



*THE COMPASS ROSE*



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*The June flotilla meeting will be held Tuesday, June 12, at 7:00 pm in the Marion County Sheriff's station, 3280 SE 80th Street, Ocala (US 441 at the split).*

The May flotilla meeting was very busy. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Andy Render, Flotilla Vice Commander, welcomed guests BM2 Jared Morelli, USCG, the Flotilla's outgoing Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO), BM3 John Adams, USCG, the incoming AUXLO, Craig Elliot, Division 15 Commander and his wife, Peggy, Jack Keeling, an Auxiliarist from Alabama who is moving to Ocala, David Richards, an Auxiliarist from Bradenton, Florida, who works in Ocala, and Guenther Noder, former 15-3 member, now a member of Flotilla 4-3. The minutes from the April flotilla meeting were approved. AUXLO Morelli was given a proclamation and plaque, thanking him for his excellent service to our flotilla. New AUXLO John Adams was welcomed to the meeting and asked to say a few words. He said he is looking forward to working with us in the coming months.

Vonnie Robinson, IPFC, was presented with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal by Craig Elliot, Division 15 Commander. It reads in part "... her excellent leadership resulted in the Flotilla volunteering more than 7000 hours, 25 surface patrol missions, 40 air operations, more than 200 marine dealer visits, 350 vessel examinations, and 50 public affairs missions. The Flotilla not only provided support to Coast Guard Station Yankeetown, but provided significant support to Air Station Clearwater, including numerous SAR (Search and Rescue) and law enforcement missions, as well as significant participation in Operation Deepwater Horizon." Chuck Truthan, Flotilla Commander, was awarded his fourth Sustained Auxiliary Service Award for service in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Each award rep-

**It Was A Busy May Flotilla Meeting!**



Vonnie Robinson, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, is presented with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal by Craig Elliot, Division 15 Commander. Photo by Mary Patton

resents 750 hours of service. Randy and Mary Patton were each presented with the Marine Safety Training Specialist certificate with ribbon as well as certificates for completing the Auxiliary Weather and the Recreational Boating Safety/ Program Visitor courses.

Craig Elliot gave a report on a meeting he attended at Sector St. Petersburg on May 7. He said a discussion was held on the Republican National Convention being held in Tampa in early September and that the Coast Guard will need Auxiliary help with boating and administrative work. Craig suggested that all Auxiliary facilities should have Digital Selective Calling and Auxiliarists should be familiar with it. He also spoke about the Hurricane Exercise coming up in late May. The exercise will cover items such as what happens if phones and power go out, how people can be contacted under these circum-

stances and where one can get money and gas, since ATMs and gas pumps require power to function.

Chuck Truthan reported that he sent a public service announcement to various media outlets about National Safe Boating Week, May 19 to 26. The flotilla plans to have a presence at the Ocala Boat Basin on Saturday, May 19 from 10 am to 2 pm, and will have a Public Affairs tent set up and will also provide Vessel Safety Checks for boaters.

It was decided that the August Flotilla meeting will be held at the **VFW post next to Markets of Marion** because the Sheriff's Station meeting room is not available. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 and cake and coffee was brought out for Jared Morelli's last meeting as AUXLO.

## From the May Flotilla Meeting, May 8, 2012



Randy Patton, FSO-HR, is congratulated by Andy Render, VFC, on receiving the Marine Safety Training Specialist Award and ribbon and his RBS-PV certification Photo by Mary Patton



Craig Elliot, Division 15 Commander, informing the flotilla about the upcoming hurricane preparedness exercise.

Photo by Mary Patton



BM2 Jared Morelli, USCG, is presented with an Award of Appreciation for his service to the flotilla as AUXLO by Andy Render, VFC, as Chuck Truthan, FC, looks on. Photo by Mary Patton



Coffee, soda and cake were served at the conclusion of the flotilla meeting in honor of Jared's service to the Flotilla.

