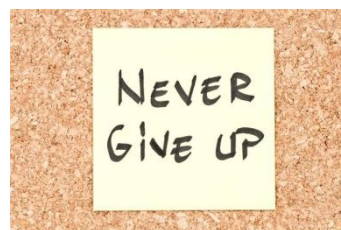


FLOTILLA 04-76
April 2020

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER
Volume #14

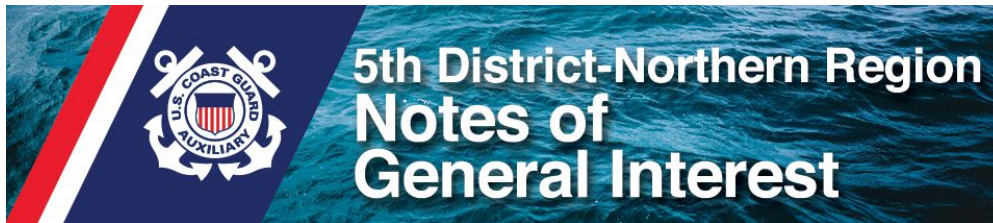


Shipmates, I hope as this arrives, you all are doing well. These are troubling times and it is imperative that we take every possible precaution to remain safe and avoid any unnecessary exposures to the coronavirus. Maintaining physical distancing will reduce our chances of any potential risks. However, we can still connect via electronic or phone means and I recommend reaching out to fellow members, family and friends can reduce the stress of personal contact. We had the opportunity to hold our first group video meeting last month and it was a tremendous success. Thanks to our FC who arranged the means of communication, we will again hold another Flotilla group video session this month. See the details in this newsletter on how to join in. In closing, stay safe-stay hydrated-and mentally well. This too will pass and I look forward to seeing you all – “in-person” as soon as possible.



Semper Paratus

Charles J Miller-II - FSO-PB



STAND DOWN REMAINS IN EFFECT

Face-to-Face Activities SUSPENDED Until Further Notice

All Auxiliary activities, with the exception of conducting activities via electronic means (in-home online activities), are suspended until further notice. ALL personal contact situations are prohibited—either public-facing or internal, therefore: With the exception of digital communications, we are to STAND DOWN.

Read the following:

[NOVEL CORONA VIRUS \(COVID-19\) - D5NR AUXILIARY AWARENESS AND GUIDANCE.](#)

During this rapidly evolving situation watch for additional emails, notices and Everbridge announcements. Your personal safety and the safety of your family are the highest priority.

District Online Training

We may not be able to meet face-to-face, but we have increasing opportunities to learn! Take this time for personal advancement and keeping your qualifications up-to-date (many of us are needing to redo our Core Value/Mandated Training Courses). National Auxiliary Departments offer a myriad of online courses—check them out as well.

Notices of upcoming District Online Training will be coming out every Sunday/Monday until further notice.

D5NR Online Training Opportunities

Auxiliary Patrol (AUXPAT) Specialty Course

Presented by Walt Alsegg, Coxswain, Qualification Examiner

Multiple Sequential Sessions—Participation in **all** sessions is required to complete this **AUXOP (Auxiliary Operation Specialist) Required Specialty Course**. This course is presented by Ocean City Flotilla 08-01 via GoToTraining.

Pre-registration is required. You must participate online via computer, laptop or tablet—teleconferencing is not permitted.

Due to the nature of the course total enrollment is limited to 50 students.

[To pre-register, click here.](#)

Class Schedule

Wednesday, 1 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

Wednesday, 8 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

Thursday, 9 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

Wednesday, 15 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOM) Specialty Course

*Presented by Donna Ferron, TCO, Division 4 Staff Officer-Communications,
West Chester Flotilla 04-09 via Zoom.*

Multiple Sequential Sessions—***Participation in all sessions is required to complete this Specialty Course.*** This course is presented by

Pre-registration is required. You must participate online via computer, laptop or tablet—teleconferencing is not permitted.

