

FLOTILLA 04-76  
February 2018

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER  
Volume #2



Shipmates, Happy February. This issue contains many new educational & training opportunities to enhance your Aux skills and assist in developing member knowledge base. Please take advantage of those that you share a passion for and grow within the Auxiliary! Remember, we are only as good as our training!

**Semper Paratus**

*Charles J Miller, II FSO-PB*  
Editor

[“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”](#) — Elizabeth Andrew

# AUXTRACEN MARCUS HOOK

7 W Delaware Ave; Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania 19061.



## Operational Auxiliarist Program (AUXOP) courses offered

<u>AUXSEA</u>	Auxiliary Seamanship Specialty Course review and proctored exam	March 3 March 11
<u>AUXCOM</u>	Auxiliary Communications Specialty Course Review and proctored exam	March 4 March 11
<u>AUXPAT</u>	Auxiliary Patrol Specialty Course Review and proctored exam	March 17 March 24

Saturday and Sunday courses 0900 -1600 (1200 -1300 lunch)

If interested please send me an email at [pjbonnes@verizon.net](mailto:pjbonnes@verizon.net)

Call for additional information 610 476 7271

Thanks you for your interest in member training Paul Bonnes SO-MT

Name

Emplid #

Class

For (AUXOP) courses you can self-study the course but you will need to take a proctored exam. Any (AUXOP) exam can be taken on any AUXOP class date or exam date.

If interested in attending any of the Division 4 Classes contact, [pjbonnes@verizon.net](mailto:pjbonnes@verizon.net) with your name, class you want to attend and contact information and a confirmation will be sent to you by return email.

### Student Information

You should have received via email a course Student Guide (electronic PDF version) for the course you have registered for. If you have not received this guide please inform the instructor.

### AUXSEA Auxiliary Seamanship Specialty Course

#### Reference material:

AUXSEA STUDENT STUDY GUIDE and Chapman Piloting, Seamanship and Small Boat Handling

This course will be presented in a Power Point presentation The slides in this presentation **are not** part of the USCG Auxiliary Educational Department Materials because they are not available for this class. The slides were acquired by the instructors through various sources.

A great test preparation site is [http:// www.comomike.info/](http://www.comomike.info/) This site is intended to provide practice and drill in all the AUXOP courses and various other courses offered to the Auxiliarist.

All AUXOP course **exams** must be proctored by designated AUXOP Member of the Auxiliary. You can take the exam on any scheduled class date or any class exam date. Exams at TRACEN Marcus Hook will be

taken on-line with the proctor present. You will need a computer to do this so if you have a laptop please bring it with you to take the exam. If you wish to take the exam outside this classroom you will need to contact a AUXOP MEMBER and make arrangement with them to take the exam.

Thank you for your service and your interest in Member Training

Paul Bonnes,

Division 4 SO-MT

Please contact me if you have any questions

[pjbonnes@verizon.net](mailto:pjbonnes@verizon.net)

(610) 476-7271

7 W Delaware Ave    Marcus Hook,    Pennsylvania



## **Greater Philadelphia Boat Show**



Shipmates - The Philadelphia Boat Show will take place at the Expo Center in Oaks March 9-11, and volunteers are needed (the show conflicts with D-Train). The show runs from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday; and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Volunteers can pick any slot / slots in those time frames. Please have volunteers contact me at [sgtmac69@verizon.net](mailto:sgtmac69@verizon.net) or 610-524-2447 with the times they will serve. Uniform is Trops (short sleeves, no tie). Wooly pullies are OK. Thank you

***Dick McConnell***

***Academy Admissions Partner***

***United States Coast Guard Academy***

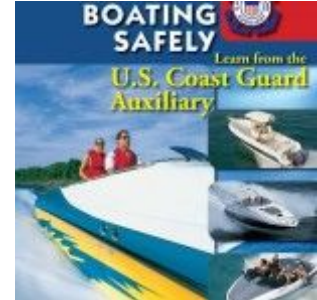
## ABS CLASSES UNDERWAY AT SECTOR

### About Boating Safely

**Fee:** \$65.00 – 1 Day Course given on Saturdays – 7AM - 5PM, Sign-In *promptly* at 7:00AM, Preregistration REQUIRED

**Dates:** February 3; March 3; April 7; (2018)

**Note:** *This course is a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and New Jersey State Police Marine Services Bureau approved course. PA Instructor Number: 5476 NJ Instructor Number: 2015-08-0010*



ABS is recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard and approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). ABS covers boating fundamentals and the basic skills needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states.