Photo by Mary Patton



Andy Render, VFC, chats with new Flotilla AUXLO, BM3 John Adams, USCG, Station Yankeetown. Photo by Mary Patton



George Hendricks, FSO-VE, and Tom Spangler enjoying the soda and cake. Photo by Mary Patton



## National Safe Boating Week Kickoff Saturday, May 19, 2012

The kickoff for National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) was held on Saturday, May 19, 2012.

Ocala Flotilla 15-3 set up its Public Affairs canopy and tables at the Ocala Boat Basin. Vessel Examiners Andy Render, Bob Seguin, and Barbara Bickley were on hand to provide Vessel Safety Checks to motor boaters and paddle sports devotees. In addition, demonstrations were given on nautical knot-tying, known as marlinspike, by Vonnie Robinson, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander. Randy and Mary Patton manned the Public Affairs booth. Chuck Truthan, Flotilla Commander, provided his motorhome for lunch and heat breaks, and Sam Lauff, Jr., FSO-

PE, was on hand to lend assistance, as well.

Andy Render, Flotilla Vice Commander, gave boating safety talks to several groups of paddle and kayak enthusiasts and to a group of canoeists from the Boy Scouts. The main focus of the safety talk was to always wear a life jacket and to have a whistle handy at all times. All who attended the safety talk were provided with life jackets or whistles if they did not have one of their own by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Boating Safety, of course, is one of our primary missions.



VE Bob Seguin providing a Vessel Safety Check on a pontoon boat.  
Photo by Mary Patton



Andy Render, VFC, giving a safety talk to a paddle sports group.  
Photo by Mary Patton

The 'coveted' Vessel Safety Check 2012 sticker issued for a paddle boat.  
Photo by Mary Patton







Andy Render, VFC, giving a safety talk to another group of paddlers.  
Photo by Mary Patton



Vonnie Robinson, standing left, instructs Barbara Bickley on the fine art of marlinspike at the PA booth, while Bob Seguin, right, looks on.  
Photo by Mary Patton



Mary Patton, FSO-PB, stands at the ready at the PA booth.  
Photo by Randy Patton



Andy Render, VFC, and Bob Seguin giving a safe boating talk..  
Photo by Mary Patton



Randy Patton, FSO-HR, at the entrance of the NSBW site.  
Photo by Mary Patton



Vonnie Robinson, IPFC, at the PA booth at the Ocala Boat Ramp for National Safe Boating Week .  
Photo by Mary Patton





VSCs on paddle boats.

## More Photos from NSBW at the Ocala Boat Basin

Photos by Chuck Truthan



Boating safety talk

## \*\* EXERCISE \*\* EXERCISE \*\*

### HURRICANE GISPERT MAKES LANDFALL by Andy Render, VFC

The 2012 Coast Guard pre-season hurricane drill was planned to simulate a major storm hitting Tampa during the Republican National Convention scheduled for late August of this year.

And what a scenario they were presented with... The storm originated over Cuba, quickly became a hurricane and started for the West Coast of Florida. The storm came ashore in Tampa and crossed the center of the state and headed for Jacksonville. Along the coast, winds approached 150 MPH and the tidal surge was estimated to be 14-18 feet.

Considering this simulation was a major storm, first assessments of Coast Guard and other emergency agencies show things went pretty much as planned. As for our division, we contacted over 98% of our people within 3 hours. Our flotilla contacted everyone on our hurricane contact list in just one hour! Now that is outstanding. *BRAVO ZUZU!*

Let's take a look at some of the things our flotilla learned from this. Well, we know our calling tree works, and we can contact those on the Hurricane Awareness List in a short amount of time to warn them of the impending danger.

PA Booth for NSBW.



But the question came up: "Once the hurricane passed, how well are we organized to assist Station Yankeetown?" Consider the following:

After a major storm, telephone lines and cell towers would be down.

- How do we communicate with each other?
- How would we determine what help the station needs and how would we communicate with them?

We have people who own equipment such as RVs, portable generators, chain saws, etc.,

and all of this could be needed at the station.

- Law enforcement would probably close most, if not all, the roads leading to the station.
- How would we get past the police lines?

