



Flotilla Flotsam

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Flotilla Commander
Richard Liebe

The Three R's

For those of us who have been around a day or two, mention of the "Three R's" normally conjures up thoughts of Readin', Ritin', and Rithmetic and as the song says, "... done to the tune of a hickory stick." Well, we've taken a different slant on that, and our "Three R's" are Recruiting, Retention and Re-ignition.

During his introductory address to this year's national conference, new National Commodore Steve Budar highlighted his vision and priorities for the coming year, and the first two topics on his hit parade were recruiting and retention. It's no secret that the Auxiliary has lost a lot of its membership over the last few years, largely due to the demands of the background security checks. We in Alaska felt some losses, but not nearly to the degree of other districts that lost ten, fifteen, or more percent of their membership. **While the rest of the nation saw a net loss in membership, in D17, we actually saw a 10% gain in membership.** But the end result is a core of Auxiliary members who more committed and more determined than ever to discharge their responsibilities as a key component of Team Coast Guard.

In my time in the Auxiliary, I've often talked about the importance of bringing new people into the fold, and in our last few meetings, Nanci Terencio has taken that the next couple of steps by highlighting the importance of capturing the imagination of those new members, especially during their first six months. I think that after one has been in the Auxiliary for a while, you tend to lose sight of all the things the program has to offer outside of those that piqued your interest when you first joined. The bottom line is that there are programs to satisfy just about anyone, and it is up to all of us to be conversant enough in what they are to be able to draw out of a new member just what it is that turns him or her on, and then assist that new member in getting on a

development path that will keep that interest alive.

While COMO Budar started his talk with the subject of recruiting, he hastened to add that retention is probably even more important to our charter of maintaining a trained and ready force. I believe we all understand and appreciate the time and effort that goes into achieving our various qualifications – whether as a coxswain, an instructor, a vessel examiner, an information systems specialist – it really doesn't matter. In every case there is a **voluntary** commitment of time and energy, and once the Auxiliarist completes the process of achieving that qualification, he or she has every right to an expectation of being able to put that skill to use in support of Auxiliary goals. For some skills that's fairly easy. We spend lots of time on the water during the summer months and that satisfies coxswains, crew and PWC operators. We have public education classes pretty much year 'round, and that works for our instructor/trainers. We operate stations for vessel safety checks as well as doing them on an individual basis, and that meets the desires of our vessel examiners. But what of the rest? Not everyone joined with the idea of being on a boat crew, or teaching or inspecting someone else's boats, and maybe the skill or qualification they worked so hard to achieve is behind the scenes and not part of the "glamorous" part of what we do. How do we make them feel that their part of the action is as important as the other missions we perform? That's the challenge, and I am convinced that meeting that challenge will lead to a much stronger flotilla with a greater level of participation and a higher assurance of retention. So as we look across the membership and identify those who are members but not actively participating in flotilla activities, we have to ask ourselves why that is and then set about determining if somewhere, somehow, we missed the cue that would have told us where that members' genuine interests lie. If that can be done, we can then set a course to helping that member once again become an active, participating and contributing member of the flotilla.

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2006 Flotilla Staff Officers

Public Education
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Member Training
Nanci Terencio

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Gary Taylor

Vessel Examination
Ricky Susee

Member Resources
Pat Fairbanks

Publications
Richard Fairbanks

Public Affairs
Suzan Hartlieb

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Laurie Racenet

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Gordon Hartlieb

Communications
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And this brings us to the third “R”, Re-ignition. There is a spark in every one of us that keeps us moving forward and drives us to take the next step – to achieve the next level. Unfortunately for some, it seems that spark died out and those are the members who are most at risk for giving up on the Auxiliary and dropping out. Some of these members fall right in line with the idea that they have achieved some level of qualification, but since that hasn’t been used, they have lost interest. For others, it could be that they pressed forward so long and so hard that they “burned out” and wound up losing interest. Our challenge, then, is to help those members re-ignite the spark that will cause them to again become active members of our flotilla. If that spark of interest can be brought back to life, any issues associated with retention will resolve themselves, and further, a rejuvenated sense of interest across the flotilla will be a tremendous help in bringing new members fully on board. Enthusiasm is contagious.

