

BRIDGE CHATTER



FLOTILLA 85 BRIGANTINE N.J.

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Dan McFadden is First Recipient of the Annual Ken Hauck Memorial Service Award

The first annual Auxiliarist of the Year Award, named in honor of the late Ken Hauck, was presented to Dan McFadden, FSO-SR/PE, and VFC elect, at the Flotilla 85 Holiday Meeting at Steak 38 on December 15, 2007. The award was commissioned by the flotilla membership at the October flotilla meeting. It is to be presented annually by the Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander to the member whose service to the flotilla most exemplifies that of the late Ken Hauck who passed away in July. Ken was FSO-PE from last January until his untimely death. Ken was a hard worker with a wealth of knowledge about seamanship and safe boating having served in the U.S. Coast Guard, the Merchant Marine and finally in the USCG Auxiliary. While Ken was a member of the flotilla for only two years, he was a leader that made an impact in all that he did and he was dedicated to being involved and getting the job done. Ken was always friendly, outgoing and always smiling.

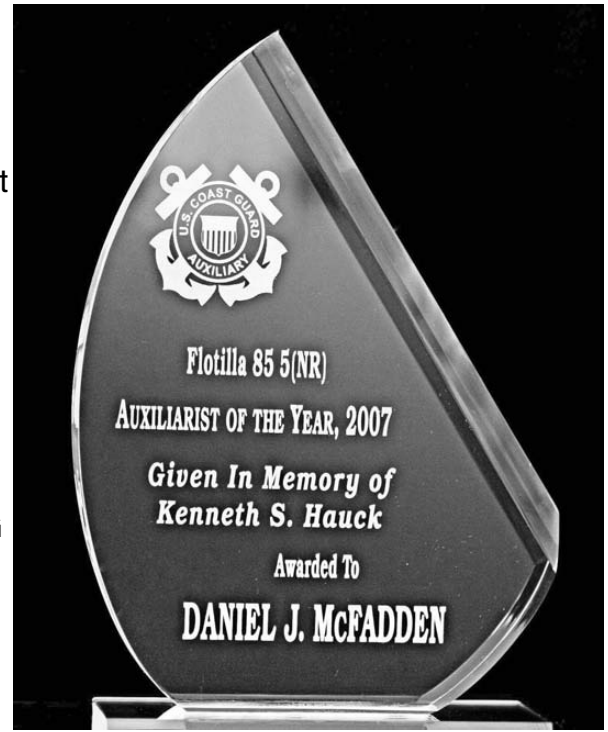


Photo credit Vern's Studio, Glassboro, NJ.

Dan McFadden was selected for his efforts to keep the Public Education program afloat during Hauck's illness. Presenting the award to McFadden, along with outgoing FC Ken Eisenberg and FC elect Scott DiStefano was Leslie Hauck, Ken's widow. Dan thanked the Bridge for selecting him but made it clear that the award was more about teamwork than about any one individual. "I would not be receiving this if it were not for everyone involved in the Public Education Program, it was truly a team effort," McFadden stated. "Because of your efforts, we trained 296 students in safe boating and conducted 160 OPT-OUT exams in 2007," he told them.

Regarding his effort to fill in when Ken became ill Dan said, "Ken taught me that in order to be involved you must jump in with both feet and be willing to get wet." "I was apprehensive about stepping in for him, at first." "But I soon found that you couldn't just wade in, it was all or nothing." "Ken most exemplified the core values of the Coast Guard, Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty," said McFadden. When Mr. Hauck passed, it was McFadden who gave the eulogy and presented the American flag on behalf of the flotilla during the USCG Auxiliary funeral service.

McFadden also had two gifts for Leslie Hauck. When she arrived he presented her with a framed photograph of Ken doing what he loved, teaching safe boating. The photo was on display throughout the evening on a table near the entrance to the dining area. After receiving the Hauck Award, Dan asked Leslie to remain at the podium with him. Dan then presented the USCG Auxiliary Annual Achievement Award for Public Education miniature medal to Leslie. "The Auxiliary presented this award to me at the last flotilla meeting and I would like to share it with Ken." "I only took up the tow when he became ill." "I will proudly wear the ribbon knowing that Ken has the medal he so richly deserved," said McFadden. Leslie Hauck thanked everyone for creating this award in Ken's honor and for being part of his life during the past few years. Leslie said, "He loved being part of the Auxiliary, so much." Leslie specifically thanked FC elect DiStefano for having recruited Ken into the organization and all that he did to assist her and Ken during his illness.

