

Volume 4 [2008]

Department of Homeland Security, USCG Auxiliary Casco Bay Flotilla 211NR

April 2008

Monthly Flotilla Meeting

Vote on the Budget for 2008 / Capital Expenditures

Monday, 14 April 2008

Time: 1900
 Place: The Rusty Scupper Club
 South Portland, Maine
 Uniform: TBL, or appropriate
 civilian attire

Attendance is important.

A quorum is needed to approve the flotilla budget.

Identification Card photos will be taken at meeting.

Members should be in light blue uniform shirt for the photo.

~ Refreshments will be served ~

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REMINDER: 2008 Instructor Workshop must be completed by 31 MAY 2008. If you missed the February meeting, Contact Dan Abbott about a make-up session being offered.

From our commander.....

Even though we are still waiting to see if April will indeed bring "showers" and I don't mean the snow variety, we are gearing up for our 2008 operational season. Workshops are in the planning stages, a new vessel examiners course is starting, along with many activities to ensure another successful year. There are many opportunities where you can assist to help make this happen. Talk with you staff officers if you have questions and we will be happy to try and "steer" you in the right direction.

April also brings our focus again on the **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance** program. This program helps Active Duty, Reservists, and Auxiliary members who are in financial need. This assistance can come in many forms from counseling, short-term interest-free loans, financial grants just to name a few. We as a Flotilla will once again make a donation to the Mutual Assistance program, but we will also be collecting donations during the April monthly meeting. Let's make this another great year and help out our fellow Coasties!!

Semper Paratus! David Drake, FC 

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Drive, April 2008

Your contribution to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance means CGMA can continue to provide effective and timely assistance when one of our own needs financial help. After *Hurricane Katrina*, \$168,000 was awarded to auxiliarists alone as many of our members lost their homes and belongs in that storm. For more information, visit <http://www.cgmahq.org/>

***Coast Guard Mutual Assistance is
 Coast Guard people helping Coast Guard people.***

The Casco Bay Flotilla is making a donation to the 2008 Drive. At the April meeting members are being invited to contribute \$2.00 each toward the drive.

*"The fact is, every dollar we contribute to Mutual Assistance directly helps families in our own Coast Guard community, and ultimately builds the strength of the Coast Guard."
 — Thad W. Allen
 Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard*



Staff Reports

Communication Services [E. Henry]—The FL21 Website is updated with new information for members. A new page was added to the website called "Two Click Flotilla 21 AUXINFO Reports". Members can obtain the reports they are searching for with just two clicks. Staff officers can obtain their reports for their areas of concern with just two click of the mouse. FL21 is currently at 87% of its membership with verified email addresses in eDirectory. Two members verified the email address since last report. On the Members Home Page under Administrative Tools a link was placed to eDirectory. Continue with updating Website and upgrading PowerPoint for PE. Will also be looking over new PowerPoint for Sailing and Seamanship Course and add to that as instructors suggest as come aboard for the course. Start a monthly email to membership mainly about the Flotilla Website called "Did You Know?" The first of these should be out to the membership next week some time. Continue to nag the remaining twelve members about verifying their email address in eDirectory.

Materials [L. Lemieux]—I submitted all requests for materials for each of the 'Boat Shows' and have ordered supplies requests for the month of March.

Operations [B. Thompson]—I taught two weeks of marlinespike seamanship in BCQP crewmember course. I attended Flotilla Staff Meeting. I proctored AUXSEA first lesson with new instructor (Powell). I proctored BCQP crewmember "NAVRULES". I taught AUXSEA "engines". I attended monthly flotilla meeting. Coxswain /OPFAC owner meeting scheduled for Monday 17 March at CGSTA South Portland. Forms #7003 ready to be mailed to DIRAUX.

