



## What's in a Name?



Have you ever wondered where the name of our division newsletter originated?

Well, here's the answer:

**Charlie Noble** is the name given to the smokestack from a ship's galley.

And here's the rest of the story...

Charles Noble was a mid-nineteenth century ship's captain. He was walking the decks of his ship one day and noticed the galley chimney belching smoke. As he drew closer to it, he saw that it was made of copper, but the shine was green with age and salt from sea spray. The galley chimney was very important to the safety of the ship and crew because it carried the smoke and cinders from the galley's stove up and away from the decks. Captain Noble ordered that the chimney to be cleaned and polished as a testament to its importance and ever afterwards, the crew referred to the galley chimney as the "**Charlie Noble**".

## Division Election Held Oct 19

During a very short Division 15 meeting, Craig Elliot, IPDCDR, conducted the election for the division officers. There were only 2 letters of intent: Paul Pelletier, for Division Commander and Diane Berman for Vice Division Commander. There were no nominations from the floor, so Vonnie Robinson, SO-SR, cast a vote for each candidate.

There was also a vote on the \$20 cost for the division Change of Watch (COW). The Division 15 COW will be held November 9 at the Southern Woods Golf Club, 1501 Corkwood Blvd in Homosassa.

All Operations are on hold (surface and air) as there is no funding.

The Bridge discussed making a challenge coin for the division.

### Dates for your calendar:

- December 14—Nuts 'n Bolts training for new FCs.
- January 11, 2014—next regular division meeting.
- January 18—Flotilla Leadership Roadshow (Air Station Clearwater)

## Division 15 Bridge

### Division Commander

Paul Pelletier

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

### Vice Division Commander

Diane Berman

[dhberman@uscgaux-fl.org](mailto:dhberman@uscgaux-fl.org)

### Immediate Past Division Commander

Craig Elliott

[craigde2@earthlink.net](mailto:craigde2@earthlink.net)

# Division 15 Flotillas

## 15-1

Linda Jones, FC  
Position vacant, VFC

## 15-2

Charles Morton, FC  
Russell Konold, VFC

## 15-3

Charles Truthan, FC  
Randy Patton, VFC

## 15-4

Edmund (Ned) Barry, FC  
David Hays, VFC

## 15-5

Richard Roberts, FC  
Larry Berman, VFC

## 15-7

Donald Sorli, Sr, FC  
Donald Collins, VFC

## 15-8

John Hughes, FC  
Ray O'Connell, VFC

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## Division Commander's Report

by Paul Pelletier, DCDR



I would like to thank all of the members in Division 15 for their dedication to the USCG and the Auxiliary. I know sometimes you feel unappreciated, but that is far from the truth. This past week, some of our FCs attended an all-hands meeting at Station Yankeetown for the arrival of Rear Admiral John Korn, USCG, Commander of Coast Guard District 7, along with Captain Case, Commander of Sector St. Petersburg, who spent a great deal of time talking to us, as part of Team Coast Guard. Admiral Korn addressed major issues that affect the active duty members, some of which have already reached the Auxiliary. One major issue is sexual harassment, and this is an important issue for all the military branches.

This past weekend, we had several members taking classes and tests at the D-Train in Orlando. This is a good time to take classes that are sometimes hard to find, such as ICS 400 and the Flotilla Leadership Course. I thank you for taking the time to advance your career with the Auxiliary. One area where I believe we lead along with one or two other divisions is the "Nuts and Bolts" class that we will have on Dec 14, 2013. This is something the Auxiliary somewhat replaced with its leadership class, which deals with the theory of leadership and not with the general information a new FC, VFC,

and FSO need to know, such as when reports are due, how to use AUXDATA, and so on. This will be our second year for providing this unique experience. We will cover IS, HR, Diversity and other areas. This is a good class, and it is open to all of our members. If you would like more information, please contact your FC or VFC.

Also from D-Train, at the meeting of all division commanders and district staff, it was announced that there will be no C-schools this year, other than a required AUXAIR school, due to the sequester funding.

Of course, the Auxiliary has goals, and District 7 goals are:

- Increase RBS activity (PE/PV/VE/PA) by 2%
- All units demonstrate best leadership practices
- Grow and diversify membership by 2%
- Joint planning and missions with USCG units

I can report that boating deaths were lower in 2012 than in many previous years.

If you want to know anything about the Auxiliary, it can be found in the Auxiliary Manual (AuxMan). Use the following link to view the manual. It can be downloaded to your com-

puter, and most of your questions can be answered by reading the manual.