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

REPORT SCOTT DISTEFANO FC

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FLOTILLA FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE YOUR LEADER THIS YEAR. MY GOALS FOR THE FLOTILLA IS TO GET OUR MEMBERS QUALIFIED IN THE POSITIONS THEY WANT SUCH AS COXSWAIN, CREW, VESSEL EXAMINER AND INSTRUCTORS FOR PE. ALSO, TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S HOURS ARE CORRECT OR CORRECTED TO GET THE CREDIT THEY DESERVE FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATED DEVOTION. IT SHOULD NOT GO UNRECOGNIZED BY THE FLOTILLA, DIVISION OR DISTRICT.

WE ARE NOT FAR OFF FROM THE START OF THIS YEARS BOATING SEASON AND OUR REGULAR MISSION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION WILL BEGIN THIS MONTH. OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE AS AUXILIARISTS IS TO SUPPORT THE US COAST GUARD AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON BOATING SAFETY. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS THAN TO ASSIST THE USCG STATION AC BY CONDUCTING REGULAR SAFETY PATROLS, PE CLASSES, WATCHSTANDING, AND VESSEL EXAMS. SO THIS YEAR LET'S TRY TO STAND OUT IN THE DIVISION BY INCREASING OUR HOURS AND NUMBERS IN ALL THE AFOREMENTIONED TASKS. IF THERE IS EVER ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR ANY OF OUR MEMBERS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE ASK ME AND I'LL DO MY BEST FOR YOU.

Recreational Boating Safety Visitation

Program *Tom Nyman FSO-PV*

Under the leadership of Tom Nyman, with the mentorship and guidance of Bill Hannan, the Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program has made progress in 2007.

The Visitation Program has enabled Flotilla 85 to Partner with the Brigantine Rowing Club, which in turn has allowed us to use its facility for Boater Safety Education and training. Opportunities for use of the club boats are also available for Flotilla members. Rowing Club President Ed Rehill has been an avid support of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary activities.

Flotilla 85 has also partnered up under the program with the City of Brigantine Boat Ramp Facility, providing us with a place to conduct Vessel Safety Checks, as well as a launch site for Auxiliary Facilities. Boat Ramp Manager, Bill Barnish goes out of his way to see that the members of Flotilla 85 are supported. The City of Brigantine also lets Flotilla 85 maintain a Literature Display Rack in the lobby of City Hall, which is a high traffic area and the Rack is in constant use.

Flotilla 85's newest Program Partner is The Rip Tide Bait & Tackle Shop, under the ownership of Captain Andy Grossman. Posters and a Literature Display Rack are prominent in the Shop and Captain Grossman is an excellent contact for dissemination of Coast Guard Safety Information to the local fishermen.

The RVSBP Goal for 2008 is to double the number of Program Partners that we having working with Flotilla 85 at this time. Our Visitor Program will continue to increase Flotilla 85's presence as a positive force in the community. In addition, our Program will bring the promotion and encouragement of boating safety to a very high level in the Brigantine community.

Flotilla 85 DIRECTORY

FC Scott DiStefano
VFC Dan McFadden
IPFC Ken Eisenberg

AN Tad Stern

MA Jean Stretch

SR Jack Kelly

PB Gil Finkelstein

CM Stan Friedman

CS Wm Gaudet

MT Brendan Sullivan

PA Gil Finkelstein

PV Tom Nyman

FN George Ciechanowski

OP Wm Hannan

IS Wm Gaudet

VE Ken Eisenberg

MS Wm. Bowman

PE Dan McFadden

NSBW Scott DiStefano

Staff Officer Obligations

Having accepted a staff officer position it is your responsibility to send a **monthly report** to our VFC, Dan McFadden and a copy to your Division counterpart.

A report should be sent even if it says No Activity.

The Names of the Division Staff are listed below.

