



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

The Channel Marker

Guardians of the Neuse and Trent Rivers

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FROM THE HELM



As our operational year and my tenure as your Flotilla Commander come to a close, I am proud of all the operational and educational accomplishments we have made.

That said, I worry about leaving our next Flotilla Commander in significant need of training and mentoring for the large influx of new members this year. Some of our new members are working hard and have completed the Mandated Training requirements very rapidly. Thus, the need for Mentors has never been greater.

Our next Commander and I will look to all our more senior members to step up and assist our freshman classes. The FSO-MT, Karl Mielenhausen, will once again have a "New Member Boot Camp," which he hopes to schedule prior to year end. It would be perfect to assign these members a Mentor following that orientation.

For 20-04 to continue its success, our new members need good mentoring and personal goal development. Do those well, and we will surely have one of the most productive Flotillas in the District.

At our Staff Officer meeting, we took time to review our 2017 goals. I would like to summarize that review and share it with you. Actuals are as of mid-September.

2017 Goals and Actuals

	Goal	Actual
• New Member growth	4	8
• Crew development	3-4	1
• Coxswain development	2	1 new 1 transfer in
• Instructors	2	1
• Vessel examiners	2	4
• Vessel exams	70	77
• PA events	5-6	6
• PE events	9	9



Bill Flynn FC

20-04 reached almost all of its goals in nine months. *Well done!*

20-04 will once again attend Mumfest at Union Point Park. OPFAC 201204 will be on its trailer and shined up. PA events like this require a great deal of member support (*i.e.*, attendance). Please plan to be there on the 13th and 14th. Say hi to the public, and enjoy the event. If you have questions, contact Bob Manning or myself.

Semper paratus

Always Ready, since 1939

EVENTS & DATES	07 OCTOBER AGENDA	This Issue
October	• Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance	From the Helm 1
05 Flotilla Monthly Meeting	• Establish a Quorum	Events & Dates: October 1
Univ. of Mount Olive	• Introduction of Visitors and CG	Minutes, 07 September Meeting 2-3
1900; Member Training TBD	• Adoption of Minutes from Sept.	Staff Officer Meeting 3
07 Division Meeting	• Adoption of Finance Rpts/Aug./Sept.	FSO Reports 4-5
River Bend Town Hall	• Staff Officers Updates	What Can I Do? 5
1000: Elections	• Crew/Coxswain training	Hobucken Tee Shirts! 6
14-15 MumFest	• tentative Crew College	D Train Report 7
21-22 Seaplane Fly-In	• upcoming PE events	On the Water Again... 8
Bridgeton Harbor	• ABS, Jan.; LocalWaters, Feb/	More Important Dates 8
26-29 Trawler Fest	• upcoming PA events and sign-ups announcements: Mumfest	We Need YOU at MumFest 8
New Bern Grand Marina	• Old Business	
	• 2017 goals performance review	
	• report of Screening Committee	
	• Flotilla elections November 2	
	• New Business	
	• COW at The Flame	
	• Parades—Fairfield Harbour, New Bern	
	• Awards and Presentations	
	• Comments for the Good of the Flotilla	
	• open meeting to the Floor for questions or comments	
	• need MS, SR and MA personnel	
	• Adjourn Meeting	





USCG AUXILIARY Flotilla 20-04

Minutes of 07 September 2017 Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order by VFC K. Mielenhausen at 1900 at Univ. of Mt. Olive, 2912 Trent Rd, New Bern. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a meeting quorum was established. In attendance were the following Auxiliary members: K. Mielenhausen; TJ Bendicksen; S. Genovese; E. Gillespie; G. Maravelas; W. Ott; F. Pagano; K. Williams; E. Reese; M. West; K. King; M. Kent; B. Neilson; and R. Weber. Visitors included: Ryan Roberts, Matthew O'Brien, L. Robinson, Mark Sandvigen, Don Jessup and SO-DV Alvin Powell.