Public Affairs [J. Hume]—The FL21 Boating Safety Exhibit at the Portland Boat Show was a success even with the short notice that we would be allowed to exhibit at the show. Weather kept attendance down somewhat but the Boating Safety Exhibit Watchstanders had plenty of recreational boaters to talk to throughout the show. I would like to extend my thanks to Dick Robichaud, Bob Greenlaw, Spruce White, Susan Polans, Frank Connelly, and Brad Thompson for making this Boating Safety Exhibit possible. Flotilla members also staffed a FL21 Boating Safety Exhibit at the Maine Boat Show located at the Cumberland County Civic Center, and at the Maine Boat Builders Show located at the Portland Company Complex on 14, 15, and 16 March.

Public Education [E. Henry]—BSandS at Southern Maine Community College has completed chapter 1 through 6 with Chapter 9 though 13 still to go. Class was extended one week because of storm on February. ACN - AUXNAV is also ongoing. Instructor's Workshop was held as part of the February Flotilla Meeting. BSandS started 25 March at Centerboard Yacht Club and 26 March at Freeport High School as Core courses [no Chapter's 9 through 13]. Plans are in the works for a makeup Instructor's Workshop for those that missed the February's Workshop. I have downloaded new PowerPoint for Sailing and Seamanship and to review with plans to add this course to our schedule at SMCC January 2009.

Personnel Services [G. Sturgess]—CGSTA South Portland Station classroom reserved for New Member Course starting in May. I am preparing to send information letters out to prospective new members. Notes on New Member Integration into flotilla, dug up by Brad Thompson, forwarded to SO-PS who was not aware of the information.

Secretary [J. Thomson]—I submitted minutes from last Staff Officers meeting and will submit minutes from the monthly Flotilla Meeting.

Vessel Examiner [S. Polans]—I stood first watch at Jokers on 29 Feb and 1 Mar. While there I met with marinas from the lakes region and will be scheduling four VSC days up there. I have five members signed up to take the VE Class that starts 2 April. Two others may be taking the course online due to a conflict. Once the new paddle program is completed I plan to schedule programs in the Lakes area and along the rivers as well as near the ocean.

To prepare new Examiners to take the final, on-line, exam I am conducting a Vessel Examiner Class at the Station Classroom. Examiners will have hands on training in the classroom and possibly, depending on weather, observe how an actual Vessel Safety Check is done. Although you are able to take the course on-line, attending the classroom sessions will help you pass the final exam and give additional knowledge that will help make you a top rate Vessel Examiner. The two hour classes are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, 2 April at 1900 and will be held every Wednesday through 7 May in the Station classroom. Examiners will complete the final, open book, exam on-line at home.



FSO-PB — 2008 Directory Updates

The following corrections should be made to your directory:

- Robert C. Greenlaw's email address should read rcgreenlaw@mail.com The "n" is missing in green.
- Page 3—**Instructors [IT]**—ADD: Allen J. Bingham and Peter M. Leslie.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE—PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 —The disclosure of the personal information contained in this newsletter is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. The subject Act, with certain exceptions, prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination, or copying of any material containing the home address, home telephone numbers, spouse's names, and social security numbers, except for official business. Violations may result in disciplinary action by the Coast Guard and/or civilian criminal sanctions.

Remember, any time there is a change to your Name, Address, Phone Numbers, Fax Number, Cell Phone Number, Emergency Contact Information, or Email Address you need to fill out and submit ANSC form 7028 and send it to FSO/IS Judy Davidson, fsois21@uscgauxsoportlandme.com, for the correction to go on your records. Refer to the flotilla directory for Judy's USPS address.



**FLOTILLA 2 1 MEETING AND AUXDATA WORKSHOP
10 March, 2008 at the
Technology Building, Southern Maine Community College**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1905 by the flotilla commander.

The FC welcomed members, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUXDATA Workshop – Presented by Judy Davidson, FSO-IS

Judy gave presentations with handouts on how to use the Edirectory, and how to use AUXINFO to track member activities.

General Comments by the Flotilla Commander

There are still a few open slots for watchstanding at boat shows; volunteers are especially needed for Setup and Take-down the exhibit booth. Please contact John Hume, FSO-PA, for schedules for the shows.