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg3/cg3pcx/publications/comdtinst/default.asp>

Another great source for information related to your hours, certifications, awards and a lot more is AUXINFO. Feel free to experiment with it as you can do no damage. The link follows:

<http://www.uscga-district-7.org/auxinfo/Division15.html>

### Upcoming Dates:

- Nov 9 Division COW
- Dec 14 Nuts and Bolts Meeting

Again, I want to thank all of you for your dedication to the USCG and the USCG Auxiliary.

# Division Vice Commander's Report

by Diane Berman, VCDR



So, what part of shutdown don't you understand? I refuse to get into politics. Everyone has their own opinion about who is at fault and why we were shut down. What does that mean for the Auxiliary?

The first and simplest answer is that we cannot do anything that will cost the Coast Guard money. That means no patrols, no meetings, no VEs and no PVs, among other things. "What?" you say. "how do these things cost the Coast Guard

money?" Well, patrols are easy. The Coast Guard reimburses the cost of our fuel, etc. "But, we don't ask the Coast Guard for funds when we have meetings or when we have PE classes, do we?" The short answer to that question is, yes, we do "ask" for money since we are covered by their insurance when we travel to and from meetings, classes, VEs and PVs. If there is an accident on the way to a class or meeting, we are covered. There is just no way around it. If we leave home on Coast Guard or Auxiliary business, we cost them money.

Personally, I missed going to Station Yankeetown to work in the galley. I'm sure the other AUXFSs and Station Watchstanders were missing

their weekly visits as well. We just had to wait this out.

It is my hope that by the time you read this, it is all a bad memory and the Coast Guard Auxiliary will have persevered and come out on top!



# Immediate Past Division Commander's Report

by Craig Elliot, IPDCDR

We are all volunteers in a very worthwhile organization. The Auxiliary missions are varied and complex. Because the Auxiliary world we live in today is constantly changing, new policies and procedures are continually being developed to meet new needs. Sometimes the formal publishing of these new policies and procedures lags behind their use, and this can result in some confusion and frustration. We try to keep everyone informed as best we can during the period that changes are being published for everyone's reference. Policies and procedures that affect us can be found in official Auxiliary publications and in announcements and guidance from DIRAUX.

It will always be impossible to have instructions, regulations, and policies that cover every situation. When a situation arises that is not covered, we must then act ac-

ording to the intent of current regulations during the period in which the issue is being resolved. Since we have many members and many regulations governing our activities, from time to time there are individuals who would like to interpret our regulations for their own purposes or try and pick them apart to justify their own ends... in spite of years of consistent historical precedent. This kind of activity is not constructive, and it wastes the time of many individuals, time that could be better spent resolving more pressing issues. A member always has the right to inquire, and if the question cannot be resolved locally, to have that issue forwarded to a higher authority, but it is also the responsibility of the member to decide how important the issue really is, and to avoid pursuing a decision to extreme ends. I think most members will find that their leaders are quite

well-informed, and can explain or quickly obtain an explanation of any policy or procedure. In almost all cases that should be sufficient, because we have lots of important things to do, and frivolous administrative pursuits simply detract from those important things.

You are in a volunteer organization that is well thought out and provides a wonderfully beneficial service. We all work to keep you as well informed as practicable. All of us in leadership positions truly appreciate your dedication and contributions and do our best to serve you in all that you do.



# Flotilla Commander Reports



## 15-1 Crystal River by Linda Jones, FC

During the second quarter, we provided two Watchstanders to work at Station Yankeetown each week.

Our flotilla provided space for the division to hold the quarterly meeting in October at our building, as well as a TCT class.

### FELLOWSHIP

Each month we hold Fellowship dinners at local restaurants with an average of 25 people at each event.

Fellowship Dinner at Riverside Crab House-Homosassa



Morris Harvey, Don Jones, Linda Jones, Jack McKowan, Rosemary Boenninghausen, Stella Alborano, Jim and Corinne Hart.

Photo by Jodi Love

Our flotilla had 22 members in attendance at the U.S. Coast Guard Day picnic at Station Yankeetown on Aug. 3, 2013. Everyone had a great time, and we appreciate being invited to this annual event.



Phil and Jane Griffith Photo by Jodi Love

On Sept. 26, Linda Jones, FC, attended the meeting at Station Yankeetown with Rear Admiral Jake Korn, USCG, Commander of District 7. She was also invited

(cont'd on page 5)

to participate in the break-out session with Admiral Korn, his assistant, and the female members of the Station to discuss sexual harassment within the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.

Linda Jones, FC, Don Jones, FSO-OP, and Vince Maida, FSO-HR, attended D-Train in Orlando.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

On July 4-7, we staffed a Boating Safety Information event at West Marine, both inside the store and out in the parking lot. Our VEs provided vessel safety checks for boaters visiting the store.