A motion was made by F. Pagano to adopt the August 2017 meeting minutes, it was seconded by B. Neilson and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by K. King to adopt the August 2017 Finance reports, it was seconded by M. Kent and unanimously approved.

Presentation

Al Powell presented his Diversity & Situational Awareness Presentation. Some interesting topics included:

1. Diversity is not just about race, but about the understanding of other people's beliefs, cultures and interests.
2. Different age groups look at the same ideas, beliefs and authority differently.



3. The more you know about a person, the better you can understand them and their personalities.



Ed Gillespie, FSO-HR, talks to two of the visitors.

Staff Officer Updates

F. Pagano presented the hurricane preparedness evaluation for 201204 & 32022, which was forwarded to Station Hobucken.

Our SAMA fund is approaching \$1,000.00.

E. Gillespie reported that the Flotilla has 14 new member sign-ups so far, this year.

TJ Bendicksen reported an update to our website for "Operation Life Ring," which links donations to Hurricane Harvey relief.

Old Business

No old business.



Kip Williams, FSO-DV (top), introduced Al Powell, SO-DV (bottom left), who then gave an excellent Diversity and Situational Awareness presentation, as indicated by the fully engaged audience (right). Photos courtesy of TJ Bendickson..





New Business

A staff meeting is planned for 24 September, at 1300, at the home of B. Flynn. All staff officers, as well as anyone interested in stepping up to handle a staff position, are welcome to attend.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by B. Neilson and including D. Fort and F. Pagano, are currently vetting candidates for FC and VFC. Please contact one of them if you are interesting in running.

Awards

R. Weber was awarded his letter of Provisional Membership and presented his ID card.

Comments for the Good of the Flotilla

G. Marvelas raised safety concerns about the recent paddleboard event. Although our facility was on hand to patrol for any issues, a high degree of participants did not have or wear life-jackets. The event organizer did not seem to appreciate this safety concern.

It was also announced the recent passing of J. Phillips son, Doug, due to an unexpected heart attack. The flotilla will send condolences.



Weber receives his Provisional Membership papers.

A motion was made by G. Marvelas to adjourn, it was seconded by M. Ott and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Michael Ott
FSO-SR

Staff Officer Meeting

A well-attended Staff Officer meeting was held at the home of Bill Flynn on 24 September. The accomplishments and difficulties of the year to date were discussed and initial planning for 2018 was begun. The meeting was open to anyone interested in becoming a Staff Officer.

Photos courtesy of D. Fort.





FSO Reports for October 2017

Bill Nielson, FSO-CM

- Tom Wiggins, SO-CM, (20-06) is putting together a roster of all the Hams in Division 20. He was sent a list of 20-04 members who are FCC licensed amateur radio operators, call signs, and license class.
- Our members who are licensed are: Bill Flynn, Ralph Azer-sky and Bill Neilson. Contact me if interested in becoming an amateur radio operator.

T.J. Bendicksen, FSO-CS

- Updated our Flotilla website calendar with scheduled classes and activities, including Operation Life Ring.
- Posted the latest *Channel Marker* to our website.

Kip Williams, FSO-DV

- On 7 September at the monthly Flotilla meeting, Alvin Powell, SO-DV, gave a presentation on Diversity.

Kip Williams, FSO-FN

- Please note that there were several errors in the August Financial Report. Below is the *corrected* financial statement as of 31 August 2017, which will be voted on at the October meeting, along with the September Financial Report.