Marilyn Hughes DCP

Dan Hartman VCP



George Smith SO-AN

Stan Friedman SO-CM

Sue Wade SO-FN

Dan Hartman SO-IS

Jean Stretch SO-MA

Chris Winans SO-MT

Bruce Long SO-OP

Joe Giannattasio SO-PA

Marilyn Hughes SO-PE

Ken DeSoo SO- PS

Joe Skutlin SO-PV

Beatrice Bonner SO-SR

John Gallagher SO-VE

FL 85 CHANGE OF WATCH HOLIDAY PARTY



Flotilla 85 had their Holiday meeting/Change of Watch at Steak 38 in Brigantine with 36 people attending. Special guests included Division Captain Mike Colondrillo and his wife Joan, Captain elect Marilyn Hughes, Leslie Hauck and three members from Coast Guard Station Atlantic City.

A special presentation was made by Flotilla Commander Ken Eisenberg with the help of Leslie Hauck and Vice Commander Scott DiStefano for the Auxilarist of the Year award in memory of Ken Hauck.

This award is for an Auxilarist who has shown dedication and commitment beyond the call of duty. Dan McFadden was given this award for all the hard work and outstanding job in taking over our ABC classes when Ken Hauck became ill, in addition to his duties as Secretary.

Computer Classes Scheduled at TRACEN Cape May

A unique opportunity to have hands-on instruction at no cost to the student. Two new computer classes are scheduled for April 12 and 26, 2008, both Saturdays at TRACEN Cape May.

Classes will begin at 0830 with Continental Breakfast with Coffee or Tea, Instruction will begin at 0900, break for lunch at 1200 and finish up about 1600 each day.

Arrangements can be made for overnight accommodations the night before for anyone traveling a distance. Accommodations will be on the base at TRACEN.

On April 12 we will exploit WORD in much greater detail and on April 26 we will dig into EXCEL.

Bob Fritz and his "merry band of assistants" will also be in presence to assist as they have in the past. With the five assistants, that were kind enough to volunteer their time, it was reported to be the highlight of the training since most attendees felt they had their own private tutor.

Each class will be limited to 30 students, first come, first served, so make your plans now. If you would like to attend, please contact Bruce Long via email or telephone if email not available.

Personnel Services *Gil Finkelstein FSO-PS*

I took this position as FSO-PS because I felt that our flotilla needs to have a better system of working with new members especially in the area of mentoring and insuring that they get set on a course of AUXOP education and qualifications.

I plan to work closely with both our PE and VE staff officers to see that all of our Boating classes and Vessel examiners have recruitment material available and utilize them. New members are important but retention of existing members is just as necessary in keeping our flotilla active and thriving. We have to keep our member training interesting and informative. We got to get our crew and coxswain programs active. If our members are actively involved then everyone benefits.

We must look to create opportunities for new techno-volunteers where tasks can be completed from home or on-line.

Your Participation in boat shows, National Safe Boating Week and other special events will provide a platform for recruiting potential members.

I'm looking forward to having a banner year for Flotilla 85,



PIRATE HUNTING DRONE BOATS UNLEASHED

The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard have expressed interest in the 30-ft.-long Protector, which comes mounted with a machine gun and could be retrofitted for commercial use.

Robots versus pirates -- it's not as stupid, or unlikely, as it sounds. Piracy has exploded in the waters near Somalia, where this past week

United States warships have fired on two pirate skiffs, and are currently in pursuit of a hijacked Japanese-owned vessel. At least four other

ships in the region remain under pirate control, and the problem appears to be going global: The International Maritime Bureau is tracking a 14-percent increase in worldwide pirate attacks this year. And although modern-day pirates enjoy collecting their fare share of booty -- they have a soft spot for communications gear -- they're just as likely to ransom an entire ship. In one particularly sobering case, hijackers killed one crew member of a Taiwan-owned vessel each month until their demands were met.

For years now, law enforcement agencies across the high seas have proposed robotic boats, or unmanned surface vessels (USVs), as a way to help deal with 21st-Century techno Black Beards. The Navy has tested at least two small, armed USV demonstrators designed to patrol harbors and defend vessels. And both the Navy and the Coast Guard have expressed interest in the Protector, a 30-ft.-long USV built by BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin and Israeli defense firm RAFAEL.

The Protector, which comes mounted with a 7.62mm machine gun, wasn't originally intended for anti-piracy operations. But according to BAE Systems spokesperson Stephanie Moncada, the robot could easily fill that role. "Down the line, it could potentially be modified for commercial use as well," she says. Instead of being deployed by a warship to intercept and possibly fire on an incoming vessel, a non-lethal variant of the Protector could be used to simply investigate a potential threat.

