

Lifeline

May 2012 Vol. 37 No. 5
Newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 2-76 5NR

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Flotilla 2-76 at the Fishtown Shadfest *image courtesy Jose Roman-Rivera*

The next flotilla meeting is Tuesday, 15 May at 7:30pm

Flotilla Commander's Report

Dear Shipmates,

Spring is peak season and the unofficial start of summer is just weeks away. As you already know, Flotilla 2-76 has been well underway in trying to execute our goals mentioned in the beginning of the year. Some of these goals are being met, others are still in preparatory stages. It's been hard work but mostly fun.

This month we attended the annual Shad Festival at Penn Treaty Park. The festival went well, with live music, good food venues, different vendors, environmental awareness and outreach. The auxiliary made a great impression with the public, although the majority thought we were there recruiting for the military, those that actually came and visited our booths walked away having learned something new. Some of them were so interested they signed up for boating safety courses. Some learned about our organization and the role of the auxiliary.

Children and teens were given information on how to help keep our waterways clean, as well as information on how to join the Coast Guard for future education. We met a lot of new people, and they were glad we were there. Even though the weather was playing peek-a-boo with the crew all day, our vessel examiners had almost every ramp on the Philadelphia and Neshaminy side covered. Boaters were indeed out on the water and we caught many of them by surprise. Two Vessel Exams were completed and that in its self is a success. I would like to thank all the members who volunteered to help set up and arrange the booths as well as stayed and spent time with us and participated in the event. (John Mosley, Jimmy DeLeon, Jessica Zenquis, Jim Nagle, Clark Edwards, Incident Commander Dan Toms, and Logistical Efforts, yours truly. Special thanks are in order to the coordinators of the Shad Festival for graciously providing meals and beverages to the auxiliary team.

We had a lot of fun and great fellowship, and in my opinion the event was a great success. As you know we are already planning the next one for Delaware River Day at Penns Landing on May 19th. If you would like to help, let us know.

Semper Paratus

Jose Roman FC 02-76

April Vice Flotilla Commander's Report

Program Updates: Flotilla website is still undergoing its upgrade. Difficulties have been faced with time for both me and the FSO-CS in getting together and fixing the problem. Shadfest's booth component was a success. Our 15 April AUXPAT class

had a 12 out of 14 pass. ABS 14 April also saw a 100% pass rate. FSO-PA Dan Murphy has expressed his desire to resign the office – Jessica Davidson has volunteered to do the job. Jessica has also volunteered her vessel as an OPFAC and work is ongoing in that area.

Accomplishments: Shadfest was a success. The division was successfully mobilized getting 7 vessel examiners and 8 Auxiliarists at the booth at Penn Treaty Park. Over 300 bags were given out, along with a large number of brochures and materials. The Shadfest had nearly 4000 people there despite the blustery weather.

Upcoming: Delaware River Day 19 May, Baltimore War of 1812 Bicentennial Trip 16JUN. Patrol season starts 12 May.

Problems: Still no coxswain or OPFAC in flotilla.

Other: I will be out of country from 16 May through 3 July and unable to perform most functions at that time.

Dan Toms, VFC

Information Systems (IS)

FSO-IS A new video walkthrough is available which explains how to use the on-line 7029 form. You can find it at cgaux.org/library/video/itgroup/7029-video-walkthrough.php. Keep sending in those reports.

Hank Harrison, FSO-IS knah8@attglobal.net

Materials (MA)

Material Orders are filled within 10 days of the order being placed. However, for the next month, any order will be filled using our Division resources until repairs are completed at the Supply Center, stemming from storm damage sustained there last week.

Jimmy Deleon, FSO-MA jimmyde46@aol.com

Navigation Systems(NS)

At this time the Chief from Station Philadelphia ANT will provide a list of PATONS within Sector Delaware Bay (SDB and provide a list from IATONIS that designated aids are on station and functioning according to their description in the Light List and on the Charts.

Upcoming: AV PQS instruction to begin 3Q2012.

