

# ❖ ON COURSE ❖

Volume XXXXXIX Issue 8

AUGUST 2025

NEWSLETTER OF FLOTILLA 12-5 - U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FIFTH DISTRICT (SR) - OCEAN CITY, MD

## FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

ROBERT SHEEHAN FC



### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING U.S.C.G. STATION OCEAN CITY 4 AUGUST 2025

The monthly meeting of flotilla 12-05 was called to order by Bob Sheehan FC via an in-person and a virtual Zoom call promptly at 1900. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Haffner.

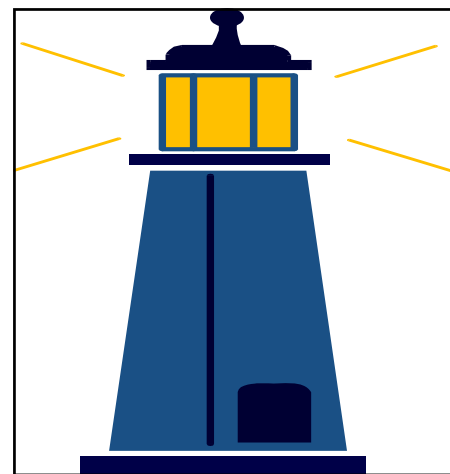
#### OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

**PRESENT:** Bob Sheehan FC, Glenn Duffy Cathy Battistone FSO-PB/SR, Steve Haffner, Frank de Laurentis FSO-FN, Art Flora, Linda Busick, Barry Cohen FSO-IS/PE/PV, Tim Mullen, FSO-MS, Tonya Dagstani FSO-MT, Mark Wrightstone lead, Chincoteague Detachment, FSO-VE, Melynda Wrightstone, Allen Burns, Jeff DeHart FSO-RS, Lynn Killian FSO-MA, Joan Morgan, Roger Morgan and Dan Collins.

**Visitors:** John Small Vice Flotilla Commander from Flotilla 12-01, Missy Small and prospective members Ron Neely and Kevin Nolan joined our meeting tonight.

**Quorum:** Glenn Duffy VFC determined there was a quorum.

A motion was made to accept the July 2025 minutes by Barry Cohen and seconded by Steve Haffner. The motion carried.



FC  
VFC  
IPFC  
FSO-CM  
FSO-CS  
FSO-FN  
FSO-HR  
FSO-IS  
FSO-MA  
FSO-MS  
FSO-MT  
FSO-NS  
FSO-OP  
FSO-PA  
FSO-PB  
FSO-PE  
FSO-PV  
FSO-RS  
FSO-SR  
FSO-VE  
HISTORIAN  
READINESS  
COORDINATOR  
PHOTOGRAPHERS

ROBERT SHEEHAN  
GLENN DUFFY  
BOB SHEVCHUCK  
VACANT  
STEPHEN BATTISTONE  
FRANK DE LAURENTIS  
GLENN DUFFY  
BARRY COHEN  
LYNN KILLIAN  
TIM MULLEN  
TONYA DAGSTANI  
VACANT  
ROBERT SHEEHAN  
MAUREEN HOFFMAN  
CATHY BATTISTONE  
BARRY COHEN  
BARRY COHEN  
JEFF DEHART  
CATHY BATTISTONE  
MARK WRIGHTSTONE  
VACANT  
EUGENE CLEARY  
STEPHEN BATTISTONE  
CATHY BATTISTONE

FLOTILLA 12-5 MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1900 HOURS AT THE OCEAN CITY COAST GUARD STATION. VISITORS WELCOME!!

The Chincoteague Pony Swim was held on Wednesday 30-31JUL2025. It was the 100th annual event. The swim is a traditional event where wild ponies from Assateague Island, Virginia swim across the channel to Chincoteague Island for auction to support their upkeep and the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. Auxiliary members from flotilla 12-05 helped the Coast Guard to control a safety zone for the ponies to cross safely and direct the general public boating people to keep their distance.

Tonya Dagstani FSO-MT prepared a Power Point presentation for new and existing members on the steps to follow to become Flotilla Staff/Elected officers. The presentation was sent to all members for their review. Great job, Tonya!

