



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



Well, here we are the end of the year and, for me, the end of two exciting and personally challenging years as your Auxiliary Flotilla Commander. Looking back, I feel we set and met some lofty and important goals. All of our members had an active role in this success. The success was led by Staff Officers that worked tirelessly to keep all the parts and pieces of a complex organization always moving in a forward direction. All of this is held together by the structure and organization maintained by our Vice Commander, Karl Mielenhausen. Thank you all.

If you don't know our Flotilla Commander Elect, you will first notice his quick smile and pleasant personality. Mike brings with him a fresh new agenda that will adjust the course of our Flotilla. I'm certain his leadership will continue to develop 20-04 into a superior Flotilla in D5S. Mike is an active Auxiliarist and will expect no less from any of us.

I was glad to see many of you at the two parades we were invited to attend. Despite a heavy shower beforehand and threatening skies during the New Bern parade, we were met by

a large and enthusiastic crowd. Because we were the first walking participants in that parade following wheeled vehicles, and the vehicles were setting a challenging pace, we sometimes found ourselves jogging to keep up.

We were once again the Honour Guard for the Fairfield Harbour Community Parade. This parade offered food at the finish of our march.

Both parades were great fun, as we passed out candy and waved to people we knew. I'm proud that our community invites us to these great events.

My wife Roberta and I wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at the Change of Watch Ceremony on 19 January.

It won't be long before your new Commander tells us to launch 201204 and we do "it" all over again.



Bill Flynn FC

Happy Holidays!



Semper paratus

Always Ready, since 1941

EVENTS & DATES	07 DECEMBER AGENDA	This Issue
December	• Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance	From the Helm 1
02 Division Meeting River Bend Town Hall; 1000	• Establish a Quorum	Events & Dates: December 1
02 New Bern Christmas Parade	• Introduction of Visitors and CG	Minutes, 02 November Meeting 2-3
03 Fairfield Harbour Christmas Parade	• Adoption of Minutes / Nov.	Boot Camp, 20-04 Style 3
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17 Staff Officer Meeting Ott's, 621 Alexis Dr., New Bern 1300-1500	• Staff Officers Updates	Did You Know? How to Salute 5
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USCG AUXILIARY Flotilla 20-04

Minutes of 02 November 2017 Regular Meeting



Mielenhausen drums up interest in the upcoming Crew College and Boot Camp.

The meeting was called to order by FC W. Flynn 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: TJ Bendicksen; S. Genovese; W. Ott; M. Kent; W. Cunniff; D. Fort; K. Mielenhausen; W. Neilson; M. West; D. Jessup; B. Cooper; J. Cox; W. Flynn and K. Williams

- A motion was made by M. Kent to adopt the October 2017 meeting minutes; it was seconded by W. Neilson and unanimously approved.
- A motion was made by W. Ott to adopt the October 2017 Finance reports; it was seconded by M. Kent and unanimously approved.

Elections

- D. Fort called for Flotilla elections for 2018. After a call for any additional nominees and W. Neilson announced that the current candidates had been vetted, the election proceeded. The candidates were: for FC, W. Ott; and for VFC, K. Mielenhausen. Both candidates were elected unanimously.

Staff Officer Updates

- K. Mielenhausen indicated that a new Crew College would be starting in early January.
- The new member Boot Camp will take place on 12 November at the New Bern Yacht Club.
- Upcoming PE events include two Holiday parades 02 & 03 December (New Bern and Fairfield Harbour), an ABS class in January; and a Local Waters course in February.

Old Business

- W. Flynn announced the need for Auxiliary officers in PE and SR positions for 2018.
- Due to warmer weather, the patrol season has been extended to 20 November. At the end of the season, Aux facility 201204 will be hauled and bottom painted at Duck Creek boat yard.
- The Change of Watch dinner will be held on 19 January at The Flame. The cost is \$30 per person.



