

# Fair Winds



Official Newsletter of the East Providence Flotilla

Flotilla 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region

Volume 10 – Issue 2

May 2016



**National Safe Boating Week:** The month of May officially kicks off the boating season in our area. It also re-emphasizes our continued efforts to promote responsible, safe boating to the public through our boating safety courses, **Free** vessel safety checks, public affairs events, marine dealer visitation program and safety patrols. Our goal is to prevent boating accidents through education and various outreach activities! Member contribution to any of these activities is invaluable. Help save a life, Spread the word: **Wear It!**

– Logo Courtesy of the 'Wear It' Campaign

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ❖ Staff Directory – Page 2
- ❖ Awards & Achievements – Page 3
- ❖ From the Helm – Page 4
- ❖ Do You Know – Page 5
- ❖ A Major Focus – Page 6
- ❖ Faithful Service – Page 7
- ❖ Attention: All Hands! – Page 9
- ❖ On The Radar – Page 11
- ❖ Upcoming Events – Page 13

# NEWSLETTER

## STAFF

### **Flotilla Commander**

Scott Campbell

### **Flotilla Vice Commander**

Keith Croteau

### **Flotilla Publications Officer**

Chris Lawrence (Editor)



### **Our Flotilla 72 Website**

[www.cgaux72.org](http://www.cgaux72.org)

### **Flotilla 72 Twitter Page**

[twitter.com/USCG\\_AUX\\_72](https://twitter.com/USCG_AUX_72)

### **Flotilla 72 Facebook Page**

[www.facebook.com/Flotilla72](https://www.facebook.com/Flotilla72)

### **Special Thanks To**

#### **This Issue's Contributors:**

Chief Karl Anderson, USCG

John Dennis

Harry Finkelstein

Larry Havrylik

Keith Croteau

## **2016 Staff Officer Directory**

Communications Services ..... Chris Lawrence

Diversity ..... Diana Kryston

Finance ..... Diana Kryston

Human Resources ..... Matt Kelly

Information Services ..... Ed Glod

Materials ..... John Dennis

Marine Safety ..... Scott Campbell

Member Training ..... Scott Campbell

Operations ..... Bob Lawrence

Public Affairs ..... Keith Croteau

Public Education ..... Larry Havrylik

Program Visitation ..... Don Sullivan

Secretary Records ..... Matt Kelly

Vessel Examination ..... Larry Havrylik

# Awards & Achievements

- *New Member* – **Carrie Bishop** was administered the new member oath.



**John Dennis** – received his five year Auxiliary Membership Service Award.

- **Carrie Bishop** – successfully completed Incident Command System (ICS) level 100 and 700 courses and all Mandatory Training Requirements.
- **John Dennis** – received a Certificate of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours of direct operational support to the Coast Guard in 2015.
- **Ed Glod** – received a Certificate of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours of direct operational support in 2015.
- **Bob Lawrence** – received a Certificate of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours as boat crew in 2015.
- **Donald Sullivan** – received a Certificate of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours of Marine Safety Activity in 2015.
- **Keith Croteau** – received a Certificate of Accomplishment for providing 50+ hours of Public Affairs Activity in 2015.
- **Neil Brogan** – was designated an Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) proctor for the 1NR District.
- **John Dennis** – received the **District's 2<sup>nd</sup> place plaque** for providing 700 hours in the Auxiliary's Food Services program in 2015.
- **Scott Campbell** – received the **District's 2<sup>nd</sup> place plaque** for providing 373 hours in the Marine Safety program in 2015.



# From the Helm

*By Keith Croteau, Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region)*

National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) is May 21<sup>st</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> this year. Traditionally, this week is set aside to focus on boating safety education and training programs, the proper use and wear of lifejackets for the general public and a general message of safe practices to anyone who spends time near the water. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in conjunction with the National Safe Boating Council works hard to get this boating safety message out to our respective boating communities.

NSBW is the unofficial kickoff of the boating season in our area. This year, as in past years, our flotilla will be holding public affairs (PA) events as well as vessel safety check (VSC) booths throughout our local area. Our first PA event will be at West Marine in Seekonk, Massachusetts on May 21<sup>st</sup>. West Marine is one of our many local recreational boating safety partners and we are pleased to work with them on this event. In doing so, we are able to get our safety message out to the general public in an easy and effective manner.

