



# USCG Auxiliary Official Newsletter of the New Bern Flotilla 20-04

## Division 20, District 5SR

(Published at no expense to the U.S. Government)

# The Channel Marker

Guardians of the Neuse and Trent Rivers

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## FROM THE HELM



Every organization needs goals to be successful. We achieved most of our goals last year and in some cases surpassed them. Our total hours for 2017 were 6,492, second in the division.

This flotilla has gone through a significant increase in membership and this has significantly strained our ability to assimilate and mentor the 12 members who are new to the USCGAUX. We would not expect, nor do we feel we can adequately accommodate, many more than four new applicants in 2018. That would be 10% growth.

Our focus will be to enhance the skill sets of members, meeting their specific goals. In doing so, we expect to see changes in certifications as stated below. Additionally, our goal is that at least four of the new members who joined in 2017 will assume a staff leadership position in 2018.

We expect that the increase in training patrols, as a result of operating our own OPFAC, plus the planned crew college, will yield three or four new crew and one or two new coxswains this year. We expect to increase surface

OPS hours from 579 in 2017 to approximately 700 in 2018. The FSO-OP will continue to work with the Gold side in support of water operations and training.

We expect to certify four additional instructors and two additional vessel examiners.

We have set a goal to increase vessel examinations by 20%, from 91 to 110. We expect an increase in marine dealer visits of 10% from 139 to 153.

It is our desire to use the PA events to motivate and train some of our less active members. We will participate in five or six major community events this year.

Finally, PE events are vitally important in order to promote boating safety, identify potential new members, and provide a source of outside revenue. We expect to hold at least nine classes during the course of the year.



Mike Ott, FC

*Semper paratus*

*Always Ready, since 1939*

### Events and Dates

#### February

01 Flotilla Monthly Meeting - 1900  
University of Mount Olive

11 Crew College - 1400  
Fairfield Harbour POA Building

18 Crew College - 1400  
Fairfield Harbour POA Building

21-25 District SSR D-Train  
Williamsburg, VA

25 Crew College - 1400  
Fairfield Harbour POA Building

#### March

01 Flotilla Monthly Meeting - 1900  
University of Mount Olive

## February Training Opportunity

David Fort will be making a presentation on

## Volunteer Opportunities within the Auxiliary

as part of the regular monthly meeting on 01 February

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## USCG AUXILIARY Flotilla 20-04 2018 Change of Watch



*BM1 Adams addresses the 20-04 COW*



*Mike Ott (right) and Karl Mielenhausen are installed as Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander*



*Newly installed Flotilla Commander Mike Ott*

Flotilla 20-04 celebrated the new year with its annual Change of Watch ceremony on 19 January, emceed by Jim Phillips. Petty Officer 1st Class Adams from Station Hobucken was the guest speaker. He also installed Mike Ott as the new Flotilla Commander along with returning VFC Karl Mielenhausen and the 2018 Flotilla staff officers. Outgoing FC Bill Flynn presented the following awards:

Most Coxswain Hours: Fil Pagano  
Most Vessel Examinations: George Maravelas  
Most Teaching Hours: Karl Mielenhausen  
Most Member Training Hours: Karl Mielenhausen  
Most Total Hours Contributed: Dave Fort  
Auxiliarist of the Year: Bob Manning



*Outgoing Flotilla Commander Bill Flynn recognizes VFC Karl Mielenhausen for his outstanding efforts over the past year*



*Jim Phillips  
COW Master of Ceremony*



*Bill Flynn congratulates outgoing Division Vice Commander Dave Fort for contributing 1,450.40 hours to the Auxiliary in 2017*

*(Photos courtesy of TJ Bendicksen)*







## FSO Reports for January

### TJ Bendicksen, FSO-CS

The following activities were undertaken during January:

- Updated our flotilla website calendar with scheduled classes, activities, and government shutdown announcements.

- Shared and received emails/communications regarding website updates, changes, and information.

