



FLOTILLA MEETING MINUTES

Flotilla 013-02-08

7 AUGUST 2014

25 Members, 0 guests attended

Respectfully Submitted: FSO-SR Gladys Benschimol

Call to order- FC Spiller at 1903.

Pledge of Allegiance- FSO-OP Armstrong

Introduction of Visitors- FSO-HR Manning: None

Adoption of Minutes of previous meeting- FSO-SR Benschimol: FSO-PV Ladrie moved to accept minutes, FSO-VE Jamieson seconded. Motion carried, minutes accepted.

Announcements, Additions to Agenda- FC Spiller:

- The Wood Island Flotilla will be held this Saturday-09AUG at 1730 commencing at Pepperrell Cove. The gundalow, *Piscataqua* will lead the marine parade. This is not a Station sanctioned event so members wishing to participate, do so without signboards/uniforms. If under orders for a regular safety patrol, vessels may be on the periphery.
- SO-MT Heath requested notation of the part played by FSO-OP Armstrong and crew in the rescue of the *Celia Thaxter* last weekend during the Tall Ships event. FC Spiller said this would be covered in the FSO-OP report later in the meeting.

Old and New Business-FC Spiller

- a. Flotilla Picnic Committee- Volunteers were solicited for the 13SEPT Flotilla Picnic to be held at the Station Pavilion. SO-MT Heath suggested FC Spiller contact MBR Provencher. SO-OP Armstrong and MBR McAndrew volunteered. Tentative schedule is to eat between 1300-1400 but members may show-up at 1130 to cook/prep/socialize. It will be a Pot Luck event with paper products and possibly hot dogs and hamburgers supplied by the Flotilla depending on budget and Committee decision.

SO-OP Hogan made a motion, seconded by SO-MT Heath to change the order of the agenda back to the usual and proceed to the Flotilla Staff Officers Reports. The motion carried.

Flotilla Staff Officer Reports-VFC Welsh

- a. **Additions or comments to Flotilla Staff Officer Reports:** FSO-HR, FSO-IS Manning announced that MBR Mitchell White will be attending the Maine Maritime Academy starting in AUG2014.
- b. **Finance Officer's Report-** FC Spiller read the Financial Report. 57 members have paid 2015 dues, 18 members still owe; 9 will receive disenrollment letters this week; 9 have indicated an intent to pay. SO-OP Hogan recommended the flotilla not pay in advance for members who are in arrears. He then made a motion: "The flotilla shall not pay any dues in advance for any member who has not paid dues." MBR Engel seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c. **Public Education-Update-**SO-PE Grossi reported the "Boating Skills and Seamanship" class will begin 16SEPT at York Adult Education/York High School. The "About Boating Safety" 1-day class will be taught 15NOV at Wells-Ogunquit Adult Education/Wells High School. The instructors' 14th Edition is out for those who will be teaching. Any members who wish to instruct or assist should contact FSO-PE Grossi. Also, any leads/ideas for new locations to host PE classes are welcomed. MBR Engel inquired about strategies to increase enrollment. SO-PE Grossi noted the Adult Ed organizations are good at promoting/marketing classes. Additionally, SO-PE Grossi puts out press releases in several local publications such as Down East, Seacoast Media group, Foster's, to name a few. He also intends to bring "tear-off" sheets to town halls. (The Wells class will have a maximum capacity of 40.)
- d. **Communications Services Update-**FSO-CS Costa reported that the email issues seem to be mostly resolved. He intends to undertake a "re-architecture" of the flotilla website with the same template but a different host, which would result in more powerful tools, such as videos, pictures, press releases. Currently in the "Members Only" link, he is posting all emails from the week as well as Unit Announcements.
- e. **Member Training Update-** SO-MT Heath reported two boat crew candidates are very close to completing their PQS and getting ready for their check-rides.



f. Operations Update- FSO-OP Armstrong

- 3 boats have competed their currencies with 6 or 7 more remaining. Two (2) crew need to re-qualify. All those involved should contact FSO-OP Armstrong as soon as possible to arrange dates. Coordinating OPFACS, coxswains and crew is a complicated and time-intensive effort.
- While on a safety patrol during last weekend's Tall Ships event, coxswain, FSO-OP Armstrong, and crew, FSO-MS Dehne, and SO-PE Grossi were called upon to assist Coast Guard Station Portsmouth Harbor members, the Marine Patrol and Tow Boat U.S. in freeing the excursion vessel **Celia Thaxter** from underneath the Sara Long Bridge. 27 passengers and 2 crew were evacuated by the Station's 25' for safety because a broach was a very real possibility. The 47' took the vessel in tow but due to the strong current, needed assistance from Tow Boat U.S. which simultaneously pushed on the stern in order to dislodge the vessel. Three life rafts were sheared-off the roof of the "**Celia Thaxter**". Eventually she was put in a side tow by the 47' and safely moored-up. FSO-OP Armstrong said the Sara Long can be a treacherous area due to the strong, unpredictable current, noting that on another day, recently, a 14' boat was adrift and had to be towed away from danger.

