

**By Wilbur B. Scott**  
**January 2, 2014**

## **WE WANT YOU!**

The holidays have now passed and all of the excitement and rushing around is over. I know that a little calm is always welcomed as we begin a brand new year. But then that feeling of calm may soon pass and boredom begins to set in. Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 of your U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has something to cure anyone's boredom while at the same time allowing you to be of service to your community and your country. Whether you are a permanent resident of our area or a seasonal visitor I can assure you that no matter what your area of interest may be, you will find it as a member of Homosassa Flotilla 15-4! Young person and senior citizen alike work together in serving the boating public.

For those of you who love boats, (you don't have to own a boat to be a member) and being on the water, we have a place for you as a member of one of our boat crews, participating in surface patrols, exciting search and rescue operations as well as interesting training missions with the USCG. Perhaps your interest is in the environment. Then how about becoming involved with us as we patrol for oil spills and other hazardous material and dangers to our waterways? Perhaps you would rather qualify as one of our "Vessel Examiners", providing a very important service to both recreational boaters and some commercial vessels as well.

You say that you enjoy the water, but you love flying more? Then why not be a part of our air wing as a trained air observer, flying air patrols and search and rescue missions. If you are a licensed pilot or aircraft owner we can definitely use you and perhaps your aircraft as well.

Perhaps you prefer to keep your feet on solid ground. If so, we offer many opportunities for you

to serve as well. If you enjoy teaching for example, why not become one of our certified instructors, teaching a variety of subjects to the boating public as well as training your fellow USCG Auxiliary members?

Maybe you are someone who has always wanted to be a reporter or writer. If so, then our “Public Affairs” officer, (that’s me), would really like to have you come on board as a reporter covering Our numerous activities and missions, writing stories and meeting with members of the local media. Is photography your hobby or business? If so then why not share your experience with us and enjoy some truly interesting photo opportunities?

Perhaps you are an amateur radio operator or someone who has an interest in radio communications. If so, then you will love becoming one of our “Communications Specialists”, standing radio watches, (you really don’t have to stand), monitoring and participating in exciting search and rescue operations and patrols! If that isn’t exciting enough for you then perhaps you can qualify to stand radio watches at USCG land stations as well.

These are just some of the interesting and exciting things that you can become a part of and there are many more. Fellowship too plays a large role in our flotilla. Here you will meet new friends and find a common bond with others who enjoy being of service to others. Men, women, young and senior citizen alike, Flotilla 15-4 invites you to join us and wear our uniform proudly as you become a part of the U.S. Coast Guard family. For membership information please feel free to contact either Ned Barry at 352-249-1042, (email, [nedbarry@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:nedbarry@tampabay.rr.com)) or Robert Currie at 352-799-5250 (email, [rgcurrie@bellsouth.net](mailto:rgcurrie@bellsouth.net)).

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USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 15-4 Patrol Vessel preparing to commence patrol on the Homosassa River and Gulf of Mexico. Crew members left to right are Rusty Hays, Robert Currie and Coxswain, Ray Koepfel.



USCG Auxiliary Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 Air Wing Patrol prepares for a routine patrol over the Gulf of Mexico and other area waterways. Crewmembers left to right are, Shon Limor, Guenther Noder and Pilot in Command, Ron O'Connel.