



Volume 9 [2007]

Department of Homeland Security, USCG Auxiliary Casco Bay Flotilla 21 1NR

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**Monthly Flotilla Meeting**  
**Monday, 10 September 2007**

**Time:** 1830

**Place:** Rusty Scupper Club  
South Portland, Maine

**Uniform:** Tropical Blue Long or  
appropriate civilian attire

**From Our Commander...**

*Sign up for Advanced Coastal Navigation or Boating Skills & Seamanship*

As the summer fades away and the fall arrives I would like everyone to take a moment and realize that the members of our flotilla have had a meaningful and positive impact on our community. You all should be very proud of our summer season. Our efforts promoting safe boating are noticed. The bottom line is, you make the difference. You all should know that as the summer went on I heard many positive comments from the general public as to how professional and courteous our Vessel Examiners are. The new station personal, commenting on how well trained and professional our boat crew and coxswain are. While we aboard an OPFAC in the harbor during the MS regatta, CAPT Rendon expressed great appreciation, for all of the work we do, from riding on the Casco Bay Lines, Operations, Marine Safety, Vessel Exams and Public Education.

Moving forward into the fall I would ask all of you to carefully consider the upcoming elections in November. Also think about our staff officer positions, and the opportunity to serve as a staff officer or as an apprentice.

I will see all of you at the September Meeting.

Thank you for all you do.

David Bilodeau  
Flotilla Commander 21 1 NR



*F21 mugs available for purchase  
\$4.00  
Contact Ken Caprio for more information*



## Staff Reports

**Communication Services [E. Henry]**—Got Questions about the Auxiliary or what is going on in the Flotilla. Now you have a one stop place on the Flotilla Website to get them answered.

The Help Desk on the Members Home Page

<http://www.uscgauxsoportlandme.com/mpages/mhome.htm>

has been reactivated. I have found a way to block automatic unwanted email that was coming from this form page that I was getting in the past. There are now three required fields to fill out, a drop down subject box to choose a subject for the email and a comments or question area. If you don't know whom to ask about questions you may have about the auxiliary or flotilla this is the quickest and best place to start. Your question will be directed to the appropriate Elected Officer or Staff Officer for an answer. [Staff Officer should note that other form pages will also be changed to stop the automatic unwanted email that we have been getting from our form pages.]

One of the subjects is "Error on page". If you see something on the Flotilla website that is not right, please use this form to report it with as much detail as you can. I need all the help I can get on this.

A number of member pages have been updated with old material removed. The Calendar page was also updated.

An update to the Flotilla Contact List is nearing completion. Just waiting to receive new member - member numbers then it will be sent out to the membership.

All members with email addresses have been added to the Flotilla Distribution list.

Here is one last reminder that also has to do with email. Please remember to update you virus definition and scan your computer at least weekly. It helps protect us all. Most of the newer versions of Virus Software now have the ability to be set to do all this automatically. Don't open any email that comes from someone you don't know.

Make sure that you have a subject line on the email that you are sending. Any email that I get that I don't know whom it is from or does not have a subject line is delete from my incoming email. This along with using the 'block send list' in Outlook has cut down on the amount of Spam that I was getting.

**Finance [G. Leblanc]**—Annual dues collection have been processed with dues being forwarded to national and district. Membership report forwarded to FC and VFC. Follow up collection of dues for members who have not submitted dues as of yet.

**Marine Safety [K. Cady]**—Marine Observation Missions (MOM's) weekly continue to be scheduled with USCG Response Department. AWW missions aboard Casco Bay Lines. The new MSTC at response has indicated there will be a review of the scheduling format and breakdown in the near future. There is, however, praise from the active-duty side regarding Auxiliary augmentation.

**Materials [L. Lemieux]**—I have not yet received the estimated number of text books, etc. need the fall for member training. (I believe have supplied enough copies of Aux-Comm for upcoming class.) Any additional text material may or may not be available in my 'stocks'. I will be after Flotilla 25 to replace the ACN books I lent to them this past spring.

**Personnel Services [K. Caprio]**—Eight New members have successfully passed their exams and are patiently awaiting their emplid numbers. \*New Flotilla Mugs and Key-floats have arrived are waiting to be distributed. New dates have been set for the Fall '07 New member class.

**RBS Visitation [N. Magoon]**—As of July 30, RBP visits total 81. BS&S notices for the September Class need to be distributed to Marinas' and supporting businesses.