A favorite tactic of modern-day pirates is to put out a distress call, then ambush any ships that respond. The unmanned Protector could be remote-operated from around 10 miles away, with enough on-board sensors, speakers and microphones to make contact with a vessel before it's too late. "Even without the machine gun, it could alert the crew, give them some time to escape," Moncada says.

The 55-mph Interceptor could become the long-range patrol boat of the future, while the jetski-size Sentry (inset) could help prevent a terrorist plot such as Al Qaeda's attack on the USS Cole in December 2000.

RECENT COAST GUARD PRESS RELEASES

COAST GUARD CONDUCTS MEDEVAC OF INJURED FISHERMAN OFF SANDY HOOK, N.J.

NEW YORK - Coast Guard crews medivaced a fisherman about 46 miles southeast of Sandy Hook, N.J., today after the fisherman sustained a neck injury.

Injured was Martin Keen, 46. The master of the *Dona Martita*, a fishing boat homeported in New Bedford, Mass., contacted Coast Guard Sector New York at about 7:30 a.m. after Keen was injured in the neck and complaining of chest pains and difficulty breathing.

Personnel from Coast Guard Sector New York and the First District Command Center in Boston consulted with a Coast Guard flight surgeon who recommended a medevac.

The Coast Guard Cutter *Willow*, a 225-foot buoy tender homeported in Newport, R.I., was diverted from a nearby patrol, arrived on scene and prepared Keen for the medevac.. An HH-65C Dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City arrived on scene at about 11:04 a.m. and transferred Keen to awaiting medical personnel at the Monmouth County Airport in Belmar, N.J.

"Commercial fishing is considered one of the most dangerous jobs anyone can perform and accidents at sea do happen," said Michelle Krupa, command duty officer at Coast Guard Sector New York. "It's how all involved respond to these emergencies that make a difference in someone's life. The *Dona Martita's* master, a Coast Guard cutter crew and a Coast Guard helicopter crew worked flawlessly to get this fisherman the professional medical treatment he needed."

COAST GUARDSMAN HANDCUFFS OWN TRAINING PREPARES ATLANTIC CITY STATION CREW FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



Coast Guard Seaman Emily Poole is handcuffed by Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Fenton Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, during a training exercise at Coast Guard Station Atlantic City, N.J. Crewmembers at the station are training to become boarding team member certified in order to conduct law enforcement boardings on boats near Atlantic City. U.S. Coast Guard photograph by Petty Officer 1st Class NyxoLyno Cangemi

District Crew School Announced

A District Crew School has been authorized for 5NR. This training will be conducted at USCG. Training Center, Cape May in the first week of June 2008. The dates for the training are scheduled for June 3 through June 6 with Saturday, as a buffer, from Tuesday through Saturday. Applicants desiring to apply for the training are to contact their Flotilla Commanders requesting permission to apply. Flotilla Commanders must certify the aspirant Crewperson has the physical and mental ability to complete the qualifying tasks contained within the Crew Manuals COMDTINST M16794.51A and M16794.52A, dated January 2007. These manuals may be downloaded from the WWW at http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/CIM_16794_51A.pdf and http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/CIM_16794_52A.pdf

Applicants must also bring with them the Boat Crew Seamanship Manual and may be downloaded at http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/CIM_16114_5C.pdf

A maximum of 30 slots have been allocated, first come, first served. Flotilla Commanders shall pass on the recommendations based upon Physical Capabilities as well as a member's attitude toward the Auxiliary Programs. Not all applicants will be accepted due to the limited number of openings available. Applicants will be housed at TRACEN Cape May over the 5 day period unless members live within short distance to commute to the training daily.

It is recommended that all Divisions within 5th Northern conduct their own Crew Training. But, if Divisions do not have the capability, they should make application for this training being offered by 5th Northern District to assist them. This method will facilitate more slots for other Divisions that do not have the capability, thus leaving openings to be spread around the District.

Applicants must have completed ICS courses 100 and 700 before making application for the training and have been credited with being Basically Qualified (BQ) in AUXDATA.

This is a unique opportunity to be trained by the best in 5th Northern.

