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North Star Flotilla Banner

**FC Rosalind Butziger called the meeting March 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm to order.**

**Members present:** Derek Robert, Roz, Nick and David Butziger, Mike & Mary Quinn, Normand & Karen Caron, Charles & Vanessa Jenison, Kerri Green, David Siesel, Jim & Cynthia Robert & Bob Misenor

**Guests:**  None

**Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence for departed members & veterans led by VFC Karen Caron**

**Flotilla Commander Report:**

**Special Awards:** Certificates for 4 hour TCT training: Charles Jenison, Arnold Butziger, David Butziger, Derek Robert and Michael Quinn.

The following were also presented with awards:

Charles Jenison – Completion of Patrols Specialty Course

Derek Robert – Highest number of Vessel Exams in Division 7 and the Service Performance Award for Program Visits and Vessel Exams

Nick Butziger – Highest Number of Uninspected Passenger Vessel Inspections in Division 7 and Highest Number of Lead Instructor Hours in Division 7

Karen Caron and Normand Caron – Highest Number of Instructor Aide Hours in Division 7 (tie)

At D-Train in January, the Admiral of 1st District noted Mike Quinn’s 28 years of service, all of his activities, his selfless commitment, and for his work with NOAA. She had a letter and LTCDR Seaton presented Mike with a coin from the Admiral. Congratulations Mike.

**Secretary Report:** Minutes of the January 2015 meeting accepted as e-mailed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Accepted as submitted

**Staff Report:**

**(PE) Public Education:**  – Nick Butziger discussed that classes are ongoing despite being interrupted by 3 snow days. Attendance is down this year vs prior years possibly due to Public hibernation in reaction to all of the snow and cold and the flyer that was made up for the Providence Boat Show was not distributed as was promised.

**(PA) Public Affairs:** – Glenn and Meg Rosera absent. Karen Caron discussed how she will be interfacing with Glenn to promote the flotilla activities for the June upcoming classes and for VSCs. Anyone who has ideas about how to get the message out especially for the classes, send to Glenn, Meg and/or Karen.

**(VE) Vessel Examination:** – Derek Robert reported that the VE refresher workshop was attended by 8 persons on March 7th. Thank you to Nick Butziger for leading the workshop. 2015 Stickers are available. Training for new VEs will be coming up and a definite schedule will be published shortly. Derek has 4 possible VE candidates. Remember VE Day on Saturday June 20th. This will take place on “Take a Kid Fishing Day”. There will be an opportunity to do the 5 VE’s required with a VE on that day and for current VEs to do the 5 they need to keep their qualifications current. We will invite all Division 7 VE’s to join us and will provide them with refreshments, clipboards, etc. Brewer’s Marinas will advertise this event for us and we will do other Brewer’s Marinas on that day.

**Membership Training:** – David Butziger reminded everyone about the WEBEX training for UPV. Nick Butziger discussed how to inspect an inflatable life vest for Crew, VE and personal protection. Inflate the vest manually and check for leaks. Check the expiration dates where applicable, but use the manufacturer’s instructions printed on the vest for a final determination as to how to inspect.

**(OP) Operations:** – Charles Jenison reported the final date for the Castle Hill Training Day will be 6/14/15 which should be attended by 70-80 people. Email Charles if you are planning to attend. He also stated that Division 7 has appointed members to address the inspection of PPEs for Crew Program. He has is a member of the committee. Where in previous months it was reported that the Coast Guard would be provide PPEs to crew members after the inventory of Coast Guard and Auxiliary owned equipment was completed, there is no money available for that purpose. Discussed issue of members paying dues and also supplying own equipment. Charles will take discussed items back to the committee.

**Social Coordinator:** –Derek Robert & David Butziger. David mentioned the trip to Newport Playhouse planned for March 20th. Derek is planning a Chicken Dinner for Sunday, April 19th at Wright’s Farm. More information to come, but save the date!

**(MS) Marine Safety:** – Gary Davis reported Harbor Patrols (HARPATS) continue from shore. You can go out with someone who already does this. No qualification needed for that. If you would like to go, contact Arnie Geller at 401-435-2317.

**(PS) Personal Services: -** Mary Quinn & Cynthia Robert. Mary reported that there are 55 members at present. Sympathy card and dish gardens were sent to Tom Wilcox and Debbie Pass on the passing of Tom’s father. Two new members have been processed and are waiting for their numbers.

**Communications:**  – Charles is in the process of gathering facility information to give Bob Van Herpe who will be making some waterproof communications sheets for all facilities. Send Charles the location of equipment on your boat for Bob to include on the laminated cards for each facility.

**(MA) Materials/ (IS) Information Systems:**  - Mike Quinn. All materials requested have been ordered. **Please report** **your hours!** Funding for programs is based on the numbers of hours reported and hours are down district wide.

**(NS) Navigation Systems:** – Mike Quinn discussed that there will be plenty to do this year with the ice conditions in the bay. He will be holding a Navigation roadshow throughout the District with the Division 7 event held at Kent County Hospital. A firm date will follow. The will be a D-Train event in May and training will be available.

**Old Business:**  Postpone the date of the headquarters work party to March 28th. Hopefully the snow pack will be down by then. Bring cleaning supplies and show up all or part of the day.

**New Business: None**

**Good of the Auxiliary:** –none

**Next Meeting:**  April 20th at 7pm

**Adjournment: 8:30 pm**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Karen Caron**