



FLOTILLA 04-76
April 2016

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER
Volume #4



Shipmates-Greetings and welcome spring! Last month's meeting offered an excellent opportunity to meet and greet many new boating enthusiasts looking forward to becoming better seamen. We also had the chance to meet Vicki Otmani (who is also attending our classes) who along with her rowing partner – Megan Biging, are rowing from California to Hawaii promoting ***Saving the Ocean from Pollution!*** Included in our newsletter is an excerpt from her captivating presentation which I'm sure will impress you and increase your awareness of our Eco-footprint on marine life. Our FC also had another opportunity to visit Comcast and discuss Vessel Safety Exams to the Philadelphia boating public. We also had an excellent contingency of members attend D-Train. Bottom-line, our first quarter has been a busy and productive time. Thanks to you all for your service and making Flotilla 04-76 – **A Leader in the Division!**

SEMPER PARATUS

Charles J Miller, II – VC
FSO-PB-FSO-PA

Charles A. Stiteler
AFSO-PB



US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY 5NR
DISTRICT TRAINING& BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 10, 2016 - Sunday, March 13, 2016

On Saturday, March 12th, 2016, several members of 04-76 attended the Spring D-Train session. Many great presentations were made on courses relevant to continued education & skill enhancements for Auxiliarists necessary to maintain their current status. There was also time for enjoyment and our own Ralph Onesti-FC received an accommodation there for Public Service! Kudos sir!



**Members meet and greet Dave Desimone
Division Commander prior to lunch.**

**Lunch: 04-76 members- Ralph Onesti-FC, Matt Jones, Charles Miller,-
VFC, Frank Michel-AFSO-HR, Jim Campbell, Glenn Oldak-IPFC-
FSO-PV**



**Ralph Onesti-FC- receives an award from the PA.
Fish & Game Commission-Certificate of Recognition-
85 hours-Public Education! Kudos...**



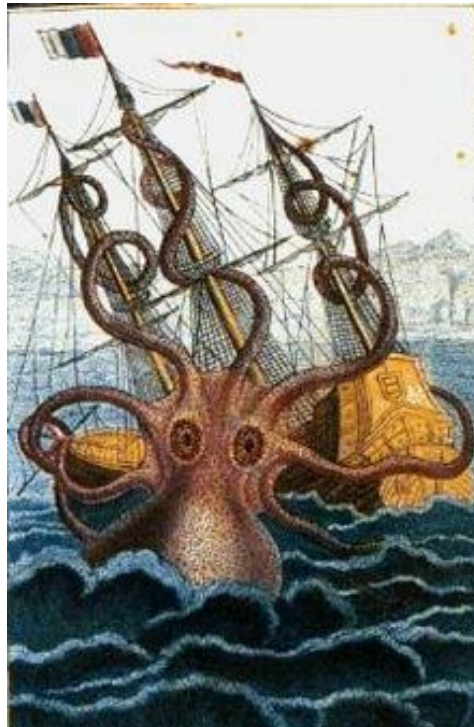
Charles Miller-VFC, Glenn Oldak-IPFC-FSO-PV and Jim Weiler-FSO-CM pose for pics prior to their seminars.



Frank Michel-AFSO-HR and Ralph Onesti-FC.

Photos: courtesy – Charles Miller-VFC

FIGHT THE KRAKEN



At our March 22nd meeting, we had the pleasure of listening to Vicki Otmani, who is attending our Nav classes, but the most impressive thing is she and her colleague are “rowing” from Monterey, Ca. to Honolulu, HI as part of the Great Pacific Race. They are attempting to beat the two man French record of 75 days by doing this in 60days! It’s all part of their efforts to bring attention to our planets global resource-Our Oceans! “The dumping of plastics in our oceans is the number one marine danger to aquatic life.” Vicki discussed the impact of our actions and the need to raise awareness of the problem. They are attempting to raise \$100,000 for Ocean Conservancy. It was an exceptional presentation and you can follow their efforts on their website - <http://www.fightthekraken.org>. They will also utilize a webcast to record their journey. We wish them safe travels and look forward to hearing about their epic adventure!



