



# **Flotsam & Jetsam**

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## **Coast Guard Auxiliary Outer Banks Flotilla 1607**

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### **Commander Comments**

The training program given by Frank Spruill and Keith Bernstein is outstanding and gives each of us an opportunity to finish the Mandatory Training Courses. The Classroom Crew/Coxswain training and on the water training is over the top. Those of you who have taken advantage of the training programs can attest to the professional manner in which they are conducted. It takes many hours of preparation and actual hours of performance to carry out the training. So, take advantage of their hard work and join in the training program and improve your skills at the same time. Remember, if you do not complete the mandatory course you will not be able to hold a Staff Position or renew your ID Card. Time is running out and it only takes two nights of your time to complete all the mandatory courses or you can do them on line.



Our meeting at the Black Pelican was well attended and we all received the winter training. It always amazes me that the dinner meetings seem to be the shortest but we get more accomplished. We had training, swore in a new member, talked about a new patch board, had the Staff reports, welcomed four visitors, and identified the new nominees for Commander and Vice Commander. We have had five dinner meetings this year, including Hershel's retirement party, and they have all been well attended. But we still have not gotten all the members who pay dues but do not attend meetings. What else can we do? Any Suggestions?

Safety is paramount in our day to day missions. We exercise our best judgement in every task we undertake. The decisions we make has an impact on our daily actions and sometimes no matter how hard we try they seem to bite us. We have to minimize those times when we are caught in an uncomfortable situation and we have to learn from those mistakes and move on to a safer day. We train and train some more just to keep on top of our missions and to prevent accidents. Our safety depends on the qualifications of those with the responsibility of keeping the Boat and Crew safe. So the more we train to improve our skills the safer everyone will be.

Wayne Earley

## BB&S Graduates 10

The Boating Skills and Seamanship course our flotilla offers has had ten folks complete its comprehensive material. Thank you to all the instructors and members of the flotilla who took time to be with these folks. Your presence helped introduce them to the Auxiliary.



*(From left to right)* Ron Diefert-VFC, Frank Toolan, Chris Toolan, Debbie Riker, Tom Riker, Tony Seibel, George Robinson, Melinda Downs, R.T. Downs, Jordan Downs, Wayne Earley-FC. (Missing from photo: Earl Keel.)

## Flotilla Business

**Our next General Meeting will be at the Pitt Center November 18, one week early!** At that meeting we will elect our Commander and Vice Commander. The nominating committee will present Ron Diefert for Flotilla Commander and Met Lewis for Vice Flotilla Commander.

**All Boat Crew Meeting will occur prior to General Meeting at Pitt Center, November 18.** There will be an all-boat crew meeting at 1800 on Wednesday, 18 Nov at the Pitts Center. This meeting will precede the general flotilla meeting and the election of officers at 1900. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and discuss the recent incidents/mishaps that have

occurred over the last several weeks. It is essential that each crewmember understand what took place and what steps are necessary to prevent similar incidents in the future. All boat crew should plan to attend this meeting.

**Change of Watch for the Flotilla will be Friday, December 11, at Owen's Restaurant.** Please respond to Wayne Earley by December 1. If you pay with your response, it will cost \$25/person. If you respond and wait to pay at the door, it costs \$30/person. If you just show up without a response there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth and casting out into the darkness.

### 16-07 Active!

Holton Bond FSO-IS, reports; "This is the best September we ever had with 1203 total hours and we are on track for the best year ever with a total of 10,797 hours for the year so far." We all make this happen. Right now, you are serving by keeping informed about what is happening in our Auxiliary. The fifteen minutes it takes you to read Flotsam and Jetsam is ¼ hour closer to our best year ever. Make sure you report it on your 1730. If you have any questions contact Holton at [hcbond@charter.net](mailto:hcbond@charter.net).

### New Member Sworn in at October Meeting.



*Black Pelican Restaurant, 28 Oct; Roland McDevitt being sworn in by Travis Cullifer DCDR(e) and Wayne Earley FC. Ron Diefert VFC is behind Travis. Photo by Al Douglass, FSO-PA*

Roland and his wife, Barbara Hanft, moved to Colington Harbour a couple of years ago when he retired from his job as a health care economist in the Washington DC area. Roland and Barbara have been visiting the Outer Banks since 1979. They were invited to stay with a good friend who was born and raised in Manteo, and they were immediately attracted to the area's natural beauty, outdoor activities, and friendly people. It was also great to get back to the water, having attended graduate school in Santa Barbara California where he managed to include sailing in the curriculum.

Since the move, Roland has been woodworking and kayaking. He builds kayaks, paddles year round, and has developed a reliable kayak roll. One of his kayaks won "best in show" a couple of

years ago at the Roanoke Island Maritime Museum's Wooden Boat Show, and he recently became president of the Outer Banks Paddlers Club. He also sails a 25 foot Cape Dory.

