



# USCG AUXILIARY CASCO BAY FLOTILLA 2-1 MEETING NOTICE

MARCH 2018

## USCG AUXILIARY MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and improve Recreational Boating Safety by providing exceptional boating safety education to the American public, with the aim of eliminating loss of life, personal injury and property damage.

To deliver the highest quality training with the finest Auxiliary instructors and public education staff officers at every level, in support of our recreational boating safety goals and directives.

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## Commander's Message

Greetings to all my fellow shipmates. The calendar says it is spring, however we all know that is still very cold out and snow continues to be a threat. The Boat Shows are in full swing, and our booth has had much traffic. Interested boaters have stopped by and talked with us about the Auxiliary and what we do. Our message of "Safe Boating" has been a consistent one, and we have stressed the importance of wearing the correct life jacket (PFD) in all types of boating situations. Thank You for all who stood watch and gave of their time.

At the last Flotilla meeting we had exactly the correct number of people in which to hold a vote on our annual budget. I cannot stress enough the importance of attending a Flotilla meeting. It is a valuable part of your Auxiliary experience.

Sector Northern New England continues to experience personnel shortages, And Capt. Baroody as well as his staff place a high value on the efforts that Flotilla21 makes in helping meet his administrative, operational, and safety requirements. Thank You to all who give of your time and support to the Auxiliary and in particular Flotilla 21.

Please check the Flotilla website and see what's going on.

I have provided a link for you to watch and enjoy. It is all about Paddlecraft safety.

Respectfully - John Byrne FC [https://www.nrs.com/safety\\_tips/almost.asp](https://www.nrs.com/safety_tips/almost.asp)

## **April Flotilla Meeting: Monday, April 9 – 1900**

Guest Speaker: Mr. John Lemieux who spent 20 years in the C.G. he was FCPO-DC1 and served in several ports including Miami and Key West. John will talk about drug running and his career in the C.G.

## **Noteworthy Events**

MARCH- PORTLAND BOAT BUILDERS SHOW.

APRIL - DISTRICT TRAINING, ICS 300, VE TRAINING

JUNE – WALKING THE WORKING WATER FRONT.

## **March Speaker Spotlight**

For our March 12 Flotilla meeting we invited Gayle Bowness to speak.

Gayle has been working at Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) since 2005. She currently serves as Science Education Program Manager. She works with GMRI staff and educators from across the state to create, test, and develop meaningful science and math learning experiences for Maine's students. Gayle gave the Flotilla a presentation on the sea level changes and how it will affect Casco Bay and the surrounding area. If you would like to learn more, Gayle has provided the following links.

Here's a link to the online sea level rise map I

referenced: <https://gmri.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=a043f621616d4f8b8088f0117796896d>

A link to more future sea level rise programming at GMRI: <https://www.gmri.org/events/event-series/preparing-coastal-communities-sea-level-rise>

And a survey. Participant input is always appreciated! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KXRHPLZ>



## **BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR FLOTILLA 2-1 AND THE USCG AUXILIARY**

*Submitted by VFC Peter Poulin*

There are many among the general public who do not know about the USCG Auxiliary or the terrific opportunity for service it represents. Last year, Flotilla 2-1 launched a Speakers Bureau and began developing a Powerpoint presentation that could be used by our members in presentations to various service groups in our communities. Dennis Morelli has done a great job assembling the PowerPoint slides that feature action shots of our members on various missions.

Generally, speakers are asked to speak between 20 and 30 minutes and then take questions. It is a tremendous opportunity to build goodwill not only for the Auxiliary but also for the USCG. Understanding of the Coast Guard mission is often limited to what people see in movies. This is also an opportunity to speak about Recreational Boating Safety, and in particular Paddlecraft safety. Interaction with the general public is a great way to recruit new members and dispel the myth that some hold that one must have served in active duty to qualify. It is equally important to inform people that membership is open to a broad range of ages for both men and women.