When a major storm hits the coastline, local flotillas will not be in any condition to support their Coast Guard units. That is when inland flotillas, which missed the brunt of the storm, will be relied upon to step in and take a lead role.

Are we ready?

## Visiting the Ocala Boat Club



Andy Render, VFC, at the Ocala Boat Club meeting.

Photo by Mary Patton



OBC Commodore Bill Hodge welcoming the guests to the Ocala Boat Club meeting and dinner.

Photo by Mary

## Visiting the Ocala Boat Club

On Monday evening, May 21, Andy Render and Randy and Mary Patton were invited to the Ocala Boat Club to be their guests and program for the evening.

There were approximately 30 members of the Boat Club in attendance, and they had gathered together a lovely pot-luck dinner. After dessert was served, Commodore Bill Hodge

introduced Andy to speak on boater safety. Andy stressed that boaters should always be wearing a life jacket, and he gave a rundown on new state and federal regulations relating to boating. After Andy's talk, Randy took the floor and gave a short talk about our flotilla and the Auxiliary's mission to support the US Coast Guard in all missions except law

enforcement and drug interdiction. After the talks, Mary Patton gave out "goody bags" containing pamphlets and other information on the Auxiliary. There was a question and answer session and interest in having a Boater Safety Course. The evening ended at 8:15 pm



Andy Render, VFC, speaking on Boater Safety at the Ocala Boat Club.

Photo by Mary Patton



Randy Patton, FSO-HR, spoke about the benefits of joining the Auxiliary.

Photo by Mary Patton



## Ocala Flotilla 15-3

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://a0701503.wow.uscgaux.info>



### Flotilla Commander's Column

I'm back following my surgery and expect to retake all my activities from Andy (whose assistance has been outstanding these past two months as I've been recovering!). Well, I expect to and will try to. I also expected to be feeling a lot better and more active much sooner. It is tough getting older. The mind exceeds the body's capacity!

As we enter June, I'd like to keep you all informed as to how we are progressing toward our two primary goals: Recruitment/PE around Lake Weir and Crew Member training.

The Lake Weir recruitment and PE has not moved forward, I am sorry to report. This is mostly due to my being down from surgery and I accept full responsibility. That said, I do intend to move it to the head of my "to do" list!

We had been contacted by someone from Lake Weir with 17 students "ready to go" for an ABS class. Despite Sam's best efforts, he's not been able to contact that person after numerous phone messages left. He's not given up though!

As for Crew Member training, you all need to contact Andy Render directly. He can't force you and he certainly can't help you if don't ask! Also remember that training is available with the Station Yankeetown crews on the second and fourth Thursday of every month. Contact Andy for coordination through Division. You'll need to make reservations to attend. Expect to be there by 0800 and in proper uniform (ODU) with proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Also, Andy gets email invitations from Larry Berman from Gainesville 15-5 to join on patrols he performs out of Crystal River. Many of those are open to crew trainees, too, so let Andy know you want to go!

The NSBW event at the Ocala Boat Basin with Vessel Safety Checks and a PA booth went extremely well. I was able to attend with my RV as the Rehab station, but only under the strictest of orders from my boss (Joyce) to stay in the RV! I did sneak out to take a few pictures of the activity. Andy, Barb, and Bob were in "paddle education heaven" as numerous paddlers launch there. It is a beautiful facility and the water level is "normal" as it is directly fed from Silver Springs.

As always, your comments, questions, complaints WITH suggested solutions are always welcomed!

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.



Personal Water Craft (PWC) on patrol.

Photo Courtesy of US Coast Guard 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	Andy Render, FSO-OP
Shon Limor, FSO-AV	Chuck Truthan, FSO-PA
Michael Casey, FSC-CM	Mary Patton, FSO-PB
Randy Patton, FSO-CS	Samuel Lauff, Jr, FSO-PE
Vonnie Robinson FSO-FN	Dolores Spain, FSO-PV
Randy Patton, FSO-HR	Joyce Truthan, FSO-SR
Dolores Spain, FSO-IS	George Hendricks, FSO-VE