

Lifeline

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Newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 2-76 5NR

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An Introduction to the AUXOP Program

2012 so far has seen an influx of new members - and a new member is likely to be intimidated by our alphabet soup. Like all organizations we have our jargon and for this article I'd like to elaborate on what AUXOP is about. AUXOP stands for Auxiliary Operations Specialist. What exactly does that mean? An AUXOP is a member who has taken 7 credits worth of specialty courses. See it as sort of a college degree - there are requirements you need to knock out before you earn the designation. Besides earning yourself a nice new piece of bling for your uniform, you also enter yourself into a fraternity of sorts - most members are not AUXOPs. AUXOPs are supposed to be a source of knowledge - mentors and people skilled in the area of operations. It previously was focused solely on surface (boat) operations, but as of 2011 it's been changed to encompass marine safety as well. Being AUXOP has its benefits. You are awarded your device at the banquet by an officer in the Coast Guard for a start. Then your member ID card next round gets the "AX" designation put on it. But besides reputation, it means you're considered trustworthy enough to proctor exams. You're considered knowledgeable and a, "cut above the rest." When I see a member who is AUXOP I know they're serious. It also makes the flotilla look good at the conference when a bunch of 2-76'ers are up for the designation.

What does this mean for the new member? Pursuing the AUXOP is something every member should strive for, especially new ones. It's a good goal to pursue

since it doesn't require you to actually get on the water. It's all about knowledge. The course curriculum is structure as such:

3 Core Credits

AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS - 1

AUXILIARY WEATHER - 1

AUXILIARY SEAMANSHIP - 1

1 Leadership Credit

FLOTILLA LEADERSHIP COURSE - 1

AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT - 1

AUXILIARY MID-LEVEL OFFICERS' COURSE- 1

3 Elective Credits

AUXILIARY PATROLS- 1

AUXILIARY ADVANCED NAVIGATION- 2

AUXILIARY SEARCH COORDINATION AND EXECUTION - 2

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM 300 & 400 - 2

*INTRODUCTION TO MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- 2*

You don't need to take every one of these courses, except for the 3 core. You must take at least one leadership credit, and three electives. There are other leadership and elective courses but for the new member, these are not a concern as they're either no longer offered or require a few years of training.

How do you get these courses? Easy, 2-76 offers *every class you need for your AUXOP* once a year in our Weekend College. That's right, you don't have to go anywhere else. Go to <http://cgaux276.org> and sign up for the courses you'd like to take. We are offering Weather, Seamanship, Advanced Navigation, and Intro to Marine Safety this fall. The District Training Conference (more info: <http://5nr.org>) will have the Flotilla Leadership Course. I can attest from personal experience that earning my AUXOP by taking classes here built my interest in the Auxiliary. It got me in touch with members from all over the district and it made me better boat crew. It will for you too. I hope to see you all there this fall!

- Daniel Toms, VFC

The next flotilla meeting is Tuesday, 21 August at 7:30pm

Do you have any insignias, shoulder boards, pins, devices, or uniform in good condition, that you would like to donate? If so, please bring it to the flotilla meeting where it will be collected and distributed to other members that have a need for them. Thanks.

Jose Roman-Rivera, FC

Flotilla Staff Officer Monthly Reports:

Communications (CM)

Nothing to report

Ted White, FSO-CM tawhite@verizon.net

Communication Systems (CS)

Darryl Stevenson, FSO-CS) dnetman@gmail.com

Finances (FN)

Nothing to report

Phil Giangjordano, FSO-FN pgjazzpro@aol.com

Human Resources (HR)

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Materials (MA)

All members that are in need of any materials please e-mail me at jimmyde46@aol.com. It is important that you e-mail or send by text or letter any material request. Please provide name, address, id number, and what you are requesting to be ordered. Allow three weeks for delivery although you may receive an order earlier.

Jimmy Deleon, FSO-MA jimmyde46@aol.com

Marine Safety (MS)

Caroline Shipsey, FSO-MS ces93@drexel.edu

Member Training (MT)

As the Operations season nears its end, the Member Training season gets into full swing. From September through May there is training available to you, the Flotilla member. Whatever the interest that brought you into the Auxiliary, there is training that directly or indirectly supports that interest.

You are fortunate that your Flotilla presents the District's premier education experience in its Weekend College. There's a course of interest for each of you on the schedule. Look it over on the Flotilla's website (cgaux276.org) and signup.

Don't allow this opportunity to pass you by.

Can't make a weekend class due to family or work requirements – not a problem!

