



FLOTILLA 04-76
NEWSLETTER
February 2016

LIFELINE

Volume #2



Shipmates,

Change of Watch.. What can I say!! Outstanding.. Kudos to the committee- J.Timothy Nelson-Chairman, Ralph Onesti FC & Charles J. Miller VFC for putting this all together. But especially, thank you Members for your support. Without **YOU, this could not have happened.** Kudos to Ed Poznek for getting our guest of honor-Charles Ramsey. I am so proud of this Flotilla. 04-76 truly is the” **Flagship in the Division**”!!

Semper Paratus

Teamwork: Simply stated, it is less me and more we.

Unknown

Charles J Miller, II
VFC, FSO-PB-AFSO-PA
Editor

Charles A. Stiteler
AFSO-PB



From the perspective of a teacher on Public Education

What can I say...I love my job. I like speaking to the boating public and trying to educate them on water safety.

Our PE program is up and running, alive and well. We've tried some creative things this year...advertising instead of brochures. Without going into great detail from the financial side, for every \$10 we spend, we get \$100 back in registrations. Not bad!!

So far just this year in 2016, we have a healthy SS&S class (10), an equally healthy BS&S (10), a roaring Coastal Navigation class at (8)...that's a big class for nav, and a nicely done, How to Read Nautical Chart at (5)...and...we haven't even scratched the surface of ABS.

With that...we are GOING LIVE again. Comcast called and wants to do a follow up on our boating education offerings for the upcoming boating season...film at 11...literally.

I would love to have at least one AFSO-PE...maybe two. What does that take...you must have taken the in class IDC course and be certified IT. I...need...help!

Courtesy: Ralph Onesti- FC

A Letter from a new Auxiliarist Member

Auxiliary Experience

Frank Michel

As you all know, being an Auxiliary member is a fun, rewarding adventure that few people will ever experience. However, there are a few hurdles and frustrations one must endure prior to becoming a member. This is commonly known as the “Application Process”.

Our adventure began in August when my wife and I were taking the “Boating Skills and Seamanship” course being offered by the Auxiliary. We met several of the Auxiliary members during the class who shared their experiences and fun they had. My wife and I became interested in the Auxiliary and decided to become members.

LET THE FUN BEGIN! It all started with the application. After filling out multiple pages of personal history, and believing we were almost done, then we had to sort through multiple pages of job codes and try to figure out which one best applied to our occupations. This could have been simplified if they used a larger font for us visually challenged individuals.

Next we had to search our personal files and try to find multiple forms of identification to accompany the applications. Then we had to arrange an interview that agreed with everyone's schedule. In the interim we had to take the entrance exam, have it graded and turned in with the application. Next was fingerprinting and photographs.

After completing the application process, now came the “**HURRY UP AND WAIT**” stage. We found we couldn't do anything without our member ID numbers. Several times during the process my wife and I became frustrated and disillusioned. We contemplated resigning several times before we ever began. If it hadn't been for the members of the Flotilla continually touching

base with us and encouraging us to “hang in there”, we would have resigned.

We were fortunate that the “Weekend College” was in process and we were allowed to take several classes, even though we didn't have our ID numbers yet.

In addition to Boating Skills and Seamanship course, we attended the Instructor Development Course (IDC), Auxiliary Weather (AUXWEA) and Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOM).

Again, if it hadn't been for the fellowship of the Flotilla members, my wife and I would have resigned before we ever got started.

One thing we especially enjoyed was going to dinner with other Flotilla members. We really look forward to the “Monthly Dinner Out”. Loads of fun and laughter.

Looking forward to January's “Dinner Out”



From the top...

This is an area I asked Charles to open up to YOU...the family.

You get to yell Bravo Zulu or scream...”Are you kidding me?!”

So let's have it. All I ask that you remain civil and on point...you write we publish...your likes, dislikes, wishes, wants and stuff you would like to see changed or go away.

I'll start...I asked and you responded. I asked you to join me at TRACEN at the December meet and greet and you turned it into a 76 affair.

I asked for a fun Change of Watch, and under the Change of Watch Committee, we had the best COW ever!

Bravo Zulu 76...we ARE 76 Strong.

What I don't like...I don't like that I have to work for a living instead of doing Aux stuff all day long. Don't you think being an adult is overrated?!

OK...You're turn. Let's not let Miller do this all on his own.

And if you want to post personal stuff with pictures...this is your virtual Facebook.

If you have a great idea and must want to see it get off the ground...start typing!

Courtesy: Ralph Onesti – FC



Auxiliary Trivia

While we know the Auxiliary does not get directly involved in military and law enforcement operations. Below is a bit of trivia about Auxiliarist and reservist working together in coastal military operations

Beginning in 1942, in response to the growing German [U-Boat](#) threat to the United States, the [U.S. Navy](#) ordered the acquisition of the "maximum practical number of civilian craft in any way capable of going to sea in good weather for a period of at least 48 hours." A large number of vessels owned

and piloted by Auxiliaries with crews made-up of Coast Guard Reservists, made-up the bulk of the American coastal anti-submarine warfare capability during the early months of [World War II](#).

