



The Grayfox Association

NSCS Grayfox TWR 825
852 32nd St, P.O Box 610613
Port Huron, MI 48061
www.nscsgrayfox.org
nscsgrayfox@gmail.com
586-825-3706

January 24, 2021

From: Commanding Officer, NSCS Grayfox TWR 825

SUBJ: NSCS GRAYFOX TWR 825 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Each year, new challenges face the crew and mission of the Grayfox. This year has been no different; reported homicide, pandemic, relocation order, shutdown of Sea Cadet and adult training. This has been a challenging year for the three Sea Cadet training ships in the Great Lakes, including the NSCS Grayfox TWR 825. Most in person events were performed virtually. Still the Grayfox remained open.

There are many positive developments this last year. We kept the ship open during the summer despite the COVID-19 pandemic, observing CDC requirements. Some of the improvements; replaced the main transformer, replaced the water heater transformer, replaced the main potable water pump, replaced the engine starter relays, rebuilt the port engine starter, paneled the Fire Fighting locker in Aft Berthing, power washed the interior. We have engaged Caterpillar to test both engines. Jerry Van de Vyver has taken Command of the NSCC Grayfox adult unit and updated the Magellan system.

A lot of attention was performed on the auxiliary boats; Miscellaneous (38ft Marine Trader), Mary Jane (MJ)(26ft Thompson Trawler), Orange Crush (19ft sailboat). The sailboat was sold and MJ was tested (cruised) most weekends, The Miscellaneous interior was rebuilt and the boat was renamed ADM Frederick C Sherman, the only 4-Star Admiral from Michigan and Port Huron. The registration for the Grayfox, MJ, and ADM Sherman were updated. We expect to certify the MJ and ADM Sherman for USCG Auxiliary and complete Grayfox shipyard certification. Three members of the crew are now USCG AUX Officers.

Our attention has included attaining US Coast Guard certification of the Grayfox as a passenger vessel for hire. The Grayfox is currently considered a private vessel; Sea Cadets can stay overnight; but cannot train underway. The ship was measured at 224 Tons and a waiver was approved by the Commandant of the Coast Guard to certify Grayfox as a 100 Ton T-Boat. Certification updates of the life jackets, safety equipment, and fire extinguishers is expected. Cap Eickel and Semerad visited Great Lakes Shipping in Cleveland to understand certification with the 9th Coast Guard District and Marine Safety Office and at Great Lakes Shipping (equipped to lift the boat out of the water).

We expect the Grayfox will get underway this year as it relocates to a new homeport. The NSCC ADM FC Sherman Sea Cadets found a new home in Emmett, MI, although with in-person meeting restrictions.



Financial planning and controls are firmly in place and an annual budget was prepared and approved. Detailed financial record keeping of ship maintenance and repairs is in place. Financial records and ledgers for 2020 were closed. Griffin Accounting completed the 2019 tax filing. We have an excellent track record of administration.

A robust organization has been in place with the addition of new Board members, supporters, and crew. Administration of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) Grayfox unit for Grayfox crew administered by the Magellan system is more developed. Additional progress has been achieved with administration record keeping and documentation, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), project plans, work repair records, and ship logbooks. Insurance is provided by USLI, NSCC for Cadets and crew, and Hold Harmless Agreements

The Grayfox Association continues to work with the Bluewater Convention & Visitors Bureau, Desmond Marine, City of Port Huron and the local community to improve the community and visitor experience. We are a member of the Bluewater Chamber of Commerce.

Since 1997, the Grayfox has been committed to providing American youth with a drug and alcohol-free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults. Grayfox crew complete Darkness to Light, for responsible youth training.

We encourage you to visit the Grayfox website at www.nscsgrayfox.org or contact us at nscsgrayfox@gmail.com or 586-825-3706. We sincerely thank you for your continued support.

We are always looking for additional volunteers and a few joined us this year. You can find some of the crew on the Grayfox most weekends.

Sincerely,

JM Semerad

Captain Jim Semerad, CDR, USN (Ret)