If anyone passes out pamphlets related to the Waterway Watch, please keep track of what was distributed and how much. This is per a Gold Side request for the information which will be passed up the Chain of Command. This applies to any time this information is distributed; not just Boat Shows, but VSCs, etc.

Dave Olney and Everett Henry, FSO-PE stressed giving out information on boating safety courses; only two people have signed up for BS&S at Centerboard Yacht Club for a course that normally has 45. Dave emphasized handing out information on BSCs at boat shows. Everett asked members standing watch at boat shows to remind people that they must have a Boating Safety Class certificate to boat in New Hampshire, and this will be the case in Maine by 2011. Ken Caprio, VFC stated that the sign-up sheet at the boat shows should be for any questions any members of the public have regarding boating; anything we do not deal with directly will be passed on – including to Gold Side – as needed.

TCT – The FC is going to address the need for the eight hour course in this area – preferably hosted at CGSTA South Portland– at the Division Meeting, as he knows this is needed by several Flotilla members. It was stated that some members are going down to the District Meeting in New Hampshire, where this will be offered, so a carpool for anyone wishing to go is available. However, it was pointed out that this course was spread out over two days, thus requiring people to make overnight reservations.

The FC is looking into putting an ISAR Team together; people in Boat Crew are encouraged to consider participating in this.

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Program: The FC would like to donate at least \$2.00 per person to this as a Flotilla. This program helps Coast Guard – and Auxiliary – members and families in need of financial assistance. The donation would come from the Flotilla, supplemented by individual donations from members.

The meeting was adjourned at 2025, at which point the members moved to the Test Lab for practice on AUXINFO and AUXDATA.

Respectfully submitted,

James F. Thomson FSO-SR, Flotilla 2 1 1NR



BOSTON

POPS

Thirteenth Annual Auxiliary Night at the Pops , Boston, MA

Saturday, 24 May 2008, 8:00 pm at Symphony Hall, Boston with John Williams conducting Hollywood Show Tunes. Following the concert we will meet backstage with John Williams for autographs and photos.

Uniform for the evening is: Dinner Dress White Jacket, or Dinner Dress Blue (Service Dress Blue Bravo Jacket, White Shirt, Black Bow Tie, Mini-Medals), or Appropriate Civilian Attire

Ticket Price - \$50 per person - Deadline for Payment - 10 April 2008
Tickets will be mailed out the early part of May. Make checks payable to USCG AUX 1NR

Mail to: Jennifer Fletcher, 877 Tucker Road, North Dartmouth, MA 02747


First District—Northern Annual Awards & Spring Training Conference

Friday, 25 April — Sunday 27 April 2008
Crowne Plaza Hotel ~ Nashua, New Hampshire

Member's Check off list.....

- Call Crowne Plaza [800-227-6963] to make reservation before deadline 11 April 2008 and ask for directions from Maine. The hotel's website can be very helpful!
- Prepare a check payable to USCGAUXD1NR for \$\$ for meal reservations and mail off to:
Karen Megerdichian, D/AAC, **235-2 Ash Street, Waltham, MA 02453** [Awards Luncheon-\$27.00 pp; Evening Banquet-\$33.00 pp will include entertainment by the Coast Guard Academy Cadet music Group *The Idlers*]
- Register for the training courses being offered over the weekend.
- Get my Tropical Blue Long uniform pressed for the meetings and training sessions. Do I want to attend the evening banquet??? Best decide on an appropriate civilian attire so I can mingle with those Dinner Dress White and Blue Jackets!
- Pack the bathing suit if you want to get your swim qualifications checked off....*or just to use the indoor pool and whirlpool!*

Itinerary once you arrive at 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, New Hampshire:

Stop by the **Registration Desk** in the lobby.

The **District Captain and Staff Officer Breakout Sessions** starts at 2000 on Friday.

