

## Flotilla 22 2016 Goal Achievement

Flotilla Commander: Gene Little

IPFC: Rob Schleelein

Secretary: Tony Scaglione

Vice Flotilla Commander: Kevin Walsh

Treasurer: Dave Cornelius

The first section will summarize how well each goal was achieved in 2016 with a few thoughts about 2017. The second section will tie achievement details to various staff officer positions, remembering the listed staff officer is the lead / coordinator for a section, not responsible for all actions within it.

**Goal 1 Mentor/Succession plan:** Improvement ideas - build continuity binders (notebooks / folders with processes and procedures that aid current and future staff officers in accomplishing their duties). Two objectives were:

- 1) **ALL** new recruits to our unit will be paired with a seasoned member, so as to ensure they are getting the support they need.
- 2) **ALL** Staff Officers need to groom their replacements. I am not looking to displace anyone, BUT reality is that we need to be prepared to cover for someone if they fall ill, move, or whatever.

**Limited Success.** We transitioned some FSO positions, such as HR and MS, during 2016 through mentoring, targeted training and documenting processes and requirements; other transitions were more abrupt. At the beginning of the year, we targeted building continuity binders as an improvement idea. We did not implement this, but did lay the groundwork near the end of the year by revising most of the standard FSO Duty Descriptions.

We worked well as a team to assist new members in understanding the Coast Guard Auxiliary as an organization and Flotilla 22's roles and missions. Boat Crew training (as discussed under **Goal 3**) is the best example of supporting new members through their spin-up. However, in total, we did not.

**Goal 2 Increase in our Operations:** Improvement ideas - do more routine safety patrols.

**Operations events / hours in 2016:** 31 Patrols; 127.3 Underway Mission Hours; 408.8 Total Underway Hours

**Operations events / hours in 2015:** 28 Patrols; 122 Underway Mission Hours; 473.73 Total Underway Hours

**Operations events / hours in 2014:** 37 Patrols; 95 Underway Mission Hours; 364.75 Total Underway Hours

**Mixed Results.** We had a slight increase in number of Patrols and Underway Mission hours. These were mainly training patrols, but we did have an additional Fireworks Patrol (Lansing) and Regatta Patrol (SUP CUP). The decrease in Total Underway Hours generally reflects fewer people on some of the patrols. While we weren't able to fully achieve success, we only avoided failure through the hard work of numerous flotilla members and friends who spent untold hours troubleshooting and repairing our facilities.

While weather and crew availability will always be considerations, the primary limiting factor in 2016 was operational facilities—especially in June, which delayed crew training and limited our ability to do more routine safety patrols. We knew facilities would be a challenge, and struggled to overcome it. We also have an issue with having enough Coxswains for operational scheduling flexibility. While we're taking some steps to address both issues in 2017, the concerns will never completely go away, especially since there is often a tie between Coxswains and facilities.

**Goal 3 Training:** Improvement ideas - offer new advanced training such as "Weekend Navigator" or "Suddenly in Command" courses in addition to "ABS"; certify more instructors; improve the skills of members; sell both basic and advanced courses and membership during vessel inspections.

The slogan on the wall remains valid:

Training plus practice equals SKILLS  
SKILLS plus Action Equals Lives saved

**Success!** We've had two consecutive excellent Member Training years with increasing both member skills & involvement through group and individual training. Thus, while we didn't implement all our specific improvement ideas, we certainly increased member skills and certifications.

- 1) **Individual** – The number and variety of courses completed shows the level of individual effort and interests and is to be commended.
- 2) **Member Training** – The 2016 group AUXOP Course was AUXPAT. 10 members completed the course, and while some of the material was dated, most felt it enhanced their understanding of operational principles and terminology. We also certified 3 new Vessel Examiners, which increased the number of Vessel Safety Checks completed and the informal Public Education included with each VSC.
- 3) **Operation** – For a second year in a row, we qualified 3 new crew members, despite facility issues that delayed our on-the-water training. Tom, Walt, Don and Gene worked with the Crew Trainees in both classroom and on water scenarios, an excellent example of mentoring.

All the training we've accomplished is valuable, however boating accident reports in 2016 show we need to broaden both our reach and scope. The need for greater reach is reflected in reading about people being injured by propellers, killed by colliding PWCs and drowned when they swam or drifted away from their boat without a PFD or line. The scope refers to the proliferation of paddle craft and paddle craft fatalities. Addressing these will require new partnerships, training and use of both traditional and social media.

