



THE COMPASS ROSE

The 'Eyes' of March Are On 15-3



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The April flotilla meeting will be held at the Marion Oaks Community Center, 294 Marion Oaks Lane. Head W on 484, about 1 mile from I-75 and turn left at the first traffic light W of I-75 on Marion Oaks Blvd (big fountain at the entrance); continue 1 mi. to 1st stop sign at Walgreen's Pharmacy. Turn right and take first cross street to the Community Center.

The flotilla met at Gander Mountain sporting goods store for the March meeting. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the February minutes were approved. Auxiliarist Helen Hall was sworn in as FSO-PE, and Tom Spangler, FSO-MA, was presented with the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation for his work on the vessel safety check team for the 2011 Bassmaster Elite Series fishing tournament.

Chuck Truthan, FC, gave his report and began with the admonition that the email distribution list is not to be used for political jokes, religious emails, etc. only flotilla business. He reported that he and Randy Patton, VFC, attended the Marion Oaks board meeting and received permission to use their meeting room for flotilla meetings.

Chuck, George Hendricks, Tom Spangler, Joe Kronzer, and Nathan Richards manned a PA booth at the Miller Marine Boat Show and received a couple of requests for PE classes—one from the Francis Marion Academy for their juniors and seniors and one from the Ocala Boat Club. Two members will man a PA booth at the Marion County Parade of Seniors Show on March 22.

Chuck further reported that an AUXCHEF class is being held at Station Yankeetown for a maximum of 9 Auxiliarists and that students need to take the 8-hour TCT course prior to beginning the AUXCHEF training. Station is losing one of its chefs and is in need of AUXCHEFS to supplement their existing staff. Chuck also said that he, George Hendricks, and Tom Spangler



Tom Spangler, left, receives the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation for exemplary service at the 2011 Bassmaster Elite Tournament from Chuck Truthan, FC..
Photo by Mary Patton

will drive his motorhome to Orange, Texas, to participate in the VSC marathon for the 2013 Bassmaster Elite Series tournament. A total of 77 facilities were inspected with the help of the Orange, TX, Flotilla VEs. Chuck said he received special permission, in addition to the VSC sticker that goes on the port side of each boat, to place one on the starboard side, as well. In this way, all official photos of the boats will show a VSC sticker, giving kudos to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Randy Patton, VFC, FSO-CS, and FSO-HR, reported that photos on the flotilla website will be changed periodically and that the ARS/AUXCOM class ended March 9.

Discussion was held on building/purchasing an 8x10 storage

shed or trailer to store VSC equipment, VE materials, and the flotilla facility, *Paratus*. A committee was formed to explore options and to bring them to the April meeting—committee members are Randy Patton, George Hendricks, Nathan Richards, and Andy Render.

Chuck Truthan, FC, requested program visitors to ask their marine dealers if they will be having boat shows or need ABS classes. Under new business, the 2013 Emergency Response Plan was passed around and members were asked to make any changes in their information in pencil.

Member training was conducted by Randy Patton on navigating the Flotilla 15-3 website.



Commodore John Tyson explains to Randy Patton, VFC, 15-3, how the sequestration may affect the Auxiliary.



Bob Weskerna, D7 Chief of Staff, instructs on Strategy/Goals and Action Plans.



Larry Berman, SO-IS for Division 15, and Bob Weskerna, District 7 Chief of Staff.



Diane Berman, VCDR, Division 15, converses with Linda Jones, FC, 15-1, during a break.

2013 Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament VEs in Orange, TX



Group photo of Bassmaster Tournament VEs from Flotilla 081-06-11 in Orange, TX, and Flotilla 15-3, Ocala, FL. Photo by Helpful Passerby.



Fellowship lunch after doing all the VEs at the Bassmaster Tourney. Photo by Waitperson in restaurant.

We're Learning to "Communicate"!



Last Amateur Radio/AUXCOM class—reviewing ham radio terms.
Photo by Mary Patton



Front row: Gary Jurkovich and Andy Render. Back row, L to R: Vince Maida, Paul Colton, Nathan Richards, George Washburn.
Photo by Mary Patton



Students taking exams.

Photo by Mary Patton



'Flash cards' review of AUXCOM questions.

Photo by Randy Patton

AUXCOM/ARS CLASS ENDS IN SUCCESS!

After four consecutive Saturday mornings of accelerated instruction and unplanned changes in meeting location, four of our participants successfully completed the AUXCOM exam, which is one of the requirements for earning AUXOP status in the Auxiliary. We had participants from two divisions in Florida and a snowbird from Flotilla 26-03 in Ninth Central District in Michigan.