Flotilla Commanders should complete the application form for each applicant. Just because an individual's name is submitted does not guarantee acceptance. This information should be submitted to the Boat Crew Committee to determine if the applicant will be accepted.

This form should be returned to Bruce Long as soon as possible. The form can be obtained by clicking on the "For more information" link listed below or by going to the Member Area Download page in the 5NR Printable Forms area and open the 2008 BCQP Registration Form.

Q & A **Wearing a CG Station Ball Cap**

... Question 1. **When can an Auxiliarist wear the CG Station Ball cap?**

If an Auxiliarist is affiliated with a specific Coast Guard Unit, Auxiliarists when serving at that Coast Guard unit may wear the Coast Guard Unit baseball cap.. not while on Auxiliary patrol for the unit.

"...meaning serving at the unit itself (on base, aboard cutter, patrol w/ active duty, marine inspection) in whatever capacity (watchstander, crewman, inspector,)

not just on patrol in an active duty units' AOR"

Question 2. **Does affiliated mean any Division or Flotilla within the Coast Guard units AOR?**

Yes any Division or Flotilla in the CG Unit's AOR.

Question 3 **Can I wear my rank insignia on my station ball cap?**

Members of the Auxiliary do not hold rank, they occupy positions of leadership. Our shoulder boards and collar metal signify said office. That being said:
The Auxiliary Manual states that if you wear a Station Ball Cap while in uniform, you are only permitted to wear the miniature hat device.

You may wear your miniature Office identifier (gold oak leaf, with red 'A', single silver bar with blue 'A', etc.) *on your Auxiliary Ball Cap.*

Question 4 **When should I wear my ODUs and are there situation where it is not appropriate to wear ODUs?**

The ODU is a general purpose uniform that is intended for wear in any situation where a form of a dress uniform is not more appropriate. The Auxiliary is now a multi-mission force and the ODU is substantially more suited for conveying that to the general public.

Examples where the ODU is appropriate would be outdoor public affairs events where we are trying to convey the multi-mission nature of the Auxiliary such as airshows; marine safety exhibits; events where we have operational facilities on static display (climbing off and on a boat in a tropical blue long uniform is probably not the image we want to convey); flotilla meetings and member training classes.

An example where a more dress uniform might be more appropriate would be indoor boat shows; parades (even though outdoor) conferences in hotels; public education classes. Since the ODU is the first uniform most members should purchase there are few situations it is not appropriate for wear.

Q & A source Auxiliary Knowledge Base
Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
Office of Auxiliary (CG-5421)

Gil Finkelstein FSO-PS

Planning is the Key to Successful Staff Officer Programs *Dan McFadden, VFC*

One of the key methods in making sure that any organization is continuously improving is to measure progress in the current year against the successes in previous years. The Coast Guard Auxiliary, like any other organization, can easily conduct statistical comparisons using AUXDATA and Flotilla Staff Officer Reports both current and from the past.

Some members may quickly respond that we have fewer members since the Personal Security Investigations became mandatory and that our members are older and therefore we may not be able to increase our Vessel Safety Checks, Marine Dealer Visits, Patrols or even Public Education courses due to these impacts. Organizations and corporations faced with downsizing in the 1980's and 1990's overcame many of their obstacles by first, setting clear, reachable and measurable program objectives and second, by cross-training and retaining staff members. We in Flotilla 85 are capable of conquering both of these challenges.

Flotilla Staff Officers must review their program's successes of the past and use them as the starting point for growth. One of the easiest measures is known as the "currency maintenance" of the positions within your program. For example, if each qualified Vessel Examiner is required to complete 5 Vessel Safety Checks per year to stay qualified and if we have 8 qualified VE's then the minimum we should accomplish is 40 VSC's for the year. The first 5 are the responsibility of the member in order to remain current. Rather than looking at how each person is going to do their five, the FSO-Vessel Examiner should look at how many can be accomplished this year based on what the flotilla did last year. According to the 12/31/07 AUXDATA report there was 107 VE's given in 2007. The FSO-Vessel Examiner should map out a business plan for going from 41- 107 and beyond. A quick and easy answer would be the National Safe Boating Week event that we hold at Farley State Marina in conjunction with the Coast Guard Station Atlantic City Open House each June. With good promotion and good weather this event may close half of the gap. But with bad weather we are still at 40 vessel exams for the year. Placing all your eggs in one basket is surely not the best plan.