**Vessel Examination [S. Polans]**—We had an additional five VSC Days during the months of July and August. This brings us to a total of fifteen VSC Days during the summer of 2007. We also have four new examiners who are now qualified to conduct VSCs. Ken Caprio had floatable key-chains made up with our Flotilla web site address on them. They are being given out to vessels that successfully passed the VE. The boat owners really like them. Following the Chain of Command, I sent an e-mail to Tom Raynor suggesting that we contact State Farm, who produces our VSC decals, to see if they could make next years decals reflective so they can be seen at night.



**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, [fsois@uscgauxsoportlandme.com](mailto:fsois@uscgauxsoportlandme.com), for the correction to go on your records. Refer to the flotilla directory for her USPS address. This URL <http://www.uscgaux.org/~forms/archive/a7028f.pdf> will get you the form.**



## F21 Minutes of 13 August, 2007

**Call to Order:** The formal meeting was called to order by the flotilla commander at 1900 after new members had had their ID photographs taken. These photos will be sent to respective new members by email, together with a link to forward them, unedited, to Barbara Blanchard. There were 25 flotilla members present at the meeting.

**Flotilla Commander's Comments:** The FC gave an update on member service time that has been contributed. To date, a total of 3,422 hours had been put in, which parallels the time put in last year. The FC reminded everyone to please make their reporting of hours as timely as possible. There had been 251 hours of marine patrols, 311 hours of Coast Guard Administrative Support with 212 hours of general Coast guard support; marine safety had contributed 480 hours and member training 83 hours. There had been some SAR cases that amounted to 3 hours. Marine dealer visits had been 29; 329 hours of public relations and 61 hours of public education had been contributed. Thus far in the season, 226 vessel safety checks had been conducted.

For the benefit of the new members present, under Items of Information, the FC described the National and District web-sites, and mentioned the new DIRAUX, Commander Peter Nourse. He also encouraged consideration of membership in the Pentagon Federal Credit Union, which is open to Auxiliarists. He mentioned that the Station Departments of Operations, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection have been re-aligned to follow Sector organization. As of 6 August, guidelines for conduct and policies for new members in the Approval Pending Status (PSI process) had been posted on the Chief Director's web-site. As of 1 August, an electronic examination center became functional to assist in member training.

Brad Thompson reminded all members to check their training status since boat-crew three year checks that have been conducted had not yet been credited. Members adversely affected should check initially with Judy Davidson FSO-IS, and then with the FC.

The FC announced that the Flotilla annual elections of officers were coming up in November. He and the VFC are in process of establishing a nominations committee. Candidates for FC and VFC are sought, although he expressed hope that David Drake II, current VFC, would run for FC.

Again for the primary benefit of the new members present, the Staff Officer functions and responsibilities were described in general terms, and their importance to conducting the work of the Auxiliary was emphasized. The shadowing/mentoring program for Staff Officers was also described.

**New Business:** The Flotilla mugs and key-floats were displayed by Ken Caprio FSO-PS. The mugs are given to top-scorers in the BS&S course, (Judy Davidson's son was a proud winner at the recent course held in Freeport), but are available to Flotilla members at a price of \$4.00 each. With the approaching holiday season they would make nice gifts to family, friends and business associates. The key-floats are given to boat owners following a successful vessel inspection.

A reminder was given concerning TCT courses. The eight-hour base course is required every five years, and the one-hour refresher course is necessary for Operations personnel every year. The eight-hour course is being given at Otis ANGB, MA, and Brenda Babirak plans on attending.

**Vice-Flotilla Commander's Comments:** David Drake II VFC, said that the AUXOP course for the fall will be AUXPATROL, and this will start in September. New members were encouraged to consider the AUXOP advanced training. Louis Lemieux requested a count of numbers of attendees ASAP so that he might order the course materials to arrive in time.

**Staff Officer Reports:** The VFC then called upon the Staff Officers to present their reports, together with a brief description of their duties in order to assist new members in their understanding of how the flotilla operates.

◆ John Hume FSO-PA, began, saying that his job was primarily handling boat-shows and press releases, together with special events. As examples of the latter he mentioned the LL Bean safety day, and a boating safety exhibit on Sunday 19 August at the Old Maine State Pier, to be held in conjunction with the tug-boat muster and the visit of the WWII Liberty ship *John Brown*. He called for volunteers for this special event. John said that he had attended the Portland hurricane response planning meeting. The Coast Guard was there, and described the successful handling of the growing pleasure boat issue by the Auxiliary.

