

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Celebrates 80 Years of Volunteer Service



Ron Dyke (USCG Auxiliary - left) explains to Sean Walsh what happens when the radio operators make a contact.

Pictures by: John Bescher - Citrus County Amateur Radio Club, and Linda Jones-USCG AUX

On Oct. 19 and 20, 2019 the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Citrus County Amateur Radio Club held a joint communications event at the Citrus County Emergency Operations Center in Lecanto, Florida. Together they worked to make radio contacts with people from all over the U.S.A., Croatia, Slovenia, England, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Virgin Island, and Japan. Even the Boy Scouts participated! These HAM operators were "on the air" for two days under the call sign W4F.

Goals for the event: to spread the word on the purpose of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, encourage members to become involved with Auxiliary Communications, involve any Auxiliary Communications staff in "hands-on" participation, bring new members into the Auxiliary, and to enjoy Auxiliary fellowship.

Organizers Deborah Thomas (AUX) and Ron Dyke (AUX) of Flotilla 15-1, and John Bescher (CCARC) felt the event was a great success, and they are hoping to expand this annual event next year.