**Goal 4 Recruitment:** Improvement ideas – increase public visibility--Patrols, PE, Training, Inspections

This remained a goal for 2016 as it supported Goal #1 and the additional talent would allow us to explore new applied action. The BIG additions that we hoped would be coming in 2016 were:

- The Web page and Facebook as draws by highlighting what we have done and what we will be doing
- Articles making us more visible - a lot of the public do NOT know what we do and that we are NOT paid professionals
- Coastie – get in to schools and have the youth relay to parents – I have experienced it several times this year
- Everything we do is an opportunity and we ALL should be recruiting

**Limited Success.** We attracted several potential new members, but only got four application packages completed during the year and none completely through the administrative process to getting a membership number. Similarly, we had mixed success with executing our planned means to actively recruit.

- The website is primarily a tool for once a person joins the Flotilla. Facebook is beginning to improve our reach, but it can be a slow process to build our target audience
- The Ithaca Journal continued to publish guest commentaries, but their recent cutbacks in local editorial staff will mean decreased emphasis on local articles in the future
- We only scheduled Coastie for one event in the Ithaca area, and it had a very low attendance.
- A bright spot was in our increase in VSCs and the opportunity that gave us to educate boaters
- Another growth area is our increased partnerships in the paddle craft community and with local Parks personnel

## 2016 Year in Review by Topic

**Communications (Tom Every)** – ICOM VHF Radio Facility (NM9EH) certified and operational at Flotilla 2-2 Base Building. Mobile Radio Facility (NM9AH - Tom Every's car) is also operational. We had two Kenwood VHF portable radios donated to us, but still need to replace the batteries on them. The additional radios will help us with our Operations.

Station Oswego and Sector Buffalo both reported that they have received transmissions from our base radio. We aren't sure what route (location of repeaters) the signal is taking to get to them. However, it is not likely they will ever receive the lower strength transmissions from our boat radios. The repeaters are one-way, thus we cannot hear their transmissions and must continue to use cell phones as our primary means of communicating with them.

Tompkins County has told us our county 800+ Mhz. radio needs to be reprogrammed due to changes in their communications system. Tom will turn it into them for reprogramming. He has also asked the County's 911 dispatch manager and their EMS Coordinator about getting a portable radio from the county, but hasn't heard any response.

**Communication Services (Kim Walsh)** – We added content, including training links, in an attempt to make the WOW site more useful to members and interesting to the general public. We also added a Facebook page late in 2015 and used it in 2016 to advertise events and spotlight Recreational Boating Safety topics. Results were disappointing, but the answer needs to be more emphasis through increased content and reaching out to partners. Tom Lacey has some great ideas to build audience.

### **Human Resources (Vinton "Bo" Stevens)**

- At end of the 2016, we had 29 members.
- Due to additional delays in new member processing, we did not add any new members in 2016. However, we did have 3 new member application packages sitting at District since late November and another package in the final stages.

**Information Services (Diana Robinson)** – Assisted members in submitting AUXMIS data and reviewed/corrected it prior to submission to the Director of Auxiliary. Also provided reports to aid Flotilla leadership and FSOs (including OP, MT, PE, VE) to see progress and shortfalls in their areas. Made pre-formatted search URLs available so flotilla members can easily run reports themselves for almost instantaneous answers to data and statistics questions they may have. This function is more tied with being able to measure Goal / Objective accomplishment, rather than the actual achievement.

### **Marine Safety (Gene Little / John Frieman)**

- Met with DEC on Invasive species and clean boat flyer
- Flotilla Hydrilla Patrol supported spraying operations
- Provided information to boating public during ABS, Vessel Exams and Information Booths:
  - Sportsman Show at OnCenter (Div)
  - Premier of "The Finest Hours"
  - CNY Boat Show (Div)
  - Ithaca Fly Fishing Day
  - SUP CUP
  - Empire Farm Days
  - NYS Fair (Div / in support of Sea Grant)

**Materials (Henry "Bodge" Hyatt)** – provided brochures and training material in support of Information Booths, MT, VSCs and other functions. Please continue to identify needs and place orders as soon as possible, so we don't get caught short.

### **Member Training (Walt Robinson)**

- Three members completed Crew Member Requalification: Dale Campbell, David Cornelius & Robert Schleelein
- Three members earned initial Crew Member Qualification: John Frieman, Tom Lacey & Bo Stevens,

- Two Members completed the “8-hour” TCT certification / re-certification: John Frieman & Carleton Cole
- Ten Members completed the AUXPAT Course: David Cornelius, John Frieman, Tom Lacey, Gene Little, Roland Neiss, Diana Robinson, Rob Schleelein, Bo Stevens, Kevin Walsh, Kim Walsh
- Bodge Hyatt, Gene Little & Rob Schleelein completed the AUXSEA Course
- John Frieman & Gene Little completed GOODMATE and MSEP Courses
- Gene Little completed the Ops Policy Course
- Gene Little obtained his AUXOP2 certification
- Bo Stevens completed AUXLAMS A & B
- Dale Campbell completed on-line Flotilla Leadership Course
- Gene Little became a certified fingerprint technician
- Kevin Walsh completed initial Instructor Certification
- Kim Walsh got certified in “Coastie” operation
- End of Year Status – 29 members
  - 3 Certified Coxswains
  - 12 Certified Crew Members
  - 7 Certified Instructors
  - 7 Certified Vessel Examiners
  - 1 Certified Marine Dealer Visitor
  - 12 additional members completed Mandated Training for a **Total of 21 members**