g. Vessel Exam-Update- FSO-VE Jamieson

- There were 2 persons at the booth during the entire Sail Portsmouth event last weekend. Sunday was especially busy. Eight members of the public expressed interest in the possibility of future Auxiliary membership. The City of Portsmouth and Sail Portsmouth have websites, which might provide a way to increase exposure for the Auxiliary in the future.
- The National Safe Boating Council has a special offer for infant up to 90 lbs. Mustangs for sale for \$40.00 versus \$90.00.
- FSO-VE Jamieson has arranged for members to tour the NOAA Vessel "**Ferdinand Hassler**" at the UNH dock next week. The Gold Side will be invited as well. SO-OP Hogan had a previous opportunity to tour and said it is well worth it. Civilian clothes or ODU dress is appropriate. SO-MT Heath, VFC Welsh, FC Spiller, and FSO-VE Jamieson expressed interest. It was suggested a Tuesday or Thursday, early morning tour would be optimal.
- FSO-VE Jamieson also interfaced with the Pease Greeters group, which has welcomed over 40,00 troops home from overseas and has given out over 400,000 stars. Stars are cut from old American flags prior to them being destroyed. Members are encouraged to donate old flags. Also, old cell phones are collected and turned-in for cash. The cash is used to buy calling cards for soldiers. Members are encouraged to consider donating these as well.
- FSO-VE Jamieson lauded FSO-PE Grossi and VFC Welsh for better communications regarding classes. He also offered that "Tourist News Vacation Guide" as an arm of Seacoastonline, might be useful in promoting events.

Old and New Business (Continued) -FC Spiller

b. 2015 Election Committee- FC Spiller requested volunteers for the committee. SO-OP Armstrong, SO-PE Grossi, MBR Schwinn offered.

c. Unit OPFAC-Insurance Motion SO-OP Hogan moved that; "Any unit OPFAC will be required to have liability insurance, which is not required by National." MBR Engel seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

d. Unit OPFAC-Standing Rules Motion: Several points raised in discussion included;

- Item 2.4 of the Proposed Standing Rules; FSO-VE Jamieson asked about legality of putting monies donated for the express purpose of supporting an OPFAC into the general fund for something else.
- SO-LR Joyce asked about legality. DCAPT de Puy indicated the flotilla must adopt the rules first and then submit them to District for legal compliance analysis. If rules are not compliant with standards, District will send them back for revision.
- MBR Schwinn asked what would happen if the flotilla transferred funds and then "blew an engine", for example? FC Spiller suggested a transfer would be a rare occurrence but one that was allowable with a unanimous vote and as long as the OPFAC funds were allowed to be used for the intended purpose. Also any repair greater than the insurance deductible would be covered by insurance such as a blown engine.