This is where the reachable objectives come into play. Don't set the bar so high that it is not attainable. Be a people-person and get to know the members and what they are capable of doing. The FSO's must talk with the members who hold qualifications in their respective programs. Find out what worked in the past to increase our numbers. Like a fisherman with a secret fishing hole, most VE's know a marina that would welcome the Auxiliary on their property to assist the boat owners to be safer boaters. Plan an event and by all means promote and advertise it well in advance. Take what you learn from that event and set up a second, third and fourth at other marinas. It is, after all, a long summer.

Finally, be sure that you keep other FSO's advised of what you are trying to accomplish. All of our programs touch each other. If you wish to promote a Vessel Safety Check Day at a particular marina, the FSO-Public Affairs should be kept informed about promotional needs. The FSO-Program Visitor can help break the ice with the marina owner. If more Vessel Examiners are needed, the FSO-Member Training should be contacted so that he can start canvassing members to take the VE course and training. The FSO-Personnel Services should be brought in to discuss new member recruiting methods at the marina during the event. Planning events in advance will also allow the FSO-Materials to have a good supply of pamphlets, VE stickers, new member applications, etc. on hand throughout the boating season. And be sure to invite coxswains and crewmembers who are on patrol the day of the event to stop by to show off their facility and talk about the multi-mission service we provide to Team Coast Guard. And don't forget to keep the Bridge informed about progress and program needs through your Monthly FSO report. These methods of planning and partnership will work for every program. We can increase patrols, marine dealer visits, vessel safety checks, new member recruitment and public education courses provided we set the correct objectives, encourage and train our members to participate in as many programs and events as possible, and partner within the flotilla and the boating community to ensure continued improvement and successful programs.

Vessel Examiners Wanted!

Do you want to save lives, educate the public and recruit members for the Flotilla?

If the answer is yes, being a qualified vessel examiner would fulfill these goals.

Boaters sometimes don't realize that they are missing important safety equipment, that their flares are expired or that their lights don't work. Inspecting a boat and educating the public is very important and it can also save lives.

Last year we had 8 qualified examiners with an additional 5 inactive. Ninety-five inspections were conducted with a new goal of one hundred twenty-five for this year. Each person should commit to inspecting 10+ boats/PWC. Vessel Examiners should make sure that they have an ample supply of brochures to hand out when they go to the docks to inspect boats. There is a new brochure this year "Join the USCG Auxiliary" so lets make recruitment one of our VE goals. Give one to each boater.

We are also looking to get more members qualified, with mentors ready to help. The flotilla will be ordering shirts for examiners who participate and reach their goals.

2008 should be an exciting year!

Please let me know if you have an interest in becoming a Vessel Examiner.

This is the perfect time to get qualified before the season starts so that you can participate and be an active and productive member.

Semper Paratus

Ken Eisenberg
FSO-VE

Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, Chapter 5 A.6. Five Year Requirements

* Coxswains and PWC operators must pass an open book Auxiliary Navigation Rules examination within five years from the date of successful completion of the previous exam. A passing score for this requirement is 90 percent or greater. Members failing to complete the open book exam within the five year period are considered lapsed and must retake the exam in order to regain certification and receive orders.

5. This change will take effect beginning January 1, 2008. AUXDATA will be modified to track the date of exam vice the default of 31DEC and put a member in REYR if the test has lapsed. Some regions will be impacted more than others due to your varying active boating seasons but all regions will have members due in Jan-Apr who will be thinking they have all year to take the test.

Posted by Webmaster at 7:29:06 PM on 8 Nov 2007

Materials Jean Stretch FSO-MA

Please do not stockpile penalty stamps. Those who have a supply of stamps that they are not using should give them to other members in need. The Coast Guard has paid for these stamps in the same manner as any individual would pay the Post Office for regular stamps. Unused Penalty Stamps are lost money for the Coast Guard. ANSC can adequately supply all orders; therefore, there is no need to maintain a multi-month supply. Also note: When sending a Post Card, we ask that you use a 23 cent stamp plus a 1 cent stamp to comply with the rate increase to 24 cents. The Penalty Stamp brochure explains how an envelope is to be addressed. Should you have any questions or concerns, or if you need stamps and envelopes please call me.

