



## THE COMPASS ROSE



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**The December meeting will be the Flotilla Change of Watch (COW). It will be held December 11 at Chuck & Joyce Truthan's home, 8927 SE 70th Terrace—in the Leeward Air Ranch. Start time is 6:00 pm.**

**IMPORTANT: Please RSVP to Chuck Truthan with number of attendees for the COW dinner.**

## 2013 Officers Elected at November Meeting

The November meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance, then Chuck Truthan, Flotilla Commander, welcomed guests Nathan Richards, prospective member, Dave Richards, member from Sarasota Flotilla 82, and Richard Stephenson, Ph.D., Coast Guard Auxiliary National Historian.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved. Robert Seguin, FSO-PV, was given the Sustained Service Award for having volunteered 750 hours to the Auxiliary. Sal Collura received a 10-year service award.

In the Flotilla Commander's report, he announced that December 1 is the "Nuts & Bolts" half-day training at the Division 15 meeting location. Anyone is welcome to attend—uniform of the day is civilian casual. Mr. Truthan reported that Sector St. Petersburg wants each flotilla to develop an action plan which should mirror the Division plan. He also mentioned that the Flotilla Commander is expected to send bi-weekly reports to the Division Commander on the activities accomplished by the Flotilla.

Andy Render, FSO-OP, reported that the Flotilla facility, *Paratus*, needs new flares and needs inspected, and that the "kitty" used to purchase small items for the facility needs to be replenished.

Under old business, the FC reported that the Lake Weir flyers have now been mailed.

Randy Patton presented a copy of the proposed flotilla budget for 2013 to each member and asked if there were any



Chuck Truthan, 2013 FC-elect



questions. There were none, and the budget was voted on and approved.

The Flotilla COW will be held on December 11 at 6:00 pm at the home of Chuck and Joyce Truthan—pot luck, so please bring a side dish—main entree will be provided by the Flotilla. Uniform of the day is Tropical Blues or civilian. Contact Chuck for directions.

Elections were held and Vonnie Robinson, IPFC, was asked by the FC to hold the election. Chuck Truthan was the only candidate who submitted a letter of intent for FC and Randy Patton was the only candidate who submitted a letter of intent for VFC. Vonnie asked Andy Render, chair of the election committee, if the candidates had been vetted and he replied in the affirmative. She then called for nominations from the floor three times, and hearing none, asked for all in favor of each candidate—each candidate was unanimously elected.



Randy Patton, 2013 VFC-elect

After a brief intermission, the flotilla had member-training from the Auxiliary's National Historian, Dr. Richard Stephenson, who spoke on the Auxiliary Oral History Project. He said he will be contacting Districts, Divisions and Flotillas to develop their own history project for the Auxiliary's 75th anniversary in 2016.



by Andy Render

What happens when you take Auxiliarists from three different flotillas, mix them in with a recent out-of-state transferee, and send them all out on a QE check ride? Now, add in a little wind, mix it with an hour's worth of dockside questions, marlinespike and navigation problems, and you have the opportunity to see some real teamwork!

But let's back up and start at the beginning. I needed to complete my 3-year recertification as coxswain, while Linda Jones (Flotilla 15-1) and Rich Rooney (Flotilla 15-5) were ready for their initial crew QE check ride. Additionally, Carrie Schuman (15-5), who just transferred in from Maine, needed her District 7 crew certification check ride.

The four of us were not able to get this done alone! Flotilla 15-1 jumped in and volunteered to crew their facility *Zero-One* and Larry Berman offered *Gasman II* to use as the operational facility. Chuck Morton and Larry Berman agreed to be our Qualification Examiners. Additionally, Larry & Diane Berman offered to let us use their home for the pre-underway testing and crew briefings.

Well, as late afternoon approached, we all set out aboard *Gasman II* for Kings Bay. Along the way, our practice "man-overboard" dummy, "Fred," tripped and fell over the side of our boat. Our crew quickly located him and we managed to bring him safely back aboard. Several of our crew suggested we tie him to the gunwale so that he would not fall over the side again. We should have taken their advice, because "Fred" managed to fall overboard three more times before the evening was over. Each time we brought "Fred" safely back aboard and finally we secured him below deck to prevent further mishaps.

