



# the 7:15 express

your Division communicator August 23, 2017



## A message from the Division Commander

**, Every year, just prior to our District Training Conference (DTRAIN), each division is asked to submit a report reviewing their accomplishments. The report gives each division a chance to highlight what their members have accomplished. Here is a condensed summary of our report to District 7:**

The division's ability to support both the recreational boating public and the Coast Guard have made good strides forward as we continue to show improvement. Special emphasis has been placed on people, professionalism, and pride!

Member training and increased internal communication have played a major role in the rebuilding process. We moved from the traditional "flotilla training", and now encourage cross flotilla workshops. Flotillas having members with specific skills now specialize in their workshop training. These workshops include boat crew, navigational services, SAR fundamentals, one day core training seminars, and several others. Flotilla assets are trailered to other flotillas for two boat drills, practice QE missions, and allowing crews to cross train with other flotillas. Radio watchstanding is no longer limited to working within a single flotilla. Members work with all flotillas to ensure adequate auxiliary radio coverage for as many patrols as possible.

Improved communication was identified as a priority. The division web site was revamped to provide "point and click" access to any number of auxiliary sites, publications, and Coast Guard Instructions. The home page covers information of interest to the boating public and Auxiliarists, while the "members only" section carries more sensitive information. The division also initiated **the 7:15 express**, a monthly "web-letter" high-lighting current information, our member's activities, and their achievements. During a recent division meeting, a presentation was given outlining our new communication networks and discussing how this will have an impact on our ability to keep the lines of communication open.

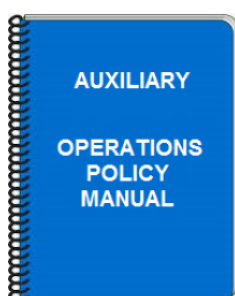
Public Affair booths, Vessel Safety Checks, distribution of boating safety literature and conducting boater safety classes are being actively addressed and are on plan to meet and exceed last year's activities. This sustained level of activity has been accomplished with fewer Auxiliarists currently certified in the various fields and with the loss of a number of our more senior members. Paddlecraft operations has been given a great deal of attention. Paddlecraft VSCs are up 150% over last year and Paddlecraft public education classes were started.

Members have stepped up their support to the Coast Guard. When Station Yankeetown needed added support in their galley, our members stepped forward to help. Additional members came forward to support Station radio watchstanding and assist in chart

updating. When the Rescue 21 radio system went down, our members brought the three flotilla radio stations on line. Two boat training with Coast Guard assets are routinely conducted on three of the major rivers in the AOR. Members were involved in planning the Coast Guard Day picnic, sponsored the annual USCG Douglas Munro Memorial event, the annual Yankeetown Chili tasting contest, and have several seasonal activities planned in working with the station. As a team, the division decided to initiate the "Caps for Coasties" program. Members are purchasing unit specific ODU balls caps to be presented to the station crew. It was also agreed to purchase ball caps for new active duty members as they transfer to the station.

In summary, Division 15 is making good progress toward meeting our internal goals. As the year unfolds we look forward to increasing our ability to support the recreational boating public and the Coast Guard.

**Andy Render, Division Commander, 15**



## Training Opportunities

Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 is offering these upcoming training opportunities:

**SAR FUNDAMENTALS** (Introduction to Auxiliary Search & Rescue procedures) Instructors: George Dooris, VFC; Patricia Dooris: FSO-MT; Joe Sampson; Harold Imhoff, QE. Wednesday, September 27 & October 4 starting at 0900 and ending at approximately 1130. Location is Flotilla 15-4 building on Green Acres St in Homosassa. Venue is flexible if necessary.

**THE 1- HOUR TCT REFRESHER** and six of the MANDATED TRAINING courses will be done again in workshop format if there is a need on the part of Flotilla/Division members. Instructor: Patricia Dooris, FSO-MT Saturday, October 7 starting at 9:00 AM.

**TCT 4 - HOUR** Instructor: George Dooris, VFC Wednesday, November 8 starting at 1:00 PM.

For further information or to sign up for a class, **please contact Patricia Dooris, FSO-MT by phone (352-232-2580) or by email [pdooris@dooris-assoc.com](mailto:pdooris@dooris-assoc.com)** All members are welcome.



### Change of Watch

It is now time to make your reservations for the 2017 Division 15 Change of Watch.



### Paddler Course

Learn the Latest Paddler's Regulations Precedes or Supplements on-the-water experience.



### DTRAIN

The Seventh District Coast Guard Auxiliary 2017 Fall Training and Business Meeting is being

Saturday November 18,  
2017 Citrus Hills Golf  
County Club 12:00-3:00  
pm

[Click here for details and  
RSVP](#)

September 14th 6:30-8:30  
pm. Master the  
Possibilities Learning  
Center, Classroom 3,  
8415 SW 80th St., Ocala.

[Click for details.](#)

held September 14-17 in  
Daytona Beach. **Mention  
D7 Coast Guard  
Auxiliary when making  
your hotel  
reservations. Click  
icon.**

## Best Practice - Everbridge Emergency Notification System

Recently Division 15 conducted the Everbridge Emergency Notification System drill. This system is designed to contact Auxiliarists in the event of an emergency and to check on your safety once the emergency has passed. For these reasons, Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg requires each flotilla have confirmation from all of their members. , to give you some background on how the system is designed to work you can review it on our website by clicking this link. [Everbridge Emergency Notification System - login required](#)

### Your Division Website - Resources For You

DID YOU KNOW , your Division website includes monthly calendars, VSC contacts, training opportunities, operations manuals, uniform descriptions, current events, photos, DCO reports, position duty descriptions, board meeting minutes, monthly reports, press releases, AUXINFO, Station Yankeetown events and more? Click on the right logo to see what you may be missing.



The **my.CGAux** member portal was launched in August 2016, part of a long term plan to make it easier for members to collaborate, communicate, and lead our organization. We are continuing to progress towards that goal.

The *Auxiliary Communities of Interest* are active, and members have taken advantage of features such as private messaging to collaborate and conduct business. Additionally, members have begun using **my.CGAux** on their mobile devices, a capability that was added in January 2017.

Enhancing the member communications and information resources available in **my.CGAux** now available are:

- A link to the *Currents* digest under the National drop down menu on the dashboard. Additionally, recent ALAUX and L2 Leadership Link messages are in the National Documents menu, under Directories. These messages provide information and announcements such as policy changes and new programs. Topics of interest can be found using the powerful **my.CGAux** search engine. A link to a more complete ALAUX archive is on the main dashboard page.
- The Help Desk Knowledge base is a link under the Resources menu. The Knowledge base provides answers to common questions received by the IT Help Desk. You may be able to find the answer to your question here without the need to submit a Help Desk ticket.

- Mission Descriptions are under Directories. This is a stepping stone in our goal to enable mission activity visibility, and then reporting, directly through **my.CGAux**.

As you can see we are continuing to make progress in our plan to make **my.CGAux** the place to go to find and share information, thoughts and ideas. To explore visit:

<https://cgaux.org/swl/login.php> and login with your Member Zone user ID and password.

If you have comments, suggestions or feedback, let us know by clicking on the link that's in the "About the Dashboard" description on the Dashboard page.



Click icon to set up your **myCGAux** account.



**Amazon Smile** a simple and automatic way for you to support the Auxiliary every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, you'll find the exact same experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to us. Click the icon to sign up.

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## USCG Auxiliary Division 15

Sunnyview Pt., Homosassa FL