Debra Thomas manning the PA table.  
Photo by Linda Jones



Linda Jones 'netting' trash in Kings Bay during Coastal Clean-up Event. Photo by Alan Nusso

Boating Skills and Seamanship course started September 3<sup>rd</sup> with 14 in attendance.

Linda Jones gave a presentation to the Nature Coast Lady Anglers Association about boating safety and the Auxiliary at Plantation Inn on Sept. 10.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS and PUBLICATIONS

Bi-monthly newsletters have been published and sent to all members. Five articles about our upcoming boating safety class were published during the quarter, as well as an article about one of our members celebrating 20 years of service to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Numerous announcements about membership and meetings were published during the quarter also.

As part of one of our patrols, we participated in the Adopt-a-Shore/Coastal Clean-Up Event on Sept. 21 collecting trash found in the Crystal River and Kings Bay.

## VESSEL EXAMS—PROGRAM VISITORS

The weather was not very cooperative with us when we planned Vessel Safety Check events. However, we were able to have two events during the quarter, plus provided the VEs for the July 4-7 event at West Marine. Program visits continued this quarter to our program partners.

## OPERATIONS

We continue to assist other flotillas by providing spots for their crew trainees on our patrols. It is important to mention also that other flotillas are helping us out by providing crew members to complete some of our patrols. During several patrols, we were joined by the Gainesville and Ocala flotilla members and did training for those preparing for their upcoming QEs.

Patrols were provided Sat./Sun./Mon. of Labor Day weekend.

As per request by Sector, we provided vessels on the water for Sept. 10 and Sept. 11

## MEMBER TRAINING

At every meeting, we had member training this quarter presented by Jim Simon, FSO-MT. We went over the monthly Operations quizzes sent out to the members each month prior to the flotilla meeting. In addition, members working on crew and coxswain training met with Simon for classroom instruction.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Three new members have been processed and received their ID numbers during this quarter. Two other new applicants are awaiting their ID numbers. Much of our success in recruiting is due to the efforts of Vince Maida, FSO-HR. He goes above and beyond to help prospective members see the possibilities that await them in the Auxiliary, then helps them access the right information and gets them on their way.

## DIVERSITY

One of our newest members is a high school senior who was sent to us via the U.S. Coast Guard recruiter in Tampa. He was told that joining the Auxiliary and getting training with us would help his chances of being chosen for active duty when he graduates high school. Two of our newest applicants waiting for ID numbers, work full-time and are much younger than the average age in our flotilla.

## Seen at D-Train 2013



L to R: Randy Patton, 15-3, Larry Berman, 15-5, and Andy Render, 15-3.  
Photo by Mary Patton



National Commodore Thomas C. Mallison assists Gary Barth, newly-elected District Captain-East, don his new shoulder boards. Past D7 Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz served as Master of Ceremonies.  
Photo by Mary Patton

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## 15-2 Yankeetown by Chuck Morton, FC

Well, 15-2 will survive after my retirement. I was termed out anyway, but I am retiring at the end of this hitch as FC. After much arm-bending, Russ Konold and Richard Roberts have agreed to run for FC and VFC, respectively, for 2014

We have overcome a number of medical and mechanical issues with key operational personnel and facilities. Now with the shutdown we cannot patrol to get our required hours in.

Look for a much leaner 15-2 next year as 30% of our flotilla will be retiring or quitting.

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## 15-3 Ocala by Chuck Truthan, FC

The third quarter of 2013 has continued to be busy here in Ocala.

Victor Dvorak has been appointed FSO-OP and Joyce Dvorak FSO-HR. Victor has a career of USN experience and Joyce has several years of corporate HR experience. They are an excellent addition to our Flotilla Staff Officers!

Five members, Victor & Joyce Dvorak, Nathan Richards, Joyce & Charles Truthan, have been participating in a "Crew Training Study Group" and progressing through the "in-shore" training tasks. Underway training has/is being accomplished with the cooperation of Flotilla 15-1 and 15-5. Nathan is ready for his QE and hopefully Victor and Chuck will be able to complete their final tasks for a QE in November as well.

Our Flotilla's facility, *Paratus*, remains out-of-service and is expected to return to service after the shutdown is over.

Nine members attended the D-Train last month. Maia Jefferson attended the Flotilla Leadership Development Center program; Joyce and Victor Dvorak completed the Flotilla Leadership course and attended the Action Plans seminar; Shon Limor attended/instructed at the Aviation seminars; Andy Render, Mary Patton, Gerald Patton and LaVonne Robinson earned their TCO (Telecommunications Operator) qualification.