Additional information available on the attached Training Management Report

### **Operations (Tom Every) - 2016 Patrol Summary**

- 2016 Patrol Summary – Total of 31 Patrols, 127.3 Underway Hours
  - 7 Regular Safety Patrols (01A)
  - 19 Crew Training/Qualification Patrols
  - 5 Special Event Patrols – Regatta, Environmental
  - 4 SAR Incident Reports – Swamped Canoe; Kayak with possible missing person; Sailboat taking on water; Overturned sailboat with person aboard; all occurred while already on a patrol listed above
- We did marginally more patrol and underway hours compared to 2015, with a few less regular safety patrols and more training patrols.
- Included in the training patrol category was a SAR Operations Exercise consisting of three facilities searching for multiple search objects until just after dark. I think we all learned a lot more about the challenges with coordination and communications involved with multiple facilities.
- During the course of 4 regular training, safety, and regatta patrols, a SAR incident occurred. Since we were already under orders or on scene when these things happened, we were able to quickly render any assistance needed or start search patterns.
- Although better than last year, challenges with keeping our base boat facilities operational continued. Our resources increased near the end of the season with the addition of a boat facility and three new crew members
- Also, FL22 coxswain/crew responded to a Station Oswego request for support during the power plant oil pollution situation.
- Operations Workshops and events, including participation in Division & multi-flotilla events, were:
  - OPS workshop in Clay (Div)
  - **Cayuga Lake SarEx (22)**
  - **Lansing Fireworks Patrol (22)**
  - **Ithaca Fireworks Patrol (22)**
  - Oswego Harborfest (1 facility w Coxswain & 2 crewmembers) (Div)
  - **Standup Paddleboard (SUP) Cup (22)**
  - Sea Scout Regatta on Onondaga Lake (1 crewmember) (Div)
  - **Cayuga Triathlon (22)**
  - **Women Swimming (22)**
  - **Can You Canoe Cayuga? (22)**

- Personnel status listed under Member Training

### **Public Affairs (Gene Little) –**

- Led three public education events:
  - “Caring for Cayuga”, emphasizing Clean, Drain, Dry motivation and requirements
  - “Cold Water Public Safety Awareness”
  - “Marine Safety Day”
- Partner in Information Booths, listed under Marine Safety
- Wrote and submitted a series of articles for publishing in Ithaca Journal (on-line and print) and The Eastwind
- Supported PE by advertising ABS classes

**Publications (Kim Walsh) –** Published 9 newsletters in 2016—goal was monthly, but a couple editions were combined. Additionally, sent out several calendar updates to keep members in sync. The PB function, like IS, is internal and more tied with being able to track/measure Goal accomplishment, rather than the actual achievement.

### **Public Education (Walt Robinson)**

- ABS
  - Total of 49 students
    - April – 12 students; 5 under 17 YOA
    - May – 9 students; 4 under 17 YOA
    - June – 11 students; 4 under 17 YOA
    - July – 17 students; 5 under 17 YOA
  - August class was cancelled due to lack of students
  - For comparison, in 2015 we taught 5 classes, with a total of 63 students

Information booths and Vessel Exams each have components of PE. Public Education (PE), Vessel Exams (VE), Public Awareness (PA) are all components of the Auxiliary mission Recreational Boating Safety (RBS).

**Program Visits (Gene Little) -** One member completed 24 Marine Dealer Visits; this was a decrease from 47 MDVs in each of the previous 2 years and directly attributable to Gene’s injury toward the beginning of the active boating season. It is also reason that we’ll be putting an emphasis on getting additional people certified in early 2017.

### **Vessel Exams (Mike Beeching / Kim Walsh)**

- 3 new examiners were certified this year—John Frieman, Bo Stevens & Kim Walsh
- The increased number of examiners directly led to an increase in the number of VSCs completed:  
**2014: 30 2015: 43 2016: 56** with a 76.8% passing rate. We also increased emphasis on paddle craft VSCs (using ANSC 7012A) in order to increase education within the paddle craft community.
- Held VSC blitzes at Treman & Myers; took part on Marine Safety Day at Treman.

