

Northern Star Hunter Sailing Association

In Cooperation with the

USCG & USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 12

Flare and Signaling Gun Safety Raft-Up Report



The calm waters of Worton Creek became the hub of intense activity on Saturday, July 26, 2014 as the site of Flare and Signaling Gun Practice Exercises with the support and assistance of the USCG and USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 12 and the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Department. NSHSA Members began arriving Friday afternoon, finding secure anchorage, old friends and a few new friends.



The Objectives of the Exercises were:

- When to use Emergency Flares and Signaling devices
- What types to use for the emergency situation
- How to use Emergency Flares and Signaling devices
- Practice actual deployment of Flares and Signaling devices
- Provide the opportunity to receive a USCG Aux Vessel Inspection



Worton Creek Anchorage

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Saturday's weather would begin overcast with light winds, but by noon the weather would clear and the anchorage find twenty one (21) boats spread across the good holding ground inside Worton Creek ready to experience deploying emergency flares and signaling guns. Roll call revealed the following boats participating in the exercises.

Contigo	Jo-Lin-Dy	Tentacity	Kava Kava
Aquila	Narsilion	Silent Running	Elsie's Phantasie
Windkist	Windsprint	Annalee	Wanderin' Currents
Xtasea	Sly Fox	Theresa Marie	Summer Breeze
Victory	Champagne	penury's prize	Windrose
Schatzi			

On Saturday at 1000 hours the USCG Auxiliary Safety Inspections were underway by USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 12. The USCG Team of (3) conducted ten (10) successful Member Boat Safety Inspections. The USCG Team shared their experience on general safety equipment and new regulations, which was much appreciated by the Membership. By working continuously, the Safety Inspections were completed by early afternoon.

The Emergency Flare and Aerial Signals Practice commenced at 1500 hours. The exercises were under the coordination and instruction of the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Department and supported by Club's USCG Licensed Captains. The Fire Department Team, lead by **Fire Captain Paul Brinkley**, were there on their own time. Assisting Fire Captain Paul was **Sergeant Stormy White** and **Fire Technician Dakota**.

Because of the inherent dangers with these exercises, the Club's Medical Professional, **Sue Cameron** of Aquila) was on duty equipped with the necessary First Aid equipment in the event of a burn injury....which there wasn't.

On duty to support the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Department instruction on the deployment of emergency flares were Captains:

Dave Knauer	Elsie Grady McDonough	Steve McDonough
John Molnar	Paul Borchardt	Joe Cameron
Rex Noel	Chris Schultz	

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OUR THANKS TO THESE MEMBERS FOR MAKING AND KEEPING THIS SAFETY RAFT-UP VERY SAFE!

A special thank you to **Frank Tedeschi** and **Tom Schmidt** for coordinating the details of the event.

The weather cooperated beautifully, allowing the practice exercises to conclude at 1700 hours, precisely on time for the scheduled Pot Luck Dinner at 1800 hours at the picnic grounds of Worton Creek Marina. After the 'Roll Call' that totaled approximately fifty (50) sailors in attendance, everyone settled into great food and conversation.

The dinner discussions continued long past the setting of the sun and the day's events were settling into memory. Our roving kayak based ace-photographer, Linda Ubelacker did a masterful job of capturing the day's activities so we can continue to enjoy the fun and learning that took place on July 26th , 2014 for years to come. Linda's photos speak for themselves.

THANK YOU LINDA!



Our hard working, paddling photographer

The Safety Exercises were held on the Bay side of 'R2" on the south shore close to the old dock ruins. Flare and Aerial exercises were conducted in ankle deep water.

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With the Membership assembled, the Instructions began



Fire Captain Paul and Sergeant Stormy Demonstrate

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Instructions and everyone listens



More Instruction....

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And the exercises begin



Chris Schultz is the first to light a flare

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John and Linda Yates give it a try



Success!

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Now everyone is lighting up!



Keith and Karen give it a try

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Practicing continues and continues



Rex and Amy are in synch...

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Cough, Cough, Cough....

Mike and Laurie like the smoke flares...



As does Jack (penury's prize grandson)

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Jenna, Danny, Maria and Josh
(Windsprint Crew)



Liar, Liar, John's Pants on Fire – says Chris Schultz

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Capt. Paul instructing Carl

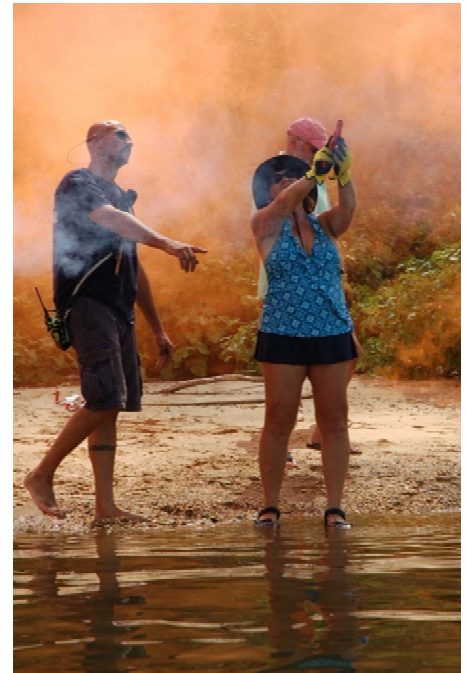


Carl shooting a Solas 'Howitzer' – Wow!

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Lots of Aerial Shots
'Heads Up Champagne'



Jack continues setting up a smoke screen

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Frederique and Crew



Dinner and Conversation



Sunday - Quiet again returns to Worton