



The Helm

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
FLOTILLA 24-12
OXFORD, CONNECTICUT



June Meeting

Upcoming

Events in the Flotilla

- July Flotilla Meeting: **July 12th** at the Flotilla Base American Legion Oxford Uniform: Tropical Blue or ODU Member Training: AuxOP
- Division Meeting July 11th at 1930
- VE at Jackson's Cove, Oxford July 8th from 1300 to 1600
- ABS on July 21st at 0800
- Charts/ GPS July 24, 25, 26 1900-2100
- VE at Jackson's Cove, Oxford July 28th from 1100 to 1400
- For more activities in the area see page 3



Kim Filion DCDR and FC Bowolick



The flotilla is proud to announce *The Helm* is back in business under the leadership of David Genest. Flotilla staff officers are encouraged to submit articles about their area of responsibility that will inform, educate or entertain the members and flotilla members are encouraged to send photos of Auxiliary activities to the editor.

Bob Bowolick, FC



Jim Walsh receiving a certificate for 15 years of service



David Genest receiving a certificate for appointment to FSO- PB
Dave has some big shoes to fill!

Photo courtesy of Kim Filion

Division Notes for June

Here is a brief synopsis of the Division Meeting– If you would like the full report, please contact the FC.

- **Commander's Report**

DCDR Kim Fillion introduced Chief Warrant Officer Ralph Kugel, current OINC Station New Haven, Chief Boatswains Mate William Pierce, incoming OINC Station New Haven, Kody Kee, Outgoing Auxiliary Liaison Station New Haven, and Kevin Tanski, incoming Auxiliary Liaison Station New Haven

She thanked everyone who helped at the Open House

She reported on the District Board Meeting.

Among the talking points:

Admiral Able replaced Admiral Neptune as Commander of D1.

There will be an update to POMS.

Everyone must respond to Everbridge (D1 SR only had 60% response)

New Who Does What/Quals team at District

FSO SRs are to send copies of their flotilla minutes to the DCDR.

The District Board voted to spend \$3,500 to set up a New London repeater.

New members now have a time frame of 8 months for their paperwork to be processed.

FCs are reminded to submit their Standing Rules to her no later than next Division meeting 7/11/12 and to be familiar with the new election process

Bob Gesullo was introduced as the new Logistics Chief.

- **Response Chief's Comments**

-West Haven's COMMS trailer is ready for use and in the process of being available for the AUX

- **Prevention Chief's Comments**

-Please note that the member training website known as the Virtual Classroom has moved to a new location and is now called the CG Auxiliary On line Classroom. The new link to this website is <http://classroom.cgaux.org>.

- **Logistics Chief's Comments**

-New *Boat Basin* is out

-Organizational charts have been updated and all AUX data has been submitted. Ongoing issues are being referred to Lynn Glassman DSO-IS 1SR

June Flotilla Meeting Notes

Kim Filion, CDR Division 24, was in attendance and presented an overview of the division Emergency Response Plan and Maritime Observation Missions.

Commanders Comments & Announcements

- Message from Commander Zorman DI SR DIRAUX..... "I want to take one more opportunity to let you all know how important these 'dreaded' accountability drills are that the Coast Guard requires. We have been tasked by the First District Commander to up-date our 'recall' numbers twice a year – in May and November. We can also expect at least one impromptu drill usually in late spring. **So, that is three times per year that the Coast Guard is expecting us to take a snapshot of our ability to respond to these accountability drills (unless we have a REAL one). It is not optional but rather a condition of being a part of Coast Guard Forces. Please take the time to respond to these drills (via phone/email or method of your choice) so that we can continue to provide a valuable force multiplier to the Coast Guard and the country. Your participation is greatly appreciated.**"

- it is recommended the "If Found" stickers be distributed freely to paddle craft users. Recommend a land line telephone number be used in addition to a cell phone number. Our ABS presentation has been modified to include this information.

- Coast Guard personnel (OTO and yeomen) working in the DIRAUX office will be changing station over the next few months.

May meeting minutes were approved.

Staff Reports

FSO – CS It looks like the Auxiliary is leaning more towards standardized websites. At the present time our individual websites will remain intact. However my feeling is that, at some point in the future, we will be mandated to use the standardized format.

FSO – FN The flotilla is financially healthy. Letters

have been mailed to members with unpaid dues.

FSO – IS AUXDATA is up to date.

FSO – MA All required material is on-hand. It was agreed to purchase one hundred About Boating Safely books for our public education classes.