You will notice that I’m very liberal in the use of “we” and “us” in discussing our Three R’s, because this is a whole-flotilla issue. Each and every one of us is a member of the flotilla recruiting and retention committee; each and every one of us has a role in the growth and health of the flotilla; and each and every one of us can have a positive impact on helping new and old members become more active, involved and productive. We already have a good flotilla, so let’s set about making it a great one through innovative Recruiting, Retention and Re-ignition.

Semper Paratus!

Rich Liebe

Flotilla Commander

Operations 2007

First, the Seward area SAREX is scheduled for the weekend of 8-10 June. If there is something special you would like to see done, please let me know as soon as possible.

Next and very important, changes in the Boat Crew program are abundant in 2007. They are described below:

The Boat Crew Training Manual and three qualification guides have been revised effective 1 Jan 2007. The revised manual and guides can be found at: <http://cgauxsurfaceops.us/manuals.htm>

The Operations Policy Exam for Surface Operations is required for all trainees working on their Coxswain or PWC Operator qualification. This exam must be successfully completed before the QE dockside oral exam and underway check ride can be performed.

The 30 question open book exam, covers surface operations policies located the Operations Policy Manual COMDTINST M16798.3 (series) and Chapter 4 of the Coast Guard Addendum to the United States National Search and Rescue Supplement (NSS) COMDTINST M16130.2 (series). A score of 90% is required to pass the exam. The exam is available through the Auxiliary National Testing Center at: <http://cgexams.info/testing/>

Upon completing the test, you will receive notice if you have either passed or **failed**. If successful, your DIRAUX should get an electronic notification. Of course, it is always a good idea to print a copy of any electronic notice you receive in case the notice does not get to your DIRAUX for some reason and you will need that notice for your mentor to sign off on that task.

Note: *The on-line exams require that you are running Internet Explorer 5.0 or newer, Netscape 6.1 or newer or an equivalent release of AOL's browser. It requires that you have JavaScript installed and enabled and that you have your cookies enabled.*

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This exam is also available in hard copy from the Operations Training Officer (OTO) ~~in your district if you prefer~~. If the hard copy exam is taken, it must be proctored but ~~is~~ is still open book. Requests for the hard copy exam must be made to the DIRAUX office in the same many as the initial Nav Rules and AUXOP exams.

Study questions and answers are available on the Chief Director's Surface Operations web site: <http://cgauxsurfaceops.us/>

There is also a mishap report form on the Chief Director's Surface Operations web site. This mishap form is for reporting minor mishaps that do not require formal reporting. Examples of what should be reported here are slips and falls without injuries, minor incidents without reportable damage, etc. The kind of things you normally just look around to see if anyone saw it. National staff is looking to see if there are mishaps trends we should be providing training to help prevent.

FAQs

Q. When do the revised manual and qualification guides become effective?

A. 1 January 2007

Q. What if a member is partially through one of the older qualification guides?

A. All tasks completed in an older guide may be transferred to the new guide by the mentor, FC, VFC, FSO-MT, or FSO-OP provided they were performed less than 2 years ago. The original date and mentor's name must be used.

Q. What are the new annual currency maintenance tasks

and what is the deadline?

A. The member must have 12 hours underway each year and attend a 1-hour TCT refresher provided by the National Operations Department. These tasks must be completed (and recorded in AUXDATA) by 31 Dec or the member will go into REYR.

Q. What will the 3 year QE check ride be phased in?

A. For members due a check ride under the old program in 2007 or 2008, their QE check ride is due by 31 Dec 07. If due in 2009, now due in 2008 and if due in 2010 or 2011, the check ride is due by 31 Dec 2009.

Q. If a member missed tasks and/or hours in 2006, what do they need to do for 2007?

A. The missing hours (up to 8) are made up as a trainee. Missing tasks are not required.

Q. Do crew hours spent underway by a coxswain count toward coxswain time?

A. Yes, crew time now counts as coxswain time.

Q. Does Crew or Coxswain underway time count toward PWC Operator currency (or vice-versa)?

A. If a member is qualified on both, they need to do 12 hours underway on each platform.

Q. Does the annual TCT refresher replace the 5th year 8-hour TCT course?

A. No, the annual refresher does not replace the 5th year TCT course.

Q. Do I have to take the TCT refresher and 5th year 8-Hour TCT in the same year?

A. No, the 8-hour course will suffice for taking the annual refresher in a given year.

Terencio's Question

"Running with a heavy following sea, you sense that the boat is being pushed towards a broach. You should turn the wheel hard over in the direction that the stern is heading and (1) apply full power or (2) decrease acceleration ?