Ms. Otmani & Ralph Onesti-FC offer remarks during Vicki's presentation.



Both rowers "hamming" it up!



Vessel check of all equipment which is an ongoing requirement to ensure safety

Let's cheer them onto victory!

We look forward to hearing of your adventure and most importantly, joining 04-76(hint)...



Continued Education: MANDATED TRAINING CLASSES AT SECTOR

On Saturday, March 26th, 2016, Flotilla 04-76 conducted Mandated Training for Auxiliarist, and it was truly a success! Many of the participants who attended, indicated it was a day of great learning, fellowship, good food and a chance to see behind Sector-up close & vivid! This was an excellent chance for those members needing to complete the requirements outlined by the Auxiliary Directive. We received some excellent feedback-here are a few quotes:

I thought Saturday was a great day, for both mandatory training and fellowship. It was FUN and well-planned, and very much appreciated. Great idea to take a break just before lunch, and go outside to see the Coast Guard boats, buoys, and other equipment. That was very exciting for me!

I must also add.. what a great group this is. As you know, I am a newbie, but I am already feeling a strong sense of pride in this flotilla. I see lots of dedication, sincerity and compassion from the Officers and Auxiliarists. I am so glad to be here, and am looking forward to everything!

~Gail

1) Unit Cohesion/Morale/ Fellowship

Your idea to have a flotilla training session is excellent. These types of group activities build unit cohesion in the long run. The more of this "stuff" we have the more opportunities we have to mingle together.

2) Hospitality-

Thanks for having coffee and buying lunch. The Flotilla/USCG Aux recognizes we are taking a Saturday Morning off. Per the training this is a gift I can accept. Thank you.

Tim

Congratulations to those that accepted and met the charge! Here are some photos of their experience:



Auxiliarists tackle a long day of continued education.



Ralph Onesti-FC- resting with buoys in case of trouble!



Gary Papouschek – prepares for action!



Behind the scene at Sector..

Kudos to members: Hank Harrison, Ken Christy, and Jim Weiler for going the “extra mile” to support this day. Most importantly, our big thanks to Ralph Onesti for doing all he can to ensure 04-76 stands – Head & Shoulders above the Division!

Semper Paratus!!

**Photos courtesy: Ralph Onesti-FC, Gail Weintraub and GaryPapouschek.
A huge thanks!**

COMCAST NEWSMAKERS

Comcast Newsmakers: Ralph Onesti FC-FSO-PE discusses Vessel Safety Exams - March 24th, 2016.

Ralph Onesti-FC-FSO-PE was again interviewed by Jill Horner to discuss the importance of Vessel Safety Exams offered by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Our on-going efforts to promote boating safety remain high as we enter boating season. Ralph discussed our services and how easy it is to have one done. For the complete interview, please cut & paste the link below in your browser.



<http://comcastnewsmakers.com/2016/03/25/boater-safety-exams/>

<https://youtu.be/GxgGqOjyh44>

Photo: Charles Miller-VFC- FSO-PB/PA



WHY JOIN THE US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY?

Question? You ever ask yourself why did I join and what am I doing here and what support can I offer?

Answer: YOU joined to make a difference! You joined to be a part of an outstanding organization of dedicated men and women committed to public service. YOU joined to offer your skills-talents and knowledge to make it safer for those in need! Yes, YOU joined us to make a difference and if you ever doubt that feeling-watch this video!!! It will make you recall how much WE need and appreciate YOU!!!

JOIN THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUX

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGak
BEygukMILIARY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGakBEygukMILIARY)**

Paste link into your browser

From the Bottom Up”

Three months into it and we are the envy of our surroundings. What can I say; you people who make up 4-76 are nothing short of amazing. Give you a little rope and you tie up the globe.

