



Division 15 Meeting, July 13



The quarterly meeting of Division 15 commenced at 9:00 am on Saturday, July 13, with approximately 25 members in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed for all those who served, are still serving, or have died for our country. Diane Berman, Vice Commander (VCDR), chaired the meeting since Paul Pelletier, Division Commander (DCDR), was out of town. Also attending were Craig Elliot, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR) and Ensign Shawn Antonelli, USCG, who was representing the Enforcement Division for Sector St. Petersburg.

Diane Berman gave opening remarks and congratulated Craig Elliot on being appointed as District Directorate Chief - Response (DDC-R) for District 7. He will supervise the District Staff Officers (DSOs) for Aviation, Communications, and Operations. Ms. Berman also congratulated Mary Patton from Flotilla 15-3, Ocala, who has been appointed Assistant District Staff Officer—Publications (ADSO-PB) for *The Breeze*, the

award-winning District 7 quarterly publication. Diane reported from her Sector meeting that Captain Case, USCG, needs help in all areas, indicating that if there is an interest, then there is a place for the Auxiliary to volunteer. The District 7 DIRAUX has halted the issuance of temporary ID cards for applicants in District 7. The AUXCHEF program has been renamed Auxiliary Food Services (AUXFS) to keep it more in line with the US Coast Guard's Food Service Specialists. So far in Division 15 there are four certified AUXFS and eight more trainees working on their PQS.

Craig Elliot discussed his new appointment as DDC-R, and Ensign Antonelli, USCG, gave a brief rundown on his position at Sector and promised a Q & A at the end of the meeting on the AOM (Auxiliary Order Management) system, the new POMS.

Mary Patton was sworn in by Craig Elliot and Diane Berman as Staff Officer—Publications (SO-PB). She will be the editor and publisher of the *Charlie Noble*, the Division 15 quarterly newsletter.

It was announced that the Division Change of Watch (COW) would be held at the Southern Woods Country Club, as it was last year. Tentatively, it will be a buffet dinner and it will begin at 6:00 pm on November 9. More information will be disseminated at the October Division meeting.

Craig Elliot, speaking as FSO-OP for Flotilla 15-8, announced that there are no openings on their surface facilities for other flotillas' crew or coxswain training. Many of their own members are in training and all the slots are filled for the remainder of the year. Chuck Morton, SO-OP and FC of Flotilla 15-2, suggested coordinating training division-wide at Crystal River.

Diane Berman announced Coast Guard Day will feature a picnic at Yankeetown. Watch for an email with additional details. She also indicated that the October meeting, on October 12, will be the election for division officers. Let-

Cont'd on page 17

Division 15 Bridge

Division Commander

Paul Pelletier

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Vice Division Commander

Diane Berman

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Immediate Past Division Commander

Craig Elliott

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Division 15 Flotillas

15-1

Linda Jones, FC
Thomas Arney, 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

Division Commander's Report

by Paul Pelletier, DCDR



I would like to start out by thanking all our members who attended the Memorial Service in Crystal River on Memorial Day and to Linda Jones for setting it up. If you are unaware of this event, Signalman Douglas Munro is the only USCG who received the Medal of Honor. There is a memorial site behind the Crystal River City Hall.

I know many members complain of some of the requirements put on Auxiliary members, such as required training. I hear things such as "Don't they know we are volunteers?" We must understand that, yes, we are volunteers, but we are members of the USCG, by an Act of Congress. The only difference between Active Duty and the Auxiliary is the active duty get paid. We all volunteered not to be paid for our duty. If, and when, the USCG receives a requirement, it will filter down to the Auxiliary eventually. There is a difference, though—the Active duty may have to do it each year and we may only have to do it every 3 or 5 years. But, we will have to do it. We all volunteered and we must understand there will always be changing requirements. I do thank all of you for

your time that you volunteer with the Auxiliary and the USCG. After all, we are *Team Coast Guard*.

