



## THE COMPASS ROSE



### Highlights from the Division 15 Meeting, April 7, 2012

The Division 15 meeting was held on Saturday, April 7, 2012, at the Citrus Community Center in Homosassa. Approximately 30 Auxiliary members were present. Flotilla 15-1 was the host flotilla and they provided the donuts and coffee for the meeting.

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After the Pledge of Allegiance, Craig Elliot, Division Commander, welcomed everyone and gave opening remarks. Homosassa is offering an "orientation course" for boaters—for example, where to swim and fish, where are the boating hazards and what can boaters do in the area. It was suggested to look for different ways to get in contact with boaters besides Safe Boating courses. One flotilla is running a "Suddenly In Command" course to familiarize family and friends of boaters on what to do if the boat owner is not able to pilot his boat safely back to the marina.

US Coast Guard BMC Christopher Hinote, Officer-in-Charge, Station Yankeetown, thanked Division personnel for the recent barbeque held for station staff. He reported that several construction projects at the station are being undertaken. He invited Auxiliarists to go out on patrol with his people and also offered small repairs on auxiliary facilities' motors. Chief Hinote said, "Don't be afraid to hit us up for help with a quick repair." He said that due to the high cost of gas, AUXLOs may not make every meeting, but not to hesitate to call if we need them to attend a meeting. He also said that Amateur Radio operators can be put on a calling-tree to help out at the EOC.



Pictured at the Division meeting are Vonnie Robinson, SO-SR and Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, 15-3, Linda Jones, Flotilla Commander, 15-1, and Tom Jones. Photo by Mary Patton

Paul Pelletier, Division Vice Commander, reported that Andy Render will coordinate the Hurricane calling tree. He said he went on a Division 11 training exercise that included a C-130 air drop for boaters in distress—5 bags and a pump. He offered to come to flotilla meetings and give a talk and show a short video about this type of training. He said Auxiliarists can go on C-130 ride-alongs for the air-drop training.

Larry Berman, Immediate Past Division Commander, gave a presentation on awards and the importance of getting award paperwork in on time. Flotillas will want to give out awards at their Change of Watch ceremonies in December. He suggested that we start thinking now about who should get awards

and start the process in the next month or two and send them in early.

Andy Render, Flotilla Vice Commander for Flotilla 15-3, Ocala, was given the Mentor Award for mentoring new recruits. Diane Berman was sworn in as SO-CS, and Richard Culp, Jr, was sworn in as SO-CM. Mel Manning, District 7 Captain-West, gave a presentation on performance measurements. Dudley Davis, Division 11 SO-OP, reported that his division is placing patrols at both ends and the middle of Sand Key to increase the coverage of Sector St. Petersburg. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

*The May flotilla meeting will be held May 8 at 7:00 pm in the Marion County Sheriff's station, 3280 SE 80th Street, Ocala (US 441 at the split).*



Randy Patton is congratulated by Andy Render, VFC, at the April Flotilla meeting on his new National staff office of Branch Assistant in the IT User Support and Services Department, serving as CS Officer Liaison.

Photo by Mary Patton



Andy Render congratulates Barbara Bickley on her "better late than never" receipt of six ribbons as Sam Lauff looks on..

Photo by Mary Patton

## Paddle Sports

### One of the Fastest-Growing Segments of Recreational Boating

by Barbara Bickley

I belong to a canoe and kayak club in The Villages, Florida. There are 250 members and we have a 'paddle' once or twice a month. We try to be very safe by making it mandatory to wear a lifejacket. I recently read an article that stated the fastest growing segment of recreational boating is paddle craft, with more than 300,000 paddle craft being sold annually. Paddle craft are an extremely affordable entry point to recreational boating. Unfortunately, statistics show the majority of drownings occurred with paddle craft.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary now offers the Paddle Sport America course. With these statistics in mind, I asked Andy Render, VFC, to assist me in putting together a class in August of last year. One very important component included the new sticker that owners place on their canoe or kayak

containing all of the person's information. In case the occupant should fall into the water and the boat continues on down the river, the patrol can be aware that there is a person in the water upstream.