The **District Materials Center** will be open on Friday 1700-2000, Saturday 0830-1700; and on Sunday 0900-1200

Is my auxiliary uniform ship shape?? Members can check out the **Uniform Information Desk** to ask questions about the proper wear of the various uniform and accessories.

Members can walk-in to the **Testing Center** for any qualification examinations they wish to take. Training room assignments available at registration desk.

Available Training Sessions:

AUXAIR — Invited speakers from the *National Transportation Safety Board* and the *Northeast Regional Fisheries Training Center* will make a presentations.

Team Coordination Training [TCT] pre-registration is requested and seating is limited.

Email Gail Fisher at: registertct@cox.net to register for the Saturday course.

A TCT "refresher" will be offered during the operations workshops on Saturday and Sunday.

Public Education Workshop — The 2008 Instructor Workshop is mandatory for all AUX Instructors by 31 May in order to retain IT qualifications. Class is offered Saturday and repeated Sunday.

Marine Safety — Presentations available are Marine Mammals, Commercial Fishing Vessels, and a discussion of the USCG maritime security effort "*America's Waterway Watch*".

Recreational Safe Boating District Program — The program will be presented and discussed on ways to target the boating public with messages of personal safety and proper operational safety.

How to Excel with Excel for Reports — The Information Services session will discuss the use of Excel to manipulate information from AUXDATA or AUXINFO and generate reports, etc.

What Every Auxiliarist Should Know About Their Computer — The Communication Services session will field questions so members can maintain their computer's hardware and software.

Also on the agenda:

- Aids to Navigation;**
- New Radio Communications System;**
- Auxiliary Procedures Course;**
- Vessel Examiner National Workshop;** and
- Operations Workshop** [includes TCT "Refresher"]

It is a fabulous hotel, so enjoy the facilities offered!

~ All members should also receive a brochure by mail in advance of the conference ~

Our condolences..... To Wayne Hutchins, Saco Bay Flotilla, and his family in the loss of his wife, Nancy.



April 2008

Deadline for INR Conference meal reservations and hotel room is 11 April

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

CGSTA South Portland Classroom = Station Classroom

14 APR, Mon 1900, Flotilla Monthly Meeting

The Rusty Scupper, Base S. Portland

1, 8, 15 Apr, Tues 1900, Advanced Coastal Navigation, Hildreth Science Center, SMCC

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Apr, Tues 1830, Boat Crew Qualification Program, Station Classroom

1, 8, 15, 29 Apr, Tues 1900, Boating Skills / Seamanship, Freeport High School

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Apr, Wed 1900, Vessel Examiner Course, Station Classroom

2, 9, 16, 23 Apr, Wed 1900, Boating Skills and Seamanship, Hildreth Science Center, SMCC

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Apr, Wed 1900, Boating Skills/Seamanship, Centerboard Yacht Club

3, Apr, Thurs 1900, **AUXSEA** final exam, Station Classroom

10 Apr, Thurs 1900 AUXNAV Test Prep, Station Classroom

10 Apr, Thurs Deadline for payment for Boston Pops tickets [see page 3]

25—27 Apr District Spring Conference, Crowne Plaza, Nashua, NH

28 Apr, Mon 1900 Flotilla Staff Meeting, Station Classroom

12 May, Mon Time TBD, Flotilla Awards Dinner Meeting — Location TBD

1, 8, 15 May, Tues 1900, Advanced Coastal Navigation, Hildreth Science Center, SMCC

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May, Tues 1830, Boat Crew Qualification Program, Station Classroom

2, 9, 16, 27 May, Wed 1900, Boating Skills and Seamanship, Hildreth Science Center, SMCC

