

Official Newsletter of Flotilla 22, Ithaca, NY: News & Views – September 2016

From the Helm, Gene Little, FC: Paddle Craft Safety—the New Frontier

In the Great Lakes region, there were more serious paddle craft incidents and deaths in July 2016 than in all of 2015. That's a trend that has caught the attention of all the traditional boating safety enforcers and advocates. So next question is, how do we reverse this trend? We don't think the answer is totally obvious yet, but it must involve: new partnerships, new boating safety material, and new educational methods and venues.



Locally, new partnerships should continue the strong relationship between the Coast Guard Auxiliary and NYS Parks, but also leverage expert American Canoe Association personnel. Paddle craft instructional material is being developed that will add to our offerings, not replace the current About Boating Safely course, which is still relevant and important for people operating power boats, sail boats and personal water craft.

The methods and venues will be the hardest. This is because the target population is large, diverse and we don't have the same type of credibility as we've developed over 70+ years for power boats. The Auxiliary and partners have reached out through venues such as the NYS Fair, where they estimated they talked to about 15,000 people, 75% of whom were canoe, kayak or SUP owners / users. Evolving literature and hand-out material includes such practical items as whistles, "If Found" stickers and "Safe 'n Sight" paddle stickers (see picture on right). We've also emphasized paddle craft in the Vessel Safety Check program – less for checking the "vessel" than for



the opportunity to talk to the user and provide at least a few practical points of advice or suggestions.

New training materials and partnerships are in the works, and we should be reorienting current programs to focus more on paddle craft. For example, we need to grow and market the value of 7012A VSCs. We need to increase Marine Dealer Visits at sporting goods stores that sell paddle craft, such as Gander Mountain, Bass Pro Shop and Dick's Sporting Goods. This could include seminars or display tables when they hold sales or special events.

Another area of opportunity are guest talks at Kayak/ Canoe Clubs over the winter months. Key messages include:

- Use of **"If Found"** stickers and the importance of a trip plan, even very informal
- Wearing **Life Jackets**, required 1 Nov – 1 May, recommended always
- Improve **Visibility** of you and your paddle craft, through:
 - Wearing bright clothing, including bright life jackets
 - Use of "Safe 'n Sight" reflective stickers or reflective tape for the paddle blades
 - Buy bright colored hulls; orange is the best, worst are shades of blue, green and camouflage
- **Whistles** or other sound producing devices are required by NYS and federal law
- **Basic safety equipment** including First Aid Kits, water for hydration, etc.
- **Lights**, even a flashlight, is vital if any chance of being out after dark
- **Training** including: navigation rules (and common sense about maneuverability of large boats in confined channels), dangers of low-head dams, and getting back in craft after "out of boat" experience

We've already starting targeting member recruiting toward paddle craft enthusiasts and need to continue that effort, since they have the needed experience to guide our efforts and add credibility.

FC Squawk Box

Another D-Train has come and gone and it broke new ground. Paddle craft safety was a key topic and numerous initiatives are underway. The boating simulator was also showcased and modules are being looked at for boat crew and coxswain training in addition to public education. An exciting major partnership may be finally coming to fruition—the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Boy Scouts of America Memorandum of Agreement may be signed this fall, opening the way for on water training.

July wrapup (July newsletter was published before the end of the month)

- 7/28-31 – Harborfest
- 7/31 – Myers Point StandUp Paddleboard (SUP) Cup



Swimming portion of Cayuga Triathlon in progress as viewed from CG AUX Patrol Boat; picture courtesy Kevin Walsh

August activities:

- 8/7 – Cayuga Triathlon
- 8/11-13 – Empire Farm Days
- 8/13 – Women Swimmin’
- 8/25-9/5 – NYS Fair

September activities to date:

- 9/11 – Can You Canoe Cayuga?
- 9/16 - Watchfire



Clean & Safe Boating Display at NYS Fair; picture courtesy Gene Little

September 14, 2016 Flotilla Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1900 by FC Gene Little. Members Present: Dale Campbell, Don Campbell, Dave Cornelius, Tom Every, John Frieman, Tom Lacey, Gene Little, Roland Neiss, Paul Phelps, Rob Schleelein, Kim Walsh

Pledge of Allegiance: Tom Lacey

FSO-SR (Tony Scaglione): July Minutes – Motion to accept by Kim Walsh, 2nd by Don Campbell, Carried

FSO-FN (David Cornelius): Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report by Dale Campbell, 2nd John Frieman, Carried.