I have a challenge for our flotilla members this year. What are you, personally, going to do to help spread our message of Recreational Boater Safety this year? It does not take very much time or effort to make a difference. Can you help staff a PA or VSC booth this year? Do you have the desire or interest to become a qualified Program Visitor or a Vessel Examiner? These examples of service take only minimal time, but can make a huge difference in keeping the boating public safe.

With spring upon us and NSBW just around the corner, I think that all members need to think about how they can best contribute to help get our message out there. If you are already taking part in one of these programs or others not mentioned, then I offer you a big “Thank You.” If you have not yet joined one of these programs, I ask that you reach out to either the appropriate staff officer, our member training officer or myself to learn more about these programs or to find another avenue that better suits you.

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# From the Helm

*By Keith Croteau, Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region)*

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The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary works best if we all work together and make a concerted effort to contribute our time and skills to the best of our ability. Please consider answering the call to action and work towards getting our message of recreational boating safety out to the public. Any difference you make will be greatly appreciated by those you help.

## **Semper Paratus!**



***Cruisin' Along:*** The Fast Response Cutter William Trump (WPC – 1111) transits off Key West in Florida. This cutter is named after Coast Guard hero, William Trump. He distinguished himself through his heroism helping soldiers during the landings on Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy in World War II.

– Photo courtesy of Harry Finkelstein

## Do you know...

Answers on page 12

1. How many categories of Auxiliary facilities are there?
2. How do I complete the Mandatory Training Requirements?

# A Major Focus

*By Larry Havrylik, Flotilla Public Education Officer (FSO-PE 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region)*

For the second year in a row, our flotilla has offered a "Paddle Sport" safety course in conjunction with Barrington Harbor Master, Ray Sousa, at the Barrington Public Library. The course will consist of two sessions and be held in the beginning of May. This course is designed to provide the tools and knowledge necessary to stay safe while enjoying the unique boating experience that paddle craft provides.

As our flotilla public education officer who is also an assistant harbor master for the town of Barrington, I have seen from experience why this important segment of the boating population is a focus of the U.S. Coast Guard. Each year, approximately 300,000 paddle craft are purchased making this one of the fastest growing areas of recreational boating. In 2014, the U.S. Coast Guard reported over two hundred deaths or injuries involving paddle craft operators. The town of Barrington's Harbor Patrol Department has assisted or rescued a significant number of paddle craft operators in their area over the past few years.

As these types of opportunities become available, we need to get the word out to the public. Knowing that not all paddlers are going to take a course, it is equally important to distribute our paddlecraft safety packets to these Paddle Sport enthusiasts. These packets contain pamphlets which address paddlecraft safety and best practices in addition to an orange, reflective "If found" decal. Just handing out the decal is not enough! We are about to start our boating season so let us make paddlecraft a major focus to increase safety awareness!



***A Matter of Safety:*** Instructor Bob Lawrence (left) presents lesson four on Boat Handling to our recent safe boating class.

*– Photo courtesy of Larry Havrylik*



# Faithful Service

*By Chris Lawrence, Flotilla Publications Officer (FSO-PB 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region)*

It was with great sadness that I first learned Coast Guard Station Castle Hill had lost an important member of their unit. A black border collie mix, named Ida Lewis, who was the station's mascot had passed away in March. Named after the famous Coast Guard Light Keeper and heroine, she faithfully served and performed her duties as the station's mascot for fourteen years. I was fortunate enough to be working at the unit when she first reported on board as a puppy back in 2002. Early in her life, Ida's rambunctious nature often found her on the wrong side of an encounter with a skunk or chasing rabbits into the thickets out back. She would always alert others when strangers arrived at the station. Those of us in uniform often got a pass as she seemed accustomed to the Operational Dress Uniform (ODUs) or station's personnel in general.