M. West clues in members about a cheat sheet to survive coding for the 7029 form.





New Business

- K. Mielenhausen mentioned the Kidde fire extinguisher recall; all VEs are to check the Kidde website for further information at <https://inmarmarketaction.com/kidde/Kidde284US/>

Awards

- M. Kent, K. King and B. McClard were awarded their Letters of Provisional Membership.

Training

- M. West presented an overview on the 7029 form. He also reviewed the categories and provided a “cheat sheet” to better explain coding for 99A – 99E.

A motion was made by D. Fort to adjourn, it was seconded by S. Genovese and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Michael Ott
FSO-SR



FC Flynn presents M. Kent with a Letter of Provisional Membership. *Photos courtesy of Fort.*

Boot Camp, 20-04 Style

On 12 November, Karl Mielenhausen, FSO-MT, held another Boot Camp for two new members. In attendance were L. Robinson and M. O'Brien. Not only were they introduced to many of the ins and outs of things to be encountered by new Auxiliarists, but also Mielenhausen and the other mentors present (Bendicksen, Flynn, Fort and Mielenhausen) learned about the new members. Robinson is a dentist in practice with her father in Havelock. O'Brien is in the process of transferring his architectural business to New Bern. All in attendance spent an interesting and informative afternoon. *Photo courtesy of Fort.*





FSO Reports for December 2017

Bill Neilson, FSO-CM

- Nothing to report.

T.J. Bendicksen, FSO-CS

- Updated our Flotilla website calendar with scheduled classes and activities.
- Email confirmation of updates and information to Flotilla 20-04.
- Added Kidde Fire Extinguisher Recall to Calendar and VSC pages of website.
- Posted new *Channel Marker* newsletter to our Flotilla website.

Kip Williams, FSO-DV

- There was no activity for the month of November.

Kip Williams, FSO-FN

- Below is the financial statement as of 11/30/2017.

Checkbook Balance as of 10/31/2017	<u>\$ 8,370.22</u>
Deposits:	
SAMA	\$ 14.98
2018 Dues	\$ 210.00
COW	\$ 30.00
Total Deposits:	<u>\$ 254.98</u>
Expenses:	
Facility	\$ 8.28
Parade Registration—PA	\$ 25.00
Parade Treats—PA	\$ 9.45
Dues Refunds (resignations)	<u>\$ 105.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$ 147.73
Checkbook Balance as of 11/30/2017	<u>\$ 8,477.47</u>

Ed Gillespie, FSO-HR

- To date, our 2017 shows 14 applicants—13 new and one reinstated.

Mark West, FSO-IS

- All submitted reports reviewed and forwarded.



Mike Ott, FSO-MA

- Tried to order Crew Qualification Guides, only to find out they are not available anymore. They must be downloaded and printed.

FSO-MS—Vacant

Karl Mielenhausen, FSO-MT

- Division 20 is planning on conducting 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 “Inport” tasks are presented AND later

reviewed, there will be an opportunity for the candidate 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 in order that the candidates’ subsequent on-the-water training can be made as efficient as possible.

- Dates for the training will be on Sundays as follows:
 - 14 January; 21 January; 28 January; 11 February; 18 February; 25 February; 4 March.
 - All are from 1400-1700 in Room 3 of the Fairfield Harbour POA Activities Building, 902 Coral Reef Dr. New Bern 28560. For some weeks, we also have Room 2.
- Crew candidates are welcome to attend as many of the sessions as they want (or need), depending upon their experience and the existing sign-offs they already have obtained.
- I will provide specific directions to those interested. Let me know if you plan on attending AND if you need a sign-off book (M16794.52A).
- Congratulations to Ryan Roberts and L. Robinson for recently completing all their mandated training. Anyone who needs assistance in finishing up their mandated training should see me after the Flotilla meeting. I will also have the Training Management Report available, so anyone who wants to check their stats in AUXDATA should see me after the meeting.
- Reminder for new members: Completion of the FEMA courses is NOT automatically sent to the CG (AUX-DATA). The two systems do not communicate. Therefore, I need to send the certificate(s) in to DIRAUX, which I can do most easily by email. Send me a scan, get the certificate(s) to me so I can scan or just forward me the completion emails you would have received from FEMA.