Contact me via email, phone, or in person at the Base. My job is MEMBER TRAINING. I'll see that you get what you need to advance your interests in the Auxiliary. Some courses require only one evening while others require a night a week over several weeks. Whatever it takes, your Flotilla will get you trained.

There's also another training opportunity that I want to bring to your attention.

The Flotilla's Public Education group is presenting two courses that will greatly enhance your navigational skills. These are "How to Read a Nautical Chart" (HRNC) and "Weekend Navigator" (WN). The two courses will make you a skilled, safer boater. Since the Flotilla must purchase the textbooks, the cost to you as a Flotilla member is the cost of the text. A deal no matter how you look at it.

HRNC is presented over three Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm, beginning 22 August 2012. The course will make you familiar with chart types, symbols, and information. You will learn how to plot courses and bearings, how to determine true heading versus compass heading, and how to determine your position using dead reckoning methods and visual aids.

WN immediately follows HRNC, also on Wednesday evenings for ten weeks, beginning 12 September. With the wide spread use of GPS/chart plotters, this course stresses their use in determining your boating navigation. It will give you a strong background in the capabilities of the GPS/chart plotters and how to use their various functions for safer passages.

If you are into boat crew operations and want to advance to coxswain, then you must seriously consider taking the Auxiliary Navigation Course (AUXNAV, aka AUXACN). AUXNAV will be presented on eight Saturday mornings, 0800-1130, beginning 20 October 2012. This course involves chart work, visual aid fixes, current diagrams, determining tide heights and current flow, and some electronic navigation, principally RADAR. By taking the two PE classes, it will increase your comprehension of this demanding course. This in turn will help you get the most out of the AUXNAV course.

The HRNC course is already upon us, so signup TODAY via email, phone or through the Flotilla's website, under the PE button.

Pat Cunningham, FSO-MT hawsingham@comcast.net

Navigation Systems (NS)

Organization continues on the list of PATONS within Sector Delaware Bay for Auxiliarists to verify as designated aids on station and functioning according to their description in the Light List and on the Charts. Paton Information Documents (PIDs) were identified and downloaded from IATONIS for distribution to Aids Verifiers (AVs). A request was made by Chief Hays of the Philadelphia ANT to provide digital jpg images of the PATONs in their AOR. PIDs are being distributed to active AVs.

Upcoming: AV PQS instruction to begin late 3Q2012.

Matt O'Brien, ADSO-NS mobrien12@aol.com

Operations (OPS)

Dan Toms, FSO-OPS danielandrewtoms@gmail.com

Public Affairs (PA)

Throughout the month of June and into July I have been actively learning the PA role by taking the PA Intro online course. As I learn, I'm quickly implementing the lessons into Ad requests, creating contacts lists and formulating an action plan on getting our word out to the community.

Currently, I have Ads Running on the PECO Crown Lights, GSTV, and City Paper (online) for our upcoming August classes. I have requested public service announcements (PSA) on these Radio stations KYW, WMMR and WHYY.

Hopefully these will start running in time for fall's PE courses.

In an effort to expand our membership, we devised a new flyer to draw up enrollment. We plan to get these up in the neighborhoods surrounding Sector Delaware Bay. We will roll these out in phases, first targeting libraries, grocery stores, convenience stores and recreational centers. The second phase will cover local colleges, marinas and boat dealers. These all take a bit of planning and collaborating beforehand. So, in the interim we will work on introducing ourselves to the contact persons and setting up appointments to develop either an event or simply just leaving promotional materials at their location.

To continue building on our social network I add daily relative articles and post our upcoming classes onto Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

The flotilla has been recently asked to a couple of new events, still awaiting more details but we plan on being at both Philadelphia Night Out Kick-off Rally on August 6th at the Target Shopping Center and "Shipwreck, Winslow Homer and the Life Line" on September 23rd at the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Jessica Z. Davidson, FSO-PA jessica.davidson@cgaux276.org

Public Education (PE)

The Spring 2012 season of PE classes has been completed. The final session of "About Boating Safely" was held on Saturday August 4. Three students registered and all passed the exam with high scores. Instructors were David Hayward, Marc Batt, Hank Harrison, Caroline Shipsey and Dot French. Thanks to all who made this a success.

The existing PE flyer is in the process of being redesigned and it will be distributed to all attending Flotilla members at Fall Flotilla meetings. However, registration for Fall courses is still minimal, and it may result in the cancellation of sessions.

Scheduled Public Education courses for FALL 2012 are listed below. By visiting the Flotilla website, prospective students will be able to sign up for courses via the online registration form. We are also investigating setting up a Google voice telephone account or, alternatively, obtaining a dedicated phone account for PE communications.

