



US Coast Guard Auxiliary – First District, Northern Region

**Flotilla 11-9 Martha's Vineyard**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**20 January 2021 1900 hrs**

ZOOM Meeting

UOD Tropical Blue

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**FC Comments:**

- FSO-CS Berini is continuing to offer one-on-one AUXDATA2 tutoring sessions 1000 or 1500 daily by appointment. We are extremely fortunate that he is committed to getting us all up to speed on the new system and I ask everyone please schedule a session and start using the new platform instead of 7029s by March.
- With 2020 forcing us to cease all programs and stop meeting in person, 2021 presents both a unique opportunity and challenge for the flotilla. My goals as Flotilla Commander for 2021 focus on returning us to fulfilling our primary mission of recreational boating safety, supporting Station Menemsha and getting underway with patrols through the following:
  - Begin teaching RBS courses, virtually until cleared to return to classrooms with classes starting in early Spring.
  - Work with local agency and town officials to coordinate RBS classes including class space, hosting online and advertising. Also work with town, county and state organizations to offer PVs, VSCs and outreach to the boating community.
  - A renewed focus on training and certification for boat crew.
  - Establish a AUXAIR committee to explore the formation of an AUXAIR component on Martha's Vineyard.
  - Work with Station Menemsha to provide renewed support and increased presence including but not limited to watchstanding and Food Service.
  - Recruitment of new members with an increased push to highlight the auxiliary to boating, sailing, environmental and community organizations and attract new members.
- Bravo Zulu to Jake Davis for completing all required coursework for AUXOPS! And to Jason Flanders, Michael Salvatore and David Halsey (along with Davis) for participating in the AUXOPS online courses currently underway.

**VFC Comments:**

- We are still at a relaxed state as far as operations for the unit. We have had Wayne doing some watch standing at the station. I am going to try and get authorization for Tim and I to do some Food Service for the on-duty shift to help out CS Smith even though he is providing a limited meal plan.

- COVID-19 Vaccine's are not being offered to CG AUX members at this time through the USCG. Vaccines are being given to 1st responders on the island. I had round 1 of Moderna with only a sore arm. My wife is an emergency physician at MVH had both rounds of Pfizer with flu like symptoms after round 2. An HC-144 landed at MVY on Friday and a birdie told me that Vaccines were issued to the active-duty members at the station. As the Infection Control Officer for my department, I will contact the hospital infection control officer and see if it is all possible to get the USCG Aux members vaccinated as soon as possible so we can get back into the station on a more regular basis. Kaehler Memorial Clinic on Joint Base is not offering them at this time to the AUX
- Now is the time to log onto AuxData II "Online Classroom" to take some programs. My hopes are by taking some classes it will keep you as members engaged with the Aux and prepare yourself to report to the station when restrictions are lifted. Although we are in a stand-down, we need to prepare to be called in at any time to assist the USCG. We are in a very unique situation being on an island with limited resources and should a disaster occur we may be called to assist.
- Several live online training opportunities are coming up. The success of the AuxOps program and current AuxPat program have proven that the training works to keep you engaged. N/D-Train will be hosted by David Farren of Woods Hole Aux on Feb 13th (9a), 14th (9a), Feb 16th (6p) and Feb 20th (9a).

#### IPFC Comments:

- Working on setting up Online Boating safety classes. Many flotillas have had positive responses to online classes. I'll reach out to those who have shown interest in becoming instructors to organize an approach. There are many details to work out but I'd like to have the first course in March.
- As Brien mentioned, I'd like to target every member to have a one-on-one Auxdata tutorial. So far, I've had sessions with 6 members. I encourage every member to get their Auxdata password before we have a session. I'll have a link on our flotilla website that shows how to do that.
- I am in the process of setting up additional links on our flotilla website for a number of self-help presentations relating to a number of additional subjects – more information coming.
- Looking forward to resuming watchstanding at Station Menemsha. The active duty no longer stand watch unless a crew is underway. This opens up some great opportunities. The Senior Chief says that we can come at any time and either do training on the system or actually assume the watch from Sector.
- I have ordered new business cards and have the ability to share the design. If you're interested, email me.



#### New Business

- RBS Mission Brief shows an alarming uptick in boater accidents and fatalities, along with a huge increase in boating sales and people on the water. Our boater education mission is more important than ever.
- 2021 VSE decals have been received by FC.
- ALAUX 035/20- Auxiliarists are not currently included in Covid-19 Vaccine rollout.

## **FSO Reports**

- FSO-FN:
  - Sent 7025 for 2020 to DSO-FN
  - Balance as of today: \$1273.86
  - Sent 7035 to Veronica Murry as per her request to leave the flotilla
  - Set up PayPal account to collect tuition for online boating safety classes
- FSO-MT Nothing to report.
- FSO-HR Nothing to report.
- FSO-PA Nothing to report.
- FSO-IS
  - Have held 6 one-on-one Auxdata tutorials to date. Will schedule more as needed
  - Encouraging everyone to file their activity reports on Auxdata II
- FSO-PV Nothing to report.
- FSO-CM
  - we inspected the first operational facility radio for Joe Berini yesterday. We might be the first operational facility radio in the district! Congratulations Joe
- FSO-CS
  - Updated Facebook Page
  - Sent new logo for approval to National PA Officer
  - Updated Logo on Facebook and WOW website
  - Added Auxdata II how-to and access to the program on the flotilla website.

## **Change of Watch**

- It is an honor and privilege to swear-in the below Flotilla Staff Officers for 2020:
  - FSO-CM/MT Timothy Carroll
  - FSO-CS/IS/HR Joseph Berini
  - FSO-VE Derrick Teel
  - FSO-MS/OP Glen DeBlase
  - FSO-SR/PE Michael Salvatore
  - FSO-PA/PV Brien Hefler

**Next meeting –TBD**