We are looking for volunteers to serve as speakers for Rotary clubs, business groups and any other type of civic group. We are also looking for organizations that we can contact to offer a speaker. If you are interested in helping out as a speaker, be involved in other ways, or wish to offer a suggestion about a group, please contact VFC Peter Poulin at [vcf21a@uscgauxsoportlandme.com](mailto:vcf21a@uscgauxsoportlandme.com) or call 207-576-5433. If interested, we will send you the slide presentation for you to review.

## **BASIC QUALIFICATION II**

All Auxiliarist are encouraged to completed the New Basic Qualifications II training that can be found by following the attached link. This will be mandatory for all Auxiliarist in the future.

[Basic Qualification II Training](#)

## **FLOTILLA BUDGET**

Included with the meeting notice is a copy of the 2018 budget. It was voted on and passed. You will also notice a line item called CLYNK. CLYNK is a bottle redemption plan the Flotilla uses to collect money. We have bags with labels ready to drop off at any CLYNK location with the money going to a Flotillas account. If you would like to participate in the CLYNK program, bags will be available at the Flotilla Meeting Scheduled in April

## **FIRST DISTRICT NORTHERN DIVISION TWO 2018 TRAINING DAY**

Attached to this meeting notice is the schedule for Division Training to be held April 28. Please review and preregister for the courses you are planning to attend.

## **Portland Boat Show**

The Portland Boat show was a success. Thank you to everyone who stood watch this year.

## **CPR/AED/1<sup>st</sup> Aid Class**

The classes will be offered on the following three Saturdays in the South Portland Coast Guard Station classroom:

•March 31st –

•April 28th – (This class is part of the Division Training Day. This class will be open to all Auxiliarists in the Division. Note that since this class will take up the day, you would not have an opportunity to take any of the other classes offered. It would be best to take one of the other classes if you can.)

•May 26th -

Please pick the class that best fits your needs and schedule. I need to point out that there is a strict limit of 10 students per class. Once you have decided on which class you want to participate in, please email me as soon as you can. Note that these classes have been entered into myAUX and you can respond to me through that portal. This is a first come, first serve situation. Again, due to the cost of the certification cards, there has to be a \$10.00 charge for taking the class.

If you have any questions please feel free to email Stephen Shane - [steveshane@earthlink.net](mailto:steveshane@earthlink.net)

Again, as a reminder, due to the time it takes to set up the manikins, just showing up the day of the class will not work. Be sure to email me your choice of class dates as soon as you can to insure a spot.

## **Welcome Aboard!**



Flotilla 2-1 is pleased to welcome shipmate Sean Skillings into our ranks. Sean has extensive experience in the Auxiliary and comes to us with impressive credentials. Sean has transferred to flotilla 2-1 from flotilla 2-4. Please be sure to greet him and welcome him.



# Member Profile



**THIS MONTH'S AUXILIARY PROFILE IS GEORGE VAN SYCKEL.**

## **1. WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AUXILIARY?**

I joined the Auxiliary because I wanted to serve God and Country as a Chaplain and aged out on the Navy requirements.

## **2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING FOR THE AUXILIARY?**

I grew up on a dairy and timber farm. I love farming.

**3. IF YOU ARE EMPLOYED CURRENTLY, WHERE ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR JOB? IF YOU ARE RETIRED, WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE RETIREMENT?**

I am the COO for Prime Mercedes Airstream in Scarborough, ME.

**4. WHAT OUTSIDE SKILLS HAVE YOU BROUGHT TO THE AUXILIARY THAT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY USEFUL?**

I am a Seminary trained (graduate/masters) minister. I was ordained in 1983. I am working on a doctorate at Liberty University in Chaplaincy. I will use my work in the Auxiliary and the South Portland Police Department as case study for my training and vice versa.

**5. WHAT DO YOU ASPIRE TO OR WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE AUXILIARY?**

My goal in the Auxiliary is to serve God and Country by serving the Coast Guard and Auxiliarists.

