

BOAT BASIN

Volume 3 Issue 2

February 2008

From the Bridge



Hello All: January was a busy start for so many of us, we got a good jump on the many things we want to do and hopefully will complete before the good weather starts.

Our crew training meetings have started and the attendance at the CG Station location under our new Standardization Instruction Plan has been outstanding. I stopped in one night to talk with these trainees to ask them to stay the course and we are looking forward to a return on this investment of time resulting in many new crew teams this year.

Our budgeting process for this year is near complete and we are just starting to make final plans for our Division Change Of Watch, which will be held some time in May and as soon as things get finalized you will be advised.

Some of our Flotilla's are in the process of conduct-

ing public education classes for their local Fire Dept's. Shortly they will have completed these classes and instructed over 270 Firemen in our AOR, BRAVO! MDA has gotten off to fair start with three Flotilla's at or almost current with their visits and I encourage the rest of us to get stated ASAP; this is a most important mission and does not require any real special training.

Our Flotilla Commanders and their teams are working hard to complete their call out plans under the ICS/ERP Platform that we have required from each flotilla. Some of our FC are just now discovering that some of their flotilla personnel are in REYS status therefore disqualifying some of them to participate or have any inclusion for such planning. This is the very reason why we wanted to incorporate this plan this year and to lay the foundation for improved readiness going forward.

(continued on page 2)

2008 Fit to Float Campaign Dates Announced

Editors Note: The following excerpt is from the January 18, 2008 edition of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary e-NEWS. It is re-printed here as a reminder to those flotillas that may want to participate in this event.

"This year Bass Pro Shops and Stearns are again sponsoring a Fit to Float Campaign but unlike last year it is going to happen on only two weekends from May 17-26; and (as of today) in EVERY Bass Pro Shops store in the country. This information is being provided for advance planning because the North American National Safe Boating Campaign (aka National Safe Boating Week) is 19-25 May and other events are being planned for the same period. There are perhaps three Bass Pro Shops stores without a flotilla within reasonable proximity but coverage should still be provided for the rest.

The Auxiliary participation requested to support Fit to Float involves having a knowledgeable Auxiliarist in each Bass Pro Shops store on the promotion weekend to answer questions about life jackets, how to fit them, how to inspect them, etc.; and have appropriate ANSC literature available (i.e., 3006 Federal Boating Regulations & Safety Tips and 3032 How to Choose the Right Life Jacket and poster 3505 Which Life Jacket for You?). There is also a call for a Coastie to participate if logistics permit.

Bass Pro Shops stores and Stearns have no objection if the Auxiliary simultaneously uses this opportunity to recruit new members, offer Vessel Safety Checks, enroll boaters for an Auxiliary boating course, promote America's Waterway Watch, or address other Auxiliary programs."

From The Bridge Continued With that input from each flotilla we then intend to complete our Division Plan no later than the end of this month, we plan to submit our formal Incident Action Plan to the District and I believe we will be one of the first Divisions in the District to submit such a formal plan as required under ICS-00700 NIMS.

We have big need for all our membership to get involved and do some thing now! If you find yourself in REYS we need you to get your qualification back in place ASAP and become part of our inclusion process. We need more members to do something, not every one needs to be crew, there is something here to do for all us, please get involved and renew your commitment to participate in MDA, VE, PE, PV, Crew and or Coxswains, please join our efforts to rebuild the great traditions of this Division.

Best Regards to You and Your Families

Bob Gesullo

DCP24

Unit Meeting Schedules

Division 24, 1st Wednesday at 19:30

Flotilla 24-1, Branford, 2nd Monday at 19:30

Flotilla 24-2, Stratford, 3rd Wednesday at 19:30

Flotilla 24-3, Milford, 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 20:00

Flotilla 24-4, Guilford, 2nd Wednesday at 19:30

Flotilla 24-8, Clinton, 2nd Wednesday at 19:30

Flotilla 24-11, West Haven, 2nd & 4th Thursday at 19:30

Flotilla 24-12, Oxford, 2nd Thursday at 19:00

NAVRULES Quiz 1

What is the minimum visible range for mast and side lights on a vessel less than 12 meters in length?