We were well represented at D-Train with new members as well as “old guard” in attendance. All had a great time and I am so sorry I couldn’t stay the night having to rush back for dire family matters. It will not be that way next year.

The Lucky Bag was at D-train and our guys scored some really great buys. Fear not oh ye who missed it. Frank Michel has scheduled a Road Trip to Cape May to Score Some More! Hop on that bus if you need “stuff”.

Frank will be doing our next MT at the flotilla on the correct wearing of the uniform for specific situations. It’s nice to see how we help each other with these matters...again...amazing.

OK...what else??? Well, if you missed our last meeting you missed Vicki Otmani give a riveting talk on her upcoming adventure in which she will row...that’s right I said ROW from California to Hawaii. It was great. Look her up on fightthekraken.org. Never mind that Kraken is also Vicki’s favorite rum. In the middle of the talk she says, “and when I get back I’m joining 4-76”. I did not see that coming!

Oh...and I am so thrilled that fellow Auxiliarist, and I’m proud to say friend, Ken Christy is taking over the Aids to Navigation verification program. If you don’t know Ken it’s because he is the busiest, and I dare say, best Coxswain the Auxiliary has. I looked up Ken’s certifications...I ran out of computer. I don’t think there is anything he can’t do. The first time I met Ken he was in my Nav class. Since then he has run up one side of me and down the other. And...last but not least...Ken is going to be a daddy...YAY!!!!!! The flotilla is an Uncle or Aunt...whatever...YAY!!!!!!

With all of that, our boat crew people are going to do what boat crew people do...get together and make more boat crew people. If you want in...see the boys. They will be putting on the school right soon. If you are in, let them know as books need to be ordered and room space reserved.

What did we do last Saturday, 26 March? Mandated Training...boring, boring, boring mandated training and managed to turn it into an event. I'm sure you will see more of that in this edition so I'll let Charles talk that one up...hope he puts in pictures! We had coffee (in our cool...no HOT new coffee pot) and sweets going all day...along with those videos going *all day* and a great lunch. Now that's what I'm talkin' about...FELLOWSHIP.

Speaking of which...a plug for our outing on 9 April at the Triangle Restaurant in "Sout Filly". We will gather to speak of all things NOT Auxiliary. We put out the glass jar for this one. Every time someone slips and brings up the Aux...a dollar goes in the jar. At the end of the night we do a drawing and someone goes home with a free dinner!

What's coming up? Summer is coming up. That means PA events with National Safe Boating Week in May, Program Visiting, and Vessel Exams.

Vessel Exams...let's talk. This is the easiest way to get stated in 4-76. Two ways to go here: John Monaghan can do a class (best way) or you can do it on line and let John supervise you through your VE PQS. I did tons of VE's and loved it. You know how shy I am...getting out there, face to face, helping people stock their vessels with everything they need to be safe on the water. So jump in and get out of your respective shells. Remember the CG mandate is boating safety...here's your chance to help save lives.

Want another easy one?! Program Visitor. Visiting marinas, retailers, and all kinds of venues with our flyers and brochures...can't get any easier than that. And you're spreading the word.

Also...talk to Jim Weiler for monitoring those inland waterways with COMS!

Our goal for this year is to get everyone to BQ. Remember you can't get qualified without it, and get everyone passed that mandated training. When I told DirAux we did that mandated training day last Saturday he said as he pumped his fist...and I'm quoting here, "YES!" He was thrilled that we not only got it done but found a way to have fun doing it. By the way...we are so close. Don't be left out of the party.

Ed Poznek, FSO-MT is talking about putting on another Mandated Training session. If you miss this one...and you don't get it done on your own, you will be out of luck. You need the 8 mandated training videos and ICS 100 and ICS 700. When you do the ICS classes on the FEMA web site you get your certs to me and I will pass them on to DirAux who will get them into AuxData. The mandated training sessions go to Hank, the IT magician, Harrison for entry.

Well, as Gretchen says, "you do go on".

Time for me to shut up or Charles will run out of computer.

Yours truly,

Ralph