Help needed from Division: TBD

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

Operations (OPS)

Program Updates: The 2-76 Crew School is down to 10 trainees, seven of which appear to be on schedule to graduate the course on 14 May. Jessica Davidson has volunteered her 25' Nimble Nomad as a vessel and work is ongoing to get it ready for its OPFAC inspection. It is a trawler only capable of 6 knots, but will serve well as a training and marker vessel.

Accomplishments: None to report.

Upcoming: Patrol season starts 12 May. Trainees will need facilities for patrols, especially those in Division 02. Our Delaware River Day (19 May) needs a patrol on that day as well.

Problems: The lack of facilities and coxswains continues to limit 2-76's operational capability. We currently can only support other flotilla's operations programs.

Other: I will be out of country from 16 May through 4 May and unable to support operations at that time.

Dan Toms, FSO-OPS danielandrewtoms@gmail.com

Public Education (PE)

The SSS class is almost over--final session will be May 14, at which time the number of graduates will be known. Thanks to all PE instructors who supported this class.

ABS scheduled for May 5 had to be postponed, due to low enrollment. The next scheduled session is Saturday June 2. Hopefully with the 2-76 website up and running again, enrollment will pick up to the point where it is feasible to hold an ABS session.

Weekend Navigator course has almost concluded. Thanks go to Pat Cunningham, Hank Harrison and Matt O'Brien, who taught the majority of WN sessions. PE brochures were distributed at the recent Shadfest event in Fishtown, and brochures are available for auxiliaries to place in public areas to again try to publicize our programs.

Dot French, FSO-PE frenchdot@gmail.com

Program Visitor (PV)

As the weather warms up, it is time for us to spread the word and promote Boat Safety. We are in desperate need to increase our number of Program Visitors. It's the easiest job ever. If you are looking to assist your Flotilla, this is a good way to get started. If interested or need additional information, don't hesitate to contact

me at any time at carioca@comcast.net or 215-582-2972. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Paul Parravicini, FSO-PV carioca@comcast.net

Vessel Examination (VE)

As the boat season approaches, we encourage new members to take part in this exciting on-ramp event. Our Flotilla VE's along with others from Div. 5 will be meeting on the Arsenal and Linden Ave. ramps in the upcoming weekends. We're looking for one-on-one public interaction, while having Fun and enforcing Boat Safety (WE ARE HERE TO HELP). If interested or need additional information, don't hesitate to contact me at carioca@comcast.net or 215-582-2972. Thank you

Paul Parravicini, FSO-VE carioca@comcast.net

4th Annual Fishtown Shad Festival



The USCG Auxiliary 2-76 was invited to participate in the [4th Annual Fishtown Shadfest](#) held at Penn Treaty Park along the Delaware River on April 20th. The event celebrates the historical importance that Fishtown has had and wants to continue looking forward. The [Friends of Penn Treaty](#) hosted the event and pride

themselves on preserving the parks waterfront which reconnects the community to the river.

Our mission was to educate in Marine Safety, recruit and offer Vessel Examinations. This multi-flotilla mission was a total success. We spoke with a few potential new members, provided some VE's and gave out plenty of literature to interested boaters. The day was filled with wonderful music, food, arts and above all a connection to the Delaware River.

Our gracious hosts made their way to our booth and expressed their gratitude on the Auxiliary being able to attend. We were ever so proud to oblige and we hope to be able to be apart of next years fine event.

-Jessica Z. Davidson

ST. LOUIS - Severe weather damaged the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC) last Saturday, April 28. The building is currently in non-operational status while personnel assess the damage and work toward getting the facility back up and running. A timeframe is presently not available for operational status.

Coast Guard Auxiliary units requesting brochures and other material for their National Safe Boating Week campaigns, as well as general operations, are asked to be patient and procure items via alternative resources until ANSC is again operational.

Additional information will be passed along as it becomes available.

About Boating Safely (ABS)

Saturday 1-day courses 8:00-5:00 pm Registration begins at 7:30 am

Dates: **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.

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: May 20, July 15 Sep 9, Nov 4