Roland says the Coast Guard Auxiliary appealed to him several reasons: "It is an impressive group of people who combine important community service with good fellowship. I admire its work in promoting boating safety and education. I think I can learn a great deal that will benefit

me personally when I am out on the water, and I look forward to getting to know more Auxiliary members.”

## Auxiliary Shooters Out Gun Station Oregon Inlet



A team of Lou Petzing and Met Lewis competed in the annual Ducks Unlimited shoot held at the Outer Banks Gun Club in October. Also competing were a team from Station Oregon Inlet. While neither of the teams out shot the winner of the event or even a youth participant, Lou bested the best from Oregon Inlet.

Frank Spruill started this last year by supporting the two teams. Last year the Auxiliary also led the Station. This is perhaps the finest testimony to the value of practice, practice, practice. When it comes to shooting, Lou Petzing gets his time in.

Met Lewis wrote me, “It’s a good way to foster a relationship between the station and ourselves. A good time is had by all.”

## A Mind Is a Wonderful Thing to Exercise!

- **MANDATED TRAINING:** 14 NOVEMBER at Pitts Center from 0900 – 1300
  - WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Members who need to complete mandated training and who prefer to not use the Video training or on-line training alternative. Training courses covered will be:
    - Influenza
    - Security
    - Sexual Assault
    - Sexual Harassment

PLEASE LET FRANK SPRUILL KNOW IF YOU NEED THE TRAINING BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND ON 14 NOV. PLEASE ALSO LET HIM KNOW IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH COMPLETING THE OTHER MANDATED TRAINING COURSES (Privacy, Civil Rights, Ethics, Suicide Prevention)

· **BOAT TRAINING:**

- 5 November from 0800 – approximately 1230 with Station Oregon Inlet in the vicinity of Colington Harbor
- 25 November from 0730 – approximately 1330 with Station Oregon Inlet in the vicinity of Wanchese Harbor
- WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Members desiring to improve their on-the-water knowledge and skill. Trainees who need to complete Boat Crew qualification tasks.

PLEASE LET ME OR CRAIG BETTS KNOW IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE BOAT TRAINING

Fall and Winter is a great time to take courses. One of the benefits of the Auxiliary is the plethora of training opportunities. You can take a boatload of courses on line. You can take courses offered by the flotilla (often the ones you need and we need you to take to be qualified or to stay current). You can take courses offered by sectors, called S-Train, and by District, called D-Train. For a new member it is bewildering. If you want to be qualified as crew, your mentor will lead you to the courses you need and Frank Spruill and Keith Bernsten will help you. If you want to be a Vessel Inspector, Pat Fields will tell you about the on line course and work with you. When you get an email from Sector North Carolina, or other sectors, or one from District, take the time to read it and see if anything interests you. Wayne Earley's mantra is accurate, "any course you take will be worthwhile." When you go to a training event, you will find it to be a lot like our meetings, everyone is friendly and interested in supporting you. Despite the fact that the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary attracts type "A" competitive people, the "team" culture we prize channels all that power towards a great organization. It's exciting to be together with teammates.

Dave Adams, DCOS, who joined us in a Helo mission last summer, wrote, "Leadership Development opportunities abound! You can find them online, at D-Train in February and Sector Training events, for example Sector Hampton Roads S-Train and Sector Baltimore's Training Weekend both in November. DCAPT Barbara Pohlman is organizing a series of Leadership Training events in Sector North Carolina."

## Oyster Shells and USCGAUX

Our Marine Safety Flotilla Staff Officer, Bill Trimyer, hasn't met an oyster he didn't like. He looks at those gnarled, grooved, and calcified shells with thoughts of gustatory delight. He also knows where they come from and wants to make sure the good people of the Outer Banks can continue to enjoy this bivalve delight. Oysters grow on other oysters. If we harvest an oyster, we need to return the shell to where it can contribute to oyster habitat. Something we use to do quite significantly in the Outer Banks, but the numbers have decreased dramatically since the tax credit for recycling nature's oyster packaging expired in 2014. Here is Bill's answer to this problem from his staff report.



Bill has met with Curtis Weychert, Oyster Sanctuary Biologist and Greg Allen, both of whom are with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. Mr. Weychert sent him a ten minute film on oyster shell recycling for healthy waters which he hopes to present to our general meeting in November. The oyster recycling for the Outer Banks has been significantly reduced due to lack of financial incentive. The good news is that there is still a repository for shells in Wanchese. Kill Devil Hills Recycling has collection barrels for individuals and restaurants to recycle their shells.

With a list of restaurants that Mr. Allen gave him to contact and encourage the recycling of Oyster shells, Bill has been on a mission starting with Mr. Kelly at Kelly's Restaurant. Mr. Kelly was not aware of the KDH collection of shells for recycling. He indicated he would have his employees take shells to that location.

Bill encourages all of us, "Should you attend an oyster roast in the future you can ask what will be done with the oyster shells. Let the organizers know they can be taken to the KDH Recycling Center." He further states, "I am also available to bring collection barrels and will take them to the KDH Recycling Center." That is an officer willing to go the extra mile!