



Flotilla 15-3 Ocala, Florida

7th District

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THE COMPASS ROSE

Member Training on PE at the January Meeting



The January meeting commenced at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor members of the armed forces.

Randy Patton, Flotilla Commander (FC), gave his report. He had appointed an Audit Committee (Andy Render, Georgina Render and Mary Patton) and a Budget Committee (Andy Render, Randy Patton, Mary Patton and Vonnie Robinson). He reported on the January 11 Division 15 meeting. There will be a Leadership Roadshow at ASC on January 18 and a Communications meeting in Orlando on Feb 8. There was also a discussion at the division meeting about the possibility of a division-wide Change of Watch (COW). Paul Pelletier, Division Commander (DCDR), asked flotilla commanders to query their flotillas and get a feel for what members want to do about the division COW. It was decided that Victor and Joyce Dvorak would call members to get their feeling on a division-wide COW or having our own COW. Randy reported that the *Paratus* Offer for Use was accepted by the DIRAUX.

Mary Patton, Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC), had



Vonnie Robinson, FSO-PE, left, and Mary Patton, VFC, led a discussion on ways to have more students at PE classes and where to advertise the classes. Robinson photo by M. Patton & Patton photo by R. Patton

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The February flotilla meeting will be held on February 11 at 7:00 pm 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 third 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 then left into the Community Center parking lot.

emailed the summary of the FSO reports to members and asked if there were any changes or additions to the reports. No changes were offered.

Discussion was held on whether or not to purchase hull insurance on the flotilla's facility, *Paratus*. It was decided not to purchase the insurance. Discussion was also held on the AUXLMS courses that are mandatory for all new members to complete in their first year in the Auxiliary and current members should complete them within five years.

The 2014 budget was presented to the members and was accepted. Volunteers were sought for a work party at

Lake Weir on February 1 to help erect a canopy over the trailered *Paratus*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

After a brief break, Mary Patton, VFC, and Vonnie Robinson, FSO-PE, held a member training workshop to go over best practices for promoting PE classes, and a flyer was given to the FSO-PV for distribution to marine dealers in the area. A PE class, *About Boating Safely*, is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, at Gander Mountain Sporting Goods store, off I-75 at exit 352, Instructors are needed—please contact Vonnie Robinson at: FSO-PE.Ocala@uscgaux-fl.org.

Dates for Your Calendar

February 1

February 28, March 1 & 2

March 15

March 29-30

Work party—erect canopy

PA Event

PE Class (tentative)

PA Event (tentative)

Carney Island, Lake Weir

Miller Marine Boat Show

Gander Mountain

The Villages

Division Meeting, January 11, 2014

The division meeting started at 9:00. In his report, Paul Pelletier, Division Commander, said at the last Sector St. Petersburg meeting, it was mentioned that comments on patrol orders were getting “weak” and that Sector would appreciate more thorough descriptions on requests for patrol orders. LTJG Shawn Antonelli, USCG, AOM Administrator, said he will send requests for orders back for more detailed descriptions. Captain Gregory Case, USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, said the Auxiliary performed over one-third of the USCG work in the Sector. On another matter, the Coast Guard needs qualified crew members to assist in their IR SAR training.

Mr. Pelletier asked everyone to follow the Chains of Leadership or Parallel Staffing. If an FSO has a question, it should first be directed to the flotilla commander or the appropriate division SO. They should never skip over people in either of the chains. Division staff officers send their reports to Diane Berman. Flotilla commanders should include in their bi-weekly reports only what the flotilla has done to assist the Coast Guard (AUXFS, Radio Watchstanding, etc.) and any PA events. When called out on a Search and Rescue (SAR) mission, Auxiliarists need to notify the division commander. A quick email should suffice; then, on returning, send a copy of the report to the division commander.

Diane Berman, Vice Division Commander (VCDR), thanked the FCs and VFCs for stepping up to run for office, and she also thanked the division staff officers for agreeing to be appointed to their respective offices. Her next comment was, “Communication, communication, communication!” Flotilla commanders should be sending in their bi-weekly reports, and staff officers should send in monthly reports. It is important to keep the flow of information going up the chain.

Craig Elliot, Immediate Past Division Commander, said that the most important people in the flotilla are the staff officers. If the flotilla commander chooses the right people to fill these positions, then they will do a good job.

