

The Scuttlebutt



Newsletter for Flotilla 12-01
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Commanders Comments

By Joseph Harris, FC

As the temperatures begin to warm up, it is a reminder that the boating season is fast approaching. We, as Coast Guard Auxiliary members, have a responsibility to be prepared, both mentally and physically, for our tasks ahead. While we are still off the water, let's take some time to review the training materials that we all used to receive our certifications. Many of us have been doing this job for many years; however, it never hurts to review our training and there always will be something we read that will be beneficial. Although we don't like to admit it, there will be things we will forget.

Last year we had, what I consider, a very successful year. Our Public Education program, for example, exceeded the budgeted income by 50%, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the FSO-PE and all the instructors. The Vessel Examination and Program

Visitor programs also had a very successful year. That being said, I would expect this year will be even more of a success. This will take the efforts of all the members to assure we continue to be doing well in all phases of our operations. We all know that our main mission is to provide support for the Coast Guard.

While on patrol, doing vessel examination, or distributing literature at a public event, we are the face of the Coast Guard. We will, at times, be confused with actual Coast Guard members. Our uniforms look the same and therefore, we must present ourselves accordingly. What we do and how we conduct ourselves not only reflects on our Flotilla, but the Coast Guard, as well. Let's all keep in mind what it states in the first paragraph of the Auxiliary Policy Statement:

"The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is our steadfast volunteer corps. Our Auxiliary Shipmates assist the Coast Guard with performing our many challenging maritime missions, with boating safety remaining as their core function. Proudly serving alongside our total workforce, Auxiliarists make it possible to more ably accomplish our missions – they are a true force multiplier."

Let's all have a safe and productive boating season.

Semper Paratus

Change of Watch

Our annual Change of Watch was held 14 December at The Cottage Café, in South Bethany. Congratulations to both elected and appointed officers.



Division Commander Mark Letavish and Flotilla Commander Mike Geletej swear in Joe Harris as Flotilla Commander and Dave Ritondo as Vice Flotilla Commander.



Guest Speaker: Lowell Markey, Naturalist, Delaware State Seashore Park

New Members

We would like to welcome Fred Zikas, Jerry Roderick and Dawn Curlett as Flotilla 12-01's newest members. They all are now available to begin training for programs, and serve as officers as well as participate in Auxiliary activities. Welcome Aboard, Fred, Jerry and Dawn!

Fred is this year's FSO-FN and is the Chairman of the Change of Watch committee.

Jerry is a 30 year employee of Washington College in Chestertown, Md where he is Director of Public Safety.

Dawn is employed by the Delaware Department of Correction and is an Application Support Specialist in IT.

Welcome Aboard, Jerry and Dawn!

MT News

Several members attended the **Team Coordination Training** held at Indian River Coast Guard Station on January 25th. This was a new 4 hour class format that will replace the 8 hour TCT class. The every 5 year requirement remains the same. Approximately 20 Division members attended from various Flotillas and had a great time participating in the discussion and exercises. 12-01 members were Fred Zikas, Jerry Roderick, Dawn Curlett, Betty Smith and Bob Adams, IPFC.



Breakout group participation was one of the methods used by Bob Adams, TCT Facilitator.



USCG Station resident pet, Mr. Beefy, pleasantly monitors the galley during training.

PE News

Two the scheduled PE classes for 2014 have been completed. A total of five Delaware Safe Boating classes are scheduled as well as additional classes if needed. Nine students passed the test at Millville Fire Station on March 8th. Additionally, six students passed the test at Brandywine Assisted Living Facility in Selbyville on March 22nd.

Our thanks to FSO-PE Bob Adams and the other instructors for continuing to do an excellent job in the area of Public Education.

MS News

Dave Ritondo, VFC 12-01, SO-MSEP, FSO-MSEP

As an officer in the Flotilla, I hope to get more involved with our other officers in their pursuit of Flotilla business. Also, I hope to get others involved in more MSEP activities, such as Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Trail cleanups.

I hope to encourage all members to take a first aid, CPR and AED course offered by both the USCGA and American Heart Association.

It is my intention to assist Joe and all that needs done for the good of the Flotilla.

I encourage all crew members to get their crew hours current as soon as possible keeping in mind the USCG budget constraints and if possible, get more hours on the water than needed.



Dave Ritondo, VFC stands in front of Adopt-a-Highway sign along Route 54 last year. The program expanded to include an additional highway. Members are asked to help with the program.

hrs. Division meetings are held at Milford Parks and Recreation every 4th Thursday at 1900 hrs.

Crossed Over the Bar Robert Rosenberg



IPFC Bob Adams expressed our deepest sympathies to Bob Rosenberg's family and friends at the Change of Watch in December.

Member Rosenberg's wife, Pauline also crossed over the bar March 18th, 2014. To the Rosenberg family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Upcoming Events

26 APR – PE South Bethany Town Hall

17 MAY – PE Treasure Beach, Fenwick
24,25 MAY - VE/PA Tuckahoe Acres

06 JUN – MT BOAT CREW

07 JUN – PE Indian River Marina

TBD – VE/PA Vines Creek Marina & Bob's Marine

Regular Flotilla meetings are held at the South Bethany Town Hall every 3rd Thursday, and begin promptly at 1900

NS News

In an email on March 13th, to the USCG D5 Waterways, FSO-NS Dennis Burgard expressed great concern for a proposal from them to discontinue most of the aids to navigation in Whites Creek and Pepper Creek due to water depths.

At our March Flotilla meeting, he was encouraged to continue to monitor the situation as it develops in those two areas.