



# The Helm

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
FLOTILLA 24-12  
OXFORD, CONNECTICUT

## Upcoming

### Events in the Flotilla

- September Flotilla Meeting: **Sept. 13.** at the Flotilla Base American Legion Oxford  
Uniform: Tropical Blue or ODU Member Training: Inflatable PFD
- Division Meeting September 5th at 1930
- ABS on July 21st at 0800
- VE at Jackson's Cove, Oxford July 28th from 1100 to 1400
- Charts/ GPS July 24, 25, 26 1900-2100
- ABS Aug. 25, 0800
- Paddle Craft: Sept. 8 0800-1200
- ABS Sept. 15, 0800
- For more activities in the area see page 3



This one might be very very tough!!

### 2 Hints

Martha's Vineyard (near)

Fl R 6s \_\_\_\_\_.



**4th. Of July!!**

# July Flotilla Meeting Notes

*It would be great to have more member become VE, PV, Instructor qualified!*

*On rainy weekends look over some of the different manuals!*

*Nothing good on TV?*

*Check out some of the ICS classes—those can be completed in a matter of a few hours!*

## Introduction of Visitors

Lori Montoni

## Commanders Comments & Announcements

- There will be no division and flotilla meetings in August.
- ERP e-mailed to flotilla participants.
- A reminder that the town hall meeting will be held at Sector on 7/23 at 1930. Civilian dress.
- New “tucked ODU’s” are available at no cost to the Auxiliary.
- Boat crew currency maintenance check ride MUST be performed no later than September.
- Appoint Election screening committee....Send a letter of intent to run for office to the screening committee. Requirements for VFC; APC, ICS 100 & 700. Requirements for FC; APC, ICS 100 & 700 plus one year as VFC. According to the standing rules, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

## Staff Reports

**FSO – CS** Request staff officer add a link to the website for the flotilla newsletter.

**FSO – FN** Letters to four members with unpaid dues have been sent. Two members have responded.

**FSO – HR** A prospective member contacted the

flotilla.

**FSO – IS** Reports received have been entered into AUXDATA.

**FSO-MA** All material is on hand. ABS books have been ordered.

## FSO – MT

- Two members qualified as VE.
- One member qualified as PV.
- Members interested in becoming instructor, vessel examiner or program visitor qualified are invited to contact me for assistance in becoming qualified. All members should be qualified in at least one of the many areas of opportunity.
- Telecommunications PQS will be conducted by 24-03 in September.

**FSO – PA** All media notified of ABS class in July. Flotilla commander participated in a PA event at West Marine with flotilla 24-03.

**FSO – PB** The next edition of The Helm is under way and I am encouraging members throughout the flotilla and division to submit articles of interest and pictures from different events. Hopefully the next Helm will be as good as last month’s.

**FSO – PE** The June 16<sup>th</sup> class also had 16 students, nine of whom were 17 or under, the youngest being eleven. July 21 is our next ABS class followed by Charts NAV & GPS starting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be an ABS class on August 25. Recommend removing the PE sign because it cannot be read from the street. FC will discuss changing the sign location at the next Legion meeting.

**FSO – PV** Vacant.....Is there a member interested in taking on the task? The flotilla will build a flotilla database of places visited.

**FSO – VE** eleven additional VEs have been accomplished.

## Adjourn to member training

**Member Training:** The history of the AUXOP program was compared to the new requirements followed by the personal qualifications that may be acquired by members. The inter-relationship between personal qualifications and flotilla success was discussed. The Recreational Boating Safety device and requirements to earn the award were discussed.



# Member Training

In September there will be a COMMS PQS class in the division. Keep an eye out for details.

Presently we have a few members attempting to take the VE exam. - Good Luck!!

Everyone is strongly encouraged to keep up their certifications as well as complete either VE, PV, or Instructor training and APC. These classes will allow for greater and much more interesting involvement in the Auxiliary



Currently Dave and Karl are both enrolled in the online AUXCOM class and it seems to go rather well and with

very few hang-ups and technical issues. The instructors are great and Dave strongly urges others interested in AUXOP to try some of the online classes.

Some topics are easier online than others (Nav might be hard)

## Public Education

The June 16<sup>th</sup> class had 16 students, nine of whom were 17 or under, the youngest being eleven.

July 21 is our next ABS class followed by Charts NAV & GPS starting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

There will be an ABS class on August 25.

*Bob Bowlick was the first to correctly guess the location of the anchors (Mystic Seaport)*

## Dates to Remember and Things to Enjoy

- SLIS Town Hall Meeting– July 23 (Monday) 1930- Many of the District staff will be available for questions and answers! I am sure it will be a very interesting session.
- July 28th– Swim Across the Sound
- Coast Guard Day– August 3rd Who’s Invited? All Military ID

### Card Holders

including all Reserves, National Guard and Retired and their Guests  
Tickets: \$4.00 ages 3 and over before July 24th \$8.00 after July 24th  
For info and to purchase tickets, contact: 718-354-4407 You can purchase tickets over the phone and we can mail them or hold them.

## Good and Welfare

Joe reports: I am a US govt employee providing security with the Dept of State at the American Embassy located within the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq.

*This month’s picture is hard!*

*This location is my favorite place to relax in the summer!*

*I am looking for the name of the town that the day board protects*

## Recreation Boating Safety Device

The member training topic for the July flotilla meeting included the requirements to earn the RBS device. The Recreation Boating Safety Device is awarded to Auxiliary members who are active in promoting boating safety through participation as an instructor, vessel examiner, program visitor and in public affairs activities. The award may be earned by accumulating one hundred and twenty points each year for two consecutive years. Any combination of points may be earned.

Point values; Lead instructor hours - one point per hour, non-lead instructor hours – half point per hour, vessel safety checks – one point per VSC, program visits – one point per visit and one point per hour for 10 J public affairs activities. 10 J activities include boat shows, parades, booth activities, etc.



## Other Notes

If you are at an AUX event and have your camera/ camera phone PLEASE!!! Take a few shots– I can’t be everywhere all the time, It would be great to see you guys in action representing 24-12 at VE and ABS– as well as out at other events.

You can email them or text them to me– both means are found at the end of the publication.

Thanks!!



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Unless otherwise noted, photos are from David Genest FSO– PB

## USCGC MOHAWK (WPG-78)

MOHAWK's predecessor, the USS/USCGC MOHAWK (WPG-78), was built by Pusey & Jones Corp., Wilmington, Del., and launched 1 October 1934. First assigned patrol and general icebreaking duties on the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, the outbreak of war found her stationed at Cape May, N.J. In accordance with Executive Order No. 8929 of 1 November 1941, Mohawk was directed to serve as part of the naval forces. Assigned North Atlantic escort operations, she launched a total of 14 attacks against submarine contacts between 27 August 1942 and 8 April 1945.



Highlights of her at-sea rescue operations included the 27 August 1942 rescue of 293 survivors from USAT Chatham and the 22 November rescue of 24 men from SS Barberrry. Mohawk assumed ice patrol duties 25 May to 14 August 1945, and was directed to return to Treasury Department jurisdiction 1 January 1946.

USS/USCGC MOHAWK (WPG-78) is now a floating museum located, ironically, in Key West Florida. The museum is open for tours and is a unique piece of American and Coast Guard history. Here are a number of photographs of USS/USCGC MOHAWK (WPG-78) dating from the late 1930s and during WW-II.

Source: <http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcMohawk/Ship%27s%20History.asp> (including image)

(Recently, the *Mohawk* has been sunk as a veterans memorial reef– hence why I am including this in *The Helm*)