Please Note:

We have opened the online course up to a wider audience and to keep better track of participants, please register online using the link below. If you were sent the previous Zoom invitation please disregard and use the information you will be sent after you register. **Again, use the meeting information you will be emailed after you register. That previous meeting has been canceled.**

Due to the nature of the course total enrollment is limited to 50 students.

[To register for AUXCOM, click here.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the **Zoom** webinar.

Class Schedule

Wednesday, 1 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

Wednesday, 8 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

Wednesday, 15 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

Wednesday, 22 April, 1900 - 2100 (7-9 pm)

About Zoom

Install the **Zoom** Application on your computers (see below).

It is best to sign into the meeting about 10 minutes early to make sure your login and computer are set up correctly.

The course materials are available for download at the **[Online Classroom here.](#)**

Login and Select “My Courses” and then “AUXCOM”

We have opened the online course up to a wider audience and to keep better track of participants, please register online using the link below. If you were sent the previous Zoom invitation please disregard and use the information you will be sent after you register. Again, use the meeting information you will be emailed after you register. That previous meeting has been canceled.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Donna Ferron

SO-CM 053-04

M: 484.678.4592

The District is working on a solution to proctoring final exams for online courses.

2020 Operations Workshop

Presented by Kurt Sarac, DCAPT-Central, District Staff Officer-Operations

This is the required **2020 Operations Workshop** that **all surface operations members must complete** or go into REWK. This course is offered via GoToTraining. **Pre-registration is required.** Total attendance is limited to 200.

Only a single session is required.

Three sessions are offered:

Saturday, 4 April at 0900-1100 — [To pre-register for this session, click here.](#)

Please Note: This Session is almost at capacity, please consider one of the other sessions

Tuesday, 7 April at 1900-2100 — [To pre-register for this session, click here.](#)

Saturday, 18 April at 0900-1100 — [To pre-register for this session, click here.](#)

AUXSCOUT Online Training

April 5 - AUXSCOUT Staff Officer Forum

The forum begins at 2100 (9 pm EDT) and will last about an hour. There are no advance sign-ups and attendance is limited to 150 participants.

Sign-on information

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone at [GoToMeeting](#). You can also dial in using your phone: +1.312.757.3121; Access Code: 509-377-229

Stay current

- Join the [Sea Scouts, the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Official Youth Program Facebook group](#)
- Join the [Sea Scouts/Auxiliary Youth Development Community of Interest on my.CGAux](#)
- For further information:
http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php/Sea_Scouts

William Skelly, District Staff Officer-AuxScout
856-217-7438 skel1010@comcast.net

Mandated Training Requirement

If not already completed, D5NR members are required to complete the **Influenza Training online via [AUXLMS](#) no later than **31 March 2020**.**

From the District Commodore

Please know that EXCOM, all of our Leadership, the Director and the DIRAUX staff as well as all of your fellow members are standing by to assist all of our members in any way that we can. But we need your assistance to provide that help. PLEASE reach out to your Flotilla Commander if you know of anyone in distress. Never assume that there may not be any help available. We are family. We are shipmates. I'm confident that together we can weather any storm, rise above any challenge. In my heart, I know that every member is capable of incredible accomplishments when faced with a challenge. You are, we are, Semper Paratus!

—Tom

Fellow D5NR Auxiliarists,

We are experiencing what may be the most severe challenge in our lifetimes. This COVID-19 pandemic is a threat that we must all take very seriously. The health and safety of you and your family, as well as the health and safety of your shipmates, is paramount. Please cooperate fully with all of the directives coming from the Center for Disease Control, the Coast Guard and your governmental authorities. Rather than just behave in a *protective* manner—washing your hands properly, keeping your distance from others, staying at home—act *proactively*. Pretend that you may unknowingly be infected and act accordingly to protect others. Be extremely careful in interacting face-to-face with everyone. Keep in mind the risk factors for yourself, your loved ones and be especially mindful of strangers.