The Public Education Notebook Dan McFaddan FSo_PE

The long winter is coming to an end and soon we will be in full swing with our Public Education Program. Last year was a public education season for which Flotilla 85 can be most proud. Together, we trained 296 students and 160 Opt Out exams were given. This year is shaping up to be much the same. All boaters born in 1949 or later must have a NJ Boating Safety Certificate by June 1st. The opportunity to take the OPT OUT ends at the same time. Our first class will be Saturday, February 23rd at 0830 hours at the Brigantine Civic Center. (Please refer to the full schedule elsewhere in the newsletter for all class dates) We are limiting class size to 40 students in order to improve the experience for both students and instructors. All instructors and helpers are asked to be there by 0800 hours so we can set up the room and equipment. Getting involved is a good way to break the cabin fever.

There are many changes in store this year. First of all is the course name has changed from "America's Boating Course" to "All About Boating". It is basically the same course but with a new name. This year we are also offering our first evening course in several years. Several instructors requested the opportunity to try it and it has been included during May.

Second, is the new process for how students receive their NJ Boating Safety Certificates. Many of have been approached by students who have yet to receive the certificates from classes taken in 2007. In the near future, the state will allow us to input the student information into the computer database ourselves. This web-based system is in the beta stage now and just this week I received cards for one of last year's classes that are in the new format. The new cards are a harder plastic than the old ones. They similar to a credit card and have the appearance of a modern company identification card without a photo. Boaters will know when leaving home that they have their card with them just from the design and feel of it.

Finally, the state is enforcing legislation that was passed a few years ago that requires all instructors of state authorized courses to consent to a criminal history background check and fingerprinting. Sorry, but the Coast Guard Auxiliary Personal Security Investigation that you submitted to does not supersede this requirement. Additionally, there is a cost involved of approximately \$75 per instructor. Flotilla 85 will pay the cost of all active instructors. Complete details as to where and when this process will take place will be forthcoming. It is anticipated that all instructors will be done by June 2008. Lastly, instructors will be required to prove experience and training in the art and science of navigation and seamanship. Rest assured that both District and Division staff are working with the state to determine how this will be measured and enforced.

I am looking forward to working with all of you again this year. We are the leaders in the instruction of safe and better boating. But there is always room for improvement. All instructors need to review the lesson plans and accompanying slides now while we have time on our hands. During striper season last fall there were multiple boater deaths in the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay. Our message must continue to be loud and strong and cover as many unsafe boating situations as possible. It is never acceptable for a boater to die while quietly fishing with friends.

Did You Know

"That 10% of our classroom students last year were 17 years old and younger."

Dan McFadden, VFC, FSC-PE

AUXILIARY RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) INSIGNIA



1. The Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) insignia was authorized for establishment approximately one year ago. It is meant to recognize extraordinary effort of Auxiliarists who consistently provide strong support to RBS programs. Consequently, its eligibility criteria require significant RBS program activity over a minimum period of two years.

Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- a. Compilation of 120 points per year for two consecutive years (for a total of 240). Hours for prescribed mission codes are reported on the Mission Activity Report (ANSC-7030) form. Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and vessel facility inspections are reported on the Vessel Examinations Activity Report (ANSC-7038). RBS Program Visits are reported on the RBS Visitation Report (ANSC-7046).
 - b. Public Education: Hours recorded using any mission code 14. 1 point-per-hour as lead instructor and 0.5 points-per-hour as an assistant/aide (preparation or travel not included).
 - c. Public Affairs: Activities promoting RBS in the following areas [1point-per-hour limited to actual mission hours (preparation or travel not included)]:
 - Public Lectures, mission code 10B;
 - Participation in Radio/TV programs, mission code 10C;
 - Information/VSC Booths, mission code 10F.
 - d. Vessel Safety Checks and Vessel Facility Inspections: Based on the number of VSCs and/or vessel facility inspections. 1 point-per-check or inspection.
 - e. RBS Program Visitation: Based on the number of RBS Program Visits. 1 point-per-visit.
 - f. Legislative Outreach: Hours recorded as Federal or State Legislative Outreach, mission codes 65A or 65B. 1 point-per-hour limited to face-to-face contact hours (preparation or travel not included).
 - g. State RBS Outreach: Hours recorded in meetings with a state BLA or state BLA staff, mission code 65C. 1 point-per-hour limited to face-to-face contact hours (preparation or travel not included).
2. The RBS insignia has since been designed, approved, and created. Its first bulk shipment recently arrived at the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC). Concurrently, AUXDATA was modified to report on Auxiliarists who met the eligibility criteria. That report is available in the Admin Report section of AUXDATA, and it can only be run by those with DIRAUX-level access.
3. Only Directors of Auxiliary are authorized to place orders for the RBS insignia from ANSC for the purpose of awarding to Auxiliarists who meet the eligibility criteria as reported in AUXDATA. Auxiliarists who meet the eligibility criteria as reported in AUXDATA and are awarded the insignia by the Director are entitled to wear it (uniform location is same as that for insignia like the Auxiliary Coxswain insignia and Auxiliary Marine Safety [Trident] insignia, above the left breast pocket).
4. The accompanying certificate has not yet been developed. The certificate's development is part of an ongoing effort to re-design and standardize Auxiliary certificates. It is not anticipated to be ready and available for issuance for another 2-3 months. Although the RBS insignia may be awarded and "pinned on" in suitable ceremonies now, awardees should be advised that their corresponding RBS certificate will be provided to them as soon as its development, approval, and distribution are complete.
5. The embroidered version of the RBS insignia is also part of the ongoing development of embroidered Auxiliary insignia specifications and products. No estimate of its delivery date can be provided at this time.