Randy Patton, VFC, attended Rear Admiral Jake Korn, USCG's visit to Station Yankeetown in September while the FC was out of the country.

We have two Christmas parades in December in which to participate and we have been requested to perform a Safety Zone for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Light up Lake Weir" boat parade. Our only coxswain is unavailable, so we may have to decline to participate or seek assistance from other flotillas for this event.

Like most every other Flotilla, we are doing the best we can with the resources and manpower available to us! Sure, we want to do more, and we all know there is lots more that needs to be done, **but**, there are limits as to how much volunteer work each member can do. The trick is to find the balance between doing all we can do with what we have and not pushing our members over the brink and burning them out. Each bump in the road provides new opportunities for us to tackle a new challenge. The current government shutdown provides time for members to do online training.



## 15-4 Homosassa by Ned Barry, FC

### FC

Below are 15-4 staff reports:

#### FSO-OP

We struggled throughout this year with getting facilities certified and on the water. We have been attempting to train and certify new boat crew members, finally getting enough boats for training only to be hampered by lack of funding, and now we are completely at a standstill. We have other members needing underway time, TCT and boat crew recertification. They will face REYR if the Auxiliary is not permitted to have training before the end of the year. We are not alone with issues resulting from the shutdown. I'm sure all Auxiliary units are facing the same concerns. Hopefully, we will get back to normal soon.

Ray Koepfel

#### FSO-NS

Homosassa channel has been replaced by a lighted buoy. The metal stump of the day beacon remains in the water next to the new buoy, constituting a hazard to navigation.

Patricia Dooris

#### FSO-IS

As we approach the end of the year, I'm reminding everyone to get any overlooked activity reports assembled and sent to me. This is an important individual responsibility. Thanks for your assistance.

Ray Koepfel

#### FSO-PE

##### **2013-2014 Public Education Schedule**

Nov 2013 – **Charts** (2 Evenings 7-9 PM – Monday 11 & Thursday 14)

Dec 2013 – None

Jan 2014 – **BS&S** (8 Evenings 7-9 PM – Monday 13, 20, 27, Feb 3 & Thursday 16, 23, 30, Feb 6)

Feb 2014 – **Charts** (2 Evenings 7-9 PM – Monday 17 & Thursday 20)

Mar 2014 – **Paddle Sports** (2 Evenings 7-9 PM – Monday 10 & Thursday 13)

Apr 2014 – **BS&S** (8 Evenings 7-9 PM – Monday 7, 14, 21, 28 & Thursday 10, 17, 24, May 1)

May 2014 – **ABS** (4 Evenings 7-9 PM – Monday 26, Jun 2 & Thursday 29, Jun 5)

Jun 2014 - None

Jul 2014 – None

Aug 2014 – **Paddle Sports** (2 Evenings 7-9 PM – Monday 18 & Thursday 21)

Sep 2014 – **BS&S** (8 Evenings 7-9 PM – Mondays Sept 8, 15, 22, 29 & Thursdays Sept 11, 18, 25 Oct 2)



## 15-5 Gainesville by Richard Roberts, FC

No report received.

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## 15-7 Suwanee by Don Sorli, Sr., FC

No report received.

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## 15-8 Hernando by John Hughes, FC

Nothing to report.

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## More D-Train Photos



CMDR Kathryn Dunbar, USCG, D7 DIRAUX, speaking at the DIRAUX Q&A session at D-Train. Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: Andy Render, Paul Pelletier, Craig Elliot, and Randy Patton, all from Division 15, at the Commodore's reception at D-Train. Photo by Mary Patton

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## Staff Officer Reports



### SO-CM, Kenneth Seipp—Communications

Division 15 has several new TCO qualified operators, and multiple new and/or renewed Operational Radio Facilities. We are celebrating the USCG/USCGAUX birthdays with a National Special Radio Event on October 19, 2013 (cancelled due to the government shutdown), which will provide us with an opportunity to recruit new members for the USCG/USCGAUX, and have some fun. Operation will be on the Amateur Radio bands, and special event QSL cards will be available for participants who send an SASE to the special event station contacted (i.e., our special event station callsign will be **W4W**). Additional information is available on our Division website.

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## SO-CS, Diane Berman—Communications Services

Don't forget to follow the Division website at <http://a07015.wow.uscgaux.info>

One of the best tools I have discovered on the web for the Auxiliary is the Aux Directory. Find it at <https://auxofficer.cgaux.org/auxoff/unitstaff.php>. It is a great resource for finding anyone in the Auxiliary. Search by name, unit, office or job. Find names, addresses, emails, etc. I actually found two charter members of my flotilla and had them come to visit one of our meetings. Hearing the history of 15-5 was fascinating and informative.