◆ Louis Lemieux FSO-ML, said that his job was to ensure that the Flotilla always had the materials and equipment which it needed for the courses it ran, and for the running of the Flotilla. This involved working with the National Supply Center, whom he described as being "very responsive," and, in providing and maintaining appropriate storage facilities.

◆ Sue Polans FSO-VE, said that the Patriots Day storm had virtually destroyed two marinas, and in doing so had greatly upset her schedule for VE's. She said that VE's mainly work on Saturdays and Sundays, and that the posting at marinas of an explanatory letter and sign-up sheet had greatly facilitated the line-up for exams. She would be starting a training class for new examiners at the beginning of March; it would run for four or five weeks.

◆ Geoff Sturgess FSO-SR, said that his task was to document Flotilla activities, and he introduced his shadow, James Thomson.

◆ Gus LeBlanc FSO-FN, said his job, like all financial matters, was not very exciting, but even so, that the Flotilla was solvent with a balance of \$15,000.00 to which would be added \$800.00 to be received from the BS&S course recently held in Freeport. Member registration is on track with 85 members having paid their dues to date.

◆ Ken Caprio FSO-PS, said that of eight new members, seven were present and the eighth was coming up from Baltimore on the *John Brown* Liberty ship. In response to a prompt from the FC, Ken said that the speaker at the September Flotilla meeting would be this new member, and he would be talking about the *John Brown*. There is another new member class starting in October, and Ken has two or three candidates so far. There is another BS&S course starting in September, so he hopes for additional new member contact from it through Everett Henry II. Ken asked a question on AUXCOM on behalf of some new members who were interested in watch-standing. Dave Drake II said AUXCOM can be a self-study course (book or CD through FSO-MT or download); however, the exam is proctored and Brad Thompson would provide assistance with this.

◆ Norm Magoon FSO-PV, said that his office used to be called marine dealer visits, a more descriptive title than the present one of RBS Visitation, but the name was changed about two years ago. The task is to visit marinas and supporting marine businesses to provide aspects of boating safety. He has made 81 visits in 2007, and stressed that talking with his customers is a year-round activity. He works closely with Sue Polans FSO-VE.

◆ FSO-PB Lani York's task is responsible for the publication of the Flotilla monthly newsletter, and the annual Flotilla directory.



13 August 2007 FL21 Minutes, continued

- ◆ The FC also described Everett Henry II FSO-CS and FSO-PE tasks concerning the web-site and public education respectively.
- ◆ The FC then described Kevin Cady's tasks as FSO-MS, which involve working closely with the active duty Coast Guard on marine safety patrols, and also, riding the Casco Bay Ferry Lines as an on-board presence.

Sue Polans described how she had taken two new members out on a Peaks Island ferry to experience this. She said that there is always a lot of interest from the public during these rides.

- ◆ The Operations program, FSO-OP, Jim Maxner, was described by the FC.

Brad Thompson asked a question concerning the purchase of automatic "throw-able Frisbees" to replace heaving lines on OPFACS. The FC responded that this idea was not pursued on the grounds of excessive cost.

(Note that the position FSO-AN, currently held by Jim Lawler, was not described. FSO-IS, Judy Davidson, was not described either.)

**Awards:** The following awards were presented to Flotilla members:

James Thomson	VE qualification	H. Manning Chase	- 50 hours serving as crew during 2006 season
John Stedman	Assistant Harbor Safety Specialist	David Bilodeau	- 5-year membership service award
	Navigation Rules		
	50 hours as a coxswain during 2006 season		

**Comments for the Good of the Auxiliary:** ★Louis Lemieux asked about an Aids to Navigation course and a class for aids verifiers that was supposed to take place. The FC responded that these are currently in an on-hold status. ★Ken Caprio announced that he had some Sea Dog tickets for sale to interested parties.

There being no other business, the FC adjourned the meeting at 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Geoffrey J. Sturgess, FSO-SR



Janis Childs at the helm of **Surprise** on patrol 22 Aug 2007 with Brad Thompson, Al Bingman and Dick Robichaud

*Congratulations to Robyn Fink for becoming Coxswain qualified in the Boat Crew Program*



**News from Operations.....**

Great news from Senior Chief S. Walsh at ANT team. We now have a brand new mooring identified as CGAUX which is located on the right side of Portland Pipeline #2 between the pipeline and Bug Light. There are five or six moorings in the area. Feel free to use this at any time...while on a patrol or not...with us or with family and friends. It is a good place to hook up for lunch/dinner if needed. The mooring has a large metal ring on top- simply grab it with a hook and lift it if needed and slip your line through and back to your cleat. Info provided by Robyn Fink and Bryan Spivey. It's location is: N 43° 39.269' W 070° 13.983' (approx).



