



USCG Auxiliary Official Newsletter of the New Bern Flotilla 20-04  
 Division 20, District 5SR

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# The Channel Marker

Guardians of the Neuse and Trent Rivers

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## FROM THE HELM



I am deeply honored to assume command of Flotilla 20-04. I'm awed that this responsibility was given to me by my peers.

I assume command of a well-organized, well run Flotilla championed by Bill Flynn and his team.

We move into 2018 with a great team made up of new members, mature members, and seasoned veterans. I am privileged to see new members stepping up to assume leadership roles to support the Flotilla. I see mature members, such as myself, with three to four years' service, continuing to help as we begin to see the real benefits the Auxiliary can provide for the public, the Gold side, and ourselves. I see the seasoned veterans offering guidance and experience. They have seen it, done it, and gotten a ribbon to show for it!

We have great plans for the coming year:

1) Our training program starts this month with our super-effective Crew College, providing information, guidance, and hands-on experience.



Mike Ott, FC

2) We are planning two off-site dinner meetings to boost fellowship. These will be in addition to our Red Sail Park picnic.

3) We are planning a joint meeting with 20-02 at Station Fort Macon to show our members the Gold Side operation.

4) PE and PA events are planned for almost every month.

Thank you again for this opportunity. Hope to see you at the Change of Watch.

*Semper paratus*

*Always Ready, since 1939*

### Events and Dates

#### January

- 05 Division Change of Watch – 1800  
The Flame Restaurant
- 14 Crew College - 1400  
Fairfield Harbour POA Building
- 19 Flotilla 20-04 Change of Watch
- 21 Crew College – 1400  
Fairfield Harbour POA Building
- 28 Crew College – 1400  
Fairfield Harbour POA Building

#### February

- 01 Flotilla Monthly Meeting – 1900  
University of Mount Olive

## Friday, 19 January

## 20-04 Change of Watch



It's not too late to make  
 your reservation!  
 See the form on page 5

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# USCG AUXILIARY Flotilla 20-04

## Minutes of the 07 December 2017 Regular Meeting



*(Photo courtesy of TJ Bendicksen)*

The meeting was called to order by FC W. Flynn at 1900 at the University of Mt. Olive, 2912 Trent Road, New Bern. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a meeting quorum was established.

In attendance were the following Auxiliary members: TJ Bendicksen, S. Genovese, W. Ott, M. Kent, D. Fort, K. Mielenhausen, W. Neilson, M. West, B. Cooper, J. Cox, W. Flynn, B. Buljat, E. Gillespie, D. Ingraham, K. King, G. Maravelas, B. McClard, F. Pagano, J. Phillips, E. Reese and K. Williams.

A motion was made by M. Kent to adopt the November 2017 meeting minutes. It was seconded by M. West and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by B. Buljat to adopt the November 2017 Finance reports. It was seconded by J. Phillips and unanimously approved.

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day.

### Staff Officer Updates

K. Mielenhausen indicated that a new Crew College was still on plan with established Sunday afternoon dates running for eight weeks starting 14 January at Fairfield Harbour. He also indicated that a Commercial Vessel Examiner class would be held in Yorktown in February.

Our first ABS Class is scheduled for 20 January 2018 at the University of Mt. Olive.

### Old Business

The Change of Watch dinner will be held on 19 January at The Flame. The cost is \$30 per person.

### New Business

The FSO-SR position has been filled by M. Kent and the FSO-PE position has been filled by K. King.

Wreaths Across America is asking for volunteers to lay wreaths on 16 December at New Bern National Cemetery. Uniform is ODU or Service Dress Blues.

OPFAC 201204 has a brand-new bottom. It was sanded by Auxiliarists and then primed and painted for the coming season. Changing the trailer tire and fixing the fuel line are next on the maintenance agenda.

Mandated training will be coming due again for some Auxiliarists who took classes in 2013. Six classes need to be refreshed every five years.

Division COW will be held at The Flame on 5 January.

### Awards

W. M. Ott was awarded Crew status, D. Fort was awarded Coxswain, and E. Gillespie was awarded the Century Club award for over 100 marine dealer visits.

### Training

K. King gave an informative overview on Influenza Awareness and Prevention, which is one of the mandated training courses.