Answer page 7

Division 24 Staff

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A. Fregeau	SO-CS
J. Benjamin	SO-FN
J. Skibek	SO-MA
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J. McLeod	SO-MS
M. Hennen	SO-MT
Nick Sidorick	SO-OP
W. Rock	SO-PA
R. Bowolick	SO-PB
S, Perrone	SO-PE
M. Haines	SO-PS
E. Deutsch	SO-PV
Donna Bisson	SO-SR
J. Mercer	SO-VE
R. Kergaravat	SO-DA

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Jim Walsh FC
Robert Camara VFC

GET YOUR ARTICLES IN . . .



Articles

And

Photographs

always welcome

TAKE THE TIME TO ATTEND A FLOTILLA MEETING

MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

District Conference

Our Annual District Conference will be held at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & in Mystic, CT on March 28-30

Division staff officers in the following areas will be funded for one night's lodging at the government rate of \$98, plus per diem and travel; Public Affairs (PA), Personnel Services (PS), Public Education (PE), Member Training (MT), and Marine Safety (MS)

New members with a base enrollment date after October 1, 2007 will also be funded for one night's lodging at the government rate of \$98, plus per diem and travel.

All members eligible to be funded for travel should send their request for travel orders to their Rear Commodore via the Division Captain no later than February 28, 2008.

Conference registration information will be available shortly.

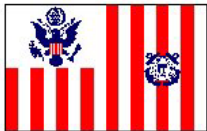
Hotel reservations should be immediately by calling the Mystic Marriott at 860-446-2600 or online using the Group Code "USAUSAA"

Editors Note: The conference is a combination of Auxiliary business mixed with a fine fourth cornerstone event that should be experienced by all. It makes a great get away weekend for those that want to bring a significant other.

Mandatory Instructor Workshop

By Steve Perrone SO-PE Instructor's Workshop is mandatory this year. The workshop must be completed and reported by 30 JUN 08. Instructors that do not complete this workshop by this date could be placed in re-year and not be able to teach. Anyone that is interested in the PE program should attend, but instructors need this workshop to maintain their qualifications.

U. S. Coast Guard, New Haven



Conversation between the Division Bridge and elements of the Coast Guard in New Haven have increased the opportunities for the Auxiliary to assist the Coast Guard

in a number of ways.

Chief Brule would like a list of any Crew Members, Coxswains or crew trainees interested in the Crew Augmentation program. During normal every day activities, but more importantly, situations of elevated security levels, and/or impending storms these folks would replace regular duty crews aboard Coast Guard vessels. During the later, the Station has historically had to send personnel to the ports of New York and Boston. Unlike the Auxiliary Crew requirements, interested members would need to pass the physical requirements, same as the active duty. The key difference is that age does come into play. The older the individual, the more time they get to accomplish the task. The specific requirements can be found in the Boat Crew Seamanship Manual, Chapter 3, Table 3-1, Page 3-2.

Chief Brule would like an Auxiliarist assigned to the station during certain hurricane situations. The Auxiliarist would need some knowledge / training of hurricane situations and have a working knowledge of Auxiliary Operations and communications. The specific criteria will be laid out for those who wish to be considered. Please contact Division Vice Captain Bill Rohland for additional information.

The ANT Team (Aids To Navigation) would like to have 3 boats and crews available for post hurricane situations. Specifically to identify ATONS, and or debris in the recreational ports of Clinton, Guilford, Milford, and Stratford. This information will be incorporated in the Division Emergency Response Plan, Recovery Branch.

Editors Note: These are great opportunities for those involved in on-the-water operations to work and train with the Coast Guard and provide valuable assistance in times of natural disasters.

Flotilla 24-01, Kimberly Filion FC

Business meeting not held last month due to a lack of a quorum, Next meeting to be 11 FEB 08

PE – About Boating Safety class scheduled for 2/16/08 for local fire dept. personnel. Other ABS classes in the works to take place over the next couple months

OPS – word went out for all Coxswains to check their PPERB batteries

PS – received paperwork to swear in two new members, hopefully at this months meeting, just had a member move to Virginia and will be transferring down there

MT – 2 people taking Division Crew Class and 2 people taking SAR Class

MDA – waiting for new blanket orders from division so we can get going in our AOR

Flotilla 24-03, John Godfrey FC

Ops 73 out of water until mid march

VE No report

PV 09 marine dealers were visited in January.