Feel free to contact me for more information about the Auxiliary Directory, WOW websites, online 7029's or any other CS matter. I'll be glad to come out to your flotilla meeting if you like and explain things to your members.

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## SO-DV, Catherine McAllister—Diversity

Just a reminder that Diversity Officers need to be reviewing the Strategic Plan and the Three Star Goals to meet as many initiatives as possible before the end of the year. They also need to be setting flotilla goals for the upcoming year.

Take time to welcome new members, assist them into integrating into your flotilla, and help your new DV and current HR Officer, by informing them about new opportunities where outreach for new members is a possibility.

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## SO-HR, Bruce McAllister—Human Resources

Human Resources is the backbone of making sure the Auxiliary continues by recruiting new members and helping sustain current members.

As the weather cools, our snow bird friends will begin returning to our waterways which will mean a little older population on our waterways than during our summer months. These residents often are looking for ways to stay busy and can be a great resource for our flotillas. I encourage you to seek out ways to recruit them to be a part of your flotilla.

Each year Auxiliary members volunteer more than two million hours in public education, vessel safety checks, harbor patrols, search and rescue, and protection of our marine environment.

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## SO-IS, Larry Berman—Information Services

Things have been going well in the AUXDATA area. We have one new FSO-IS person, Jack Cullin of 15-8, who is doing well. He attended the IS workshop at the D-Train in Orlando back in September, which supported what I had taught him here, and he is already inputting data.

AOM has been accepting air and water missions rapidly. There were a few glitches at first but most seem to be going in well now.

The end of the year is coming (if we have any funding - another problem). Make sure those who need activity are up to date before the end of the year. FSOs, check your operations personnel, dealer visitors, vessel examiners, and instructors to make sure they make their required activity before the end of the year. Get your status report to your FCs if they don't have AUXDATA access so they can check and make sure we are up to date and in line with their flotilla goals.

If you have any problems with any of this, please feel free to email (preferred) or call me for assistance.

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## SO-MA, Winifred Fickett—Materials

Nothing to report.

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## SO-MS, James Sapp—Marine Safety/Environmental Protection

Nothing to report for the quarter.

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## SO-MT, James Kelly—Member Training

No report received.

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## SO-OP, Charles Morton—Operations

FRUSTRATION is the key word now. With all Auxiliary activities shut down, we cannot do training, patrols or QE missions. We'll need to hope for a mild fall so we can complete our required tasks, or many members will face REYR status.

We can still respond to a SAR event if the Coast Guard calls on us, but so far, that has not happened. Actually, I have not heard of any distress cases in our AOR, but we did respond to one in the Bayport area because they called my son personally. We handled it as a Good Samaritan event.

I will be retiring after over 25 years in the Auxiliary at the end of this year. Andy Render from 15-3 will be taking my place as SO-OP for Division 15 and I wish him the best. He has been doing on-the-job training for some time now.

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## SO-PA, Charles Truthan—Public Affairs

The third quarter has seen plenty of PA action in the division in spite of our annual "snowbird" egress. The "flock" will be migrating south soon to again pick up and carry on the excellent work our members do!

In June, nearly every Flotilla was represented at the Change of Command ceremony wishing BMCS Hinote a fond farewell and welcoming BMC Chandler aboard.

There is increasing activity in direct support of Station Yankeetown as more AUXFS members have become certified. Similarly, Radio Watchstanders at the Station have increased, as well as hours manning the flotilla radios.

Several flotillas have members in crew training with many ready or near-ready for their QE checks.

Fellowship continues with wonderful reports of various activities. Combination of special training events with Fellowship, Station Yankeetown personnel conducting training at the flotillas, and good old-fashioned "nights out" are just a few of the activities.

Articles and stories continue to be submitted and published throughout the division.

(cont'd on page 12)

## SO-PA, Charles Truthan—Public Affairs (PA report cont'd from page 11)

As we head into the fourth quarter, with more members “migrating” back, we expect another surge in PA activities.

Remember that every time a member is wearing the CGAUX uniform, or has a CGAUX license plate on their vehicle, they are performing Public Affairs work! You are “showing the colors” and are visible to the general public. This is a “double edged sword” as sometimes we forget and might behave in a less than optimal manner. But, if we remember we are in uniform and are doing PA, then we can improve. Who can ask for better?

I'm honored to be the Division 15 SO-PA and I stand ready to assist any FSO-PA to the best of my abilities. You are all doing a great job!