This beginner boating class will give you the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete About Boating Safely.

#### Topics Include:

- - **Introduction to Boating** – Types of power boats; sailboats; outboards; paddle boats; houseboats; different uses of boats; various power boating engines; jet drives; family boating basics.
  - **Boating Law** – Boat registration; boating regulation; hull identification number; required boat safety equipment; operating safely and reporting accidents; protecting the marine environment; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft

requirements.

- **Boat Safety Equipment** –Personal flotation devices (“life jackets”); fire extinguishers; sound-producing devices; visual-distress signals; dock lines and rope; first aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; other boating safety equipment.
- **Safe Boating** – Bow riding; alcohol and drug abuse; entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling portable and permanent tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; filing a float plan; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; choosing and using an anchor; safe PWC handling; general water safety.
- **Navigation** – The U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; PWC “tunnel vision.”
- **Boating Problems** – Hypothermia; boating accidents and rescues; man overboard recovery; capsizing; running aground; river hazards; strainers: emergency radio calls; engine problems; equipment failures; carbon monoxide (CO); other boating and PWC problems.
- **Trailer, Storing and Protecting Your Boat** – Types of trailers; trailer brakes, lights, hitches, tires, and bearings; loading, balancing, and towing a trailer; towing (and backing) a trailer; boat launching and retrieving; boat storage and theft protection; launching, retrieving and storing a PWC.
- **Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating** – Carrying hunting gear and weapons in a boat; fishing from a boat; water-skiing safety guidelines and hand signals; water-skiing with a PWC; navigating rivers, and other boating tips.

Under the tutelage of Ralph Onesti and others, students learn the “ins-& outs” of boating. Here are a few photos of a recent class in which the students indicated what a “great experience” they had learning the proper rules of boating.



Photos-courtesy: Ralph Onesti







## **Public Education...the future of the boating public.**

### ***In the past:***

We had our first ABS (About Boating Safely) course on Saturday, 3 February 2018. I have it arranged on the first Saturday as the Sea Cadets meet that day and the mess deck is sure to be open. Having lunch with your classmates and instructors is fun, bonding, and positive. It tends to create 'word of mouth' advertising, which is the best and free.

It was a long day but well worth it. Eleven attended and eleven graduated!

We had students from the New Jersey side of things and my being certified to teach the NJ course reaches more students...that's a good thing!

All the Pennsylvania and New Jersey paperwork is in and we are waiting for the boating safety cards to arrive...success!

### ***A look at the present:***

What color is a piano? Black. On what do we blow our noses? Kleenex. When we make copies we make? Xerox copies.

We are the victims of branding!

Diversity; the need for women instructors, younger instructors, and people of color!

If you looked at our classes in the past, you would see white males in the peanut gallery. Times, they are a changin'!

Somewhere else in this newsletter, Charles put in pictures of our class. Look closely...women...people of color...YES. Boating isn't limited to one ethnic group anymore. I know Tiger Woods changed the world of golf, Billie Jean King changed tennis, and I don't know what changed the world of boating...but it is indeed...changed.

The change in demographics of the class requires a corresponding change in the demographics of the instructors.



This is what we have:



This is what we need:

As we put the pictures of our ever increasingly diverse student body on our website...we must meet this with an ever increasingly diverse teaching staff...and we are getting there, but we need more.

So, the PE department is actively recruiting from the body of students that are put before it! It is already happening!

### ***A look to the future:***

In order for our Public Education department to grow you have to stay out in front. We are already planning for the Fall season of 2018. We don't let the program happen to us, we happen to the program!

We have a new class that is in the works: Suddenly in Command, geared toward the "first mate", who by circumstance becomes, "Suddenly in Command". This should be a good one...NO...a great one!

The Sailing & Seamanship program and the Navigation program are being put on hold.

After crunching the numbers, we find the smaller boating safety courses get to more people and create more income for the flotilla, and it allows us to conserve our instructor resources as we add to our numbers. Also, I must streamline the program for my successor when that happens. Sailing and Nav are "iffy" courses at best and labor intensive.

By eliminating the Sailing and Nav courses for now, we retain more control of the offerings and our present staff can handle all of it.

Look for more About Boating Safely Classes, Boating Skills & Seamanship classes, and as stated above, the new for us, suddenly in Command.