A motion was made by D. Fort to adjourn. It was seconded by W. Neilson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Michael Ott  
FSO-SR





Dr. Kathryn 'Kathie' King making a presentation on influenza at the December Flotilla meeting. (Photo courtesy of TJ Bendicksen)

**Kip Williams, FSO-FN**

Checkbook Balance as of 12/01/2017	\$8,477.47
<u>Deposits</u>	
SAMA – September	88.81
SAMA – October	63.13
SAMA – November	23.54
COW Payments	<u>780.00</u>
Total Deposits	\$ 955.48
<u>Expenses</u>	
Robert Manning PA/PE Supplies	\$ 94.23
Filippo Pagano COW Awards	39.75
David Fort OPFAC 201204	15.97
Duck Creek Marina OPFAC 201204	83.13
Filippo Pagano Batteries OPFAC 201204	11.41
Karl Mielenhausen Vistaprint	15.99
Ben Reed ABS Book Order	287.54
Theresa Bendicksen GoDaddy Renewal	30.16
William Flynn Funeral Wreath – Mullen	<u>80.06</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 658.24
Checkbook Balance as of 12/31/2017	\$8,774.71

**Mark West, FSO-IS**

During the month of November, members of Flotilla 20-04 contributed 479.7 hours of service to the Coast Guard, itemized as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Aids to Navigation	1.0	0.0
Marine Patrols	27.4	7.3
Coast Guard Admin Support	2.0	0.0
Coast Guard Op Support:	42.0	40.0
Recreational Boating Safety	392.5	427.0
Member Training:	10.2	0.0
Search and Rescue:	4.6	7.6
Marine Dealer Visits:	0.0	3.0
Public Affairs:	0.0	101.5
Public Education:	0.0	0.0
Vessel Safety Check:	<u>0.0</u>	<u>7.0</u>
	479.7	593.4

**W. Michael Ott, FSO-MA**

William Flynn will transition to MA position in January.

**Karl Mielenhausen, FSO-MT**

Crossover with incoming FSO-MT Mark West has been completed.

A new member boot camp was conducted for Don Jessup. Six of the mandated training courses are on a five-year renewal cycle. This means that members who completed these courses in 2013 will have to take them again before YE2018.

**FSO Reports for December**

**Ralph Azersky, FSO-NS**

No activity to report for December.

**TJ Bendicksen, FSO-CS**

The following activities were undertaken:

-Updated our Flotilla website calendar with scheduled classes and activities.

-Email confirmations, including updates and information, were shared with Flotilla members.

-Renewed our Flotilla's .org Website Domain with GoDaddy for the year 2018.

-Noted that access denial and buffering of Auxiliary websites continues to be a problem for everyone, including general public access to our sites.

-Added a reminder about contributions to CGAux Association by shopping through the AmazonSmile Portal on Amazon.com.

-Added a link for our Flotilla's Facebook page to the opening page of our Flotilla Website.

-Posted December *Channel Marker* newsletter to our Flotilla website.

**Kip Williams, FSO-DV**

No activity to report for December.





Division 20 plans to conduct a Crew College beginning in January. The plan is to cover EVERY crew task over a period of seven, three-hour sessions. After each of the in port tasks are presented and later reviewed, there will be an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their mastery of the skill and obtain a sign-off from one of the mentors present. Obviously, we cannot sign off any underway tasks. However, we will still cover them, so the candidates' subsequent on-the-water training can be made as efficient as possible. Dates for the training will be: Sundays 14 Jan, 21 Jan, 28 Jan, 11 Feb, 18 Feb, 25 Feb, and 4 March. All will be held from 1400-1700 at the Fairfield Harbour POA Activities Building, Room 3 (some weeks we have Room 2 in addition), 902 Coral Reef Drive, New Bern 28560. Crew candidates are welcomed to attend as many of the sessions that they want or need depending upon their experience and the existing sign-offs they already have obtained.

**Fil Pagano, FSO-OP**

With the coming of the cold weather season OPFAC 201204 has been taken out of on the water service operations. The facility has had 163 hours of surface operations

during the 2017 season since 1 April. She has accumulated close to \$700.00 in SAMA funds. OPFAC 201204 has been in two Christmas Parades, has had new bottom paint applied and will spend the winter at Station Hobucken, where it will undergo engine maintenance as needed.

**David Fort, FSO-PE**

I have just been appointed as FSO-PE and am getting up to speed. There will be an ABS class on 20 January at Mount Olive College. A Local Waters class is planned for 15 or 22 February at Mount Olive as well, date to be confirmed. March is another planned ABS, probably at New Bern Yacht Club. All members interested in becoming instructors or who wish to help are urged to attend the January class. Further details and assignments will be coming in prior to the class. We also need instructors for our school classes. Anyone who enjoys working with children should let me or TJ Bendicksen know.