Checkbook Balance as of 08/01/2017 \$ 5,270.73

Deposits:

2018 Dues \$ 70.00

Total Deposits: \$ 70.00

Expenses:

Carolina Dive Service (OPFAC) \$ 86.47

New Member Binders \$ 14.12

OPFAC Parts \$ 31.67

Total Expenses: \$ 132.26

Checkbook Balance as of 08/31/2017 \$ 5,208.47

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Checkbook Balance as of 09/01/2017 \$ 5,208.47

Deposits:

SAMA \$ 101.31

Fairfield Harbour Contribution \$ 100.00

Individual Contribution \$ 100.00

PE Class – Nav. Local Waters \$ 375.00

Check #1028 not deposited – credit \$ 11.41

2018 Dues \$ 1901.00

Total Deposits: \$ 2,588.72

Expenses:

Station Hobucken Coast Guard Day \$ 75.76

Total Expenses: \$ 75.76

Checkbook Balance as of 08/31/2017 \$ 5,208.47

This balance matches the balance posted by the bank.

Ed Gillespie, FSO-HR

- Three new members started their enrollment; one prospect is being interviewed on 25 September.

Mark West, FSO-IS

- During the month of August, members of Flotilla 20-04 contributed 641.9 hours of service to the Coast Guard, itemized as follows:

	2017	2016
• Marine Patrols	102.2	241.5
• Coast Guard Administrative Support	32.0	1.5
• Coast Guard Operation Support	5.3	90.0
• Member Training	0.0	25.0
• Recreational Boating Safety	500.0	626.0
• Search and Rescue	5.9	78.8
• Marine Dealer Visits	7.0	36.0
• Public Affairs	8.0	37.0
• Public Education	11.5	12.0
• Vessel Safety Check	<u>2.0</u>	<u>6.0</u>
	641.9	1,152.3

- As of 24 September, 11 Form 7029s had also been submitted for the month of August, representing 27.5% of the Flotilla's membership.

Mike Ott, FSO-MA

- No activity to report for September.

FSO-MS—Vacant

Karl Mielenhausen, FSO-MT

- The Chief Director of Auxiliary has approved application of the Basic Qualification Course II (BQC II) towards elected office eligibility and the Operational Auxiliary (AUXOP) program as follows:

a. Elected office eligibility—Successful completion of the BQC II by the date of nomination now meets the same elected office eligibility requirement as that met by successful completion of the Administrative Procedures Course (APC) or the Flotilla Leadership Course (FLC) for election to Flotilla Vice Commander and Flotilla Commander. Any one of these three courses (BQC II, APC, FLC) now meets the elected office eligibility requirement.

b. AUXOP program eligibility—The BQC II is now a leadership course option along with the other five AUXOP leadership course options. Its successful completion fulfills the requirement for one leadership credit in the AUXOP program.

c. Auxiliarists who have already successfully completed the BQC II's seven modules are grandfathered for both earning one AUXOP leadership credit and meeting the elected office eligibility requirement.





- I plan on scheduling another New Member Bootcamp for sometime in October or November. The next crew college will likely be held on Sunday afternoons in the January-February timeframe.
- Congrats to Eric Reese, who completed his Mandated Training.

Ralph Azersky, FSO-NS

- No activity in September.

Fil Pagano, FSO-OP

- During the month of September we have had six patrols involving training, as well as a Coxswain certification dockside and underway check ride. We now have a new Coxswain, Dave Fort, plus a transferee Coxswain, Ken Grande. This brings our Coxswain count to four. In October we will have Mike Ott test for Crew QE dockside and underway check ride. Presently we have four qualified crew members.
- At D-Train on September 16, it was stated that the Auxiliary has 2,200 active OPFACs.
- Our OPFAC 201204 will require maintenance during the winter layup. The new group of trainees for 20-04 is promising and will lead to an increase in crew members.

Beth Cooper, FSO-PA

- MumFest is 14-15 October. Help is still needed. Coverage times are available in various time blocks between 8-6 on Saturday and 9-6 on Sunday. Contact Bob or Karl with availability.

David Fort, FSO-PB

- Prepared and distributed October 2017 *Channel Marker*. This is your newsletter. Please consider contributing stories and photos for inclusion. Don't worry about literary or photographic skills, we can edit!

Bob Manning, FSO-PE

- Public Education classes will start again in January. Please consider becoming an instructor for adult or school classes!