Andy Render, SO-OP, said it is not permitted to accept donations for doing Vessel Safety Checks. He suggested that members submit Offer for Use forms to him about 30 days prior to their due date so he can review them before sending them to DIRAUX. He asked that PPE lists be sent to him. He spoke to LTJG Shawn Antonelli, USCG, regarding out-of-sector patrols and will work with him on a “best practices” way to handle it. VSC decals were sent to 2013 flotilla commanders.

The division commander suggested to FCs that they start forming committees to plan activities for National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) in May and to start preparing for hurricane season, which begins June 1. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.



Craig Elliot, IPDCDR, and Andy Render, SO-OP, discuss division operations. Photo by Mary Patton

Ocala Flotilla 15-3

For more information, please visit our website:
www.uscgaux-fl.org

Flotilla Commander's Column Watch Your P's!



This month, I would like to focus on the activities of our four FSO-P_ officers. In alphabetical order, first we have FSO-PA. Barb Bickley has been in contact with The Villages trying to work out an agreement for our participation in their annual Outdoor Expo. If we are able to participate, the event takes place Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, and offers Auxiliary exposure to up to 100,000 visitors to the Expo. We also have the Miller Marine Boat Show coming up from February 28 through March 2. The hours on Friday and Saturday are 9 – 5, and on Sunday from 10 – 3. Needless to say, the Miller show is a “target-rich” environment of recreational boaters where we can recruit for members, promote PE classes, and offer vessel safety exams. But the crucial element for all PA events is for us to have adequate staffing for the event. There should be at least two persons on duty for every shift, with shifts lasting no longer than four hours. While the prescribed uniform for PA events is Tropical Blues, all members are welcome to participate, whether in trops or ODUs. This serves the additional function of showing two of our different types of uniform to the boating public. Also, ALL members are needed, not just PA specialists. People are needed to setup and teardown the booth, staff the booth, relieve staffers, and in some cases, perform VSCs. When the call goes out, please answer that you will help. This is perhaps the best way possible for us to grow our flotilla and show the public what we do.

Mary Patton resumed her role as FSO-PB, publishing the *Compass Rose* each month. A monthly newsletter such as ours requires material from and about the members, so please don't be bashful and do give her updates on your activities. As SO-PB, Mary also publishes the Division 15 newsletter, the *Charlie Noble*, on a quarterly basis, and contributes to the award-winning District 7 *Breeze* magazine as well.

Vonnie Robinson has hit the ground running as our new FSO-PE. She has already made arrangements to hold a PE class at Gander Mounting Sporting Goods on March 15, and she is working with a marine dealer on a class for its employees and customers. Here again, instructors and instructor trainees are needed to make these classes a success. And members who are not instructors can still help out with logistics and assisting the instructors.

And last but certainly not least, our new FSO-PV, Joyce Dvorak, has been very active at distributing safe boating literature to dealer partners, and even adding new partners for the program. We're asking all of our PVs to distribute flyers for our PE classes to the dealers they service.

Our FSO-P_ officers, working together with each other and with all the members of 15-3, are performing important work to help Flotilla 15-3 accomplish its goals of assisting the active duty Coast Guard in all areas of recreational boating safety.

Let me make this pitch one more time: when asked to assist with any of these important events, please give as much time and effort as you can. YOU are vital to the success of our flotilla and to the mission of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary!

Randy

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.



Coast Guard cutter.

Photo from Auxiliary Archives

Flotilla 15-3 Officers for 2014

FC—Randy Patton	FSO-MT—Andy Render
VFC—Mary Patton	FSO-OP—Andy Render
IPFC—Chuck Truthan	FSO-PA—Barbara Bickley
FSC-CM—Vonnie Robinson	FSO-PB—Mary Patton
FSO-CS—Randy Patton	FSO-PE—Vonnie Robinson
FSO-DV—Maia Jefferson	FSO-PV—Joyce Dvorak
FSO-FN—Georgina Render	FSO-SR—Joyce Dvorak
FSO-HR—Andy Render	FSO-VE—George Hendricks
FSO-IS—Dolores Spain	Special Assts to the Flotilla Commander:
FSO-MA—Nathan Richards	AUXAIR—Shon Limor
FSO-MS—Victor Dvorak	Weather—Michael Casey
Hurricane Preparedness—	NSBW Coordinators—Victor and Joyce Dvorak
Randy Patton	