This year there are many changes in the active duty positions—from Station Yankeetown, Sector St. Petersburg, the Air Command, the DIRAUX and even Admiral Papp, are all leaving. Some are retiring and some are moving on. We will have to see what changes they bring. Diane and I have met with Chief John Chandler and do not see any changes coming from Station Yankeetown. We have also met the new Sector Commander and he comes from an area where the Auxiliary play a key role. So we will see over time if changes are coming.

As some of you are aware, we have a relatively new program called Auxiliary Food Service, or AUXFS. Initially, this program was termed AUXCHEF. This program will help the stations and cutters with new cooks. We had 8 members at Station Yankeetown complete the classroom part, now each must work with the cook at Station to complete their PQSs to cook alone. We have 4 members who have completed their

PQSs and now can cook unsupervised at Station. This will assist the Active Duty, as presently they only have one cook on staff, until the second one comes on board.

Another issue that sometimes comes up is the time it take to get certified. We have had some issues over the past few months. Diane and I have worked through them, sometime it takes longer than we would like. We must have patience, it will get done. We must remember the personnel doing all of that work is also doing it for all of District 7 and are also volunteers.

I would like to thank all of you for your time to Division 15, the Auxiliary, and to the USCG



Division Vice Commander's Report

by Diane Berman, VCDR



Another quarter down and many changes have occurred. First of all, let us all welcome Mary Patton as Division 15's SO-PB. If any of you have ever seen 15-3's *Compass Rose*, you know that we can expect great things from Mary and her becoming editor of the *Charlie Noble*. Mary was our SO-PV but her expertise is in publications. Welcome aboard Mary and Bravo Zulu! Let us not forget to thank Jim Holley for the years he spent at the helm of the *Charlie Noble*. He is looking to other interests in his flotilla. We are grateful to him for the time and effort he put into the job of SO-PB.

Change has been rampant for

us from District all the way down to Station Yankeetown. We have recently bid farewell to BMCS Chris Hinote as OIC of Station Yankeetown and bid welcome to BMC John Chandler, the new OIC at the Station. Chief Chandler came to us from Portsmouth, Virginia, but is a native Floridian. He grew up around boats and was well acquainted with the Auxiliary. Paul and I are looking forward to continuing a good working relationship with Station Yankeetown.

Also on the Active Duty side, Capt. Sheryl Dickinson, Commander of Sector St. Pete, was replaced by Capt. Gregory Case in a beautiful Change of Command ceremony. Capt. Case also comes to Sector from Portsmouth, VA. To continue the change, Rear Adm. Wm Baumgartner has retired as Commander of Coast Guard District 7 and been replaced by Rear Admiral John (Jake) Korn.

Change is one of the only things

consistent in the Coast Guard. Division 15 has always weathered it well and will continue to do so while growing and improving.

People change all of the time, and in doing so, improves the Auxiliary. Last month eight Auxiliarists trained to become AUXCHEFS (now known as AUXFS). To imagine fourteen people in Station Yankeetown's very small galley. Just think of the old black and white comedy movies with people running around at top speed. It was a blast. Division 15 now has a dozen members either qualified or working on the PQS to become AUXFSs. It is a fun and interesting, albeit different, way to support the Coast Guard.

Speaking of qualifying, Larry Berman passed his Board and is now a qualified Radio Watchstander for Station Yankeetown.

Immediate Past Division Commander's Report

by Craig Elliot, IPDCDR



Successful people, even those with super egos, will tell you that no one becomes successful without the help of others. How, might we ask, does the Coast Guard Auxiliary fit into that formula for success? Well...it requires a unique perspective.

First of all, there is really no place for egotism. In fact, egotism gets in the way. We are a special group of people who have volunteered to help others, and to do that, we must help each other. In fact, we can NOT succeed UNLESS we work together. Our broad variety of backgrounds and skills are a unique resource to take advantage of and get the job done well.