Ed Gillespie, FSO-PV

- We have 30 PVs.

Mike Ott - FSO-SR

- Minutes submitted.

George Maravelas FSO-VE

- Nothing to report.

What Can I Do?

As most of you know, 20-04 has been blessed with a large influx of new members. Many of them have asked their Mentors (if they have one) or other members what they can do to help early in their Auxiliary career. Here are some thoughts and ideas:

- **Public Education** is an important part of our mission. Consider helping Bob Manning, the Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education (FSO-PE), with class set-up and preparation, registration, exams and closing. Instructors are always needed, you can teach while you qualify.
- **Food Services**—the Active Duty Stations and cutters are in desperate need of Auxiliarists willing to help with culinary duties. If you like to cook, this is the area for you.
- **Watchstanders**—again, work closely with the Active Duty Team Blue members. Station Hobucken can always use Auxiliary Watchstanders to free up personnel for other things. The training is not that difficult (remember that this is the first job that most new Coasties qualify for out of boot camp!).
- **Program Visitor**—as part of our major mission of Recreational Boating Safety (RBS), we can visit marinas, launch ramps, stores, clubs, or almost any other place that is open to the public to distribute safe boating literature and promote our classes. This qualification is quite easy to achieve and right now we need more people involved.
- **ATON Verifier**—Station Hobucken is responsible for a huge Area of Responsibility (AOR) which contains a large number of ATONs and PATONs (Aids to Navigation and privately maintained aids). After every significant storm, the entire AOR needs to be surveyed, and the Station can't do it so we do. ATON Verifiers also report aids that need repair or are off station or otherwise have a problem. You do not need to be Crew qualified to be an ATON verifier.
- **Vessel Examiner**—again, part of our RBS mission is to inspect vessels and educate their owner/operators. This is an excellent opportunity to see a variety of boats and interact with the public in a positive manner.
- **On Water**—of course, there is always the on water component, qualifying as Crew and ultimately as Coxswain. This training usually does take longer than any of the other qualifications listed above.

And the above doesn't just apply to our new members. As a current member, if you want to get more involved you can participate in any of the above, and if you are an old timer, please volunteer to be a Mentor!





Station Hobucken Shirt Order Information Sheet

It's time again to place an order for Hobucken shirts and other clothes. If we place an order soon, we will have them by Christmas. The order requires a minimum of 12 of a design (full color or white). As the order will be combined with that of the Station, there should not be a problem.

Make checks out to Bill Flynn, and add \$3.00 to your total order to help defray freight. Any extra money will go to the Station's coffee mess. You can turn in your order at the 05 October Flotilla meeting; otherwise, **please be sure your order and check reach Bill Flynn (see info below) by 6 October.**

To choose your Station Hobucken shirt(s), please follow the instructions below.

1. Please click on www.cutteragent.com/hobucken.html
2. To see a larger image of the full-color on blue version, click on Full Color;
3. To see a larger image of the white-on-blue version, click on White Ink Only;
4. Look over the possibilities under the Full Color and/or White Only tabs;
5. Decide the color and quantity of each item;
6. Write your choices on the order form below – **DO NOT ORDER DIRECTLY!!!**

NAME: _____ E-Mail/Phone _____

#	Color	Description	\$ _____
			Price
#	Color	Description	\$ _____
			Price
#	Color	Description	\$ _____
			Price

Total Price (+ \$3.00) \$ _____

Below is a sample order for 2 full-color tee shirts and 2 white-ink-only tee shirts

<u>2</u>	<u>Full-Color</u>	<u>Adult Short Sleeve T-Shirts, Medium</u>	<u>\$35.90</u>
#	Color	Description	Price
<u>2</u>	<u>White Ink Only</u>	<u>50/50 Cotton-Polyester T-Shirts, Medium</u>	<u>\$27.90</u>
#	Color	Description	Price

Total Price (+ \$3.00): \$66.80

To mail in your order, make check payable to Bill Flynn and send to:
Bill Flynn, 1004 Pelican Drive, New Bern, NC 28560-9028





D-Train 2017

Fil Pagano, ADSO-OP (Assistant District Staff Officer for Operations for Sector North Carolina) and 2016 Division 20 Auxiliarist of the Year, and David Fort, DVCDR (Division Vice Commander for Division 20), represented 20-04 at this year's D-Train in Williamsburg, VA.

