



## THE COMPASS ROSE



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*The March flotilla meeting will be held at **Gander Mountain**, 3970 SW 3rd Street, Ocala. From I-75, get off at exit 352 and turn left—go under the bridge and watch on the left for the Gander Mountain sign w/arrow. Meeting room is in the left rear of the store.*

## February Flotilla Meeting Notes

The February meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were several visitors present: Maia Jefferson, Mig and Roger McCarthy from Cape Cod Flotilla 11-8, Ed Soellner, and Richard Critchlow. Minutes from the January meeting were approved. Chuck Truthan, Flotilla Commander (FC), gave his report. He requested that all members fill out and submit the 7029 form each month with the hours each Auxiliarist spends doing Auxiliary business. He also asked for volunteers to man the PA booth at the Parade of Seniors show and the Miller Marine Boat Show. He requested Program Visitors report any marine dealer partners who are planning boat shows.

Shon Limor, FSO-AV, reported that there will be no flying until April or May due to the cold water temperatures. Randy Patton, VFC and FSO-CS, reported routine monitoring and maintenance of the [uscgaux-fl.org](http://uscgaux-fl.org) domain email server and that there are now new email addresses for Division 15 bridge and staff. He also said he has published an updated domain email directory.

LaVonne Robinson, FSO-FN, gave the financial report and Randy Patton, also serving as the FSO-HR, said he has corresponded with new member prospects from the E-Responder list. The member training officer, Andy Render, reported that a VE Workshop presented by George Hendricks was held at the January meeting. Render, also the staff officer for operations, reported that the flotilla facility, *Paratus*, is now in working order. He said he participated in one training patrol with Flotilla 15-5 to complete Boat



Chuck Truthan, FC, presents the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation for Exemplary Service at the 2011 Bassmaster Elite Tournament to Shon Limor and George Hendricks. Tom Spangler, who also received the award, was not present. Photo by Mary Patton

Crew Training for a member of 15-3 and he conducted one dockside training session with a member of 15-3.

Mary Patton, FSO-PB, stated that the February issue of the *Compass Rose* had been sent out and that work has begun on the March issue. She also indicated that, as FSO-SR, the January minutes had been sent out to members.

George Hendricks, FSO-VE, informed the flotilla that at the monthly VE Blitz at Lake Weir on January 26 they performed four VEs. Discussion was held on the purchase of a storage cabinet to store VE equipment and signs at Lake Weir and Chuck Truthan, FC, offered to speak with the park ranger at Carney Island boat ramp at Lake Weir about the possibility of doing VEs at the staging/

launching area in order to be more visible and to speak to the ranger about possible storage areas for VE equipment.

Randy Patton, one of the instructors for the ARS/AUXCOM classes, gave a brief overview of the classes and invited anyone interested to come to the first class on Saturday, February 16. He said he expected to email the class syllabus out on February 13. He also demonstrated the ham radio handheld unit that will be issued to each flotilla member upon completion of the exam and issuance of an FCC amateur radio license.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

After a short break, Vonnie Robinson provided member training on the new AUXLMS mandated courses



James Farrow, SO-FN, and LaVonne Robinson, FSO-FN, 15-3.



Tony Soper, SO-VE, George Hendricks, FSO-VE 15-3, and Ned Barry, FC 15-4



At the PA group table are: Chuck Truthan, SO-PA, with Jerry Cubbison, FSO-PA, 15-2, and Jodi Love, FSO-PA, 15-1.



Randy Patton, FSO-HR, 15-3, Vince Maida, FSO-HR, 15-1, Cathy McAllister, SO-DV, Bruce McAllister, SO-HR, at the HR group table.



Larry Berman, FSO-MT, 15-5 (back to camera), George Dooris, FSO-MT, 15-4, Jim Kelly, SO-MT, and Jim Simon, FSO-MT, 15-1



## We're Learning to "Communicate"!



Instructor Randy Patton, who has an Advanced Class Amateur Radio license, lectures on FM deviation and modulation during the first class. Photo by Mary Patton



Second class day—David Pennell (standing), SO-CM for Division 4, attended the class to provide details on the District 7 HF net and to encourage members to become licensed operators. Photo by Mary Patton



Mary Patton demonstrates the ham radio HT that will be issued to licensed flotilla members. Photo by Randy Patton



Second class day—after a short break, students were ready to tackle the subject, "Amateur Radio Equipment." Photo by Mary Patton



Third class day: L to R, Instructors Mary and Randy Patton and students Sal Collura and Vonnie Robinson. Photo by Gary Jurkovich



The third class venue was Chuck Trathan's home. Students are shown here getting ready to watch the PowerPoint presentation. Photo by Mary Patton



# CQ, CQ, CQ!

by Andy Render



It all started with a conversation about the advantages of being an inland flotilla. Should another hurricane move up the coast, who would be better prepared to help out than those not directly hit by hurricane-force winds and high water? We might well be one of only two flotillas in Division 15 able to support Coast Guard Station Yankeetown and our coastal flotillas.

