



FLOTILLA 04-76
December 2017

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER
Volume #12



Shipmates: Greetings and Happy Holidays. It is with great pleasure to present our monthly newsletter. While this issue is to officially close the year out, I trust you will find it informative and reflective as past issues. As we approach 2018, let me start out by congratulating our new bridge elect- Matt Jones FC and Ash Kernan VFC for accepting the positions of leadership. I know we all we do our best to ensure our Flotilla remains the pride of the Division! Let's start the year off with an intensified PE program and promote the Auxiliary at every opportunity. Remember, we are as only as great as the sum of our parts. United we can accomplish anything.

Semper Paratus

Charles J Miller, II FSO-PB

"In union there is strength".
Aesop



Public Education Department.

I would have said, Department of Public Education but I'm afraid Washington would have offered me a job!

Well, 4-76 is up and running once more in the Ed department and

well it should be. After all, 2-76, then 4-76 was always known in the District as the "teaching flotilla" and why not...we did it all. So why not do it again? We have the space, the resources and the best instructors.

Our program is in full swing with a schedule of classes starting this month and through the Winter/Spring of 2018.

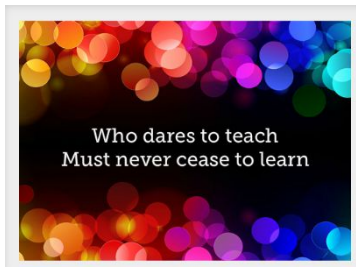
To start off, there is a "How to Read a Nautical Chart" class on December 16, 2017. This is a great way for the public to get a leg up on our famous navigation course. Also, for those of us who wish to be Watch Standers and Crew, chart skills are a must and to Auxiliarists, it's free. The only expense is the text. So, sign up soon so I will know what to order. The class is from 0800 to 1200 in the Wardroom.



Next on the list is a Boating Skills and Seamanship course; 14 weeks, a Sailing Skills and Seamanship course; 16 weeks, and a full-blown Navigation course; 13 weeks. The SS&S starts a few weeks before the BS&S in the Greene room on Wednesdays. The BS&S Starts in the Greene Room on Mondays. When the classes get to the point where we are teaching the same thing to both classes, we bring the sailing folks over to the power boater class...and both groups get the info that is

common to all boaters. This process helps to preserve our teaching staff and knock two bottles off the fence with one stone. There are also three About Boating Safely, one-day courses held in the Wardroom on the first Saturday of three consecutive months in 2018.

Now to the question of teachers. We have great instructors but can always use more. I will be running an IDC class (Instructor Development Course) at Sector soon. That class happens in two sessions of 4 hours each. The first session is a class where we learn how to teach the adult demographic in the evening. We learn to build on our social skills, create lesson plans, polish our deliveries, and become stellar instructors, in what...the teaching flotilla of course. This class is open to new instructors and current instructors as well. I find a refresher is a great thing and having experience in the room is a plus.



We will learn that the key to a good class is subject knowledge and that is critical. I can make an instructor of a boater, but the opposite is impossible. This brings up the question: “How can I teach if I’m not a boater?”. The answer...we can teach the subjects that do not require a boating resume. We can teach Weather, Radio, Safety, and yes, even Navigation. The only criteria: we must show competence in those respective areas. So, we want to teach Weather, we take and pass AuxWea. We want to teach navigation, we take and pass AuxNav. We want to teach Radio, we take and pass AuxCom. See a pattern here?!

Couple AuxNav and IDC and the department just netted another instructor! Further, taking those courses to teach puts us one step closer to the coveted AuxOp status. Did I just hear another bottle knocked off that fence?

Moving on...

An inventory was done of the PE resources and there are no texts from which to build a class so the department is in ordering mode. We have plenty of time.

We are also in the process of updating the PE brochure for distribution. Distribution is a group effort! I am enlisting the aid of Ms. Gretchen on that one...I can't do what she does!

The web site has been updated thanks to Ash Kernen. We have the new schedule of classes, the ability to register from an online form, and last but not least, the student can pay right then and there using our Pay Pal account...this is HUGE!

<u>Gift Certificate</u>
<i>For:</i> _____
<i>From:</i> _____
<i>Amount: \$10.00</i>

Now people can give the gift of boating safety. Gift certificates for all our courses will be available as soon as they are designed...Ms.

Gretchen once again!

We will also have a "Meet the Instructors" page. I encourage our present qualified staff to please, please, please get me your resume, and a photo. Did I say please?! This is so important for helping the

prospective student understand just why it is they should pick 4-76 for their boating courses.

And...there will be a testimonial section. We have comments from previous students extolling our teaching virtues...why should we keep this to ourselves?!

All our courses are up on line at the Auxiliary National, Boat US, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. All classes are registered with Sector, and the safety classes registered with the New Jersey Police Marine Services Bureau. Remember, we are certified and qualified to teach the NJ requirements which give students the incentive to cross that river.

So here it is...the course schedule:

How to Read a Nautical Chart: December 16, 2017.

About Boating Safely: February 3, March 3 and April 7 in 2018.

Boating Skills & Seamanship (14 Weeks), Mondays starting January 22, 2018

Sailing Skills & Seamanship (16 Weeks), Wednesdays for 5 then Mondays with BS&S, starting January 10, 2018

Navigation, a combo of Weekend Navigator and ACN, (13 Weeks), Thursdays starting January 18, 2018

I have been fortunate to be working with NASBLA, the National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators as a “skills course” reviewer. What is that? I sit on a team that looks at new course submissions to attain that coveted NASBLA APPROVED rating...from

that...I learned, and am learning, a lot. As I always say in class, "I have a healthy insecurity about my knowledge". The only way to keep learning is to keep training.



Speaking of training, at last flotilla meeting there was a hint from the front of the room about boat crew school...so let's do it. If you want to get out on the water patrolling with the best, submit your name to soon-to-be coxswain (no pressure here) Ash Kernen. Let's get this done. Boat crew status is not easy to attain. I didn't say impossible...it just takes work. Make the commitment in your head, then your heart, then your schedule. Talk to those who have gotten there, Kernen, Jones, Levy to name a few...they know, and can help you figure out if this is a viable and sustainable path for you.

Ok...I'm done...for now.

Since there is no meeting in December, I want to wish all a wonderful, safe, and happy upcoming holiday season whatever it is you celebrate, if it's the celebration of life...not a bad thing to celebrate.

RJ

courtesy: Ralph Onesti.. Thanks Ralph

Veterans Day Parade 2017

On November 6th, members of Flotilla 04-76 participated in the annual Philadelphia Veterans Day Parade. This is a historic tradition in our area, and we thank those members that were able to support the Gold side in this event. Thanks guys for going the extra-mile!



courtesy: Glenn Oldak - FC. shown: Ash Kernan-VFC, Patrick Dougherty and Glenn Oldak-FC, along with the gold side





WELCOME BACK

Well, your monthly newsletter is back!!! It is with humble gratitude that I bring to you our *Lifeline*. I first want to address the elephant in the "newsroom".. I regret leaving the family during the time of transition. I will do my best to deliver a worthy product to you all as in the past. I look forward to seeing you all again soon. Congratulations to our new Bridge, and thanks to Glenn & Ash for doing a fantastic job at the helm.

04-76 is the flagship of the Division. Working together, there no limit to our **potential** or **possibilities**! I'm here to work to ensure we do. Thank you for your understanding and fellowship.



In a few short weeks we will celebrate the holidays, and no matter what tradition you and yours participate, I wish you all the very best.

Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah, St. Lucia Day, may it be a time of joy and cheer, with family and friends dear.