- SO-MT Heath raised the question of “At Fault versus No Fault” issue of damage. FC Spiller said the coverage does not make a distinction, hence, would cover the costs in either instance.
 - FSO-MS Dehne asked if this was in writing. FC Spiller replied in the affirmative.
 - SO-OP Hogan requested the word “should” in the last sentence of item 1 in the Proposed Standing Rules be removed and replaced with “shall”.
 - SO-OP Hogan moved to adopt the Proposed Standing Rules Document (attachment to these minutes) as amended and submit said to District. MBR Engel seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- e. Unit OPFAC Acceptance Motion** –DCAPT de Puy cited the tremendous amount of research that was done and the valuable lessons learned. FC Spiller hopes the process may serve as a template for other flotillas. He and DCAPT de Puy expressed appreciation for the committee’s tenacious and tireless efforts as well as for the “Devil’s Advocacy” which served to strengthen the process. A lengthy discussion ensued:
- FSO-VE Jamieson offered a caveat regarding depletion of funds due to the insurance deductible. FC Spiller indicated the Committee will set thresholds, and Boat U.S. guarantees hull value. In answer to a concern raised by SO-OP Hogan, FC Spiller indicated that the boat is considered an OPFAC whether in the water or “on the hard”.
 - MBR Whalen asked about maintenance and insurance costs “on the hard”. FC Spiller reported a quote of \$300.00 from Independent Boat Haulers to haul, power wash, block & stand. FC Spiller has access to a shrink-wrap gun, so budget expenditure might involve purchasing shrink-wrap and members might have to use some “elbow-grease” to finalize.
 - The goal is to have the Flotilla OPFAC operational 01MAR – 01DEC and would be particularly useful in the “shoulder seasons” when other boats are out of the water, which is consistent with National goals, and to be a resource to every flotilla member and to augment other programs such as Marine Safety.
 - BOAT US has an annual “no claim” 25% deductible discount so after four years with no claims, the deductible would be \$0. The BOAT US insurance contact stated the 3rd year we should consider raising the deductible to a higher amount to lower the insurance cost as the following year the deductible would be reduced to \$0 and the insurance rate would be the lowest possible.
 - SO-OP Hogan cautioned that grant funds typically stipulate a deadline regarding when funds must be expended; FSO-VE Jamieson noted it might also make a difference to potential grantors whether the OPFAC is in the water or on the hard.
 - FSO-PR Hewitt asked what the specific need is for the flotilla to own an OPFAC. FC Spiller noted the 3 previous flotilla votes to continue the process. Additional discussion highlights included the following pros & cons:
 - a. Coxswains who do not own OPFACs could use as a force-multiplier.
 - b. Use could occur in the shoulder-seasons.
 - c. The OPFAC could provide opportunities for new members.
 - d. It could get hard-use “beaten-up”. (SO-MT Heath) What is the practicality or reality of actually using it in the winter?
 - e. The past experience with a flotilla OPFAC was negative partially due to only having access to it during the winter months.
 - f. MBR Engel: “Wear-out” the flotilla OPFAC versus your own
 - g. Hogan & Dehne: Are there enough qualified crew to support another OPFAC? FC Spiller stated over ten crew and coxswains have voiced support for the program.
 - FSO-PV Ladrie moved that Flotilla 013-02-08 accept the 30’ Grady White as a unit OPFAC per the terms of the ANACO (Area National Commodore) *Conditions Required for an Auxiliary Unit to Receive and Operate a Donated Vessel* document (attachment to these minutes). FSO-MS Dehne seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- f. Flotilla Award Nominations**-FC Spiller encouraged members to nominate anyone for awards for exceptional performance above and beyond expectations. An Awards Guide will be emailed to all members. DCAPT de Puy said this is the time to begin the process for these awards as well as



for the flotilla specific, Semper Paratus Award. Nominations for that should go to committee members: DCAPT de Puy, FSO-VE Jamieson, and VFC Welsh.

Awards-FC Spiller

- a. **Swear in new members – None**
- b. **Awards and presentations – FC Spiller displayed Appreciation Certificates to be given to West Marine, Traip Academy, and York Harbor Marine for hosting PE Classes and to Marshall Rental Center for donating a tent.**
 - MBR Engel: Annual Service Performance Award for Public Education. 33 hours as lead instructor, 23 hours as non-lead. Award includes a ribbon.
 - FSO-OP Armstrong: 6th Sustained Service Award for 750 hours
 - VFC Welsh: 1st Sustained Service Award for 750 hours
 - FSO-VE Jamieson Sustained Service Award for 750 hours
 - FSO-SR Benschmol 1st Service Award for 750 hours
 - FC Spiller: Auxiliary Assistant Waterways Management Representative Award
 - FSO-MS Dehne: ICS 339 Certificate
 - MBR Schwinn Certificate of Accomplishment for 50 or more ATON verifier hour

Comments by Auxiliary and Coast Guard personnel

- BMC3 Keegan thanked FSO-OP Armstrong and crew for assistance during last week's rescue of the "**Celia Thaxter**". He remarked that it was "not far from being a disaster". Only 2 people had on PFDs when the team arrived. But thanks to coordinated and skilled efforts among the different agencies and organizations, disaster was avoided.
- BMC3 Keegan also reported that the Station has a new Facebook page and encouraged Auxiliary members to view and "Like" the page. There are some photos already posted and more are to come. Members are welcome to submit photos as well.

For the Good of the Auxiliary:

- SO-OP Hogan asked about the health of Paul Smithvalley of the Saco Bay flotilla. A card will be sent to acknowledge well wishes to him from Flotilla 28 members.
- SO-MA Hanson donated coffee for tonight's meeting.
- FC Spiller thanked the OPFAC Committee for the tremendous job they did; enormous amounts of hard work, research and time were expended. In addition to FC Spiller, members included: DCDR Raynor, SO-OP Hogan, SO-PE Grossi, SO-OP Armstrong and MBR Forti. The summer is going fast and there are several members who need to complete Boat Crew PQS. Contact FSO-OP Armstrong &/or SO-MT Heath to get on the schedule.
- FSO-MS Dehne announced a NHDES exercise scheduled for 23OCT. There is a need for volunteers at the Command Post or on crews. Interested members should contact him directly.
- MBR Whalen inquired about the TCO course. The course utilizes a self-study guide and a ribbon is awarded upon completion. FC Spiller has a list of those interested and will send an email to determine a date and with any further information.

Closing Remarks, Adjourn Business Meeting-FC Spiller: SO-OP Hogan moved to adjourn. FSO-PR Hewitt seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2150. Next meeting 04SEPT2014.