**George Maravelas, FSO-VE**

No activity to report for December.

**Wreaths Across America**

On 16 December a large contingent of 20-04 members attended and participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at the National Cemetery in New Bern. They were joined by active duty members from Stations Hobucken, Fort Macon and Emerald Isle, as well as Auxiliaries from 20-01 and 20-06.

Wreaths Across America is a national program recognizing fallen veterans and their families. Wreaths are placed on veterans' graves across the United States, including Arlington National Cemetery.

A moving playing of Taps preceded each uniformed service formally placing a wreath on the grave of one of the fallen. Uniformed members from across Division 20 joined their active duty compatriots in a formation led by Commander Delgado from Sector North Carolina during the ceremony and all members participated in the actual laying of wreaths on over 5,000 graves following the ceremony.

It was a very impressive and solemn event which the 20-04 participants agreed was something they would like to continue to do in the future.



*(Photo courtesy of TJ Bendicksen)*





Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It!

Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss

Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't

# Friday, 19 January 20-04 Change of Watch

1800  
Social Hour  
with Cash Bar



1900  
Dinner

2301 Neuse Blvd, New Bern  
\$30 per person

Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It! Don't Miss It!

### Reserve Your Spot Now!

Fill in the form below, indicating your choice(s) of entrée  
Make your check out (\$30.00 per person) to **FLOTILLA 20-04**  
Cut out this form and mail your reservation before **3 January** to:  
**Kip Williams, 330 Spring Garden Road, New Bern, NC 28562-9339**

#### Dress Options

**Uniform:** Service Dress Blue, Dinner Dress Blue, Tropical Blue

**Civilian:** Appropriate Civilian Attire

# \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon, shrimp bisque sauce

# \_\_\_\_\_ French Cut Roasted Chicken, veloute sauce

# \_\_\_\_\_ Cracked Pepper Pork Tenderloin, grilled apple, peach and carrot slices in light brown sugar sauce

The above served with farmer's market garden salad with Italian or ranch dressing, dinner rolls, fresh vegetables, rice pilaf, sweet/unsweet tea and coffee

Dessert: double chocolate cake

Price (\$30 per person) includes taxes and gratuities

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_





**In Memoriam  
Vera Arleen Mullen (1938 – 2017)**

Many of you may not have known Arleen. Her husband, Steve Mullen, was very active in 20-04 as a coxswain and boat crew trainer as well as a QE. He was my mentor and friend. Arleen was always supporting his efforts and was a welcoming face at their home. When Steve Crossed the Bar we honored him with a contingent at his funeral and I am pleased to see this for Arleen as well. After his passing Arleen remained an Auxilarist to honor Steve and support the Auxiliary and Flotilla 20-04. Again, I thank you one and all for your support in this passing of Arleen Mullen. Arleen, Semper Paratus and you always were.

Rest In Peace

*Fil Pagano*

**Deployed  
by Harry “Bud” McClard**



Saturday morning, August 26, 2017, my wife Carol and I were driving from New Bern to CG Station Hobucken for the annual picnic when my cell phone beeped me that I had missed a call. We were in the area where there is no cell signal. The caller ID on the phone just said “FEMA”, my address book entry for the phone number that calls when we are being deployed. That call started an extraordinary adventure that no one would have expected during the course of a “normal” hurricane season.

I have been a disaster inspector working with FEMA since 2006. My background included engineering and management and a second career as a licensed residential and commercial building inspector and general contractor. Carol retired after a career as a banking and mortgage executive in 2014 and became an inspector in 2016.

All official FEMA inspections are completed by contractors. There are two prime contractors, Vanguard Emergency Management and WSP Inspections. Both are based in and work closely with FEMA in Winchester, Virginia, to carry out the mission of providing timely inspections of disaster applications for emergency assistance under the Stafford Act. We undergo DHS security clearance and then we are issued a DHS/FEMA photo identification as first responders and the red stripe on our ID stating “Federal Emergency Response Official”. The ID badge also contains an RFID chip that contains information related to our access to no-entry, quarantined, or federal facility areas. Training is partly directed by FEMA but mostly by the prime contractors and we are expected to remain current with all regulations and federal guidelines related to FEMA obligations and restrictions. I overheard a FEMA official giving an orientation to new arrivals to the Joint Field Office (JFO) in San Juan saying “The inspectors are the tip of the spear of our mission; they qualify the applicants and document the needs and then we follow up.” More about San Juan later..

*(To read the full account of Bud's adventure, visit the “Members Only” section of the 20-04 [Website](#).)*