This does not mean we won't run an ACN class for our family. We can do a 6-night program to get those interested that coveted Aux Nav ribbon. It's not that difficult but does take a commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Pat Cunningham on short term loan from Division 17. Pat informed me that his stay in 4-76 would be temporary and would like to get back to 17. His presence and skills were greatly appreciated. The streamlining of our program allows him to exercise his wish to get back in good time.

What else is coming...The 4-76 Public Education Program Manual.

This manual will be on hand to be a valuable reference for those that follow. It will also be a great training and mentoring aid for up and coming instructors and future PE staff officers.

It will cover all I am doing at present:

1. The “manual labor”: Every staff position should be a “turnkey” operation. Ours will be. It will cover all the bases:
  - a. Instructor training, development, and oversight
  - b. Schedule development
  - c. Room Scheduling with the Command Center
  - d. Text purchasing
  - e. Inventory control
  - f. 7030 forms, filling and filing
  - g. Advertising
    - i. National website
    - ii. PA Fish & Boat Commission website
    - iii. Google AdWords campaign and management
    - iv. Flyers and brochures
  - h. Working with the FSO-PA on getting the word out
  - i. Staff reporting

- j. Instructor Newsletter
- k. Working with the FSO-PB
  - i. Articles for the Lifeline
- l. Class pricing
- m. Working with the FSO-CS on the website
  - i. Updating information
  - ii. Refining the presentation
  - iii. Making on line sign ups easy
  - iv. Making sure all get properly registered
- n. Collection of funds
  - i. Check
  - ii. Cash
  - iii. PayPal
- o. Work with the FSO-FN
  - i. Getting the checks and cash in, in a timely fashion
  - ii. Creating a report to include:
    - 1. Classes
    - 2. Students
    - 3. Dates
    - 4. Payment
    - 5. Method of payment
- p. Work with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the New Jersey State Police Marine Services Bureau.
  - i. Registering classes
  - ii. Closing classes
  - iii. Distributing Safety Boating cards

***Income:***



We all know that the Public Education program is the ATM machine for the flotilla. This money is what fuels progress, growth, and fellowship.

In the short time we have been back in business, we have brought in close to four thousand dollars...and it goes forward.

It's time to pause to thank Matt Jones and Ash Kernen, the current bridge for allowing the Public Education program to run with the ball (**Go Eagles**). The PE program could not have gotten off the ground this fast without that support.

To help carry the ball was Ash Kernen, CS guru for getting that website cranking. PayPal is a cash cow! Ash made it happen.

#### *The PE Newsletter:*

The Public Education Program has its own newsletter geared toward making the instructors a family. We use it to create unity, advancement of product, heightened quality and fellowship.

Remember, we are in business to educate the boating public and as such, need to stick together...and that is exactly what we are doing.

Would you like to become part of this exciting move forward in Public Education? Please contact the PE committee and we shall show you how.

Submitted: R.Onesti



From the Office of the Flotilla Commander  
-Matthew C. Jones

Shipmates-

I appreciate the entire Flotilla's hard work and your dedication to your work throughout January. With a shutdown, cancellations of classes and meetings, 4-76 continued to work through it. Our audit committee and public education committee has made strides ahead of my expectations. I commend both committees.

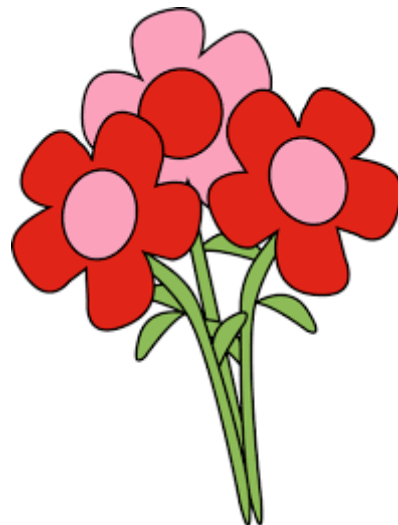
Moving forward to the upcoming season, operationally speaking, VFC Kernan has been working with TRACEN Marcus Hook for boat crew and coxswain courses. Support side of the Flotilla is moving forward with potential public affairs avenues, visitation goals, and vessel examination goals.

My February and March will be gearing towards our Flotilla goals and our work for flotilla wide events. I apologize for my brief report. I will see you all at our Flotilla Meeting on February 27, 2018 at 1900hrs.

Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty  
Semper Paratus



Here's wishing you all a very Happy Valentine's Day! Remember to show that special person or persons in your life just how much you appreciate their continued support and affection!!!



Charles J Miller, II- FSO-PB/PA  
Editor