



# the 7:15 express

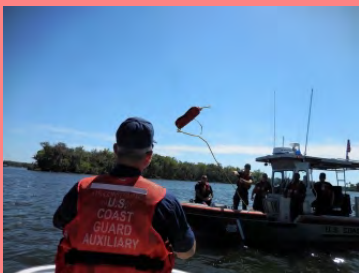
your Division communicator - February 1, 2018

# Mayday promoted to Chief Watch Dog



Mayday

Right: RADM Brown reads a promotion citation for Station Yankeetown mascot "Mayday" during a visit to the station January 29, 2018. Witnessing Chief Tookey pinning the ribbon are BM1 Andrade and Master Chief Hooker.



## Flotillas Share Training Opportunities

*Division members from any flotilla are welcome to attend these training sessions with advance registration.*

**Feb. 17th - 4-hour TCT** - Flotilla 15-8, 1000 hrs. Flotilla building at corner of Shoal Line Road and Calienta Street, Hernando Beach Register with Paul

Pelletier [paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org](mailto:paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org)

**Feb. 24th - Mandated Training (6 of 8 courses)** - Flotilla 15-4, 1000 hrs. - Flotilla building on Green Acres Street, Homosassa - Register with Patricia Dooris [pdooris@dooris-assoc.com](mailto:pdooris@dooris-assoc.com)

**Mar. 1st - May 3rd - AUXCOM** - Flotilla 15-8, 1900-2100 hrs. - Flotilla building at corner of Shoal Line Road and Calienta Street, Hernando Beach - Register with Dave Lemon [david@dlemon.net](mailto:david@dlemon.net)

**Mar. 3rd - 4-hour TCT** - Division 15, 0900 hrs. - DAV building, Crystal River

**Mar. 10th, Mar. 17th, Mar. 24th, Mar. 31th - AUXPAT** - Flotilla 15-4, 1000-1200 hrs. - Flotilla building on Green Acres Street, Homosassa - Register with Patricia Dooris [pdooris@dooris-assoc.com](mailto:pdooris@dooris-assoc.com)

**Mar. 26th - 4-hour TCT** - Flotilla 15-8, 1800 hrs. - Flotilla building at corner of Shoal Line Road and Calienta Street, Hernando Beach - Register with Paul Pelletier [paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org](mailto:paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org)

**Apr. 16th - 1-hour TCT** - Flotilla 15-8, 1800-1900 hrs. - Flotilla building at corner of Shoal Line Road and Calienta Street, Hernando Beach - Register with Paul Pelletier [paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org](mailto:paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org)

## A message from the Division Commander

There are times when every organization needs to step back and ask themselves: What is it we are trying to accomplish and are we doing the right things to get there? When I had to work for a living, we called that "getting back to basics," **B2B.**

When we started out as an auxiliary, in 1939, our objective was to further recreational boating safety. Over the years, things have evolved. We now have a number of added goals and objectives, but our main goal remains the same: Boating Safety! Have we allowed our focus to shift away from our original mandate?

The reason for the question is, that in 2016, there was a national increase of 12% in



boating fatalities! Here in Florida it was even worse, up 20%. (We won't have the final boating statistics for 2017 for several more months.)

What can we do to start saving lives? Well, the auxiliary came up with a pretty good strategy years ago. Maybe we just started taking it for granted and looked the other way. Our goal is to educate the recreational boater, and we developed a three pronged approach to make that happen.

First, we developed Public Education Boater Safety classes. Then we expanded our outreach and started doing "Courtesy Marine Examinations." (Later we started calling them Vessel Safety Checks.) A couple of years later, we went a step farther and instituted the Program Visitor program.

In the past, this proved to be a very effective approach to improving boater safety. 1) Provide formal classroom education. 2) Institute a program where we go out to the boater and educate them on the safety equipment they need on their boat, AND at the same time, have a one-on-one conversation about boating safety. 3) Deliver safety publications to places boaters visit. We even expanded these programs by having Public Affairs booths to spread the word.

So why aren't these programs working? Maybe it's because we have fewer and fewer Auxiliarists participating. Everyone agrees that some of us are not comfortable standing up in front of a class and teaching, but all of us like talking and that is what our Program Visitor and Vessel Examination programs are all about, talking.

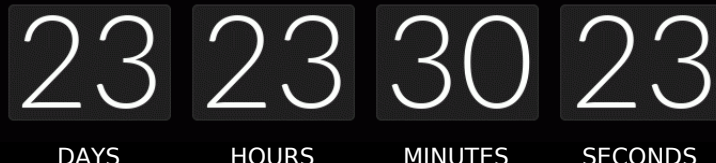
In our division, 10% of our members are certified as a Program Visitor and 17% as a Vessel Examiner. Over 80% of our members are not certified as an instructor, vessel examiner, or program visitor. Since we are all in the Coast Guard, shouldn't we be certified in at least one basic boating safety program? It's a rhetorical question, but something that every flotilla should be asking of itself.

Program Visitor and Vessel Examiner are two of our more basic training programs, and the ones that will have the most impact on savings lives. Maybe it's time for us to get **BACK TO BASICS!**

Our division is looking into conducting workshops for both of these certifications. More on that shortly.

**Semper Paratus - Andy Render, Division Commander, 15**

**On February 14th, take a break and share some time with your Valentine. Happy Valentine's Day from your Division 15 Staff Officers.**



23 23 30 23  
DAYS HOURS MINUTES SECONDS

**Great Yankeetown Chili Taste-Off March 23, 2018**

**Set up:** 11:00 AM - bring your own crock-pot

**Tasting:** 11:30 AM - lunch after tasting

**Members** - please notify Linda Jones by phone or email to let her know you are participating.  
[ljones1501@gmail.com](mailto:ljones1501@gmail.com)

H: 352-503-6199 C: 352-423-0712

, you and all members (that includes your significant other) are invited. If you don't want to make chili, bring a dessert.



## Did you know? Click to get the answers.

- [Prohibition of Unmanned Aerial Systems \(UAS\) remains in effect.](#)
- [Public Affairs hours \*\*must\*\* be recorded on a form 7030. See the PA 10-codes on pages 4/5.](#)
- [Successful completion of the \*\*BQII\*\* course earns one leadership credit toward the AUXOP qualification, meets elected officer nomination requirements and is a new member requirement.](#)
- [What information is in the District 7 Operational Plan.](#)



**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](https://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 here** to set up your **myCGAux** account.

## USCG Auxiliary Division 15

Sunnyview Pt. Homosassa, FL

[Editor Robert A. Fabich, Sr.](#)