Semper Peratus!



## FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Mark Wrightstone discussed the Pony Penning in Chincoteague, Virginia. There was a huge response by law enforcement since there was a threat to the Coast Guard Station and the Island. It was anticipated that over 80,000 people were on the island to witness the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pony Penning. Mark Wrightstone said there was a sea of kayaks. Dick Hall, a former member of the Chincoteague flotilla invited their patrol boat over to join him and his friends at his home at his deck party. Mark said it was wonderful since they had been up since 5:30 a.m. Warren Peake also provided lodging for his crew so they would not have to navigate through the large crowds on the island. A big shout out to Warren Peake and Dick Hall.

Jim McCarty DCDR There was a problem with DIRAUX where many members were in REYR and were not aware until they tried to get Orders for a Patrol. Operational Workshops were not recorded. Then it was too late.

Please remember to check your qualifications in April before we get busy in the summer months. If you check early if you need a workshop or a check ride, you still have time to fix problems.

A new trouble ticket system (HESK) has been acquired. Hesk is a web based help desk ticket support system. DIRAUX wants needs some volunteer flotilla to beta test this new product.

Tim Mullen suggested that we need a microphone that could be placed centrally so that the people on Zoom can hear what is being said remotely. Tim said he has one from

his days on his HOA where he lives. He will bring it next month. Jeff DeHart said he will know more about his new position (FSO-RS) after D-Train. There is a Pollution Response course at Curtis Bay on August 19 and 20. If interested, please let Jeff know. If you can't attend, a slide show will be produced..

Tonya Dagstani did a presentation on positions of leadership.



John Small FC Salisbury, MD discussed the 78<sup>th</sup> National Crab Derby in Crisfield, Labor Day Weekend, August 29-31, 2025

Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (fireworks at dusk)



## U.S. COAST GUARD MEETING CHINCOTEAGUE DETACHMENT – July 16, 2025 MARK WRIGHTSTONE

**Call to order:** A meeting of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Chincoteague Detachment, was held at the U.S. Coast Guard Station, Chincoteague, VA on July 16, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 10:00.

### Pledge of Allegiance

**Attendees:** J. Mark Wrightstone, James Busler, Bill Roche, Luann Roche, George Dimond, Steve Wehlan and Steve Meyers

**District Publicity Presentation:** Several members of the Detachment along with Tonya Dagstani, FSO-MT will be working on the new Division 12 publicity presentation.

**Boat Crew Academy:** Due to weather related issues, the members of the boat crew academy have been unable to complete their “on the water training”. Hopefully this will be done soon. Tonya has begun a Boat Crew Academy study group for those in the final stages of the Boat Crew Academy.



**Vessel Safety Examinations:** The Flotilla conducted Vessel Safety Examinations at the Sommers Cove Marina VSC Day. Six Vessel Examiners took part. Vessel Safety Checks continue in the Chincoteague area and have been well received.

**Pony Penning Support:** Due to the threat to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Pony Penning, additional Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies will be patrolling Chincoteague Island. Many active-duty, reserve and Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel will take part. Planning has been in process for several months and participating agencies have been training in preparation.

**Detachment to Flotilla Update:** Efforts are underway for the Chincoteague Detachment to become a Flotilla. The Detachment has reached a membership of 16. The Division 12 Commander is researching what actions need to

be accomplished to make this transition.

**Training:** Mark Wrightstone is working on becoming a Commercial Vessel Examiner and was recently in Sector Maryland. Luann Roche has completed the Visitors Program and all of the required mentored visits. Bill Roche will try to complete the Public Education course as soon as possible. James Busler is taking the Risk Management Course. Steve Whelan, Tom Polaski, and Melynda Wrightstone are all working on completing their BQ and CORE Training qualifications. Steve Meyesr and Andrew Boroski will begin the CORE Training and BQ qualifications as soon as they receive their ID numbers.

