



Flotilla 013-02-08

FLOTILLA MEETING MINUTES

04 FEBRUARY 2016

Attendance: 24 Members – 1 Guest

Respectfully Submitted: FSO-SR Gladys Benshimol

Call to order- VFC Grossi 1900

Pledge of Allegiance- In the absence of FC Costa, VFC Grossi welcomed all present and asked FSO-OP Armstrong to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Visitors- VFC Grossi invited guest Tom Eaves to introduce himself. Also present, Bill Hopwood transferring from Flotilla 1-5. FSO-VE Jamieson recommended that in the future all guests should indicate how they learned about the meeting.

Adoption of Minutes of previous meeting – A motion to approve JAN2016 minutes was made by SO-OP Hogan and seconded by FSO-VE Jamieson. Motion carried and minutes were approved.

Announcements, Additions to Agenda – FSO-VE Jamieson reiterated his prior recommendation that new members be encouraged to shadow others as a means of orientation. Ideas included:

- Help with the booth at a public event
- Shadow a VE, Watchstander, staff officer, ATON verifier, etcetera
- FSOs present short presentations at AUX meetings with overview of different programs.

Flotilla Staff Officer Reports

a. Additions or comments to Flotilla Staff Officer Reports - none

b. Public Education: VFC Grossi announced:

- **Boating Skills and Seamanship Class** will begin at Traip Academy in Kittery on 01 MARCH. New members are invited to attend without cost and may contact FSO-MT Heath or FSO-PE Grossi to register.
- **How to Read a Nautical Chart** will be taught through Wells-Ogunquit Adult Community Education on 2 Wednesday evenings; 02 and 08 APR 2016.
- LO-NH Many requested that FSO-PE Grossi forward course offerings information to the State of NH.

c. Finance Officer's Report – VFC Grossi for FN Wirth:

- Basic Account balance to date: \$6,426.80
- OPFAC Account Balance to date: \$833.54
- Combined Account Balance to date: \$7,260.34
- Motion to accept Finance Report was made by LO-NH Many and seconded by FSO-OP Armstrong. Motion carried.

d. Member Training Report:

- SO-OP Hogan: 31 DEC 2015 deadline has passed for members to have completed the 8 Mandated Training Courses (<https://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/training/auxlms.asp>)
- Until this requirement is met, members out of compliance **may not** participate in any Auxiliary PQ activities &/or Augmented functions for the Gold Side. This includes OP, PV, VE, NS, PE, PPE inspections, holding of office, *etcetera*. Ultimate deadline for completion is 31 DEC 2016 after which time a failure to comply may result in loss of EMP ID #.
- Trainees and new members must complete Mandated Training within one year of enrolling.
- Per SO-OP Hogan, Flotilla 28 is doing "OK" region wide, but within the Flotilla only 33 of 81 members have completed the training.
- DCDR Moe told members who might be having technology issues with online courses to contact him or FSO-IS Manning for assistance or if needed, members may request a classroom option.
- Discussion ensued concerning whether or not classroom instructors of Mandated Learning must also be qualified as Coxswain or Aircraft Commander. Answer will be forthcoming.
- A discussion arose concerning PPE inspection compliance and issuance of newly required Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) for all Boat Crew: PPE must be inspected every 6 months. FSO-MT Heath and FSO-MA Hanson will begin inspections in APRIL. SO-OP Hogan said he submitted a list of current, qualified Boat Crew to Boston OTO – LT Garnier for PLBs. Break-ins will be in the 2nd tier for receipt of said as equipment becomes available. Waivers can be granted per request. FSO-MT Heath raised a concern that it takes at least 2 weeks to register a PLB with N.O.A.A. He is also concerned that a high number of people may not complete mandated training.



- FSO-MT Heath also another issue concerning Boat Crew and/or trainees who have dropped out and still have equipment. SO-MA Hanson has a list. Step 1: A registered letter will be sent requesting return of property. 2: Failure to respond will result in names being turned over to the Gold Side.
- SO-OP Hogan said a 4-Hour TCT training date should be announced soon.