*SN Ida Lewis*

Throughout her career, Ida kept many watchstanders company during their daily or nocturnal shifts. It was often said that she knew the rounds better than those who stood watch. She was a welcome diversion to the mundane routines of station life as well as a pleasant distraction during the stressful ones. She spent many afternoons in the Commanding Officer's office (by choice, of course!). She was finally promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer in 2015.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of seeing her grow into the grand old lady she became. During Auxiliary events at and my annual visits to Station Castle Hill, I always made it a point to say "Hello" to her and spend some quality petting time with her too. Needless to say, a dog treat usually accompanied me on each visit. Ida was a fine station mascot following in the same traditions and paw prints of those station mascots (Cannon, Sammy, Abraham, et al.) who came before her. The station's executive officer, Chief Karl Anderson, affectionately noted "We never knew how much she did for us until the critters started coming around this spring... we've got mice, opossum, deer and whatever else wandering around like they own the place". She was loved and well cared for by all those who passed through the station's doors.

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# Faithful Service

*By Chris Lawrence, Flotilla Publications Officer (FSO-PB 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region)*

*(Continued from the previous page)*

She occasionally got “liberty” to spend time with the family of one of the station’s personnel. Ida will be sorely missed, but fondly remembered by all those whose lives she touched. She was more than just a part of the station, **she was family!**

Ida’s remains were cremated. Her ashes will either be scattered at sea or given a shore side burial. The station is having a headstone made to honor her memory and service. It will be placed upon the station’s grounds in her memory.

A Coast Guard station is incomplete without its mascot. Those stations lucky enough to have a dog mascot can attest to the difference a dog makes in the course of the unit’s daily routine. Never take that for granted! Remember a station’s mascot is there always for you, regardless, of whether you are having a good day or bad day.

*Green grass and open fields, Chief. We have the watch!*



*A more recent photo of Chief Ida Lewis.*

*– Photo courtesy of Chief Karl Anderson,  
XPO USCG Station Castle Hill*



# Attention: All Hands!

- Please remember to **submit your paperwork** for all of your Auxiliary activities, especially your member activity log (ANSC 7029), in a timely manner to our flotilla information systems officer (FSO-IS), Ed Glod. All of your time and effort **makes a difference** so make it count by getting it entered into AUXDATA!
- Please remember to **check and update your skills bank**, if necessary, in the Auxiliary Directory. In times of need, the Coast Guard could tap your skill set(s) for augmentation or assistance. A link to it can be found in the “*Members Only*” section of our website.
- ***Not challenged enough?*** Work towards a qualification, **complete all of the required mandatory training courses** or other courses of interest. Links to the Auxiliary Learning Management System (for the mandatory courses), National Testing site, and FEMA can be found under the “Member Training” tab of our website, listed below. Don’t forget to report your study or test time under category 99D of your 7029 form!
- *If major adverse weather conditions (hurricanes, blizzards, major storms, etc.) are expected to impact our local area, flotilla members and their families are highly encouraged to seek safety and shelter accordingly. When it is safe and conditions permit, flotilla members are asked to either email or phone their flotilla commander as to their status and safety for accountability. Once adverse weather has passed, an email or phone call might be sent automatically via the flotilla commander or the Everbridge system from district. If this is the case, flotilla members need only respond to it accordingly. Accountability is done for military and civilian government personnel to account for the safety of all personnel and their families as well as status of all personnel, assets and resources in the area should there be a need to utilize them. Being part of the Coast Guard family, the Coast Guard Auxiliary follows the same model. Stay safe!*

## ***Remember that Recruiting...***

- *is a flotilla priority!*
- *is the responsibility of all members.*
- *insures our future.*
- *attracts new talent.*
- *strengthens our programs.*

## ***and Diversity...***

- *is about inclusion.*
- *is about engagement.*
- *nurtures creativity.*
- *embraces our differences.*
- *capitalizes on talents.*
- *strengthens our flotilla.*



***Who is that Masked Man?*** John Dennis performs some welding work in the maintenance department of Air Station Cape Cod.

– Photo courtesy of John Dennis



***Your Effort Matters:*** Don Sullivan (left) is presented with his ninth Public Education Service Award by flotilla commander, Scott Campbell.