Ralph Azersky, FSO-NS

- Nothing to report.

Fil Pagano, FSO-OP

- It has been a very active surface operations year for 20-04 and OPFAC 201204: more than 225 Coxswain hours and 450 Boat Crew training hours. This was great on-the-water training for Boat Crew candidates following their Boat Crew College during the winter months. One new Coxswain, Dave Fort, and Crew, Bill Flynn, were qualified. The four Coxswains are Dave Fort, Ken Grande, Bill Neilson and Fil Pagano. Our Crew roster is Suzanne Blais, Link Bonforte, Bill Flynn, and Karl Mielenhausen. *Bravo Zulu* to all their efforts and duty to the Auxiliary and the active Coast Guard.





- OPFAC 201204 was used in several PA events, including New Bern's October MumFest and two Christmas parades.
- The Facility was hauled out for some much-needed bottom cleaning as well as preparation for its first bottom painting. Many thanks to all who volunteered to work on this project. I commend you for your service.
- The reconciliation of SAMA funds will be done once all funds have been paid by FINCEN, which I hope will be completed by 31 December of this year.

Beth Cooper, FSO-PA

- Participated in 2017 New Bern Christmas Parade on Saturday, 02 December and the Fairfield Harbour Christmas Parade on Sunday, 03 December.

David Fort, FSO-PB

- Prepared and distributed December 2017 *Channel Marker*. Mark West will take over as FSO-PB, effective with the

January issue. *FSOs should change your report distribution list to Ott, Mielenhausen and West.* Thanks to all for your participation and assistance for the past six years. And, of course, a major *Bravo Zulu* to Beverly for her efforts in keeping me on the straight and narrow and producing a great-looking and interesting newsletter every month!

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

- Nothing to report.

Mike Ott - FSO-SR

- Minutes submitted.

George Maravelas FSO-VE

- Nothing more to report.

Did You Know?

From the *Guide to Protocol and Courtesy for Auxiliary Units and Auxiliarists*:

- Saluting between Auxiliarists is not usually the custom. On occasions, when in uniform and covered, courtesy and custom indicate that a salute is in order; for example, when returning a salute rendered by a member of the Armed Forces. It is also customary to exchange greetings such as "good morning," "good afternoon," "good evening," etc. along with the salute. Obviously, if the other person is a senior officer, you should originate the salute and follow the greeting with "sir or ma'am." The exchange of greetings should also be accompanied by a smile or a cheerful expression.
- When out of doors in uniform and addressing the National Ensign or whenever the National Anthem is rendered, a military salute is given. This particularly applies to the respect paid at Morning or Evening Colors ceremonies aboard a ship (not underway) or aboard a Coast Guard or other military installation. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag, those present in uniform should come to attention and render the military salute. The same applies if the flag is passing in a parade or in review. The salute to the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes. During a rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all those present in uniform should face the flag and render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. When the flag is not displayed, those present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed there.
- When out of doors and not in uniform, the "civilian salute" is rendered for the same situations. The "civilian salute" is made by standing at attention and placing the right hand over the heart. Any male civilian headdress should be removed, held in the right hand over the heart.
- When on a Coast Guard or other military installation in a vehicle, at the time of colors, and traffic safety permits, you stop and sit at attention, but do not salute.
- If a passenger in a boat, remain at attention, seated or standing. The boat officer or coxswain salutes for the boat.