Old and New Business- VFC Grossi

- a. Finest Hour Update** – FSO-VE Jamieson described a very positive response to the Flotilla 28 members' presence at the Cinemagic in Portsmouth for the launch of "The Finest Hours" movie and thanked those who were there.
- b. Change of Watch Update** - VFC Grossi said 31 members and guests attended the Change of Watch ceremony. He encouraged more members to attend next year, as it is not only a notable event highlighting the installation of new officers are, but it is also an enjoyable evening of fellowship.
- c. 2016 Budget Review** – FAO-FN Wirth said he and FSO-PA Spiller worked up a budget draft/proposal, which was distributed to members. 2015 saw an overall gain of \$1000.00, mostly through PE, which sustains the budget. The OPFAC budget broke even. Members are encouraged to review the draft. A final budget vote will be held at the MARCH meeting.
 - The high cost of Boat Crew manuals was discussed. Some ideas to reduce costs included: Encouraging more online use, CD's versus print copies, use of USB devices.
- d. Committees (OPFAC, NSBW)** – VFC Grossi requested volunteers.
 - SO-OP Hogan and FSO-PA Spiller volunteered to assist with NSBW (National Safe Boating Week- 21, 22, 23 MAY2016.)
 - OPFAC Committee volunteers: FSO-PA Spiller, SO-OP Armstrong, FN Wirth, FC Costa, FSO-PV Ladrie, VFC Grossi, FSO-MS Dehne.
- e. OPFAC Update** – FSO-PA Spiller
 - VFC Grossi said the OPFAC remains on the hard at Great Cove Boat Club in Eliot. The club hauls, washes, stores and launches the vessel for a mere \$200.00. VFC Grossi and FSO-PA Spiller do periodic checks, clear snow, charge batteries.
 - LO-NH Many proposed some recognition be given to GCBC for the generous service.
 - FSO-MT Heath recommended all current coxswains be set-up in AUXOM to be on the list to captain the OPFAC as well as their own boat for the 2016 season.
 - FSO-PA Spiller endorsed the idea and offered to assist interested parties with orientation/training on operation of the vessel as well as paperwork and process.
 - The technicality of a designation as "owner" of the OPFAC which is required for entry into AUXOM was discussed. FSO-PA Spiller will therefore contact each current coxswain prior to a listing on the 2016 OPFAC form submitted to FC Costa in March for a signature.
- f. DIV Member Training Day** – DCDR Moe said 09APR 2016 at the Rusty Scupper in So Portland will be the date and location of the Division Training Day. Some details include: proctored exams, training for AUXOP, TCO, Uniforms and New Member information. BYO brown bag lunch, and expect a 6 or 7-hour day. Divisions 1, 3, 4,5 and 12 will also be invited. Members should contact FC Costa or VFC Grossi with additional training needs or interests. More information will be forthcoming and members are encouraged to participate for a day of training and fellowship.
- g. 2015 Semper Paratus Award Update** – VFC Grossi reported the 2015 Semper Paratus Award was presented at the C.O.W. to recently retired member Ken Cookson. A significant contributor to the Flotilla and a mentor to many, he was also the first Commander of Flotilla 28 when 26 & 27 were combined. In March his name will be placed on the Semper Paratus Award Plaque at the Station.
- h. Award Presentations** - VFC Grossi
 - FSO-MA Hanson – SNNE 500 Club Award for at least 810 hours of Service.
 - FSO-MT Heath – Coast Guard 5th Sustained Auxiliary Service Award for Superior Performance of Duty in 2015
 - FSO-CS McTaggart – Auxiliary Operations Annual Service Performance Award for 252 hours of Operational Support and 3 hours of Surface Patrol in 2015
 - FSO-PA Spiller – Coast Guard 4th Sustained Auxiliary Service Award for Superior Performance of Duty in 2015

Comments by Auxiliary and other Coast Guard personnel:



- FSO-MT Heath noted that per correction of the JAN FSO report, only Auxiliary Members were at the booth for the launch of “The Finest Hours” movie.
- DCDR Moe encouraged members to step-up into leadership roles for the Division. Completion of the APC course results in eligibility to run. The opportunities are challenging but rewarding.
- FSO-VE Jamieson said the Great Northeast Boat Show in Milford will be held; 18, 19, 20 MAR2016.
- SO-OP Hogan told coxswains to let FSO-MT Heath know of missions so he can pass information to BC trainees.
- SO-OP Hogan encouraged members to train for Coxswain even if they do not own a boat.

For the Good of the Auxiliary- VFC Grossi said FSO-IS Manning though improving continues to experience knee issues and members are invited to call or send a note.

Closing Remarks, Adjourn business meeting:

Motion to adjourn was made by LO-NH Many and seconded by FSO-NS Ciolino. Meeting adjourned at 2017.

Next meeting: 03 MAR 2016