– Photo courtesy of Larry Havrylik

# On The Radar

*By Keith Croteau, Flotilla Public Affairs Officer (FSO-PA 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region)*

In the past, this newsletter column has been set aside for flotilla member profiles. While I think that these profiles are very important to highlight our members, I quickly realized that I would run out of members in only a few more issues of the newsletter. I have decided to convert this column over to information of interest to our flotilla. It will include member profiles as permitted.

In this issue, I wanted to talk about mandatory member training. I know this is a topic that we have spoken about at length during flotilla meetings, but I wanted to ensure that it received some space on the newsletter to explain the importance of getting this done before the deadline.

Completion of mandatory training is required by December 31, 2016. After this timeframe, any members who have not completed their training will not be eligible to hold a staff officer position in the flotilla or in the division. Members will also not be able to hold elected office at any level within the Auxiliary. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, members who have not completed training can no longer take part in Operations with the Auxiliary or the active duty side. This means that air and surface patrols, food services, watchstanding and other support activities will be on hold until such time as the mandatory training has been completed.

Leadership fully understands that as a volunteer organization asking for something to be mandatory can come as a shock. However, all Auxiliary members must adhere to the similar standards as the active duty and civilian sides to ensure that the same quality service is felt by anyone having dealings with the Coast Guard as a whole.

Please visit our flotilla website, if you require more information about where you stand on the mandatory training. There is a link provided on the main landing page. There is still the possibility to conduct live training classes on site in East Providence, if there is enough interest in this option as well.

This training is an important part of our flotilla and the Auxiliary at large. Please do your best to ensure that you are 100% compliant with this before the deadline to prevent any disruption in your Auxiliary service. These are the things that should be kept "On the Radar."

**Welcome to the Flotilla!** Carrie Bishop is administered the new member oath by flotilla commander, Scott Campbell.

– Photo courtesy of Harry Finkelstein



## Do you know...

1. *How many categories of Auxiliary facilities are there?*

**Answer:** The three categories are Air facility (plane or helicopter), Radio facility (fixed or mobile) and Surface facility (boat).

2. *How do I complete the Mandatory Training Requirements?*

**Answer:** Simple just log on to the Auxiliary Learning Management System at <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>, enroll in, take and successfully complete the specified courses. A formal classroom presentation can also be done. Ask your flotilla commander!

# Upcoming Events

- *National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) - May 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.*
- *NSBW PA/Safety Booth - May 21<sup>st</sup> at West Marine in Seekonk.*
- *NSBW VSC Booth - May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Haines Park Boat Ramp.*
- *Boat Crew Training - May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Sector SENE office in E. Providence.*
- *Flotilla Meeting - June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sector SENE office in E. Providence.*
- *Quonset Air Show - June 11 & 12<sup>th</sup> at Quonset ANGB in North Kingstown.*
- *Castle Hill Training Day - July 9<sup>th</sup> at USCG Station Castle Hill.*
- *Flotilla Meeting - July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Sector SENE office in E. Providence.*
- *Flotilla Meeting - August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Sector SENE office in E. Providence.*
- *Swim the Bay Event - August 13<sup>th</sup> in Narragansett Bay East Passage.*
- *Fall River Grand Prix Races - August 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> in Fall River.*
- *Flotilla Meeting - Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sector SENE office in E. Providence.*



*Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Insignia*

*This device is meant to recognize extraordinary effort of Auxiliarists who consistently provide strong support to one or more of Recreational Safe Boating programs (i.e. Public Education, Public Affairs, Vessel Safety Check, RBS Program visitations or Legislative Outreach). Eligibility criteria requires significant documented RBS program activity over a minimum period of two years.*





**"This newsletter received clearance on 13 May 2016"**

Our newsletter is meant to be an informative and valuable resource to our flotilla members and local Coast Guard units. Its purpose is to keep them apprised of our flotilla activities as well as presenting various articles of interest to the readership. Any member of Flotilla 72 or the U.S. Coast Guard may submit an article or photo for inclusion in our newsletter.

Do you have a story to tell? Do you have an article or photo of interest for our members? We want to hear from you. Please send your submissions to the editor:

*Chris Lawrence, Flotilla Publications Officer (FSO-PB 72, 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Region)*  
at [claw\\_72@verizon.net](mailto:claw_72@verizon.net)

### ★ Confidentiality Statement ★

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