We provided the group with a lot of information on staying safe, including having a "float plan," checking the weather forecast, carrying a dry bag with all of their needs, and the various kinds of personal flotation devices. Visit [www.cgaux.org/boatinged/](http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/) for course information.

We emphasized the importance of:

- Dressing appropriately for the weather
- Importance of having a personal flotation device
- Checking the weather forecast for the area
- Paddlers need to understand physical limitations
- Paddlers should invest in a handheld VHF-FM marine radio, since this is the primary means for issuing a distress



**Barbara Bickley**

Photo by Mary Patton

alert on the water.

- Have day and night flares, a signal mirror, whistle or other sound-producing device
- Have a float plan

The Villages also has a club of private boat owners with about 25 members, and George Hendricks, Tom Spangler, and Andy Render met with them at the water to conduct vessel safety checks on their kayaks, with about nine safety stickers being issued at Juniper Springs.

## From the Division 15 Meeting on April 7, 2012



Craig Elliot, Division 15 Commander, swears in Richard Culp, Jr., as SO-CM, and Diane Berman as SO-CS.

Photo by Mary Patton



At the head table, L to R: Dudley Davis, Division 11 SO-OP; Mel Manning, District Captain-West; Craig Elliot, Division Commander; Paul Pelletier, Division Vice Commander; Larry Berman, Immediate Past Division Commander; and Vonnie Robinson, SO-SR.

Photo by Mary Patton

## Highlights from the April Flotilla 15-3 Meeting

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes of the March meeting were accepted. Barbara Bickley was presented with several awards/ribbons that she had earned over the past several years, but were never received. She received the **Aids to Navigation Verifier**, a **Sustained Service Award**, the **Presidential Unit Citation**, a **Coast Guard Unit Citation**, **Vessel Examiner**, and an **Auxiliary Membership Service Award**.

Mike Casey, FSO-CM, gave the com-

munications report. He said the new Division Communications Officer, Richard Culp, Jr., will check on repeater stations and frequencies for use by the Auxiliary.

Andy Render, VFC, discussed the Hurricane Awareness Listing update, what it is, how it works, etc. He also gave a status update on the Lake Weir Membership Project. He reported that we have purchased a wheeled hand cart to transport Program Visitor brochures and equipment for show set

-ups.

Under New Business, it was announced that there would be TCT training on Sunday, April 15, and that the flotilla would set up for National Safe Boating Week at the Ocala Boat Basin, off Route 40. It was suggested that members brainstorm on ways to get students for PE classes. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:30. Sexual Harassment Prevention training was held after the meeting.

## Ocala Flotilla 15-3

For more information, please visit our website:

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



### From the Flotilla Vice Commander

## NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

National Safe Boating Week is the single largest annual event aimed at ensuring the safety of the recreational boating public; AND boating safety is the number one priority of the Coast Guard Auxiliary!

Our flotilla has planned several activities to kick off National Safe Boating Week on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. We would like to have a public education booth and a Vessel Safety Check Station at the Ocala Boat Basin on that day. Our problem is we do not have enough people to staff these positions. That's where you come in---WE NEED YOUR HELP! You don't need to be a qualified Vessel Examiner or have a uniform, there are plenty of ways you can participate. WE NEED YOU TO BE INVOLVED.....

To tell the truth, we have over 30 members in our flotilla, yet we can count on just two hands how many actually get involved. Paying your annual dues is great. We appreciate it, but it's not enough. We need you to step up and take an active role in boating safety. Florida is leading the nation in boating accidents and related deaths! Last year we had three boating fatalities in Lake Weir alone! Being Marion County's leading organization in recreational boating safety, it's our responsibility to be engaged and take some action. We are not able to do this unless everyone gets involved.

National Safe Boating Week, May 19-26, is an excellent time for our flotilla to pull together and start to take an active role in ensuring the safety of the boaters here in Marion County.

Please call me at 753-3096 or send an e-mail to [andy.render@uscgaux-fl.org](mailto:andy.render@uscgaux-fl.org) and let me know that you are willing to step up and do your part.

Semper Paratus,

Andy Render, VFC

## 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.



Photo Courtesy of Coast Guard 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