



US Coast Guard Auxiliary – First District, Northern Region

**Flotilla 11-9 Martha's Vineyard  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**24 March 2021 1900 hrs**

ZOOM Meeting

Civilian Attire

**Present: Brien Hefler, Joe Berini, David Halsey, Jake Davis, Steve Lewenburg, Brian Kennedy, Glenn Deblase, Chuck Cotnior, Mike Salvatore, Louis Piacenti and Peter Grunthal (guest)**

**FC Comments:**

- I hope V D-Train was a success for everyone, David McClure said future D-Trains will likely remain online and I discussed the possibility of offering hybrid both in-person and online to allow flotillas like ours to remotely participate when we cannot be there in person. Almost all of my classes touched on the staggering figures from last year, with boating fatalities up 67% in first district and RBS class down by over 80% and VSE's down 93% according to COMO Belmore.
- I had a great meeting with Senior Chief Longval and he is very excited to have us resuming operations and said the station is ours to utilize as soon as we are approved by the auxiliary. He also reminded me that we are welcome out on patrol anytime- let me know and I will set it up with him. Michael and I will also be attending quarters soon and meeting all the new station personal and Joe's watchstanding work and training is continuing and very appreciated.

**VFC Comments:**

- We are still at a relaxed state as far as operations for the unit. I have spoken with Mrs. McClure (Aux Food Service Director) and restrictions are soon to be reduced for FS members. I also received the history on the Food Service program and it was confirmed Flotilla 11-9 was the 1st station to have a food service program. As restrictions get lifted I would like to see more members join the FS program and capitalize on the fact that we are the 1st in Food Service. That is a great honor that we should build and be strong at.
- COVID-19 Vaccine's are not being offered to CG AUX members at this time through the USCG. I tried to pull some strings to get us in early but Martha's Vineyard Hospital was getting ready to and now has started to vaccinate the public via the hospital patient health gateway. For more information go to: [https://mvhospital.org/patients\\_and\\_visitor/covid-19-updates/](https://mvhospital.org/patients_and_visitor/covid-19-updates/) Brigham and Women's Hospital (MVH Affiliate ran out of vaccines) This DOES NOT INCLUDE MVH so get into your patient health gateway for more information.
- Several live online training opportunities are still in progress. If you have Monday nights free that is when most classes take place. I have completed AuxOp Seamanship, Patrol Specialist, Weather Specialist, and are currently completing Communications and Boat Crew. All these classes have occurred over the past 3 months with one night a week online (plus some study and homework time). It can be done it is not much a commitment to take on. If you are interested in taking some

additional online training classes it would be fantastic to have our flotilla come back strong and further educated into the station once restrictions are fully lifted.

## **New Business**

- V-D Train discussion.
- Vessel Examination guidelines have been updated and there is a new kill switch law. There is a push to focus on Paddlecraft VEs as the number of new boaters has skyrocketed in the division.
- Dukes County has donated Radios for flotilla use thanks to Joe, Chuck and Tim. This was a complicated process and a lot of hard work- BZ all!
- PE Classes- call for instructors and timetable discussion.
- New Covid assessment form with vaccination information section- please complete and send in if you have received your vaccine. Blood Borne pathogens class is now available online.
- Immediate Past District Commodore Charlie Grossimon is new Aux Liaison for District and replacing CWO Elijah Reynolds. This should greatly expedite requests and operations once he is settled in.
  - Auxiliary support: [charles.b.grossimon@uscg.mil](mailto:charles.b.grossimon@uscg.mil)
  - Auxiliary related: [dco1north@gmail.com](mailto:dco1north@gmail.com)
- Please check uniforms and email Brien with any questions, Chief of Staff David McClure stressed how important our appearance is going to be when we resume operations and asked us to make sure all members of our flotillas are squared away.
- Reminder that monthly training/classes can be input as single entries in AUXDATA, 99D: example “Hefler V-D Train, 22 hours.” per Intro to AUXDATA course.

## **FSO Reports**

- FSO-FN:
- FSO-MT
- FSO-HR Two new brochures created for new members and recruiting.
- FSO-PA
- FSO-PV.
- FSO-PE
- FSO-OP
- FSO-MS
- FSO-IS
- FSO-CM
- FSO-CS
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**Next meeting – April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1900, Zoom.**