MDA No report

MT We have 3 members going for boat crew. training started January 14 2008

PE Held ABC class 30 student in January, also held ACB class for Milford Fire Dept. 90 students the week of 21 January.

PS Two of our new members changed from AP to BQ status

MS no report

CS Jeff Cieplak is re doing 24-03 web page will be out soon.

Flotilla 24-02, Jim Kauders FC

No report

Flotilla 24-04, Ellen Deutsch FC

At our last meeting plans for the coming 2008 year were discussed. Plans are being put into place for PV visits, VE visits, MDA patrols, MT schedule for the coming year, and the PE schedule.

The Flotilla budget for the coming year was reviewed at the flotilla meeting. It will be voted on at the February Meeting.

The Flotilla will be teaching its first PE course of the year starting Feb. 5th in Guilford. The course is Piloting and Charting

Flotilla 24-08, Ren Hanson FC

Flotilla Meeting Our January business meeting was held at the flotilla base. There were twenty three members present. One new member was sworn in. This years Flotilla Staff Officers were appointed and sworn in.

Boat Crew Class was presented to the membership. Thirteen members stated that they were interested. Boat Crew CDs were given to those members.

Communication Services (CS) We are still awaiting approval of our web site.

Public Education (PE) Our next class is Intro to Navigation and is scheduled for Saturday, 23 February 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clinton Police Station. Registration is scheduled for one week earlier at the same location from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Education schedule for 2008 has been established.

Member Training (MT) We have started VSC classes for those new members who would like to become Vessel Examiner and as a refresher for those who are in reyr status. There are six new members and three old members attending

Flotilla 24-12, James Walsh FC

No Report

Flotilla 24-11, Malinda Hennen FC

Flotilla Meeting: Our regularly scheduled Business meeting was held on 14 JAN 2008.

CS: The Home Page was modified to add links to various Flotilla-finder web pages; the Calendar Page was updated; the Member Page was modified.

DA: Fifteen facilities visited 13 JAN 2008, 2 new ones added

ICS: All qualified operations personnel have completed ICS

MA: Inventory completed

MS: Taking MS courses

MT: Four attending BC training; 2 attending AUX-SAR; FSO-MA trained

PE: Schedule established; Intent to Teach sent; Books ordered

PS: Two prospective members contacted

PV: One visit conducted with trainee

William Rohland, Division Vice Captain

Our Division held a "Train the Trainer", Mentor Workshop, regarding the Boat Crew Training Program. This was very well attended, 18 Mentors, Crew Members, and Coxswains, were in attendance. An overview of the key points, as well as the PowerPoint material itself was presented. All were in agreement that this would be a valuable tool and a training schedule was finalized.

The program "kicked off" on Thursday 24 January, at Station New Haven with over 15 crew trainees in attendance. Chief Brule, Officer In Charge Station New Haven is looking forward to involving his personnel in the training program.

We realize that Boat Crew isn't for everyone, however with our MDA (Maritime Domain Awareness) program, everyone can be apart of our mission assignments. I strongly urge everyone to be a participant. Keeping, or obtaining qualifications, is critical in maintaining our ability to provide support to the Coast Guard.

Division Staff Officer Reports

Aids to Navigation, Tim Mulherin

Received request through the DVC that the ATON Team Sector LIS would like to have 3 boats and crews available for post hurricane situations; specifically to identify Aids, and or debris in the recreational ports of Clinton, Guilford, Milford, and Stratford. This information will be incorporated in the Division Emergency Response Plan, Recovery Branch. Interested parties should contact me.

No reports from FSO-AN forwarded to this level.

No Comms coming down the chain.