- Added a link for Bud McClard's FEMA adventures article *Deployed* to the Members Only section of website.

- Shared updated Member Directory with flotilla members.

- Posted January *Channel Marker* newsletter to our flotilla website.

- Created a new, orange color VE decal image to update outdated decal images on Home and Vessel Safety pages of our flotilla website with new 2018 color.

### Bill Neilson, FSO-CM

No activity to report for January.

### Kip Williams, FSO-DV

No activity to report for January.

### Kip Williams, FSO-FN

Checkbook Balance as of 01 Jan 2018 \$8,774.71

#### Deposits

COW Payments 150.00

Total Deposits \$ 150.00

#### Expenses

NBYC #1060 1/20 ABS Classroom Rental 100.00

COW Flame Banquet Hall 938.64

USCGAUX Flotilla Dues 1,400.00

Total Expenses \$2,438.64

Checkbook Balance as of 31 Jan 2018 \$6,486.07

### Bud McClard, FSO-HR

No activity to report for January.

### Mark West, FSO-IS

With (hopefully) all hours reported for 2017, total hours contributed to the Coast Guard by Flotilla 20-04 break out as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Aids to Navigation	1.00	0.00
Marine Patrols:	652.20	563.40
Coast Guard Administrative Support	11.60	1.50
Coast Guard Operation Support	433.05	494.90
Recreational Boating Safety	4,993.50	5,221.00
Marine Safety	0.00	39.20

Member Training	204.20	156.25
Search and Rescue	86.40	213.70
Marine Dealer Visits	61.00	131.00
Public Affairs	441.20	339.50
Public Education	114.10	74.00
Vessel Safety Check	<u>102.00</u>	<u>73.00</u>
	7,100.25	7,307.45

A total of 37 members reported hours during the year ranging from one to 1,450.40. Average hours contributed equaled 191.9, but the median hours contributed was just 73.3. The difference in the mean and the median figures becomes apparent when looking at the spread of hours contributed. 23 members contributed 100 hours or less, while two members contributed 1,000 hours or more.

The Annual Letter, containing a summary of all member activity for the past calendar year, will be distributed by email, where available, beginning 01 February. Any discrepancies in found in the Annual Letter should be reported to the FSO-IS.

### William Flynn, FSO-MA

No activity to report for January.

### Mark West, FSO-MT

The Crew College organized by Flotilla 20-04 kicked off on 14 January with 14 crew candidates from throughout the Division attending. Unfortunately, the session scheduled for 21 January had to be canceled owing to the Federal government shutdown. The curriculum for the balance of the sessions, which are scheduled to run through 11 March, has been amended so that all subjects will be covered within the original planned duration of the class.

### Ralph Azersky, FSO-NS

No activity to report for January.

### Fil Pagano, FSO-OP

OPFAC 201204 is having annual engine maintenance being performed by George Maravelas. The engine will be serviced according to the the manual with its acquired hours to date. The driver-side lens on the trailer will be replaced. The facility will be trailered to Station Hobucken for the winter months. As for boat crew training under the direction of Karl Mielenhausen, it is off to a great start with 14 members attending the Boat Crew College, which is open to all Division 20 members. I am looking forward to working with these attendees on the water after 01 April aboard OPFAC 201204.

### David Fort, FSO-PE

The ABS class scheduled for 20 January was postponed





until 17 February due to the government shutdown. Almost 40 people had registered for the class. It is unclear how many we will lose due to the cancellation of the original date. A Local Waters class is scheduled for 15 February and another ABS class is scheduled for 10 March. Several new instructors are being trained and we are looking for more

instructors for both the adult and school classes. A separate group focusing on schools has been established. They have started scheduling Water 'n Kids classes for the spring.

**George Maravelas, FSO-VE**

No activity to report for January.

