

## Flotilla 24-3 1st SR



# MILFORD



# BEACON



Timothy Mulherin, Commander

Jeffery Cieplak, Vice Commander

May 2009

Volume 10, Issue 4

## From The Bridge

### Flotilla Meetings

First Tuesday of month  
19:00 Training  
20:00 Business  
Milford Training Center



As we turn into May things are looking good for the start of the upcoming boating season. The Water temperatures are hovering around that 50 degree mark, and barring any cold spell we are in Mustangs for our on-water operations. We have many openings for patrols, so let's dust off the winter blues, and start to hone your boating skills—sign up for some days on the water now: Contact our FSO-OP Jack Godfrey.

Our Division Change of Watch is next week. This is a fun night of fellowship, and a great opportunity to meet, and get to know the people that run our organization—on both the silver and gold side. In addition, we should show support for the hard work that has been accomplished by our Division—and one of our own—Bob Gesullo as he heads into his second term as Division Commander. Contact me for further information. Our own Flotilla COW is in the works... stay tuned.

Our meeting last night was excellent, with a good training session on Sailboats and Marlinspike provided by FSO-MT Mike Gabriel, followed with a presentation by W. Dale Greenwood on the upcoming USNA visit to Milford over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend which we will be involved with. Our FSO-PS Patricia Collins had her hands full with seven—yes, seven—perspective new members; my thanks to our other members for making them feel welcome, and assisting them with the idiosyncrasies of "Line", and how to form it into proper knots.

Speaking of knots, we are finishing up the *Advance Coastal Navigation A* class at the base, and our FSO-PPE Steve Weiss just could continued on page 2



### Special points of interest:

*Training Page 3*

*Personal floatation Page 4*

## Training Center

Peter Purcell, Building Asset Manager, has prepared a plan to refurbish the galley and the heads at the training center. The plan, part of the over-all building maintenance project started some time ago, is in preparation for the anticipated celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary during the Oyster Festival (story on page 4).

This part of the plan includes a general cleaning, preparing the walls and applying a new coat of paint, trimming the doors and galley stove maintenance.

Anyone interested in lending a hand on this project is encouraged to contact Peter for the details and schedule.

## Public Education Sign

After years of service and the ravages of sunlight, the public education sign in the front window of the Training Center will be replaced.

A new sign layout was decided upon and progress is being made to implement the replacement with a sign that is flexible enough to meet the requirements of the present public education program and any future changes to the program that may occur.

A meeting was held with representatives of Bowman Signs in Milford to discuss the feasibility of producing the sign at minimal cost.

An electronic scrolling sign may be added to the display in the future.

**Schedule of Activities**

**May**

- 5 Flotilla meeting
- 6 Division meeting
- 10 PE registration
- 13 Change of Watch
- 16 About Boating Safety  
West Marine PA Event
- 27 Weather
- 30 Kayaking

**June**

- 2 Flotilla meeting
- 3 Division meeting
- 14 PE registration
- 20 About Boating Safety
- 23-24-25 Chart, Nav & GPS

**From the Bridge, cont.**

not wait, so he took and passed both *Advance Navigation* exams—completing his requirements for the coveted AUX-OP designation: Congratulations Steve! There are many other upcoming training venues available to you. Please take these opportunities to advance your knowledge; especially if you have some required training due this year—do not wait till the last minute.

Our FSO-VE Steve Krawczyk is planning a busy year for this important function, and is looking for some additional Vessel Examiners. This is a great qualification attain, and not hard to accomplish. Contact Steve for further information.

Last, but not least, within weeks of becoming a full fledged member of the Auxiliary Tracey Weiss has stepped up and accepted the Public Affairs (PA) staff officer position for our flotilla. Bravo, Zulu Tracey!

For those of you we have not seen in a while, please plan on attending future flotilla meetings, as they are your best venue for up to date information on our activities, and WE NEED YOUR HELP to accomplish these many important programs.

I will see you soon,  
Timothy

**Boat Basin**

AT

<http://a01424.uscgaux.info>

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**Base & Boat**

**Base**

Plans are underway to paint and clean the galley. Contact Peter Purcell to assist.

**Boat**

Now that we are in “mustang” season, it is imperative that the suits are hung up to dry after being used.

**Staff Officers**

John Longobardi	FSO AN
Peter Purcell	FSO CM
Jeff Cieplak	FSO CS
Steve Perrone	FSO-DA
Bob Parker	FSO FN
Bob Brill	FSO IS
Steve Foisey	FSO MA
Steve Perrone	FSO-MS
Mike Gabriel	FSO MT
Tracy Weiss	FSO PA
Bob Bowolick	FSO PB
Steve Perrone	FSO PE
John Godfrey	FSO OP
Bob Bowolick	FSO SR
Steve Krawczyk	FSO VE
Steve Foisey	FSO PV
Pat Collins	FSO-PS
Steve Weiss	PPE

## Training Meeting

Michael Gabriel did another outstanding job in presenting the topic of sailboat maneuverability and the effects of a power boat wake as a power boat maneuvers in the vicinity of sailboats. The members gave their undivided attention to a topic that for many power boaters seems mysterious.