(answer on page 3)

Next Meeting

*19 April
2007*

1830 Hours

*Transit Operations
Building*

*3650 E. Tudor Road
Building "A"
2nd Floor*

Member Training

4/7/2007 Team Coordination Training (TCT)

TCT is a requirement to participate in the Boat Crew Program.

Beginning at 9 am and continuing until 5:30 pm the session will be held at the DOT Central Regional Office... it is the "upside down building" off of Anchorage International Airport Road.

TCT is a series of seven subject areas promoting teamwork and coordination within boating situations. Many case studies will be reviewed and discussion will include leadership, risk management, and fatigue.

All Auxiliaries in any status of membership are invited to participate.

For more information or the RSVP please contact Mark Parmelee at potterview@gci.net

4/21-4/29/2007 The 2007 Coxswain Academy

~~For more information contact DSO OP or OTO Bob Gross~~

The following members have been selected to attend the 2007 Auxiliary Coxswain Academy; Rich Liebe, Jamie Elstad, Ray Miller, Will Frost, Chris Pallister, and Canadian Auxiliary Mike Cupit.

~~Platforms: CGAUX 256610, 256611, and 275594~~

For any members who may be interested in applying for this academy next year, here are the prerequisites.

Requirements to qualify for the class:

- A minimum of 14 hours U/W as certified crew or coxswain for 2005-06
- Passed the Navigation Rules of the Road
- Desire to be proactive in the operations program

Training to cover the following:

- TCT/Risk Management
- Pacing/trim and tilt
- Small Boat Navigation/Night Navigation exercise
- Search Planning and Execution
- Rescue and Assistance/P-1 & P-6 operation
- Coast Guard Policies and Procedures
- Towing astern/alongside
- Personnel Recovery
- Basic Engineering Casualty Control Procedures
- Electronics Orientation
- Search Patterns (classroom and U/W)

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- Q. Who has to take the Ops Policy Test for initial qualification?
- A. Only Coxswain and PWC Operators have to take the open book test.
- Q. Where can I take the Ops Policy Test and what is the passing score?
- A. 90% is passing. The test is available on-line at: <http://cgexams.info/testing/>. OTOs have hard copies of the test. If the hard copy is used, it must be proctored.
- Q. Will hard copies of the Boat Crew Training Manual and Qualification guides be available?
- A. Yes, we expect them to be available through ANSC in the near future.

From COMO Gary Taylor

Answer To Terencio's Question

Apply full power until the boat straightens out.



Pirate of the North

From Page 4

- Anchoring
- Boat Checks/Light off Procedures
- Plenty of on the water training
- POMS Training

There will be homework assigned each night.
 This fast-paced and intense training will guide you towards your Auxiliary Coxswain Qualification and/or SAFEBOAT Certification.

~~The class size is limited to 6 so get your requests in to BMC Gross ASAP!~~

~~http://a170.uscgaux.info/d17_downloads/2007coxacaemyrequest.doc~~

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5/3-5/7/2007 The Aux – 04 Distance Education Technical Training Course

Location: Kodiak on May 3-7, 2007. Class begins at 8 am on Thurs, May 3 and ends at 10am on Monday, May 7. Travel day is Wednesday, May 2 and all should make arrangements to return home by Monday evening. **There are still some openings for this class, but you must submit your STTR immediately through the FC.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The AUX-04 course is a completely revamped USCG Auxiliary C-School intended to provide introduction in the use of current media systems in electronic presentation and web based technologies. The course is not designed nor appropriate for advanced or professional users. Students will learn about the application of Internet and multimedia technologies for Auxiliary activities including communication services, member training, public education, and public affairs. The classroom based training involves the use of computers and the development of two projects; one multimedia presentation and one web site. These skills will be utilized when the student returns to their local unit.

To view a full Aux-04 brochure, click here:
<http://aux04.auxservices.org/documents/AUX-04Brochure2006.pdf>

[Short Term Training Request](#)

(Auxiliary Electronic Directory)

Look up information using eDirectory

<http://www.auxedirectory.org/activate/index.php>

Our 03-02 web page address is

<http://a1700302.uscg.info>

New Members First Six Months

First 6 Months continued (document available on our web site)

What cycle are we in? Are we 1) Forming?
 2) Storming? 3) Norming? Or 4) Performing?

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DSO-MT; FSO-MT

Member Crew Training

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