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## SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications

Will publish the Fall **Charlie Noble** in late October.

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## SO-PE, Jeffrey Hoff—Public Education

No report received.

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## SO-PV, Program Visitor, RBS —(Position Vacant—TBA)

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## SO-SR, LaVonne Robinson—Secretary/Records

Minutes from the quarterly meeting sent out.

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## SO-VE, Anthony Soper—Vessel Examination

No report received.

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# Hurricane Awareness Program

By Andy Render, Hurricane & NSBW Coordinator



Remember the hurricane exercise we had just a few short months ago? Back then we had everything in place, we updated our rosters, practiced accounting for everyone, and even had our OPFACs gassed up and ready to go! Now, it may be time for us to go back and see just how ready we are today. When was the last time your flotilla updated their HAP roster, or tested your telephone calling tree?

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to December 1 each year. Now is the time of year when the more dangerous hurricanes seem to appear, so let's not let our guard down and think that there's nothing we need to do. But let's back up just a little. Before we can perform any Coast Guard Auxiliary responsibilities, we need to focus on being prepared at home! There is no way we can assist others unless we have made certain that our family and our homes are safe.

When you think about it, there are two keys to weather safety. Prepare for the risks and then act on those preparations when alerted by emergency officials. So where do you look for some ideas on how to prepare? One of the better sites is **The National Hurricane Center** home page <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>. There are links to just about everything you ever wanted to know about hurricane preparedness.

Hopefully, everyone has a hurricane emergency kit at home, but is it as complete as it could be? Here are a couple of items to think about. How about an old style "hand powered" can opener for when you lose electrical power, and what about an old style telephone that still works when the power is off. What about household chlorine bleach? You can use bleach as a disinfectant (diluted nine parts water to one part bleach) or, in an emergency, you can also use it to treat water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented or color-safe bleaches or bleaches with added cleaners. Do you have an eye dropper? How else are you going to measure those 16 drops per gallon? Check with your local drug store—they should have them.

Not only do we need to review the emergency plans for our flotillas, but we need to make sure we are prepared at home. SEMPER PARATUS (Always Ready) doesn't just apply to the Auxiliary. It also applies to how ready **YOU** are for hurricane season!



Photos courtesy of Microsoft.

## Watch Your Wake!

by Jodi Love, Flotilla 15-1



A day on the water off Crystal River, Florida, on a beautiful Sunday morning did not turn out well for two Ocala fishermen. Their small, 17-foot fishing boat was swamped and capsized when a larger boat passed them at high speed, raising a very large wake. The larger vessel failed to slow down and reduce its wake when it approached and passed the smaller boat. Florida law states, "...a vessel's wake must not be excessive nor create a hazard to other vessels." Boaters are responsible for the wake they produce and are liable for damage or injury caused by their wake.

The two men were not injured, but their boat and motor suffered extensive water damage, and most of their fishing gear and personal items were lost. The boater who caused this incident did not come about to render assistance. The drenched fishermen were rescued by the *Zero One*, coxswained by Jim Simon from 15-1, Crystal River, with an assist from a Good Samaritan boater. September 1, 2013 will surely be a day to remember for these two unfortunate fishermen!

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## Zero One Called Out on SAR

by Jim Simon, 15-1



At the request of Station Yankeetown, Flotilla 15-1 received a request for a vessel facility to assist in a SAR mission for a possible missing boater. The Auxiliary facility *Zero One* got underway at 0800 hours with myself, coxswain Hampton and crew member Jodi Love. Station was notified with patrol info and we were directed to specific coordinates. Upon arrival we were then requested to report to new coordinates, which was the present location of the unmanned vessel. BM1 Michael Greene, USCG, Station XO, requested that we take pictures of the vessel. After arriving on location and taking various pictures, at 1000 hours we were given search coordinates by Station Yankeetown from Sector. We proceeded to our designated CSP and while enroute charted our search coordinates on both GPS and a search pattern worksheet. Upon completion of our search pattern, the Station was notified and we were asked to standby for secondary search pattern. While waiting for secondary search assignment the crew maintained a visual search of our area for any possible sighting of the victim.



Capsized boat from excessive wake. Photo by Jodi Love



Sinking boat—had enough buoyancy that it didn't sink and was recovered by BoatUS and towed to the dock.

Photo by Jodi Love

Prior to our second search mission, we were requested to refuel and while enroute back to Crystal River, we overheard the radio traffic from a fishing vessel who located the missing boater and had recovered him from the water. Upon our reaching Shell Island, we were directed by Station Yankeetown to standby at Shell Island until the status of the missing boater was confirmed. At 1315 hours we were directed to RTB. We refueled the vessel and returned to our home dock and terminated patrol at 1415 hours.