FSO – MT One member is working to qualify as a VE. AUXDATA Individual Training Record Reports were distributed. Milford will be conducting a Communication PQS class in the fall. The qualification is required to have a radio facility. Members interested in becoming instructor, vessel examiner or program visitor qualified are invited to contact the FSO-MT for assistance in becoming qualified. All members should be qualified in at least one of the many areas of opportunity.

FSO – PA The flotilla commander received a call from the Waterbury Power Squadron regarding NBSW and a proclamation by Waterbury mayor. The presentation was made at the Waterbury City Hall by the mayor's chief of staff. No photographs were taken. The Jim Walsh and Bob Bowlick participated in the Oxford Memorial Day Parade by riding on a boat donated for the event by a member of the Legion. The boat was dressed as an Auxiliary facility.

FSO – PB David Genest has been appointed Staff Officer – Publications. The flotilla newsletter *The Helm* will be published soon.

FSO – PE The May 19th ABS class had 16 students. The June 16th class also had 16 students, nine of who were 17 or under, the youngest being eleven. Letters that included the flotilla PE schedule have been sent to four of the students that indicated a desire for advanced training.

FSO – PV Vacant.....Is there a member interested in taking on the task?

FSO – VE The flotilla is active in performing vessel inspections.

Committee Reports

Scholastic Awards; There were no applicants for the flotilla scholastic awards. It was agreed the money be rolled over and doubled for the next school year.

Boat: A 31' twin engine boat has been offered to the Auxiliary by a member of the Stratford flotilla. The offer was not pursued being more boat than the flotilla needs.

New Business Should the flotilla use PE advertisements on Fritz's Snack Bar and Denmo's place mats? The flotilla commander will investigate the cost. Kim Filion offered a 21 foot boat to the flotilla that could be used as a parade float, vessel examination training aid and for other public affairs events.

Awards & Presentations

David Genest, Member Certificate

James Walsh, Fifteen Year Membership

Be sure to keep track
of and submit your
hours involved in
Auxiliary related
'stuff'

Reading this
newsletter counts!

Here is the link to the
7029 Web form-
[http://
webforms.cgaux.org/](http://webforms.cgaux.org/)

Use your ID to log in
or create a new
account to generate a
report, submit it at
the end of every
month

Member Training

AuxCom Webinar begins July 5th. An email was sent with a syllabus and instructions for registering— If you did not receive it, get in touch with the FC for the information.

Keep an eye out for more AUXOP webinars!

This fall (Date TBD) 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

Public Education

Last month we had 16 students in our ABS class— including a few teens.

It is great to see younger people getting involved— prevent bad habits and help keep the water safer when they are with their friends.

If you know of a group of interested people/ organizations that would want to host an ABS class or paddle sports, please let us know.

Lets see how many of you can properly guess the location of the photo of the anchors on the cover page...

E-mail me your guesses

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
- OpSail 2012 (July 5-8) is almost upon us! Hope many of you can make it to view some of the spectacular ships— or even better- volunteer.



Photo courtesy of Mark Baker



Sunset— Cuttyhunk, MA

Good and Welfare

The flotilla held a moment of silence at the beginning of the June flotilla meeting in honor of Herb Farrell and Segundo Obregon. Both passed away in May.

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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First District (SR)**

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

Recreational Boating Fatalities

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 16, 2012 -Total boating fatalities last year rose to 758, the highest number on record since 1998, according to the U.S. Coast Guard's official [2011 Recreational Boating Statistics](#) released today.

From 2010 to 2011, total reported accidents decreased less than one percent from 4,604 to 4,588, deaths increased 12.8 percent from 672 to 758 and injuries decreased 2.3 percent from 3,153 to 3,081. Property damage totaled approximately \$52 million. The fatality rate measured 6.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels, a 14.8 percent increase from last year's rate of 5.4 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.

Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed and machinery failure ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents. Alcohol use was the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 16 percent of the deaths.

Seventy percent of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 84 percent were not reported as wearing a life jacket. Only 11 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received boating safety instruction.

Says Kelly Townsend, Director of the Vessel Examination and Partner Visitation Department (DIR-V), "These are sobering statistics. I would encourage all members to read the entire report, and vessel examiners to use them in educational exchanges with boaters when performing VSCs."

The report is published annually by the U.S. Coast Guard's [Boating Safety Division](#).

Source: [Kelly Townsend, DIR-V]