- When indoors and the flag is presented and/or the National Anthem is played, all should stand at attention. When the Pledge of Allegiance is given, all, in uniform or not, should place the right hand over the heart.
- When covered in uniform, the hand salute is correctly executed by raising the right hand smartly until the tip of the forefinger touches the lower part of headdress or forehead, above and slightly to the right of the right eye, thumb and fingers extended and joined, palm down, upper arm horizontal, forearm inclined at 45 degrees, hand and wrist straight. At the same time, one's head is turned toward the person being saluted. To complete the salute, the arm is dropped to its normal side position and eyes are turned to the front.
- Some of the more frequently observed saluting errors are: failing to hold the position of the salute until it is returned by the person saluted; failure to look at the person or colors being saluted; failure to assume the position of attention when saluting; and failure to have the fingers, hand, and arm in the proper position for saluting as mentioned in the previous paragraph. Gross errors include saluting with a cigarette in the hand or mouth, saluting while the left hand is in a pocket or returning a salute in a casual manner.





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 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!

Friday, January 19 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!

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 **January 3, 2018** 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 \$ _____





STUMPED!

A routine patrol on 7 November did not end as expected. One of the crew needed less than an hour to meet the annual Crew requirement and we planned to take a short run to NorthWest Creek Marina for fuel and then do a short MOM patrol.

On the way to the fuel dock, we received a call from a concerned boater about a drifting, partially submerged stump near Hampton Shoal. We advised the boater that we would take a look for it. This stump had been reported before in different locations, and we had thus far been unsuccessful in locating it. We decided to go to one of the crew's homes in Fairfield Harbour to pick up a couple of water jugs as markers, in case we did locate the stump.

After fueling up, we proceeded to the vicinity of Hampton Shoal. Suzanne Blais's sharp eyes quickly located the stump, and we went over to investigate. As can be seen from the accompanying pictures, this stump was definitely large enough and low lying enough to do significant damage to just about any size vessel.

We decided to take the stump into tow and secure it to an abandoned piling nearby. Our first attempt to move it was

unsuccessful. After jockeying and jostling it some, we were able to achieve slow forward motion. Imagine our surprise when a significant branch popped to the surface approximately 30 feet behind our "stump." Turns out we were towing the better part of a significant tree that had been imbedded in the bottom until our efforts broke it free.

Due to the size of the tow, it took nearly an hour to cover the approximately one mile to the piling. Upon arrival, Mielenhausen supervised the rest of the crew and secured the log and marker jugs to the piling. Station was kept informed during the entire process and given the final location of the hazard for further checking whenever they were in the area.

On board for the patrol were Fort, Coxswain; Mielenhausen and Blais, Crew; and West, trainee. An excellent effort was put forth by the entire crew to locate, tow and secure this definite hazard. It was great to see many of our training evolutions (SAR, towing, lookout, TCT and boat handling) come together to perform a successful and worthwhile mission. *Photos courtesy of Fort.*





201204 Gets a Bottomlift

One problem (and expense) we faced all this patrol season was heavy fouling of 201204's bottom due to the high water temperatures facilitating quick barnacle and other marine growth. This required us to hire a diver every four to six weeks to scrape and clean the bottom.

Dick Fontaine heard us discussing the problem and embarked on a mission to resolve it. After discussions with a variety of people, including active duty personnel, marina owners, bottom paint experts, and experienced boaters, Dick presented the Flotilla with his findings and a solution to the problem.

He found that the Coast Guard paints their boats every five years and cleans them at least once each year. It is critical that an aluminum bottom be prepared correctly and that a barrier coat be applied prior to putting on the bottom paint. Dick offered an alternative to having to get a diver throughout the patrol season. He enlisted the assistance of Frank Benton, owner of Duck Creek Marina, and Terry Shea, who is the resident bottom paint expert at Duck Creek. Mr. Benton had his people pull the boat and put it on jack stands in his yard so that it could be sanded





and painted. A dedicated Auxiliary sanding crew consisting of John Cox, Bill Flynn, Mike Kent, Karl Mielenhausen, Bill Neilson and Mark West spent hours sanding the hull to remove the “Neuse River beard” and to leave a prepared surface for the barrier coat and painting.