#### **Outreach:**

##### **Captains Cove Farmers Market:**

The Detachment continues to have a table at the Farmers Market held every Thursday from 3-6:00 pm at the Marina Club parking lot in Captains Cove. It continues to be very well attended. Our public contact and education numbers have increased each week.

**Captains Cove Health Fair,** September 3, 2025. The Detachment will have a table at the event to recruit and educate.

**Knot Tying Saturdays at the Chincoteague Museum.** The Detachment looks to begin this in the near future.

**Uniform Discussion:** Men and woman combination caps were displayed and discussed.

**Open Discussion:** A discussion took place regarding changing the meeting time to 7:00 pm to accommodate those members who are not available during the day. Further discussion is required with U.S. Coast Guard Chincoteague

leadership to determine if this will cause any issues. This discussion will take place at the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2025 1000 hours.

#### **FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS**



#### **STEPHEN BATTISTONE FSO-CS**

Provided ongoing support for the Flotilla 12-05 Website and the Flotilla12-05 Facebook Page.

Recent updates include the following:

Posted Photos of the Flotilla Meeting held on 7 July 2025 at the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Ocean City, MD. Photos provided by Stephen Battistone FSO-CS.

Posted Photos from the Knot Tying presentation on the Ocean City Boardwalk 16 July 2025. Photos provided by Cathy Battistone FSO-PB/SR.

Posted Photos from the Knot Tying presentation on the Ocean City Boardwalk 23 July 2025. Photos provided by Stephen Battistone FSO-CS.



The July 2025 edition of the On Course Newsletter was posted on the Flotilla 12-05 website.

Posted the Maryland Basic Boating Class for 2<sup>nd</sup> August at the Ocean Pines Library on the Flotilla 12-05 Facebook page.

Updates made to the Unit Calendar on the Flotilla 12-05 website.



#### **FRANK DE LAURENTIS FSO-FN**

The balance as of 01 July 2025 is \$12,018.58

#### **RECEIPTS**

02 JULY Bank Deposit	
2026 dues	\$225.00
08 JULY Bank Deposit	
2026 dues	\$90.00
21 JULY Bank Deposit	
2026 dues	\$90.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$405.00</b>

#### **DISBURSEMENTS**

03 JULY OCMD	
Chamber of Commerce	\$249.00
Membership Dues	
CK #2309 07 JULY	
Bob Sheehan	\$201.87
Zoom/Mailings	
CK #2312	
07 JULY Courier	
½ page Ad CK #2311	\$199.00
07 JULY T. Mullen	
Marine Safety CK #2313	\$17.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$667.85</b>

Ending balance as of 31 JULY 2025 is \$11,755.73



**GLENN DUFFY FSO-HR**

As of July 31 2025 Flotilla 054-12-05 had a total membership of 48. New Members 2 Thomas Polaski, Melynda Wrightstone  
Disenrollments 0  
Deaths: 0  
Resigned: 0  
Transferred: 0  
After confirming with our FC there are no additional changes to report. Four members are in AP and four members are in IQ status.

**BARRY COHEN-FSO-IS**

Somewhat interesting changes in the nomenclator for us. As you know our unit has been known as 054-12-05. With the current changes we are now USCG EAST District (CGD E) Southern District (CGD-E-SR). I am guessing 12-05. CGD-E-SR-12-05. Seems like 054-12-05 is clearer and simpler! Not sure when the changes will be made in AUXII and related forms.

I am still getting forms submitted as photos. If you cannot email as PDF forms, copy them and snail mail to the PO Box as I am getting multiple 7029s. Just received again, two months on three consecutive pages. NOT sure how that's possible. 7029 is one month per page. When the month is completed, click save and submit. Start a new month and repeat, save and submit.

**TONYA DAGSTANI FSO-MT**

Member Training Report  
Flotilla 12-05  
Ocean City, MD

**Training Opportunities and Notifications:**

If you have a training idea you would like to see presented or would like to present, please let me know.

**-Planned monthly** training meetings at the library are replaced by monthly meetings 90 minutes prior to monthly Flotilla meetings.