Eventually, we met up with *Zero-One* in Kings Bay. They played the part of a vessel in distress and we took them into tow a number of times. We went from a stern tow to an alongside tow, and then repeated the process so that all of our crew had an opportunity to display their knowledge by performing different tasks during each towing evolution. What made the tows interesting was that the breeze continued to freshen as the evening wore on.

Once we completed all of our tasks in Kings Bay, we returned down river where each of our crew took turns at



the helm and performed different tasks required for the QE check ride. Once we returned to the dock, we did a crew debriefing (which was hurried along, as the "no-seesums" were out in force).

What made this patrol unique enough to talk about? Well, we had a relatively new crew, from different locations, and yet we were able to perform as a TEAM. Something like that doesn't just happen. It takes a combination of three things: Training, training and more training! Everyone knew what was expected of them, they knew how to do it, and they were proficient in how to accomplish the task at hand. Everyone did their assigned task in the same way. There wasn't any right way or wrong way to get the job done, things were done the Coast Guard way. That made things easy. We each knew what the other person was going to do and how they were going to do it. THAT'S TEAMWORK!

And, yes, everyone passed their QE check-ride!



Chuck Morton, SO-OP, was co-QE with Larry Berman on the check ride for the crew & coxswain candidates. Photo by Andy Render



Recent 'QE grads' L to R: Linda Jones, 15-1, qualified as crew, Rich Rooney, 15-5, qualified as crew, Carrie Schuman, 15-5, recertified as crew, and Andy Render, 15-3, recertified as coxswain.

Photo by Chuck Morton

## Division 15 Change of Watch



2013 Division Staff Officers being sworn in by Diane Berman, Division Vice Commander-elect.

Photo by Randy Patton

The Division 15 Change of Watch ceremony and banquet was held on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at the Southern Woods Country Club in Homosassa, FL. Special guests attending were Commander Sean Ryan, USCG, Deputy Commander, Sector St. Petersburg; Ensign Shawn Antonelli, USCG, Sector Enforcement and POMS Administrator, Sector St. Petersburg; BMC Christopher Hinote, USCG, Officer in Charge, Station Yankeetown; BM1 Michael Greene, Executive Petty Officer, Station Yankeetown; and from Auxiliary District 7, Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz; District Chief of Staff and Commodore-elect John Tyson; Melvin Manning, DCAPT-West; Braxton Ezell, DCAPT-West-elect; and Auxiliary Sector Coordinator Donald Hoge.

After a delicious dinner of salad, pot roast, roast turkey, stuffing, red-skinned potatoes, and an ice cream bar, it was time to get down to business. Craig Elliot, Division Commander, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, then welcomed Auxiliary members and their guests and introduced the honored guests at the head table. He then presented awards to several Auxiliarists. Those receiving awards were Larry Berman, Immediate Past District Commander, and member of Gainesville Flotilla 15-5, who received the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation for his exemplary service to the Auxiliary; Kenneth Hollsten from Crystal River Flotilla 15-1, who received the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, also for exemplary service to the Auxiliary. Craig Elliot, Division 15 Commander, received a Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal.

Next, Chief Hinote spoke and thanked Division 15 for all their volunteer hours by relating how much it helped the Coast Guard to have the Auxiliary available to relieve the active duty to pursue other duties. He thanked the Sorli's from Flotilla 15-7 for their help with Aids to Navigation (ATON) verification and their help with the Search and Rescue (SAR) case of a missing kayaker. He also thanked Flotillas 15-1 and 15-8 for their help with SAR and marine pollution, 15-3 for their boater education and Vessel Exams on Lake Weir, Flotilla 15-4 for their community work, 15-1 for the Easter baskets and Thanksgiving meal and for "helping the kids" at the Station. He thanked Larry Berman for his TCT training and the radio watchstanders who relieved the active duty members to engage in other work.