Introduction of guests: Bob Orejstein

Division Report (FC Gene Little):

- September Division Meeting was a social, with no business conducted
- D-Train – already underway with Bo participating in Leadership classes. Gene will be participating as well

Staff Officer Reports (Negative reports omitted):

FSO-CM (Tom Every): Received some portable radios programmed for use. The batteries are old and need to be replaced. Antenna on sea swirl is dead and need of replacement.

Flotilla Leadership: FC Gene Little, VFC Kevin Walsh, IPC Robert Schleelein

FSO-PB (Kim Walsh): New Paddle Craft Safety tab added to Division page, will provide link from Flotilla page. Looking for other suggestions.

FSO-MA (Henry "Bodge" Hyatt): Excused; Gene reported several items were still on back order and Don recommended re-ordering.

FSO-OP (Tom Every): August was busy with two events on the lake, plus training and QE currency checks completed for Dale and Dave. Summary of Aug 22 Cayuga Lake drowning incident: 911 tried to contact base but didn't get an answer. They then called Station Oswego. Our assistance was not requested by Lansing command. A Coast Guard Station commander contacted Lansing and State Police and asked if they needed assistance and was told no. The event was almost immediately a recovery, not a search and rescue, thus no real role for us. Tom requested Patrol orders for Sunday if anyone wants to go out. He's working with John Steinbarg to schedule QE Checks (currency for Rob and new for Tom, Bo and John), likely dates are September 26 or 27.

FSO-PA (Gene Little): Participated in Empire Farm Days, Sandy Pond event and NYS Fair. Primary messages at both were Paddle Craft Safety and stopping Invasive Species. Have been handing out reflective paddle stickers and whistles, folks are grateful.

FSO-PB (Kim Walsh): No newsletter in August. Looking for Feature articles for upcoming newsletters.

FSO-HR (Vinton "Bo" Stevens): Excused; Gene provided application update-- Jon Koeng and Angie Crowley's applications have been sent up to Division. Justin Gage, is waiting on his DD-214.

FSO-MS (Gene Little): see notes above under PA. Also Dave Cornelius described the clean boat inspections he saw when in Wyoming on vacation. All vehicles towing boats are required to stop at the first rest area after crossing the state border for an inspection.

FSO-PV (Gene Little): Light month - visited Finger Lakes Marine and Forest Fisheries.

FSO-VE (Kim Walsh): The season is winding down. We don't have any more events planned, but all Vessel Examiners need to get their VSCs reported and ensure they have completed the 5 required to stay current

Academy Admissions (Dale Campbell): No formal training provided or scheduled yet, but reading information.

Diversity (Dale Campbell): Heading to the Academy tomorrow, heading to Tioga Center High School for a presentation.

Old Business: Communications Gene is having difficulty with receiving his email, call if you need a response and don't receive one.

New Business:

November 6 Veterans Day Parade - 8 people said they could attend, Tony is flotilla lead

Elections - Rob Schleelein explained rules regarding elections. Elections will be held at the December Meeting. Anyone interested in holding one of the elected offices (Flotilla Commander or Vice Flotilla Commander) should submit their intent in writing (email is acceptable) NLT October 14.

Comments: REPORT ALL OF YOUR HOURS and VE's

Motion to adjourn: Kim Walsh, Second Don Campbell, Meeting adjourned 1940.

Flotilla 22 Calendar

Date	Event	POC	Notes
Mon, Oct 2 / 1830	Div 2 Meeting		
Sat, Oct 8	Docks Out	Rob	
Wed, Oct 12 / 1900	Flotilla meeting	Gene	
Sun, Nov 6	Ithaca Veterans Day Parade	Tony	
Mon, Nov 7 / 1830	Div 2 Meeting		
Wed, Nov 9 / 1900	Flotilla Meeting	Gene	
Fri, Nov 11	Ithaca Veterans Day Ceremony		DeWitt Park
Wed, Dec 14 / 1400	Flotilla Meeting – elections	Rob	
Sat, Dec 17	Wreaths Across America		Sampson Veterans Cemetery

All events at Flotilla 22 Base, unless specified otherwise; see color code below

Flotilla Meeting	Div or above	Member Training	Public Education	Special Event	Ops – Safety Patrol
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Calendar last updated: September 21, 2016

Questions? Contact the Editor @ kim.m.walsh26@gmail.com