There were many educational opportunities, as well as addresses by Commodore of the Auxiliary Washburn, Commander May, the new DIRAUX (Director of the Auxiliary for 5th Southern District) and each of the three active duty Sector Captains (Sector North Carolina—our own Captain Stewart; Sector Baltimore—National Capitol Region; and Sector Maryland).

The major takeaway was the high repute in which the Auxiliary is held by the active duty, and the continuing emphasis on

expanding usage of the Auxiliary for all Coast Guard tasks except law enforcement and military activities. While RBS (Recreational Boating Safety) remains the primary task, numerous other avenues were emphasized (see article on What Can I Do!).

Of note was that Jean Snyder, a Division 20 member from Flotilla 20-10 in Emerald Isle, received the District Lifetime Achievement Award. She requested that Division 20 leadership (IPDCAPT Pohlman, DCDR Mulligan, and VCDR Fort) join her at the presentation.

As can be seen from the picture at right (*courtesy of D. Fort*), the 20-04 singing bear enjoyed the social activities that accompanied the educational sessions!



From left: D. Adams, District Commodore, R. Washburn, USCG Auxiliary National Commodore, B. Pohlman, Immediate Past DCAPT, Sector North Carolina, Jean Snyder, D. Fort, Vice Commander, Division 20, W. Mulligan, Commander, Division 20, G. Sanial, 5th District Chief of Staff and keynote speaker, Commander May, DIRAUX, M. Thornton, Auxiliary District Chief of Staff. *Photo courtesy of Kim Holland, DSO-PB*



Remember Your Lifeline to Auxiliary Info |

- Click: <http://a0542004.wow.uscgaux.info> or www.newberncgau.org
- Log in to the website in the blue Members Only box in the left menu of the website.
- The Flotilla staff list is also available by clicking on About Flotilla 20-04 and then Staff List.

<http://www.facebook.com/uscgauxiliary>



Post a photo and/or a message to auxiliarists across the U.S.!





🎵 On the Road Water Again... 🎵

A variety of MOM (Maritime Observation Missions) and training patrols were again held throughout September. Included are two photos (*courtesy of T.J. Bendicksen*) of one of the patrols, which spent some time in Fairfield Harbour. Several patrols also did two boat trainings with Station Hobucken, including the 13 September QE (Qualifications Exam) for David Fort for Coxswain. As noted in the FSO Reports, we now have four Coxswains, so we hope to greatly increase our on-water training time next year. Mike Ott should become Crew qualified early in October, and new Crew training will start in earnest with Crew College to be held over the winter.



Now Hear This: We Need YOU at MumFest!

This is a reminder to all members that MumFest—one of our largest PA (Public Affairs) events—is almost here. We need all hands on deck for various time slots on both 14 and 15 October. Sign up at the upcoming Flotilla meeting. Please make every effort to participate. We anticipate having OPFAC 201204 on static display as well as lots of games and activities for kids and boating safety information available for the adults. *Photos from past MumFests courtesy of B. Manning and D. Fort.*



MORE IMPORTANT 20-04 EVENTS & DATES IN 2017

November

02 Flotilla Monthly Meeting, University of Mount Olive
1900; Elections; Member Training TBD

December

02 Division Meeting, River Bend Town Hall
1000

02 New Bern Christmas Parade

03 Fairfield Harbour Christmas Parade

07 Flotilla Monthly Meeting, University of Mount Olive
1900; Member Training TBD

The University of Mount Olive is located at
2912 Trent Road in New Bern.