### **Operation Policy & revised RSS requirements:**

We want to highlight an area where a policy change became a limiting factor to training. A new policy was enacted requiring all crew members—qualified and trainees—to have a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). Because PLBs were in short supply, this new equipment requirement led to a policy requirement for trainees to complete all shore-side training before being issued PLBs and commencing on-water training. One of our crew member trainees had a scheduling conflict with completing the TCT course in a timely manner. By the time he completed this course, there were no PLBs available for issue, which directly led his not being able to participate in on-water training in 2016.

## 2016 Year in Review (Chronologically)

### January

- 1/3 – Division 2 Planning Meeting
- 1/13 – Flotilla Meeting
- 1/29 – Sportsman Show at the Fairgrounds– manned booth
- 1/30 & 31 – Recruiting & Public Education at the opening of “The Finest Hours”

### February

- 2/18-21 – CNY Winter Boat Show – we covered 3 areas:
  - Kim & Dale worked shifts at the Recruitment area
  - Kim, Kevin, Dave & Gene worked shifts at the Clean & Safe Boat areas
  - Dave & Gene worked shifts at The PFD / Suddenly in Command DemonstrationsThe results were 5 leads on potential recruits and 2 leads
- 2/27 – “Caring for Cayuga” event:
  - 18 attendees plus 4 presenters, which led to a potential recruit whom Bo & Gene met with after the event
  - A step toward getting the public to be aware of what we do and that we are a volunteer organization dedicating our time to serve them.
  - Thanks to all that did behind the scenes efforts to make this event a success

### March

- 3/7 – Hosted the Division 2 staff meeting
- 3/18-3/20 – D-Train in Dunkirk. Gene, Vincent, Bo, Kevin & Kim participated. Kim was presented a Commodore’s Certificate of Appreciation.
- 3/26 – RBS Table at Ithaca Fishing Day

### April

- 4/02 – Division 2 OPS workshop
- 4/09 & 4/10 – ABS - Walt managed to get 12 out of 12 passed
- Crew – Shore Side training and check-offs continued
- 4/23 & 4/24 – LL Bean trying to get in front of kayakers and SUP enthusiasts
- 4/27 TCT – led by Tom Every
- 4/28 – Dale Campbell was at a College recruiting fair to recruit for the Academy
- 4/30 – Cold Water event to attract and educate our paddle craft recreational boat participants

### May

- 5/7 Open house for Dragon Boat group in Ithaca
- 5/7 Supported Flotilla 24 (Oswego) Safety Day
- 5/14 & 15 – ABS, with 10 students becoming Boater Safety certified
- 5/21 – Open house at the H.L. White Museum, Oswego
- 5/28 – VSC Blitz at Allan H Treman State Park Marina, Ithaca

### June

- 6/11 & 12 – ABS, with 11 students completing the course.
- 6/14 – PPE inspection by Coast Guard Station Oswego, with Tom and Walt being training it RSS responsibilities
- On the water Boat Crew Training commenced on 6/14!
- 6/25 – VSCs performed at Myers Park Boat Ramp
- 6/29 – VSCs at Camp Comstock—3 motor boats, 8 kayaks, 12 canoes & several dozen lifejackets

## **July**

- 7/1 – Fireworks Safety Patrol for Town of Lansing
- 7/2 – VSCs performed at Allan H. Treman Marine Park
- 7/3 – City of Ithaca Fireworks Safety Patrol
- 7/9 – Marine Safety Day at Treman Park
- 7/16 & 17 – ABS, with 17 students successfully completing the course
- 7/18 & 19 – Comprehension Search & Rescue Exercise, tabletop the first day, then 3 facility execution with coordination using our radio facility
- 7/30 – SUP Cup Marine Safety Patrol and RBS booth

## **August**

- 8/7 – Cayuga Triathlon Marine Safety Patrol
- 8/11-13 – Empire Farm Days RBS booth
- 8/13 – Women Swimmin' Marine Safety Patrol
- 8/25-9/5 – NYS Fair RBS booth

## **September**

- 8/25-9/5 – NYS Fair (continued)
- 9/11 – “Can You Canoe Cayuga?” Marine Safety Patrol
- 9/16 - Watchfire

## **October**

- 10/8 – Docks pulled for the season

## **November**

- 11/6 – Veteran's Day Parade
- 11/11 – Wreath Laying Ceremony

## **December**

- 12/3 – Change of Watch; Flotilla 22 and individual members were presented numerous awards:
  - Tom Every received a Certificate of Appreciation for “Superior Performance of Duty in Support of Surface Operations in District 9ER”
  - Walt Robinson received a Certificate of Appreciation for “Superior Performance of Duty in Support of Public Education in District 9ER”
  - Gene Little was selected for the 2016 Div 2 Commander's Award
  - Dave Cornelius received a Division 2 Certificate of Appreciation
- 12/11 – Flotilla Holiday Party
- 12/17 – Wreaths Across America