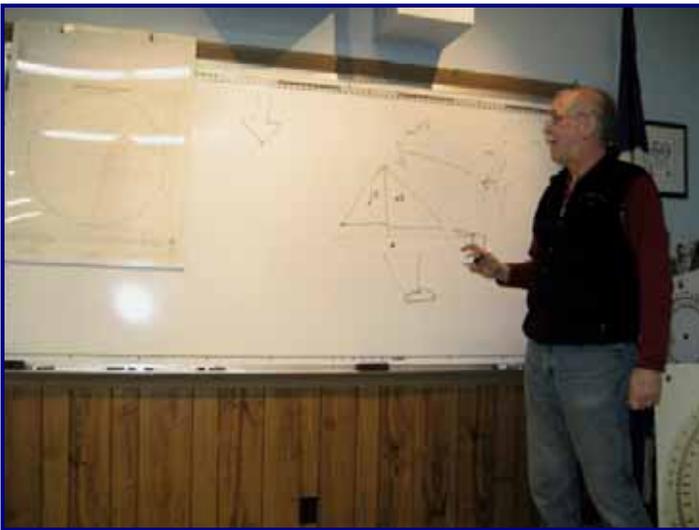
Terms like “center of effort (CE)” of sails and “center of lateral resistance (CLR)” of the keel were defined. The relationship between these two terms and how they may provide for either a weather or lee helm was made clear.

The 73 spends many hours in the vicinity of sailboats, especially in the Milford area, where the proper maneuvering of the 73 will increase the respect sailors will have for good boat handling.



The training session closed with a marlinspike refresher on the popular knots used on boats providing the experienced members with an opportunity to revisit knots that hadn't been used for some time.

Seven prospective members in attendance had a hands on experience thus enhancing their first visit to the flotilla. John Longobardi on the left in the photo below demonstrates the cleat hitch to prospective member David Alexandre.



Michael followed the sailing presentation with a description of the two nautical terms *swigging* and *snubbing* and how they can be used to advantage when used at the appropriate time.

Swigging is the art of applying a force perpendicular to a taught line in order to take up any slack remaining in the line. It is an old trick we have all used at one time or another but never knew it had a name.

Snubbing we all know. It involves taking a turn around the base of a cleat and one of the horns in order to take advantage of the friction between the cleat and the line. This technique is well known for using minimal force on the bitter end of the line in order to control the movement of a boat.



## Personal Floatation Devices By Steve Weiss, FSO-PPE

Patrol season is here, and it's time to start thinking about getting our gear back into shape. Arguably, the most important gear we have when we're on patrol is our life jackets. Let's take a look at the standard type III personal floatation device many of us wear on patrol.

The vest itself is simple – it is merely a means of attaching closed-cell foam to our bodies in a relatively comfortable and secure fashion. Before wearing your life jacket, take a moment to check that the fabric is not ripped, ensure that the zipper and buckles are in working order, and that the floatation inside is still “spongy” (not flattened). It is important that the life jacket holds together when it hits the water, and stays on the wearer. Sunlight, salt water and general wear-and-tear will eventually compromise the life jacket's ability to accomplish its mission. When it's worn out, it is time to replace it.

In addition to buoyancy, the life jacket also has pockets full of survival gear. These should be checked every time you put on your life jacket. The life jacket should also be inspected by the Flotilla Staff Officer for Personal Protective Equipment (FSO-PPE), twice a year.

There should be a knife, usually attached on the left shoulder. It should be sharp, serrated, but with a blunt point. The knife should be tethered to the life jacket, so that it is not accidentally lost when used in

the water.

The remaining gear consists of devices for signaling: a strobe light, flares, a signal mirror, and a whistle. These should be inside the pockets, and also tethered individually to the life jacket. At the beginning of the season, it's a good idea to put fresh batteries in the strobe light, and check that the flares will not expire during the season. Get new flares if yours are going out of date soon, but don't throw the old ones out – even expired flares will work for years, and if you need flares, you'll want as many as you can get.

The Coast Guard provides us with detailed instructions on how to arrange the equipment on our life jackets. Commandant Instruction Manual 10470.10F, the Rescue and Survival Systems Manual, is a good place to start. Individual equipment also has Maintenance Procedure Cards for building and maintaining a complete life jacket. Your FSO-PPE, Steve Weiss, can help you with outfitting your personal life jacket. Additionally, there are life jackets and SAR vests (all the gear, without floatation) available on the 73 for those who do not have their own.

Your life jacket can literally save your life. Keep it in good condition, and always wear it when you're on the water.

## CG Auxiliary 70th Anniversary Open House

Plans are underway for the flotilla to participate in the Milford Oyster Festival on August 15 with an Open House commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Building on what Steve Foisey started last year as a public affairs event, this year in commemoration of the anniversary, the flotilla will throw open the doors of the training center with an open house.

The plan is to have dedicated tables for marlinspike where line can be discussed, visitors can learn how to tie knots and create a monkey fist heaving line, another table dedicated to the display and discussion of lifejackets and a table for fire extinguishers and flares.

In addition, an anchoring display with anchor, chain and line will be available for discussion of the safety considerations of anchoring.

An Open House would not be complete without a station describing the Vessel Safety Check program requirements and decal.

A table dedicated to Navigation complete with Rules of the Road, Lights, Sound signals, Compass, GPS along with navigation tools and charts will be staffed.

Handouts of safety brochures, coloring books, etc. will be available. The computer will be set up to provide video presentations and slide shows of Auxiliary activities.

Demonstrations of Lifejacket emergencies, Tossing a line & Type IV PFD will also be part of the program.

Anyone interested in participating, having suggestions for additional displays or activities may contact Bob Bowlick.