**Correction to August 2007 newsletter:**  
Kevin Roy, Frank Connelly, and Susan Polans stand by ashore during the VE Blitz at Centerboard Yacht Club 9 June 2007.





**September 2007**

Sun	Mon	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						

6, 13, 20, 27 Sept THURS AUXPAT [Auxiliary Patrols] Specialty Course, 1900, Sta. Classroom  
**10 Sept**, 1830 Monthly Flotilla Meeting, Rusty Scupper  
 11, 18, 25 Sept, TUES Advanced Coastal Navigation 1900, **105 Jewett** — SMCC  
 12, 19, 26 Sept, WED Boating Skills and Seamanship 1900, **101 Hildreth Hall** — SMCC  
 24 Sept 1900 Monthly Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting Station Classroom  
 21 Sept 1900 District Board/Staff Meeting/Elections, Marlboro, MA  
 23 Sept First Day of Autumn

**October 2007**

Sun	Mon	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	31			

6, 13, 20, 27 Oct THURS AUXPAT [Auxiliary Patrols] Specialty Course, 1900, Sta. Classroom  
**8 Oct**, 1830 Flotilla Dinner Meeting, TBA  
 Columbus Day  
 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct, TUES Advanced Coastal Navigation 1900, **105 Jewett** — SMCC  
 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Oct, WED Boating Skills and Seamanship 1900, **101 Hildreth Hall** — SMCC  
 29 Oct 1900 Monthly Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting Station Classroom  
 18 Thurs, 24 Oct Wed Introduction to the Auxiliary Rusty Scupper  
 19 Oct 1900 District Board/Staff Meeting, Marlboro, MA

The following link has the latest information for **Boating Skills and Seamanship**  
<http://www.uscgauxsoportlandme.com/ppages/pecourse/BS&Ssmcc2.htm>

A reminder to all that the College requires that you have a Campus Parking Permit for parking on campus. Contact Everett Henry (934-2326 or Email: [fsope.cs@verizon.net](mailto:fsope.cs@verizon.net)) is the Classroom Chairman for Boating Skills and Seamanship course. David Olney (799-7585) is the Classroom Chairman for Advanced Coastal Navigation Course.



The answer to August's question What do you know about the vessel, **Maine Responder?**

The Maine Responder is a privately owned ship, located on Portland's waterfront and owned by the Marine Spill Response Corporation [MSRC] formed in 1990 to offer spill response services and mitigate damage to the environment. MSRC is an independent, non-profit, national spill response company dedicated to rapid response. At 208 feet and a cost of around 12 million dollars it is one of the worlds largest and most sophisticated oil clean-up vessels. When it gets to a spill it deploys a smaller work skiff which tows a 400-foot boom to form a J-shape loop. A skimmer is then used to transfer the oil to tanks on the Responder. In 1999, MSRC added services in response to non-spill emergencies, such as hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. To learn more, refer to: <http://www.msrc.com>.

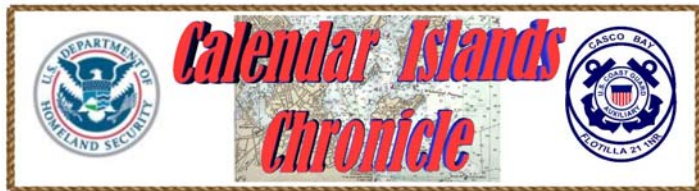
*Thanks* to Daniel Villacci and Frank Connelly for responding correctly to this month's question.

*Let's put on our thinking caps....*

**Is the earth further from the sun in summer or in winter?**

Send along your answer to Lani York at [fsopb@uscgauxsoportlandme.com](mailto:fsopb@uscgauxsoportlandme.com). The answer will appear in the June issue.

Department of Homeland Security  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Casco Bay Flotilla 21 1NR  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Find us on the web: [http://  
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FIRST CLASS

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**Promoting boating safety  
is the job of the  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
For Portland, Maine and Surrounding Areas

**Advanced Coastal Navigation and Boating Skills and Seamanship  
are offered at the Southern Maine Community College,  
South Portland, Maine.**