



**Flotilla 013-02-08**

**FLOTILLA MEETING MINUTES**

**03 MARCH 2016**

Attendance: 24 Members – 2 Guests

Respectfully Submitted: FSO-SR Gladys Benshimol

**Call to order-** FC Costa 1900

**Pledge of Allegiance-** LO-Air Hewitt

**Introduction of Visitors-** FSO-PS Marchi introduced Nick Philbrook and Tom Eaves.

**Adoption of Minutes of previous meeting** – A motion to approve FEB2016 minutes was made by FSO-PV Ladrie and seconded by FSO-OP Hogan. Motion carried and minutes were approved.

**Announcements, Additions to Agenda –**

**a. Additions or comments to Flotilla Staff Officer Reports**

- OPFAC and Cutter Program updates postponed until APR meeting.
- VFC Grossi- Mandated Training and Division Training Conference
- FSO-VE Jamieson – New Electronic Distress Signal presentation.

**b. Upcoming Events & New Electronic Visual Distress Signal** –FSO-Jamieson showed a video of a new Electronic Visual Distress signal, which may be used as an alternative to pyrotechnic flares.

- Advantages include; battery operated so will not expire, safer than pyrotechnics, buoyant, can be mounted or hoisted, lasts up to 60 hours, less environmentally hazardous upon disposal, when combined with orange day flag (included with purchase) meets Coast Guard RBS requirements for day and night VDS, visible up to 10 miles. (See <https://siriussignal.com/> )
- VE inspection requires only that the examiner test the light. Other suggestions during discussion were to recommend boaters carry extra batteries, put name of the boat on the light, check the O-ring regularly and check for and/or prevent corrosion by applying silicone.
- Of the more than 30 million flares in circulation only 9% are disposed of properly. One (1) flare can contaminate 240,000 gallons of water.
- MBR Wes Smith referenced the ongoing dilemma of how VE's can advise boaters to safely dispose of flares. FSO-OP Hogan said that in the absence of an overarching solution, one option for handheld flares is to get a steel bucket, ignite the flare and drop it into the bucket. No solution for aerial flare disposal. Possibly, ask the vendor from where one purchases new flares if they recycle outdated ones.
- **Great Northeast Boat Show- Milford, NH – 18, 19, 20 MARCH:** FSO-VE Jamieson requested volunteers to help with the booth. Hours: 1200-1900 Friday, 1000-2000 Saturday and 1000-1600 Sunday. <http://www.greatnortheastboatshow.com/>. FSO-VE Jamieson is finalizing the rest of the schedule for upcoming events. Information will be forthcoming.

**c. Communications** – FC Costa said he and FSO-CS McAndrew continue to address problems with email lists, etcetera. He recently reset all logins in an effort to be able to update data to accurately reflect membership.

**d. Finance Report** – FSO-FN Wirth reported a slight adjustment was made to the budget draft shown last month, adding a small amount for training materials. The trend has been to be under-budget in both accounts with the biggest surplus in PE and Membership incomes. He also said there was limited activity in FEB with a few bills pending.

- SO-OP Hogan asked about the discrepancy between the Budget and the Monthly Finance Report in regard to the OPFAC. FSO-FN Wirth said the budget includes projected donations, including SAMA reimbursements, fundraising initiatives and grants. He said he believes two grants have been submitted to date. SO-OP Hogan expressed concern should we fall short in this area.
- A motion was made by SO-NH Many to approve the budget as proposed, with a second made by SO-OP Hogan. FC Costa opened the meeting for discussion and there being none asked for a vote. The motion carried and the budget was approved.
- The Finance Report is as follows:
  - Basic Account balance to date: \$6,461.80
  - OPFAC Account Balance to date: \$785.54
  - Combined Account Balance to date: \$7,247.34.