We also have five new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service as a result of the course. Congratulations to the following on receiving their Technician Class ham radio licenses:

KK4PPQ – Andy Render – 15-3

KK4PPR – Chuck Truthan – 15-3

KK4PPS – George Washburn – 15-1

KK4PPT – Nathan Richards – 15-3

KK4PPU – Paul Colton - 45

Huge thanks to the seven Volunteer Examiners from the American Radio Relay League VEC program (including Auxiliaryist Guenther Noder from 43), who made the Amateur Radio testing possible! This effort was coordinated by Ed Biederwolf, W9CHA, who is the ARRL VE Liaison

for Marion County.

The course instructors were Auxiliaryists Randy Patton, K3GRP, and Mary Patton, K3MBP. While no formal follow-up course is planned, Randy and Mary have agreed to do Member Training sessions in concert with regular flotilla meetings to assist others in acquiring their credentials.

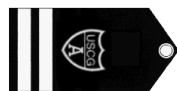


Ocala Flotilla 15-3

For more information, please visit our website:

www.uscgaux-fl.org

Flotilla Commander's



Column



We have a new meeting home!

We will be meeting at the **Marion Oaks Community Center**, 294 Marion Oaks Lane, second Tuesday of each month (except July and December) from 1900 to 2100 hours (7-9 p.m.). Turn off 484 at the first traffic light **West** of I-75 onto Marion Oaks Blvd (big water fountain at the entrance) and continue approx. one mile down to the **first stop sign**. There is a **Walgreens** pharmacy there. Turn right and take the first crossover to the Community Center. I've emailed a map to everyone. The meeting room is in the same section of the building as the Library and Sheriff's substation. We will have internet access, so we can do more with the on-line training from CGAUX. **To inaugurate our new home, we will have donuts and soft drinks for the break. So, come see the new digs!**

Congratulations to the 3 Flotilla members and 2 visiting Flotilla members who passed their HAM/Amateur Radio Service test: Andy Render—KK4PPQ, Chuck Truthan—KK4PPR, Nathan Richards—KK4PPT, George Washburn (15-1)—KK4PPS, and Paul Colton (45)—KK4PPU. Four course participants also successfully completed the AUXCOM exam.

Three of us, Tom, George, and I, loaded up in my coach and headed off to Orange, Texas, to assist Flotilla 081-06-11. They mustered up 5 Vessel Examiners and one non-VE who was of invaluable service (their AOR can be reached by driving 2 hours in any direction!) for a total of 8 VE's. Between us, we had 52 inspections and 44 decals awarded, for an outstanding 85% pass rate! The Anglers were once again delighted to see us and already knew to have their battery terminals covered. All of the registration numbers were of proper style and with proper spacing. It was a long, fast trip, but well worth it! Keep your eyes out for an article on how we saved Angler Shaw Grigsby, of Gainesville, FL, from being disqualified for the event!

Shon has received official word and AUXDATA entry of his newest aviation credentials—Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner! BZ to Shon as these are difficult credentials to attain!

We have obtained permission to store the boat and have a shed at the maintenance area for Carney Island Park at Lake Weir. A committee is working on the details of whether a shed or a storage trailer will work best for our needs.

Our FSO-VE, George Hendricks, will be headed North in early April for some needed surgery. We wish him and Charlotte safe travels and a speedy recovery!

As always, comments or suggestions for improvements, with solutions, are encouraged and welcomed!

Semper Paratus,

Chuck Truthan

Who We Are

The Coast Guard's philosophy is to be SEMPER PARATUS (ALWAYS READY) against all threats and all hazards. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an integral part of that philosophy and the Coast Guard Forces. We conduct safety patrols on local waterways, assist the Coast Guard with homeland security duties, teach boating safety classes, conduct free vessel safety checks for the public, as well as many other activities. The Auxiliary has members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam.



15-3's facility, *Paratus*, on patrol on Lake Weir. L to R: Vonnie Robinson, crew, Andy Render, coxswain, and Robert Seguin, crew trainee.

Photo by Chuck Truthan

Flotilla 15-3 Officers for 2013

FC—Chuck Truthan	FSO-MA—Tom Spangler
VFC—Randy Patton	FSO-MT—Vacant
IPFC—Vonnie Robinson	FSO-OP—Vacant
FSO-AV—Shon Limor	FSO-PA—Chuck Truthan
FSC-CM—Mike Casey	FSO-PB—Mary Patton
FSO-CS—Randy Patton	FSO-PE—Helen Hall
FSO-DV—Vacant	FSO-PV—Vacant
FSO-FN—Vonnie Robinson	FSO-SR—Mary Patton
FSO-FW—Joyce Truthan	FSO-VE—George Hendricks
FSO-HR—Randy Patton	NSBW Coord—Joe Kronzer
FSO-IS—Dolores Spain	