## Flotilla 20-04 Member Participates in Rare NC Ice Patrol!

It does not happen often in eastern North Carolina, but on 10 January Brian Sjostedt participated in an ICERECON Patrol, discovering multiple ATON discrepancies in Sector North Carolina's northern AOR. Pictured below are some of the ice formations they spotted.



*Ocracoke Sound side ice plating*



*Ice Plating in Croatan Sound*



*Alligator River Day Beacon 14*

*(Photos courtesy of BM2 Carly Moore)*





## Keeping your Mandated (now Core) Training Current

Bill Mauney, FSO-MT for Flotilla 20-02, recently sent along the following information. It is a great reminder for those who have been in the Auxiliary for a few years.

In regards to **AUXTMT** (Auxiliary Mandated Training), now called Core Training, you need to know the following:

### PERMANENT Courses

- Ethics Training (502306)
- Influenza Training (502290)
- ICS - 100
- ICS – 700

### Must Retake every FIVE years

- Prevention of Sexual Harassment Course (810000)
- Privacy Awareness (810015)
- Security Education and Training Awareness (810030)
- Sexual Assault Prevention (810045)
- Suicide Prevention (502379)
- Civil Rights Awareness (502319)

If you are like me and took these courses when they first rolled out, time may be coming up for you to retake the six courses mentioned above. I'll be taking these courses again in the spring.

**Please do not let these courses lapse as ALL OTHER COMPETENCIES THAT YOU ARE CERTIFIED IN WILL BE SET REYR!**

Please follow this link for MANDATORY TRAINING requirements:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/>

### ACTIONS:

- **Please check the dates that you took these courses.** If your due date is on the near horizon, put on a pot of coffee and knock out these six courses.
- **If this does not affect you now, please mark your calendar as to when your five years will be up and take these courses before they are past due.**

Editor's note: Flotilla 20-04 FSO-MT Mark West will be sending reminders to those members who will be required to retake mandated courses in 2018. Also, remember that for REYR purposes, you have until the end of 2018 to complete the required courses.





## Coast Guard Testing New Delivery Method for Marine Safety Information

Have you ever wanted to plot a course, find out about potential waterway hazards, or plan a trip, all before getting underway or onboard a vessel? Soon you can. As the primary federal agency responsible for providing Maritime Safety Information (MSI) to mariners, the Coast Guard is testing an information delivery method to bring mariners Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM), Maritime Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB) and other MSI currently available only through VHF-FM marine band radio.

The Navigation Center, in conjunction with [Coast Guard District 5](#), which covers the Mid-Atlantic region, developed an MSI test project currently focused on delivering BNM's from Sector Delaware Bay to email in-boxes and the Internet through an RSS service. This will allow users to access updates to online content in a standardized format.

The current test phase includes all BNMs issued by the following Coast Guard units:

- Sector Maryland-National Capital Region
- Sector North Carolina
- Sector Hampton Roads
- Sector Delaware Bay
- Coast Guard District 5

The test phase will expand January 22 to deliver information throughout the entirety of District 5's area of responsibility, initially updated during business hours and increasing to a 24x7 cycle in early February.

Through the free online subscription service Gov Delivery, mariners can subscribe to selected "Topics" based on geographical areas, and receive information that has traditionally only been available through VHF-FM marine band radio. This change greatly enhances the mariner's ability to plan before and during transit.

The Coast Guard is developing a streamlined, standardized message format to ensure consistency across sectors and districts as well as easing the burden on the customer to identify the key takeaways from a message. Not only is this an important milestone for those receiving the information, but it also paves the way toward an automated process.

This project has the potential to increase the safety and efficiency of the maritime community by creating multiple product types and data sharing from a centralized repository to automate data consumption, information correlation, product updates, and dissemination available 24x7. The Navigation Center and District 5 are laying the foundation with the goal of deploying the new MSI scheme Coast Guard wide by early 2019.

To subscribe to a specific topic via email:

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Use the following links for more information regarding the MSI Pilot Project, subscriptions, or to submit questions:

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