Communications, Peter Purcell No report

Computer Service, Art Fregeau The following changes were made in December on the Division 24 website:

- A) The Education Page, Milford PE classes for the 2008 season were added. Please get your schedule to me as soon as possible for inclusion on this page.
- B) The News Page, announcing the AUXSAR course being offered at the Milford Flotilla.
- C) The Vessel Checks Page, modifying the list to reflect the 2008 FSO-VE appointments.
- D) The Flotillas Page, reflecting the officers elected or appointed for 2008 to manage each Flotilla.
- E) The Staff Page, reflecting the officers elected or appointed to manage Division 24 during 2008.
- F) The News Letters Page, announcing the special Election Edition of Boat Basin.
- G) The Calendar Page, updating it for 2008 events.

The following changes were made in January on the Division 24 website:

- A) the Education Page, Guilford and Stratford PE classes for the 2008 season were added.
- B) the News Page, announcing the AUXSAR course being offered at the Milford Flotilla.
- C) the Links Page, added various Flotilla Finder sites under the Auxiliary link.
- D) the News Letters Page, announcing the January Edition of the "Boat Basin."
- E) the Calendar Page

All CS Officers were forwarded an email from the

DSO-CS regarding the verifying that their Flotilla's websites were properly listed on both the Division and National sites and what to do if they weren't properly listed. Please follow the published CS Guidelines Manual to properly formulate your sites.

Finance, James Benjamin, The Division is financially healthy. Details are available from the staff officer.

Materials, Joseph Skibek, 200 VE Decals (2008) and inspection forms were distributed to Joe Mercer. Have ordered an additional 200 of each on 02-01-08. Please email if I have missed anyone on our Div-24 staff list.

Information Systems, Robert Brill No report

Marine Safety, John McLeod As per the Announcement in last months 'Safety Lines', I have passed the word to all that have been working on their Marine Safety PQSs to finish them quickly. Most are in re-write and one is a total rewrite and renaming. I have one who has finished up the PQS and the practical and is ready for his Oral Board. We have scheduled it for the 11th of FEB. When the newly blessed qualifications are released I will review and find out what is supported in our Sector.

Member Training, Malinda Hennen

Operations, Nick Sidorick

Public Affairs, William Rock I've begun the year with a note to all the FSO-PA's in Division 24. In this correspondence I've reminded them to forward any and all efforts to me as SO-PA so the accomplishments of each of their flotillas can receive proper acknowledgment within the Division and if they merit ,at the District level.

I also reviewed some key points to keep in mind when attempting to get publicity and reminded them that they can contact me if they have any questions.

A reminder to flotilla commanders: please encourage your FSO-PA's to follow through with sending information up the chain so your flotilla can get the credit it deserves. Also you, yourselves ,may wish to take advantage of a wider range of distribution of information through the Division PA resources.

I look forward to another year (I believe its my 12th) as SO-PA for Division 24. I can generate stories on the Division level, but most of the day to day work is done on the flotilla level. Those instances of special achievement and activities with mass appeal should

Division Staff Officer Reports

be disseminated on a broader scale. They also add to the collective "fabric" of Division 24.

Public Affairs Goals for 2008

- 1) My primary goal for 2008 is to encourage more cooperation from the FSO-PA's to pass information up the chain for dissemination at the division, district and mass media levels.
- 2) Promote National Safe Boating week as it applies to Division 24.
- 3) MC the annual open house at Sector Long Island Sound.
- 4) Seek to get articles in the Boat Basin, Over the Bow and the Navigator.
- 5) Guide the FSO-PA's in the more subtle areas of public affairs procedures as they pertain to affectingly soliciting cooperation from area press and electronic media.
- 6) Encourage the FSO-PA's to generate articles of interest to promote the activity of their flotillas and to enhance recruitment.

Publications, Robert L. Bowolick The Boat Basin will be published within seven days of the Division meeting in order for the information to be relevant for the remainder of the month. Articles, photos and reports received up to the night of the Division meeting will be published in the next Boat Basin.

Copies of the 2007 issues have been mailed to the Joyner Library Auxiliary Collection and to the District Awards committee chairman.

The January issue of the Boat Basin has been posted on the division website.

Flotilla commanders are reminded that the Boat Basin is both a newsletter and a historical compilation of activities within the Division. Photos of PE classes, vessel exams, member training and all other activities will be published in the next available newsletter. Share your accomplishments with the rest of the Division and help build the Division historical library.

