



# NAT Returns!

Klaas Nijhuis  
District 13 Commodore

## Northern Area Training Returns After Long Ten-Year Absence

Under initial efforts by Gail Porter (Division 4), and with the assistance of a number of people who regularly attend the Thursday morning fellowship hosted by Simeon Baldwin (Division 4), Kevin Coulombe and Patty Maxfield, both from Division 1 picked up the pieces and put together an incredible Northern Area Training (NAT) event at the Port of Edmonds after our initially-selected venue, Fort Warden, became unavailable due to bankruptcy.

Utilizing the Conference Center at the Edmonds Best Western as well as classroom space at Compass Courses Maritime Institute, Northern Area Training was finally realized on May 31. The venue worked out extremely well because it was rather centrally located allowing easy ferry access for members of Division 4.



Cover table before event started (Photo credit—Reed Hockstedler)



Patty Maxfield, organizer, talks with attendee Bill Bauman and presenter Brian Bock prior to the start of the event. (Photo credit- Reed Hockstedler)

With over 35 US Coast Guard Auxiliary members and applicants in attendance, we started off with fellowship over coffee and pastries.



*Kick off fellowship in Best Western Meeting Room. (Photo credit–Klaas Nijhuis)*

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*Kevin Coulombe, organizer, presents details on the day's events. (Photo credit–Reed Hockstedler)*

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We heard about the state of D13 from our Commodore. His message was that together we can accomplish much.



*Commodore Nijhuis answers member questions following his prepared remarks. (Photo credit–Reed Hockstedler)*

This was followed by the program of courses, including Stop the Bleed, an introduction to the Auxiliary Seamanship Specialty Course Qualification, Vessel Examiner Training, and a New Member Academy.



*Bob Hamilton presenting at New Member Academy. Photo by Klaas Nijhuis*



*Dana Taylor describing important details about life jackets at VE Training. (Photo credit—Klaas Nijhuis)*





*AUXSEA class with Brian Bock describing a key concept. (Photo credit - Reed Hockstedler)*

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We are grateful to our instructors for the day: Craig Brown from Div 3, Dana Taylor from Div 2 (VE); Mike Heryla from Div 1 (Stop the Bleed); Bob Hamilton from Div 3 (New Member Academy) and Brian Bock from Div 1 (AUXSEA).

Planning begins immediately for next year's event. The Commodore challenged us to triple our attendance and perhaps even go to two days. Volunteers are sought for helping set the agenda and execute logistics.

Some of the members who came may have been disappointed that the Damage Control Trainer was not able to be on site for the event, but plans are underway to bring it to a summer fellowship event. Look for forthcoming details at the D13 website and prepare to get wet!



*The bell called us to order and dismissed us. (Photo credit - Reed Hockstedler)*

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*A District 13  
Publication*

*Camile S. Hickman,  
DSO-PB*

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