We have never needed each other more

It's time for every one of us to put all of our training, situational awareness and experience to work to help one another. As you would on any mission, check-in constantly with other members, neighbors and especially those that you know might be particularly at risk or in need of assistance. Here are some suggested ways for us to help from a variety of sources*:

- If you are making a needed run for supplies, check with others to see what you might be able to pick up for them. Grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, box stores are all providing prepaid curbside pick-up. Drop the goods at the doorstep.
- Every trip you save for anyone else cuts down many possible transmissions.
- Carry along large plastic bags to protect the provisions from the elements when you drop off the supplies at the door.
- Exam gloves are in critically short supply, but disposable clear food handling gloves will provide a measure of protection.

- Just calling to chat with friends and acquaintances is a tremendous gift to break the boredom of being confined.
- Video call long lost friends—don't worry about looking your best—day jammies and shaggy hair are becoming the new status symbols.
- Look through your pantries to see what you can spare for others.
- Get take-out food—restaurants are being hit very hard.
- Be mindful of every surface you touch! Door handles, interactive displays, gas pumps—*everything*. Wash your hands!
- We really don't know enough about this virus to make informed decisions but we are learning more every day. Be very careful of the accuracy of your information sources. Double-check to make sure that you have the most up-to-date information.
- ***Everyone is at risk***, all age groups, some more than others, but no one is immune from the consequences of this pandemic.
- Keep your situational awareness on the highest alert.
- Buy **ONLY** what you need! Hoarding often creates hardships for those least capable of dealing with short supplies.
- Use your GAR Training to measure the Risk vs. the Reward of every decision.
- Keep yourself in good mental and physical shape.
- Try to maintain a regular schedule, get lots of sleep.
- Go for walks, get outside, but stay away from playgrounds!
- Be respectful. Be kind. It costs nothing to share a smile or give a wave or a nod. Try to solicit as many smiles as you can when you do go out.
- Encourage everyone to back off the divisive rhetoric. We really need each other more than ever.
- Genuinely appreciate those keeping our world going. Address clerks, attendants, medical personnel—all those providing essential services by their names and thank everyone.
- And PLEASE, PLEASE show respect to those putting their lives at risk to help us by staying home while they bravely go to work.

Use your very best judgment while you are being the volunteer servants you all are. Keep safe. Keep in touch and thank you for being you.

With my deepest respect and with prayers that we all be safe,



COMO Tom Dever District Commodore,
5th District Northern Region



Flotilla General Meeting for April

Please note: The use of a password is now required by Zoom and can not be turned off...see below:

Ralph Onesti is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: General Flotilla Meeting

Time: Apr 28, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/393144243?pwd=Z3BMbFUxSlc1THhkdUxQeGtYk2hSUT09>

Meeting ID: 393 144 243

Password: 247188

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,393144243# US (New York)