**-DROP-IN CHANGE: EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY** through the summer... meetings will continue to focus on familiarization with AUXDATA II, Moodle Classroom, and Certifications. (MEET THIS WEDNESDAY AT THE PINES CAFÉ IN OCEAN PINES-1:30 TO 2:30.)

**AUX Monthly Meeting Training:**

**-AUGUST: BECOMING A LEADER WITHIN THE AUXILIARY**-presented by Tonya Dagstani

**-SEPTEMBER: WATCHSTANDER**-presented by Maureen Hoffman

**Online Training Format** is now available via Google Classroom and subject-specific, step-by-step slide shows. The Google classroom is easy to access, via a link and passcode, a larger amount of information as opposed to me emailing individual Power Point Presentations. (They take up a lot of space.) <https://classroom.google.com/c/>



[NzYzNzc1NTc4NzE3?cjc=bv6j35j7](https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=guides-and-handbooks)  
CODE: bv6j35j7

**Unique Training Opportunities/UPDATES**

-New link to Guides and Handbooks:

<https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=guides-and-handbooks>

-Update on AUX Operations Process Guide: many changes made

**-ONLINE IMSEP:** Awaiting the schedule for the next six-month agenda.

**BOAT CREW ACADEMY:**

Hopefully training will occur the first weekend in August out of Harborton.

**THE DATE FOR SEPTEMBER D-TRAIN IS:**

SEP 04-07, 2025 – MARRIOTT SHORT PUMP, GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060

Click this link for details:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/35af10c8-a657-48bd-b805-5f4e73e76b89>

**RISK MANAGEMENT ONLINE COURSES**

I will continue to reach out to the Western Rivers District to get **new online training dates** for those needing to take or to renew their Risk Management credentials.

**CATHY BATTISTONE- FSO-PB**

The approved minutes from July 2025 on form 7000 was forwarded to DIRAUX.

The July 2025 edition of the On Course Newsletter was created and submitted for posting to the Flotilla website.

### BARRY COHEN FSO-PE

We had a strong finish for the month recruiting students. We had three students as of Monday, July 28, 2025. There were 14 students including 5 under 18 as of August 2, 2025. All 14 passed the exam.

### BARRY COHEN-FSO-PV

FSO-PV, the number of PVs done in 2025 is 141. This increased for July by 26.



**REMINDER:** At the next meeting on Monday, September 8th, flotilla 12-05 will be celebrating Allen Burns' 50 years in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. We will be having pizza, so plan to arrive around 6:00 P.M. See you there!



### J. MARK WRIGHTSTONE FSO-VE

During the month of July 2025, Flotilla 12-05 VE completed 121 VSCs, with a total of 435 VSCs to date.

I have contacted John Evans, Division 12 SO-VE, requesting more decals be ordered. The Flotilla currently has approximately 235 decals remaining. Anyone who has decals they feel will not be used are asked to return them to me for redistribution.

Also, during the month, a VSC day took place at Somer's Cove Marina, Crisfield MD, six members took part.

We are getting through the 2025 boating season. Vessel Examiners are reminded that a minimum of 5 VSCs annually are required to maintain certification.

Reminder to all Vessel Examiners, please turn in your VSC counts before each monthly Flotilla meeting to the FSO-VE, these numbers will be included in future monthly reports. Please forward to: [jwrightstone1924@comcast.net](mailto:jwrightstone1924@comcast.net).



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG	ACTIVITY
4	 © Can Stock Photo
4	General Meeting at 1900 U.S. Coast Guard Station Ocean City Ocean City, MD
21	Division Meeting at 1900 Sector Field Office Eastern Shore Chincoteague, VA
29	National Hard Crab Derby Crisfield, MD 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
30	National Hard Crab Derby Crisfield, MD 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
31	National Hard Crab Derby Crisfield, MD 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
SEP	ACTIVITY
1	 LABOR DAY
8	General Meeting at 1900 U.S. Coast Guard Station Ocean City Ocean City, MD

The *ON COURSE* is a monthly publication of Flotilla 12-05, 5th District Coast Guard District (5SR), U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in an effort to keep its members informed on Boating Safety Topics. Published at no expense to the U.S. Government.

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