Terry was able to get the barrier coat and paint supplied by one of her vendors and did a fabulous job of applying the barrier coat and final coat to the boat and had it ready for our Duck Creek friends to put it on the trailer the day before the New Bern parade.

All this was done in just over a two-week period, which included the Thanksgiving holiday, creating additional difficulties in scheduling the work crews.

A huge *Bravo Zulu* to Dick Fontaine; the sanding crew; Frank, Kathy and all our other friends at Duck Creek; and Terry Shea for all their efforts. We look forward to having much less maintenance and expense for the foreseeable future patrol seasons. *Photos courtesy of Fort and Mielenhausen.*



Auxiliary License Plate



Several members have inquired about obtaining the USCG Auxiliary license plate that many of us have on our vehicles. There is a \$10.00 annual fee for this plate. The form can be found by clicking on this link:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/forms/default.html?s=PSPS>

Information provided by Melissa McLauren, SO-CS for Div. 20

Attention Crew Candidates!

Remember to save 1400-1700 on the following Sundays for Crew College:

- January 14
- January 21
- January 28
- February 11
- February 18
- February 25
- March 4

All classes will be at the Fairfield Harbour POA Activities building, 902 Coral Reef Drive, New Bern. Contact Karl Mielenhausen to sign up.





Parades R Us: I

Eight intrepid members of 20-04 participated in the New Bern Holiday Parade on 02 December. Shortly after they and 201204 arrived to set up for the parade, the heavens opened. The rain continued until (fortunately) shortly before the scheduled beginning of the parade. The rain did stop and the parade commenced. We were the first unit on foot, so instead of our anticipated leisurely walk through downtown New Bern, those of us on foot frequently proceeded

at a trot to a jog to keep up with the lead units. To make things even more interesting, we were being followed by four fire engines utilizing every sound producing device they had—and Genovese made liberal use of Azersky's truck air horn as well.

In spite of the threatening weather, the crowds were thick and enthusiastic. We have been fortunate to have a prime position near the beginning of the parade for the past two years and have been given a warm reception by the parade goers.

Thanks to Asersky (our excellent driver), Bendicksen, Cooper, Flynn, Fort, Maravelas, Mielenhausen and Williams for their participation.

We looked sharp! Photos courtesy of Bendicksen.





Parades R Us: II

The weather was much more cooperative on 03 December for the Fairfield Harbour parade. As in past years, we were the lead unit and color guard. Bendicksen and Cooper performed as an all female color guard and did a terrific job of setting the pace for the entire parade. *And they stayed in step the entire way!*

The route had been significantly shortened this year, a fact that was thoroughly enjoyed by our members. Possibly because of the shorter distance—or the better weather—there appeared to be a larger crowd cheering us on than in prior years. Many

people called out “Yay, Coast Guard!” as we passed, and it was really nice to see a significant number of the crowd recognizing the colors as they passed.

A taste-tempting meal was waiting for all the participants at Red Sail Park at the conclusion of the parade. Thanks to Azersky, Bendicksen, Clark, Cooper, Cuniff, Flynn, Fort, Kent and West for their participation. Being the lead unit and having the newly painted 201204 (also fully decorated for the parade thanks to T.J. Bendicksen) made this a particularly memorable afternoon. *Photos courtesy of Bendicksen.*





Sammy Says
Save the Date
D-Train
23-25 FEBRUARY 2018
Williamsburg, Virginia
See you there!

Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukkah!

HAPPY KWANZAA

MORE IMPORTANT 20-04 EVENTS & DATES 2018

January

- 05 Division COW, The Flame
2301 Neuse Boulevard., New Bern
1800
- 19 20-04 COW, The Flame
2301 Neuse Boulevard, New Bern
1800

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

**Flotilla 20-04 will
not meet in January.
See y'all at COW on
January 19!**

**The next meeting will
be Thursday, February 1.
Happy Holidays!**

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



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

Remember Your Lifeline to Auxiliary Info |

- Click: <http://a0542004.wow.uscgaux.info> or www.newberncgaux.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.