But then there is the obvious problem of communication. Telephone service could go out, and that would mean cell towers would be overloaded and communications questionable. Two of our members suggested we think about developing an Auxiliary Amateur Radio Service (HAM) network in our area. That raised another set of problems. You need a license to operate a HAM radio, and obviously you need radios.

So step one was to develop an Amateur Radio Service Workshop to train members so they could obtain the necessary FCC license. The two members who suggested the original idea, Mary Patton, K3MBP, and Randy Patton, K3GRP, happen to be HAM operators, and offered to develop a training program for the flotilla. Well, why not incorporate AUXCOM into the same program, and why not open it to all auxiliary members in central Florida?

So, on three recent Saturday mornings, there were fresh donuts, hot coffee and a classroom full of students eager to test out our new theory. Members came from Divisions 4 and 15. One of

the students drove over 70 miles (one-way) to attend our class.

The four-hour workshops are covering a lot of ground, including radio theory, available frequencies, FCC regulations, and lots more. Much of that same information coincides directly with our AUXCOM certification requirements. That's why both classes were linked together. One thing all of us learned is that, in addition to the Saturday morning workshops, we are going to need to do our homework in order to qualify as both a Technician Class Amateur Radio Operator and to pass the AUXCOM test. Online practice tests are available for the ARS course and practice questions for AUXCOM will be distributed during week three's class

David Pennell, SO-CM for Division 4, attended our second meeting and talked about plans to set up a Central Florida Auxiliary Amateur Radio Network and how our flotilla might fit right in to their plans. It looks like a lot of flotillas have the same idea. We need a way to communicate with each other should an emergency knock out our regular means of communication.

Stay tuned for more updates as we progress through not only the workshops, but as we develop a radio network and then how all that helps us better support the Auxiliary.

Did you notice the title at the top of the page? Well, transmitting the letters CQ is an invitation for anyone listening to join in!





## Ocala Flotilla 15-3

For more information, please visit our website:

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

### Flotilla Commander's



### Column



Speaking of changes coming this year, this month's meeting will be at **Gander Mountain**, 3970 SW 3rd Street, Ocala, FL 34474. This is just south of SR 40 and on the West "parallel" road to I-75. Northern Tools shares the same location. The meeting is the same time, 7:00 p.m. In the meantime, the search is narrowing down for a new, more permanent location. That location may very well be the Marion Oaks Community Building. They are located about 3 miles west of I-75 off County Road 484. We should know more at this month's meeting, as I am scheduled to appear before their board that same morning.

The opening day of the Miller Boat Show has been extremely productive for our flotilla. We have been invited to speak again at the Ocala Boat Club, and they wish to sponsor an ABS class for their members and the community at their facility. The local BASS club has invited us to speak to their junior members (high school ages) and also sponsor an ABS class at Gander Mountain. The Francis Marion Military Academy approached us with concerns about the AIM program. They will be contacted by the USCG Academy and the Florida AIM coordinator. Their commandant wishes to join the CGAUX. This will open the door to possible ABS classes at their facility. Shaw Grigsby, Bassmaster Elite Series Angler, who is a Gainesville native, has agreed to perform Public Service Announcements for the CGAUX. All of this was before noon. *WHEW!*

Earlier in the week, while searching for a new home for us, the folks at Gander Mountain requested an ABS class or two and will promote it on their website with enough advance notice! They also are requesting we perform a VSC event in their lot. This may tie into an NSBW activity.

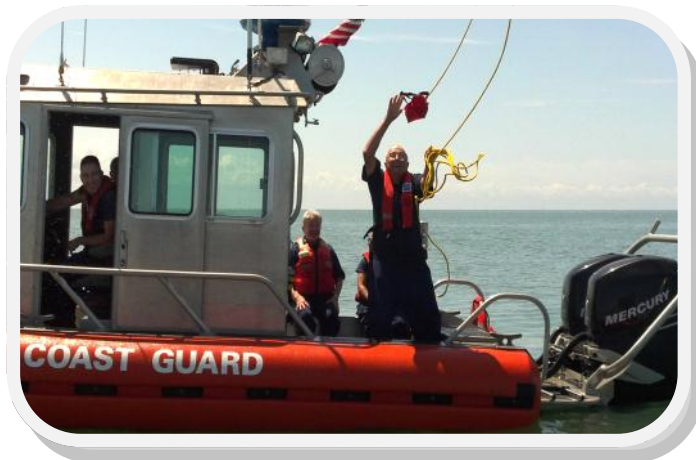
Next weekend, after the final ARS/AUXCOM class is over, I'll be headed to Orange, Texas, to assist District 81 with the Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament VE Blitz. George Hendricks and Tom Spangler are going along, and we've room for others willing to make a whirlwind Texas Tour! Call me.

There have been lots of other activities, but that's enough for now. As always, **any comments or suggestion 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.



On patrol with the Coast Guard out of Yankeetown—Andy Render throws the line to another Coast Guard boat as Vonnie Robinson looks on.

Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard

### Flotilla 15-3 Officers for 2013

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