+13126266799,,393144243# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

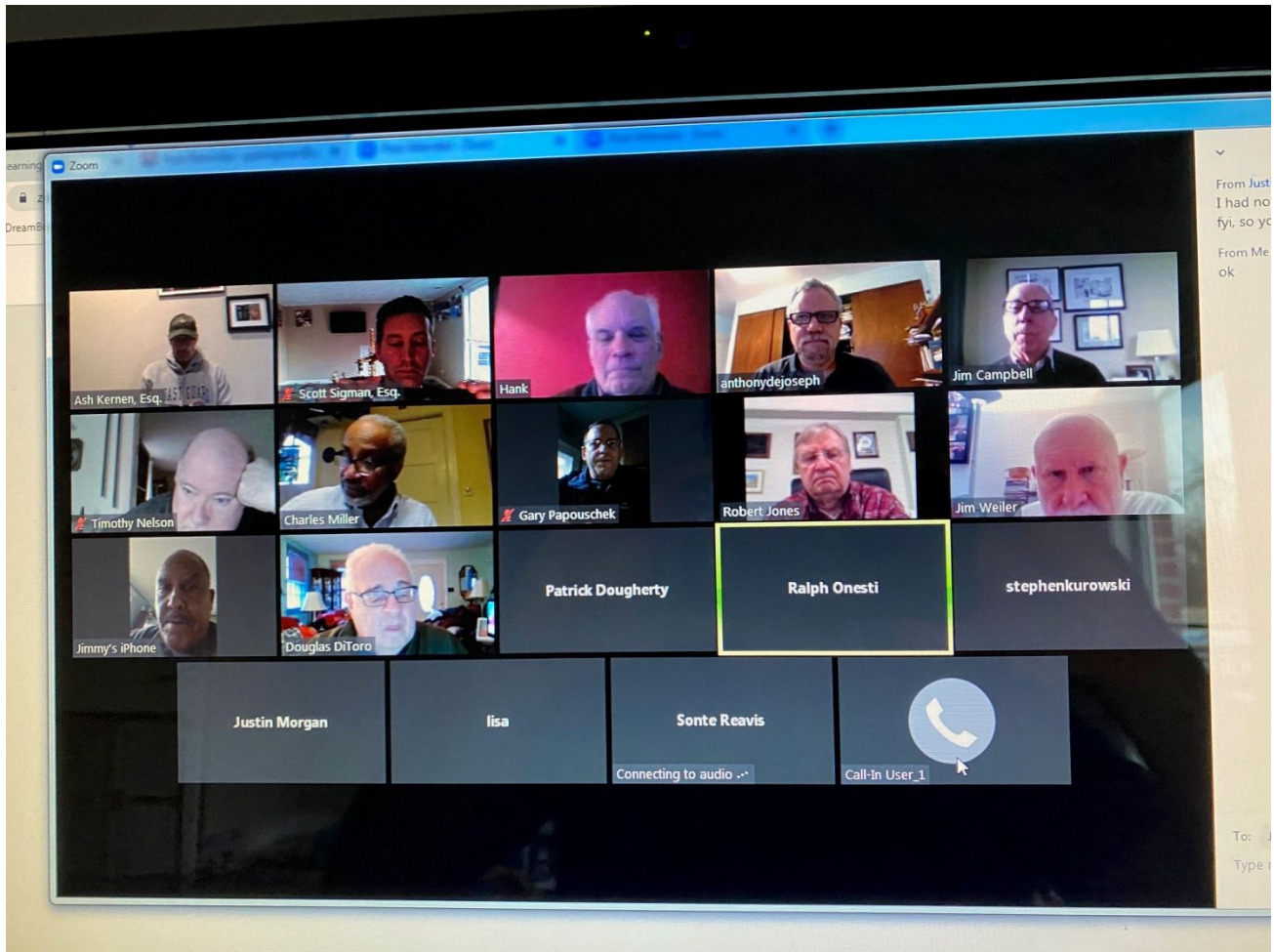
Meeting ID: 393 144 243

Password: 247188

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acT92wFiHO>

04-76 – LIVE FLOTILLA MEETING – MARCH 2020

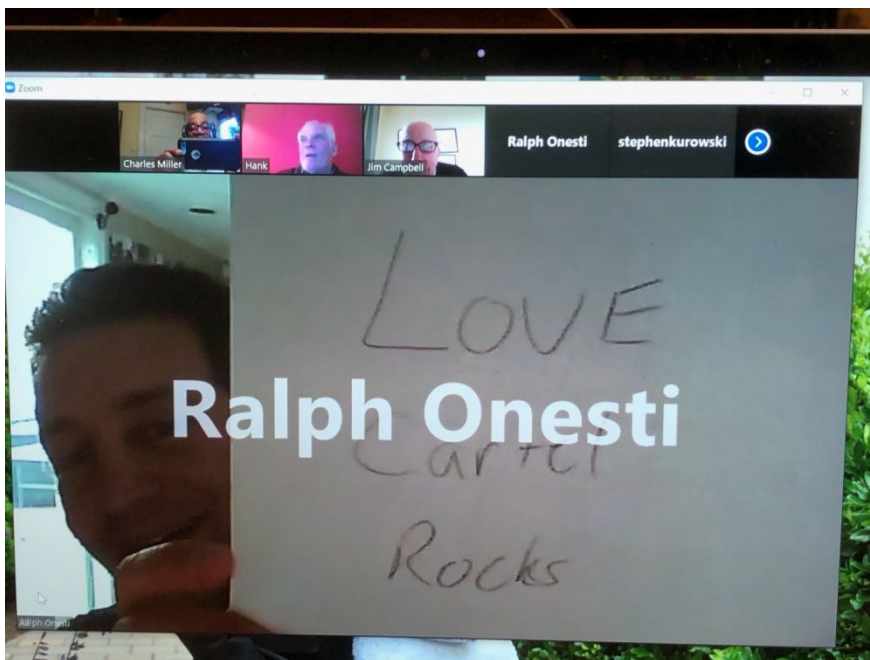
Shipmates, we are on the move with technology utilizing ZOOM for our first Flotilla meeting. This was an outstanding to stay in visual contact and express the needs of the flotilla as well as social connecting with each other. Here are a few photos of this experience. Remember, April's meeting will be on the same site, so please log in and be a part of this opportunity.