6, 13, 20, 29 May, Tues 1900, Boating Skills / Seamanship, Freeport HS

7, 14, 16, 23, 30 May, Wed 1900, Boating Skills/Seamanship, Centerboard YC

7 May, Wed 1830 Vessel Examiner Course Review, Station Classroom

10 May, Sat Time TBD SAR Day Ashore, CGSTA South Portland

15 May, Thurs 1900 New Member Interview

16 May, Fri 1900 D1 Board and Staff Meeting, Marlboro, MA

17-23 May National Safe Boating Week campaign 2008

19 May, Mon 1900 Flotilla Staff Meeting, Station Classroom

22, 29 May, Thurs 1900 New Member Course, Station Classroom

24 May Sat 1900 Thirteenth Annual Auxiliary Night at the Pops, Boston, MA

26 May Mon Time TBD Operations Workshop Location TBD

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Effective May 12th, a First-Class Mail postage stamp will be 42¢.				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25		27	28	29	30	31

REMINDER: 2008 Instructor Workshop must be completed by 31 MAY 2008.

Contact Dan Abbot if you would be interested in attending a make-up session.

The answer to March's question: *What Am I ???* *She* has traveled 5.5 million nautical miles -- the equivalent of traveling to the moon and back thirteen times -- undertaken 25 world cruises, crossed the Atlantic Ocean more than 800 times, and carried more than two million passengers. ...And yes, *she* was escorted by Auxiliary facilities into the Port of Portland too!

One of the world's most famous cruise ships -- the RMS Queen Elizabeth 2 [QE2], visited our port in 2004.

The 963-foot long ship weighs 70,000 tonnes and carries up to 1,778 passengers and more than 1,000 crew. On return from her final world cruise in April 2008, *she* will be refurbished and turned into a five-star hotel at a specially-constructed pier on the world's largest man-made island, *The Palm Jumeirah, Dubai*, located in southwest Asia.

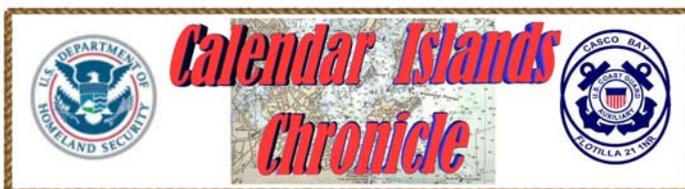
Thanks to Jim Maxner and Steve Birmingham for responding correctly to this month's question.

A belated *Thanks* to Rich Robichaud for responding to the February's question on the subject of life jackets.

Let's put on our thinking caps.....We all know about tides and before you prepare to go boating you check the tide tables...right?! Then there are those Spring and Neap Tides we hear about. Does the "Spring Tide" occur during the spring season?

Send along your answer to Lani York at fsopb21@uscgauxsoportlandme.com. The answer will appear in the May issue.

Department of Homeland Security
 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
 Casco Bay Flotilla 21 1NR
 FSO-PB
 189 Clearview Drive
 Arundel, ME 04046



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Find us on the web:
<http://uscgauxsoportlandme.com>

FIRST CLASS



17-23 May National Safe Boating Week campaign 2008

Learn more about safe boating practices, wear life jackets, take advantage of boating safety programs throughout the year, and always engage in proper and responsible conduct while on the water.

Vessel Safety Check (VSC)



The U.S. Coast Guard recommends that all recreational boaters (including personal watercraft users) take advantage of the free Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program every year.

Search <http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org/>
 Click the "I want a VSC" tab and enter your zip code to locate Vessel Safety Examiner in your community.



BoatUS. Cooperating Group Program

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary members are automatically enrolled as "Cooperating Group" members. For more information – contact Member Services at (800) 395-2628 to get your special discount rate code.

Special Group benefits include: Half-price **BoatUS** Membership. Members are entitled to a full Membership in **BoatUS** for only \$12.50 - that's 50% off the regular \$25 annual dues!

BoatUS Member benefits include rebates at **BoatUS** and West Marine stores, discounts at marinas nationwide on fuel, repairs, and overnight slips, on-the-water towing services, highly-respected marine insurance,

<http://www.boatus.com/>

2008 Maine Boating Laws and Rules

can be viewed on-line at:

http://www.state.me.us/ifw/laws_rules/boatlaws.htm