Following Chief Hinote's remarks, the newly-elected Division Commander, Paul Pelletier, and Vice Commander, Diane Berman, were sworn in by Commodore Jaskiewicz. The 2012 Staff Officers were given Certificates of Appreciation, then the 2013 Staff Officers for the Division were sworn in. Paul and Diane presented a plaque to Craig Elliot, thanking him for his service as Division Commander. Craig expressed his appreciation and his hopes for a productive 2013. This concluded the dinner.

# Photos from the Division 15 Change of Watch

All Photos by Mary Patton



### More Photos from the Division 15 COW



## Ocala Flotilla 15-3

For more information, please visit our website

[www.uscgaux-fl.org](http://www.uscgaux-fl.org)

### Flotilla Commander's Column



We had another great turnout for the November meeting. I think everyone was also very pleased with our speaker, Richard A. Stephenson, Ph.D., National Historian, Chief, History Branch, National Department of Government and Public Affairs, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. His talk was very informative and educational. If you missed it and would like to hear the Arnold Palmer Oral History Interview, I have the DVD.

The Lake Weir flyers have paid their first "dividend"! We've been requested to provide a safety zone for the Lake Weir Christmas Boat Parade as well as to address the pre-parade Captain's meeting on safety issues.

We are participating in the Ocala Christmas Parade on Saturday December 8 and the Belleview Parade on Sunday, December 9. Several members continue to assist in fixing up the "PA boat." It will be ready in time and is coming together very nicely. We've got three volunteers to participate in towing/riding, and there's still room for others if anyone is interested.

The Flotilla Change of Watch (COW) is slated for December 11 at our home. Announcements have been sent. RSVP's will be greatly appreciated! Format will be much the same as in past years: potluck with main dish provided by the Flotilla—side-dish "donations" are needed.

My goals for the flotilla continue to be the same: increase recruitment of new members; form a "Speaker's Bureau"; and continue with all the existing efforts, improving where we can with the membership we currently have. This includes the ARS (Amateur Radio Service)/HAM radio program! The ARS/AUXCOM program is still a "go" for the first quarter of 2013. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

2012 has been a great year for Flotilla 15-3 and Recreational Boating Safety in our Area of Responsibility (AOR). We've put a "hold" on adding new Program Visitor partners until we can increase the number of our PVs. We've "added" an active member, Dave Richards, from Flotilla 82, who has become a PV and has been assisting with the PA parade boat. We've recaptured Sal Collura, added Jack Keeling (transfer) and are awaiting paperwork on Nathan Richards. We'll be adding Al Colangelo back to the Auxiliary over the next month as an AUXAIR member. We have two members who are National Branch Chiefs (Andy and Randy). Our facility, **Paratus**, is back in the water and performing flawlessly after the assistance of Station Yankeetown. We conducted an ABS class this summer with 15 graduates. Bob Seguin will soon be ready for his crew QE mission, and two of our members, Mary and Randy Patton, have achieved the AUXOP qualification. Shon Limor is now a Pilot Instructor and has passed the requirements to become a Flight Examiner in AUX-AIR.

I am honored to have earned your confidence to continue to lead our flotilla for the next year. I will do everything I can to fulfill the trust you have placed in me. I know Randy, as our new VFC, is ready for action, and we both are ready to make 2013 the best year yet for Ocala Flotilla 15-3!

As always, any comments or suggestion for improvements (with solutions) are encouraged and welcomed! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Semper Paratus!

Chuck

## 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.



US Coast Guard Cutter going on patrol.

Photo Courtesy of USCG Auxiliary Archives

### Flotilla 15-3 Officers for 2012

Chuck Truthan, FC	Randy Patton, FSO-MA
Andy Render, VFC	Andy Render, FSO-MT
Vonnie Robinson, IPFC	Robert Seguin, FSO-NS
Shon Limor, FSO-AV	Andy Render, FSO-OP
Michael Casey, FSO-CM	Chuck Truthan, FSO-PA
Randy Patton, FSO-CS	Mary Patton, FSO-PB
Vonnie Robinson, FSO-FN	Samuel Lauff, Jr, FSO-PE
Randy Patton, FSO-HR	Robert Seguin, FSO-PV
Dolores Spain, FSO-IS	Joyce Truthan, FSO-SR
	George Hendricks, FSO-VE