Public Education, Stephen Perrone I will not be able to attend the Division meeting on 06 FEB 08. Please advise all Flotilla Commanders that an Instructor's Workshop is mandatory this year. The workshop must be completed and reported by 30 JUN 08. Instructors that do not complete this work-

shop by this date could be placed in re-year and not be able to teach. I will e-mail the power point program to each of the FSO-PE in our division. Anyone that is interested in the PE program should attend, but instructors need this workshop to maintain their qualifications.

Personnel Service, Mark Haines I have contacted all FSO/PS staff and attended the 1st 1SR District meeting and met with the new DSO/PS. I requested from her a single page list of all the Benefits offered to Aux members to be sent down to the FSO's to be use in recruiting and so ALL our members are informed as to what's available to members. I included some phone numbers of interest and web address.

Once I hear back from the DSO I will be sure to copy you on what is sent back.

I look forward to serving Div 24 as its PS staff.

Program Visitor, Ellen Deutsch Plans for the coming year consist of generating a list of all of the locations in Sector Long Island Sound that the PV's will be covering.

An email was recently sent out to request this information from the FSO-PV's. One flotilla has responded. Hopefully the information will be compiled by next month.

Secretary, Donna Bisson , No report

Vessel Examiner, Joseph Mercer, No report

MDA, Roger Kergaravat, No report

NAVRULES Quiz 1 answer; mast light 2 miles, side lights 1 mile

The Internet and Public Education

The January edition of the Boat Basin contained an article about boating information available on the internet. The article went on to request feedback from members that may have an interesting website they use.

Boat owners with BoatUS insurance receive a magazine called Seaworthy. This is a sixteen page magazine chock full of information to protect your boat and help minimize insurance claims due to all sorts of damage.

Seaworthy has a worthwhile website you can visit at <http://www.BoatUS.com/Seaworthy> that contains some of the information in the printed magazine.

The magazine is available for nominal subscription

fee to those not insured by BoatUS. Consistent with the USCG Auxiliary policy, this is for information only and should not be considered an endorsement of the magazine by the Boat Basin.

Towing a boat without some basic knowledge can be precarious at best. Your Guide To Towing, a pamphlet available through your materials staff officer, is available online at <http://www.trailerboats.com>. This comprehensive pamphlet covers towing vehicle considerations, trailer hitches and wiring, brakes, driving, launching and more.

The pamphlet makes a perfect supplement to the information presented in class.

Boat Crew Training

Boat crew training for 2008 will have commenced by the time this newsletter is published. William Rohland, Division Vice Captain has scheduled a meeting of mentors, member training officers and coxswains to discuss a standardize approach to training within Division 24 and to lay the groundwork for on the water training with Station New Haven.

Flotillas participating in the boat crew training program for 2008 are:

Flotilla	Crew	Coxswain
24-01	2	-
24-03	3	1
24-08	13	-

A schedule of shore-side training has been prepared by William Rohland that ends on April 17th at which time on-the-water training will commence with the dockside activities.

Change of Watch

A topic of conversation during the February Division meeting was the Change of Watch. Plans are being made contingent on feedback from the flotillas. It is a worthwhile ceremony and social event that should not be missed.

New members are especially invited to join in and experience the pomp and circumstance along with a terrific fourth cornerstone event.

More information to follow in next months edition.

Update Your Paper Charts

The online chart viewer located on the NOAA website at <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/> was a topic of an article in the Boat Basin a few months ago. A great tool for area familiarization was the premise of the article. The electronic charts on the website are updated every week to the latest Notice to Mariners information so the charts are accurate with the latest information.

February is a short month but in the dead of winter it can be a long slow month. What better to do than to sit by the fire and update your paper navigation charts using the electronic charts on the Online Chart Viewer as a reference.

Compare those older charts on your boat to the website charts to bring them up to date. You may find that it's time to buy new charts or you might be pleasantly surprised to find your charts require only a few changes.

Keep in mind that up to date charts and accurate navigation will keep you and your boat out of harms way.

SO/FSO Workshop

The Division has scheduled a staff workshop for flotilla staff officers to meet with their division counter parts. The event is planned for February 24th at the 24-03 training center in Milford.

All new staff officers are encouraged to attend. Flotilla Commanders will supply details to their respective members.