Since Auxiliarists are authorized to wear metal insignia on Operational Dress Uniforms (ODU), the metal RBS insignia may be worn on such until the embroidered version becomes available.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

5NR Spring Conference York, PA
28-30 MAR 08

PE Safe Boating Class Saturday
2/23/08

Computer Class TRACEN Cape
May 12 APR 08 26 APR 08
NSBW 24 MAY—01 JUN 08

District Crew School TRACEN Cape
May 03 JUN—06 JUN 08

OPERATIONS *Bill Hannon FSO-OP*

The boating season will be upon us sooner than you think ...

Coxswains, will your facility vessel be ready? Try to keep in mind to check the condition of your facility equipment, i.e. life jackets, anchor line, fire extinguisher, etc.

We are in need of new coxswains and crew members. There is a one-week crew class at the Cape May Coast Guard Station in the late spring. As a crew member, you will realize the satisfaction of many years on the water assisting the boating community and creating a safer boating environment.

Consider taking an AUXOP course such as Seamanship, Patrols, Navigation. Challenge yourself and increase your boating abilities.

COMMUNICATIONS

Just a reminder that the purpose of our “Emergency Net Drill” is to test the readiness of our equipment in case there is an emergency or disaster where power is lost or the CG’s antennae comes down, etc. To that end, you should check into the net with emergency power, i.e., storage battery, emergency generator, etc. every other month to ensure that your Radio Facility is working properly.

Remember, the nets are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 1930 local time for Cape May County and 1945 local time for Atlantic County. So that you can easily mark your calendars, the dates of the drills for the remainder of the year are: Feb. 25, Mar. 24, Apr. 28, May 26, Jun. 23, Jul. 28, Aug. 25, Sep. 22, Oct. 27, Nov. 24, Dec. 22.

Hope to hear EVERYONE on the air!!
Stanley S. Friedman SO-CM, FSO-CM

Flotilla 85
Brigantine, NJ
2008
About Boating Safely Class Dates
All Classes at Brigantine Civic Center
31st & Bayshore Avenue
Registration \$60 per student

Prepaid registration required by calling (609) 926 7607
Or email: dan2brig@comcast.net
Class Size Limited to 40 Students

February Saturday, February 23rd @ 8:30 a.m.

March Saturday, March 08th @ 8:30 a.m.,
Saturday, March 22nd @ 8:30 a.m.,

April Saturday, April 05th @ 8:30 a.m.,

Saturday, April 19th @ 8:30 a.m.,

May Tue/Wed May 06th & 07th (One class on 2 nights) Class begins 6:30 p.m., (Must Attend Both Nights)

Saturday, May 24th @ 8:30 a.m.,

June Saturday, June 07th @ 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 21st @ 8:30 a.m.

New Jersey Test-Out Option Exams ends May 24th. Available during all classes 10 am – 1 pm – No prepaid registration for Opt-Outs Opt-Out Fee \$25 paid at time of exam. Go to njsp.org for further information on Opt-Out eligibility.