Various members online discussing agenda items



FSO-Ash Kernan



VFC-Scott Sigman



Shipmates online review activities

Photos: Scott Sigman & Charles Miller



From the Commanders Desk

Well...isn't this something?!

Some folk's say these are trying times, some say tough, I say both, but not impossible times.

I saw an interview with a Scottish scientist who claimed she had a vaccine ready to be tested. She told the interviewer it took her but three hours to come up with a computer model for a vaccine because she was given the DNA road map.

She went on to say that normally, it could take up to a year to a year and half, but when one has the DNA, all that is left is the verification: AKA testing.

See for yourself:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=724aHYjSmY0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hn5Vjrj_wY

So, the scientific minds are at work.

Here is some advice: Limit your “news” intake to an hour a day...NO MORE. My uncle used to say, “believe none of what you hear and only half of what you read” I think that was good advice.

Stay busy. Don’t use this time to get off the rails...it’s so easy to do.

Learn a new skill: Hit the online training available to Auxiliarists...there is plenty of it.

Read! Read a book, any book. Read the constitution...I always carry a copy with me.

Regular exercise is invaluable. This is not the time to adopt a new career as couch potato!

OK...don’t judge. If you see someone out there shopping...they may have the necessity. And you can pick up paint and gardening supplies in a safe fashion. And if you must go out...just do it safely...gloves, face mask, etc. Gretchen’s daughter is hard at volunteer work making face masks. For this she needed supplies...so you distance yourself, then wash up.

If you see someone on the street, by all means, give a wave and a smile. We are all in this together. And, by the way, we can continue that well after this is all over, you know, from now on.

Don’t forget to apply for your money under the CARES act. There is paycheck protection, as well as protection for sole proprietors and freelance folks like I. By the way...it’s OUR money that we paid in taxes, so take advantage of the refund.

We will get through this. Is this more serious than 9/11? Well, yes, it is. Will this cripple us as a people and a nation? Only if we let it. Will we laugh about it someday? Well no, we will not. But if we practice prevailing protocol and stay safe, we will live to laugh about something when it's all over!

I ask Scott Sigman to come up with something for us to do in the way of celebration when this is all over. He is hard at work at it. If you have any suggestions...send them along.

In the meantime, I have decided to act "business as usual" regarding the flotilla. I have submitted my report as FSO-PE to the VFC and submitted my report as FC to the Division Commander. I don't know what other folks are doing, but I am forging ahead...and why not?!

By now you have received your invitation for the normal staff meeting and the general meeting on Zoom. Remember to have your ID and password contained in the invitation at the ready. Zoom decided to upgrade security and removing the password requirement is no longer an option.

Staff Officers, in getting ready for your AOR duties; OPS, PA, VE, RBS, etc., if you need anything if getting ready, let VFC Sigman know.

And, if you want anything in the way of training, FSO-MT Kurowski is at the ready. I don't see why we can't do certain things online as we are with PE. We can do AUXWEA, AUXSEA, AUXCOM, etc. We may even be able to do proctored exams online. I have an idea or two for that.

OK Flotilla 76 let's give them what for!



Congratulations to Jim Campbell on completion of:

IT Teaching Award and AUX COM Certification

Way to go Jim for your accomplishments and thanks
for making a difference in our Flotilla!



A border collie working from home



And **you** think working from home is difficult-imagine being this guy! (ha-ha)... Hang in there shipmates, it will get better!!!