A critique of our mission was discussed by the crew, and although we train many hours just for this type of situation, we all agreed that this was a great hands-on learning experience and agreed one additional crew member would have been beneficial for that extra set of eyes.



US Coast Guard search plane looking for the missing boater.  
Photo by Jodi Love



Coast Guard helos sitting on the tarmac at Air Station Clearwater, available for SAR callouts.

Photo by Mary Patton



Sinking boat from SAR mission. Photo by Jodi Love

# Coast Guard Day Picnic Photos



Don and Linda Jones and Steve Hampton enjoy the meal at Yankeetown.  
Photo by Craig Elliot



Taking a break after their AUXFS duties at Station Yankeetown on Coast Guard Day are Kitty and Chuck Dolan, Flotilla 15-8.  
Photo by Craig Elliot



Paul Pelletier, DCDR Division 15, deciding where 'refills' are needed for the food line.  
Photo by Craig Elliot



Andy Render, Flotilla 15-3, chats with BM1 Michael Greene, USCG, the XPO for Coast Guard Station Yankeetown.

Photo by Mary Patton



Dessert 'groaning board'. Nirvana for those with a sweet tooth.  
Photo by Mary Patton



## Division 15 On-The-Water Training



Coxswain Larry Berman, 15-5, and Vincent Yedynak, 15-7, aboard Auxiliary facility, *Gasman II*, taking part in on-the-water crew training.

Photo by Jodi Love



Nathan Richards, 15-3, watches as Auxiliary facilities *Zero-One* and *Gasman II* join up.

Photo by Jodi Love



LaVonne Robinson, 15-3, crew member, and Nathan Richards, 15-3, crew trainee, on the stern of *Gasman II*.

Photo by Jodi Love



Chuck Truthan, 15-3, crew trainee, taking a moment to enjoy the scenery.

Photo by Jodi Love

# SAVING LIVES

One Vessel Safety Check At A Time!

by Andy Render

National Division Chief - Vessel Safety Check



There is no way to estimate the number of lives saved by the 120,340 Vessel Safety Checks conducted nationally last year by our Vessel Examiners. In fact, VSCs are often referred to as preventative Search and Rescue missions!

VSC and Vessel Examiner support are administered by the National Directorate of Vessel Examination and Recreational Boating Safety Visitation, also known as the V-Directorate. Mike Klacik as the Director and Perry Taylor as Deputy Director head up the five separate Divisions, one of which is Vessel Examination.

During the last year, this Vessel Examination Division spearheaded an effort to improve the support provided to Auxiliarists conducting VSCs at marinas and on boat ramps. Additionally, it identified that VE candidates needed an easier and more effective method of being trained. Once some of these root problems were identified, an aggressive plan was developed to prioritize and implement some needed changes.

The first step was to establish a base from which to start. The current VSC manual was written in October of 2000 and does not contain all the latest information. The entire manual was rewritten and brought up to date. Presently the proposed manu-

al is awaiting final approval from Coast Guard Headquarters. Since this manual is a part of the Commandant's Instruction Series, it must go through a stringent review and approval process by several departments within the Coast Guard as well as the Auxiliary. The resulting new manual is projected to be released in early 2014.

But, that's still in the future. Let's look at what's been accomplished and available today. The JOB AIDS KIT on our National website <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=job-aid-kits> has been completely reworked and is a step by step guide through the entire Vessel Examiner certification process. The page starts with the basic concepts of the VSC and walks the candidate through all the study materials, testing, and even explains the on-the-job training portion of the program. You no longer need to search for training materials! There is an easy to use "this link" feature to all reference materials needed to become a VE and to help current Vessel Examiners keep up to date. Here are just some of the new training aids available:

- Initial Vessel Examiner Training
- Vessel Examiner Boot Camp
- Personal Water Craft VSC familiarization

Paddle craft VSC Presentation  
Rental boat examinations  
Annual VSC Workshops.

In addition, the web page highlights and explains recent changes, additions and news regarding boating requirements. A good example is the current discussion topic which outlines how to deal with the recent changes in the wording and size requirements of the MARPOL decal. The page also deals with Frequently Asked Questions and even an area where you can exchange ideas with other VEs.

The support provided to our VEs by the Division of Vessel Examination is far from complete, but has come a long way over the last year. What can you expect in the future? Currently there are a number of projects which have been proposed and are awaiting approval. One thing is certain, as a VE you can count on the V-Directorate to continue to make improvements in our programs and provide you with the best possible support.

