In order to manage and meet Coast Guard active duty demands, the UDC must reserve the right to adjust uniform availabilities as needed. It therefore highly recommends that Auxiliarists speak to a UDC customer service representative for updates on available sizes and place all their orders by phone. The UDC customer service desk can be reached at (800) 874-6841 or (609) 861-1221 (web site: <http://uscg.mil/uniform/>).
4. The purpose of this list is to keep Auxiliarists as well as all other interested parties abreast of current developments, policies, manuals, etc. All information contained herein and linked is OFFICIAL policy and information.
5. CG-5421 (ChDIRAUX) sends

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