**6. IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY BOAT YOU WANT, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?**

52' Hinckley Sou' Wester. The most beautiful sail boat I have ever seen. Not to big or to small. Perfect for global sailing. I am just short the 3 million to buy one.

**7. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT WE PROBABLY DON'T KNOW.**

I stumble on dry ground but always feel stable on the sailboat.

I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior when I was 8 years old at Vacation Bible School when Mrs. Emery explained to me the way. The Pastor of that Church, Rev. Ronald Hawkins became the President of my Seminary after I graduated in 1985.

I would like to be a full time Chaplain for the USCG OR Veterans Administration but I am to old.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Rev. George Van Syckel, Chaplain

**BRAVO ZULU**

Flotilla member Jacob Lawrence was recognized by Coast Guard Sector Northern New England for providing over 200 photographs and his many hours of person time. Jacob received a glowing letter outlining his hard work and dedication to duty. Well Done Jacob!

# Know your Kayaks

By Peter Poulin

An increasing number of people are entering and enjoying the experience of launching on the water with a kayak. They are relatively inexpensive, easy to move around and launch sites can be found pretty much everywhere in Maine.

Auxiliarists should be familiar with the different types of kayaks and the conditions appropriate for their use. This information should be discussed with the kayak owner to make sure that they are not using their kayak in an unsafe manner.

When buying a kayak, consideration should be given to whether it will be used in the ocean or on a lake or river. Does the user prefer a sit-in or a sit-on-top setup? There are weight and budget considerations along with size and shape that can affect handling and cargo space.

Sit on top Kayaks are primarily recreational boats for lakes and easy flowing rivers. They might also be appropriate for some near shore coastal waters. They are great for people who feel too restricted in a sit-in type and who feel that they can recover more easily from a capsize because they don't have to struggle to get out of it. These are easy to get on and off, even in deep water and are good for casual use. They are comfortable when the air and water are warm as people tend to get wet in them. They generally have scuppers for self-draining. They have limited ability to stow items and are usually heavier than comparable sit in kayaks.



Sit-in kayaks are generally designed so that the boater is mostly inside the kayak. They are used as recreational boats and have day touring and touring models. They tend to be faster and are more likely to track straighter. They typically have cargo compartments so they are favorites for people who go out to specific destinations. They are more comfortable when the air and water are cool and can be equipped with a spray skirt to help keep the user drier. With a spray skirt, it is generally recommended that they be equipped with a bilge pump. If the model is a traditional narrow sit-in kayak, the user must know how to do a wet exit. The position of the body and feet can provide greater control and this can be particularly useful in rough water. They are generally preferred by experienced kayakers and are more efficient than sit on top models. Day touring sit in kayaks are sleeker, usually longer and more efficient than recreational boats and will usually be more expensive. Day touring kayaks track straighter and give more control in rough water than recreational boats. However, they are still shorter than sea kayaks and will be easier to transport and handle.



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Sit in sea kayaks are longer and more rugged touring boats that can cover longer distances more efficiently thereby reducing fatigue. They track well and will usually have a rudder or skeg to better handle wind and currents common in an ocean environment. They typically have more cargo space and are usually the most expensive kayak.

Finally, there are variations available that include inflatable, folding and tandem kayaks. All have specific advantages when used appropriately.

Vessel examiners have a responsibility to learn as much as they can about this sport as they are called upon to provide advice to users who often have little awareness of risk and limited experience. Having the right kayak for the desired use is an important safety consideration.

## Upcoming Event Reminder:

3/23/18 to 3/25/18 Maine Boatbuilders Show – <b>NEED VOLUNTEERS</b>	03/24/18 2018 OPS Workshop, ONE-HOUR TCT Refresher, and PPE Inspection - SMCC	3/31/18 CPR-First Aid Training Station Classroom
04/07/18 VE Training	4/9/18 Flotilla Meeting - American Legion South Portland	4/19/18 New Member Course
4/28/18 Division Training Day	4/30/18 Staff Meeting	

[LINK TO COMPLETE FLOTILLA SCHEDULE](#)