None of the two thousand civilian craft, armed with depth charges stowed awkwardly on their decks, ever sank a submarine, though they did rescue several hundred survivors of torpedoed merchant ships. (Wikipedia)

Courtesy: Glenn Oldak – IPFC



US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
5NR DISTRICT TRAINING
& BOARD MEETING
ONLINE REGISTRATION

5NR District Training & Board Meeting Spring 2016
Thursday, March 10, 2016 - Sunday, March 13, 2016

Crowne Plaza Reading
610-376-3811
1741 Papermill Rd.

Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610
United States

WELCOME to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th Northern Region District Training & Board Meeting This step by step registration form will get you registered the fastest and most secure way possible. This is how to register for the conference - ALL members and guests are to register here. HELP those who don't use computers!

Remember you MUST register if you are attending ANY conference event, meal, activity in any way.

The password is for security and allows you to come back and log in to make changes. Email address is required so you receive your confirmation.

REMEMBER if you are a VIP or funded member, use your code given or you will be charged incorrectly!

If you have any questions feel free to email or call.

Thank You
SEMPER PARATUS

Kevin & Vickie Tyler, DSO-C
Conference Coordinators
ktyler@ptd.net

Register on this website:
<https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventId=1803709>
(right-click on link to open hyperlink)

This is a great opportunity to boost your Auxiliary skills in various training sessions. We already have several members signed-up to

attend. Please plan on joining us there. We'd love to get a great turnout of 04-76 members!!!



From the FC Desk:

From the Bottom Up

OK...you pretty much get me by now. I think the more stripes you have the further down the chain you are. You eventually become the foundation. Wouldn't it be great if this idea actually caught on?! So in our Flotilla, you are at the top, and I am at the bottom...sounds like Cole Porter.

From the bottom...we have already implemented one of our ideas...Flotilla meeting version 3.7. We met at 1830 for a staff meeting in the Response room...nice attendance by the way. Then down to the General Greene Room by 1855...perfect.

Frank Michel had the coffee going in the pot that Patricia Lahov brought along with goodies...let the fellowship begin.

With Staff reports emailed to everyone by VFC Miller, there was no reason to go through position by position telling us what we already know...except for Allaire Corbett, FSO-PA who came up with some novel and aggressive ideas to get our campaign going for this upcoming boating season...go ahead...blink...it's just around the corner. I will let Allaire tell you what's going on rather than steal the thunder.

Meeting over in one hour...perfect! Then off to member training. Hank Harrison did a great job teaching us how to fill in our 7028's, 7029's, and

7030's, and just why we need to do this. A reminder from Hank...if you're reading this...PUT IT DOWN...it counts!!!!

Something I haven't seen in a while...after the MT...people hung...had coffee...brownies...and real fellowship...nice...more please.

This was the last meeting before the Change of Watch. I am so itching to tell you about that...especially if you weren't there...but no thunder stealing once again. I will take a moment to thank Allaire Corbett, Ed Poznek, Mark Batt, and Mark Crater...generous and industrious to the proverbial fault. I did get an email from Captain Scott Anderson who spoke that afternoon saying he and his wife had a great time. He wants in again!

First meeting over...on to more business.

Let's talk Human Recourses shall we. This will not be business as usual, it just doesn't work. Do we want new members...nope...we want new Auxiliarist. You know...the people that come in because they get what we do and want to help us do it. This brings up the vetting process. The HR Department: Frank Michel and I will be the only ones who interview and train prospective members for our flotilla. It will be a short process I promise.

Here's how it works: someone shows interest in our flotilla. They are NOT invited to a meeting. The first step is the interview by either Michel or Onesti. Upon a successful interview, the member package is opened and accomplished...quickly and efficiently.

Of course, the person responsible for bringing this person into the flotilla gets the credit...always. We already have on new member in the process from just a couple of days ago, and one meeting will seal the deal.

If you have someone you think is interested in joining us either from a PA event, or PE event, or VE event, please direct them directly to the HR department. Any other route will stop the process cold.

We have already made changes in our Staff roster and I see at least one more coming. The staff is the spine of the animal we call the flotilla. We have a great spine. We need to flesh out the body with AFSO's. We also have a spot in NS and there may be one coming in one more spot...we shall see. Member training is important, and we have abandoned the term Weekend College. It's intimidating and unnecessary. What shall we call it then...I know, "MEMBER TRAINING". Am I clever or what. So I asked Ed

Poznek, FSO-MT to come up with a program, but not a fast program, rather a quality program. I have all the confidence!

Enough already. I hope I made a snow ball, pushed it to the edge of the hill, over the top to roll down picking up more and more snow until it gets so big it is unstoppable!

So if I'm the bottom...you're the top. Hey...that is Cole Porter!