**Old and New Business-** FC Costa

**a. Mandated Training-**



- 01 MAY2016 is the target date from District to get the training completed. Members, who were members before 01 JAN2015 can not hold office, augment the active duty or attend C school now if they have not completed the training already. Newer members have 12 months from application date. This issue continues to be subject to change.
- Division wants Flotillas to initiate outreach to determine problems involved with mandated training. VFC Grossi requested volunteers to make phone calls to gather and give information. SO-NH Many said, for example, inactive members with 15 years service might prefer to retire versus be disenrolled.
- Volunteers: FSO-PS Marchi, SO-NH Many, FSO-MS Dehne, FSO-CS McAndrew, FSO-SR Benschmol
- FSO-MT Heath expressed concern that the “bar is being lowered” on this requirement.
- VFC Grossi will get approval from Division regarding a protocol for outreach and will communicate next steps to the volunteers.
- b. Staff Openings** – FC Costa said the FSO-PB (Publications) position remains vacant. Members must have completed Mandated Training to hold office. SO-Air Hewitt will help the next FSO-PB learn duties of this position.
  - FC Costa introduced SO-Air Hewitt who reported that this is a busy time for Ice Patrols and that he has been on several missions this past month. Ice missions cover territory from Boston to Maine’s Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers region.
  - SO-Air Hewitt will bring ice recon photos to share at a future meeting.
- c. PPE Inspections/Spring Schedule** – FSO-MT Heath and FSO-MA Hanson will perform inspections starting in APR.
- d. PLBs for Boat Crew & Activation**
  - FSO-OP Armstrong is distributing Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) from Division to qualified Boat Crew. Instructions for registering these with NOAA are in the box. Members may also reference section 2-4 in the Inspection Procedures Manual and/or the NOAA website.
  - PLB inspection will be included during the biannual PPE inspections in the spring and fall.
  - Instructions for attaching PLBs are to be determined.
  - SO-NH Many offered to print name labels for PLBs.
  - PLBs must be tested once/month and results logged. If test fails the OP officer must be notified per Inspection Procedures Manual Section 2-4.
  - FSO-OP Armstrong recently sent an email with instructions regarding PLBs. Shipmates should contact him with any further questions.
- e. Members Personal Financial Concerns** – FC Costa directed affected members’ attention to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Fund as a financial assistance resource. SO-OP Hogan said the Flotilla usually makes a donation to the fund.
- f. Award Presentations** - FC Costa
  - FSO-CM McTaggart – Successful completion of ICS 210 and ICS 100
  - FSO-OP Armstrong – Successful completion of 8 Hour TCT
  - VFC Grossi – Successful completion of Hour TCT
  - MBR Wes Smith – Successful completion of 8 Hour TCT
  - MBR Martha Smith – Successful completion of 8 Hour TCT
  - FSO-VE Jamieson – Successful completion of ICS 200 and ICS 700
  - MBR Catano – Successful completion of AUX OP Patrols Course
  - MBR Catano – Successful completion of AUX OP Seamanship Course
  - MBR Catano – Successful completion of AUX OP Weather Course
  - FC Costa – SNNE 500 Club for 570 hours of Service in 2015
  - FSO-MS Dehne – Successful completion of the Operational Auxiliarist Program (AUXOP) advanced training. FSO-MS Dehne received a standing ovation and hearty congratulations for this exemplary achievement.

**Comments by Auxiliary and other Coast Guard personnel  
For the Good of the Auxiliary**

- FSO-PV Ladrie wants to present Great Cove Boat Club with a Plaque of Appreciation for its many contributions to and support of the OPFAC program. FC Costa and FSO-PV Ladrie will follow-up.



- FSO-PV Ladrie will visit the refurbished West Marine in Seabrook per SO-NH Many.
- SO-NH Many reminded members that Station emblems, long and short sleeved shirts are available for sale to support the OPFAC program.
- Per reminder from FSO-VE Jamieson FC Costa will select an individual to do a brief presentation at the APR meeting.
- VFC Grossi said Division Training Day would be held at SNNE in South Portland on 16 APR2016. Details and agenda will be forthcoming. Proctored exams will be held. Should members need a paper exam SO-OP Hogan must have a 2-week notice.
- MBR Susan McGrath asked for an update on the 21 MAY Station Open House. FC Costa will follow-up to confirm details.
- FSO-MT Heath asked if a 1 Hour TCT could be scheduled.
- SO-OP Hogan is coordinating with SNNE and PNSY for 4-hour TCT.
- FSO-MS Dehne said information about HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) training at Sector would be forthcoming. (5 hours).

**Closing Remarks, Adjourn business meeting:**

Motion to adjourn was made by LO-NH Many, second made by MBR Smith. Meeting adjourned at 2015.

**Next meeting: 07 APR 2016**