Remember: Vessel Safety Checks  
SAVE LIVES!



VSC sticker affixed to a paddle craft.

Photo by Mary Patton

# Paddle Sports!

America's Fastest-Growing Boating Segment

by Barbara Bickley, Flotilla 15-3



Paddling any kind of boat can be a lot of fun. Whether you use a canoe or kayak, it makes you one with nature and it is good exercise. But you should take a safety class before you start.

I belong to a canoe & kayak club in The Villages, Florida. This club has over 200 members, so when we go on a "paddle" we have lots of pre-trip rules. We go to a different place on each trip.

The rules of the club are:

- Don't go out alone
- Stay with the club
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- Know your water area—know the speed of the current and the depth of the water
- Know the cell phone reception, and the types of wildlife you may encounter
- Wear a life jacket on every

trip, even if the water seems shallow, because you could tip over and get caught in a sieve which will keep tumbling you over and over.

In our canoe & kayak club, we often have 50-75 people on a paddle. We have 3-5 paddle stewards per trip, who have been trained in still-water rescue, as well as fast-moving-current rescue, a lead paddle steward, one or two in the middle, and a sweep steward at the end so no one is left behind and to make sure all paddlers are moving along.

We really stress to our club mates to take a course from a certified instructor. Most of the people who supply the boats for the paddle are qualified. It is very good to get classroom instruction, as well as on-the-water instruction. They can fit you to a boat that will be the most comfortable and easy to get in and out of.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers a course--*Paddle Sports*

*of America*. It's a four-hour classroom-based introduction to paddling safety. Go to [www.cgaux.org/boatinged/](http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/)

A float plan should be left with someone on shore. The main equipment you need is a lifejacket, one that is buoyant rather than an inflatable. This makes re-entering a paddle craft easier in the event of a rollover. A cell phone in a dry-bag is handy, but you could be in an area with limited or no coverage, so bring a good whistle and a flashlight in case of fog or darkness. Bring along food and water and any medicines you may need. Most importantly, get in touch with nature, respect the wildlife, and enjoy the scenery and fellowship.

There is lots of good information about the beautiful rivers in Florida at the Florida Game and Wildlife website.



Paddlecraft training.

Photo by Barbara Bickley



Lessons on how to right your boat.

Photo by Barbara Bickley

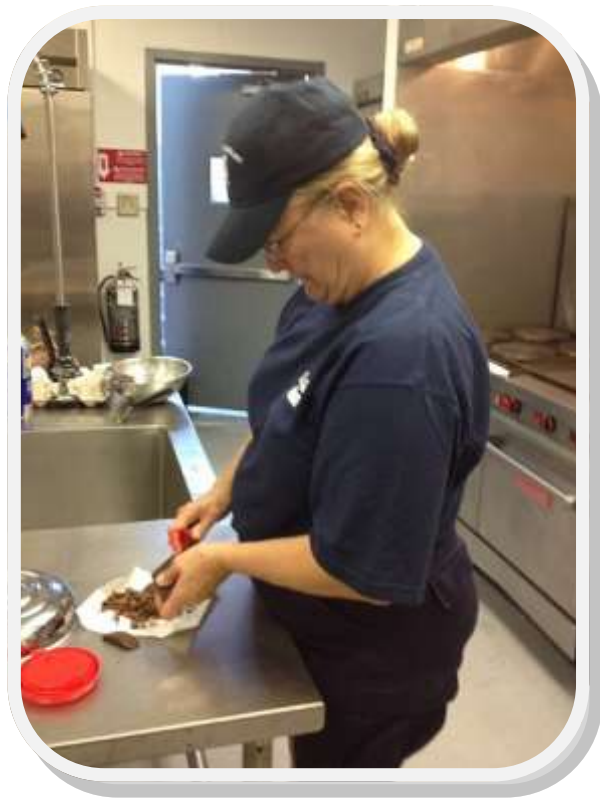
## *Cookin' for the Gold* (Side, That Is)



Chuck Dolan taking a break, showing off the “tools of his trade.” (Paul Pelletier, AUXFS, was also cooking that day.)  
Photo by Paul Pelletier



Chuck Dolan (right) 15-8, AUXFS, one of a team of 3, cooks lunch for Station Yankeetown personnel. MK3 Bryan Jackson, USCG, is filling his plate.  
Photo by Paul Pelletier.



Kitty Dolan, AUXFS, shaving chocolate that will be used to decorate the cupcakes.  
Photo by Paul Pelletier



The finished product: professional-looking cupcakes baked fresh for the hard-working personnel at Station Yankeetown by the AUXFS team.  
Photo by Paul Pelletier