Flotilla members are requested to help publicize these courses by taking flyers to local marinas, bookstores, recreation centers, and marine supply stores.

The courses are also currently listed on Craigslist Philadelphia under the "boats" category.

There will be a meeting during Fall 2012 to plan PE courses for Spring 2013, and design an updated flyer for the upcoming season.

Dot French, FSO-PE frenchdot@gmail.com

Program Visitor (PV)

Paul Parravicini, FSO-PV carioca@comcast.net

Vessel Examination (VE)

Paul Parravicini, FSO-VE carioca@comcast.net

Calling all runners!

Have you ever thought about entering a 5k run? Do you like to get dressed up for Halloween? If so, please join me for the



at Laurel Hill Cemetery on October 6.

There will be prizes for best costumes (we are thinking maybe sailors and pirates, but your ideas are welcome!) and an after-party with music, free beer, and complimentary massages.

If you are interested, email Liz LeFever or Jessi Davidson. We will be doing some training runs (days and times TBD), and all are welcome to join us.

Visit <http://www.rip5k.org/> for more info and to register.

Hypothermia in the summertime? You're kidding me!

WASHINGTON – Hypothermia is not just a winter danger...it's a summertime danger, too. With air temperatures climbing well into the 80s and 90s in many parts of the country, hardly anyone gives a thought to hypothermia while cruising

down a river, spending hours fishing on their favorite lake, or heading out on a day-trip to the deeper waters of the Atlantic.

But the fact is water temperatures could be well below the air temperature and an unexpected dunking as a result of a boating accident could have disastrous results...particularly if you are alone.

For example, if you are boating in Miami's Biscayne Bay in mid-July, the water temperature will be in the mid-to-high 80s...and you can spend many hours immersed before the symptoms of hypothermia set in – plenty of time for a rescue. But if you are boating on an inland lake or river, or off the coast of Long Island or New England, it's an entirely different story. In water temperatures from 70-80 degrees, exhaustion or unconsciousness can set in within 3-12 hours; 60-70 degrees, 2-7 hours, and in water from 50-60 degrees, you could be unconscious in 1-2 hours.

Once your core body temperature drops from normal 98.6 degrees to 95 degrees, your extremities are numbed to the point of uselessness – trying to fasten the straps of a life jacket or cling to an overturned boat becomes nearly impossible. Panic and shock set in, and total disorientation can occur. Cold water robs the body of heat considerably faster than cold air.

To guard against the potential for succumbing to hypothermia as a result of a summertime boating accident, the Coast Guard Auxiliary suggests:

1. Know the weather conditions before you set out...don't leave your port or dock if the weather may turn rough.
2. File a float plan to tell your friends and family where you are going and when you plan to return.
3. Always wear a life jacket while boating.
4. If you wind up in the water, try not to panic as it can increase heat loss from your body and shorten your survival time...remain in a curled up, heat-retaining position.
5. Stick with your capsized boat and try to get as much of your body out of the water as possible.
6. Avoid consuming alcoholic beverages while boating...they allow heat to escape from the body more quickly because alcohol dilates blood vessels.

Submitted by Pat Cunningham

Boaters must consider the effects of prescription medication before leaving dock

WASHINGTON- Prescription medications can bring on unwanted side effects to boaters on the water far from emergency personnel. "The marine environment exposes people to heat or cold, motion, wind, noise and other factors that can cause

fatigue in anyone,” says Richard C. Lavy, M.D. The physical condition of everyone on board should be assessed before leaving the dock. Lack of shade and over exposure to the sun and heat along with ever changing sea conditions can bring on dehydration, dizziness and heat exhaustion. Drowsiness or confusion will impair the ability to operate a boat safely much like too much alcohol.

Recognize the signs of medical distress and know how to call for help. Depending on geographic area, use VHF marine channel 16 or call 911. Know before you go.

Remember this acronym - ***BOAT SAFE*** – it stands for -

- ***B***ring plenty to eat and drink – avoid dehydration
- ***O***perate the boat in a safe and responsible manner
- ***A***lways wear a life jacket
- ***T***ake a boating safety course
- ***S***un, wind and temperatures can be more of a factor than boaters think
- ***A***nnual courtesy vessel safe check
- ***F***ile a float plan – leave it with someone who will take action if overdue
- ***E***valuate the readiness of operating crew and passengers – it is ok to *not* get underway when there is doubt

For more information go to www.uscgboating.org or for a boating safety class contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary at www.cgaux.org.

Submitted by Jimmy DeLeon