In recent years we have had many operational and administrative changes. We have had to be patient as DIRAUX and District 7 did their best to support our enormous administrative workload with a minimum number of

personnel. To our members, division and flotilla leadership smoothed the issues to just bumps in the road and did not let those challenges get in the way. We worked together hard and well, and we have accomplished a lot.

There is always an OPPORTUNITY... to do more... and to do it better. I look forward to that and I know you do, too. We have many new talented members to help us. And, of course, there is one constant... the Auxiliary will continue to change. The type of requests for our help, the needs of the public boating community and advances in technology will change how we train, how we operate, how we communicate, and how we perceive ourselves. We must communicate well and often, for the winds of change are blowing hard. We should not despair about programs we have conducted that are no longer the same, but we should be excited about the new missions and new ways and opportunities to attain

our overall goals. The teenager has virtually no trail of experience in how to accomplish programs successfully and is completely open minded, while we have developed preferred ways that have been successful for us. One challenge to us is to avoid being myopic and clinging to the old ways of doing things. Some established ways will still work... but some will need to be modified or discarded.

In today's circumstances, we will need to maintain a broad view of our changing mission to manage these underlying changes well. These are times of opportunity, and I believe we are ready.

Flotilla Commander Reports



15-1 Crystal River by Linda Jones, FC

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

FELLOWSHIP

Each month we have held Fellowship dinners at local restaurants with an average of 25 people at each event. March was a pot luck supper for St. Patrick's Day.

On March 27, Don Jones and I traveled to Station Yankeetown to deliver the large Easter basket that our flotilla donated to the active duty members.

We held a BBQ-picnic on Memorial Day, May 27, at which we had 30 people in attendance. The US Coast Guard crew who attended the Memorial ceremony were our guests at the picnic.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- About Boating Safely class was held on April 14th from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
- The GPS class was held on Apr. 20th and 27th.
- About Boating Safety class was held on May 20,22,24.
- April 27 we staffed a display of safe boating information and a children's display of "Why We Need to Keep the Waterways Clean" at the Radio Room at Crystal River Preserve State Park for Earth Day and the Boat Bash.

As requested by BM1 Greene, our flotilla provided 145 activity/coloring books and a roll of "Wear It" stickers along with 3 PFDs for a safe boating presentation he was doing at a local elementary school.

Linda Jones, FC, made a guest appearance on WYKE-TV on Friday, May 10, at 9:00 am, to discuss our NSBW activities and safe boating practices.

On May 13, the mayor of Crystal River presented Flotilla 15-01 with a proclamation at the Monthly City Council meeting in support of National Safe Boating Week .

As a kick-off to the National Safe Boating Week activities, we held a "Wear-It" photo-op at the dock at the Crystal River Station Preserve State Park on May 18th at noon. We had 26 people participate, including the crew who was on duty from Station Yankeetown. Paperwork was submitted to the National website for the "Wear-It" campaign.

A boating safety information table was staffed at West Marine from May 17-25. We made several contacts and signed several people up for Vessel Safety Checks as well as classes. In addition, a boating safety information table was staffed at a Vessel Safety Check Event at Twin Rivers Marina, and at WalMart – Inverness on May 19.

Thanks to the Citrus County Sheriff's Department, there was an electronic sign positioned on Route 19 between West Marine and Cody's Restaurant from May 15-28 with our safe boating message "Life Jackets Float, You Won't. Wear It!"

On May 25, Linda Jones, FC, and Don Jones, FSO-OP, participated in the Memorial Ceremony at the Methodist Church in Crystal River sponsored by the US Sail and Power Squadron.

Linda Jones organized a memorial ceremony for our division which was held at the USCG Douglas Munro Memorial behind Crystal River City Hall on May 27-Memorial Day at 9:00 am. All members and the public were invited to attend. Announcements were made on the radio and in the *Chronicle* about the event.

Active duty members of Station Yankeetown participated in the ceremony, providing a bugler to play TAPS and a 25 foot USCG vessel as a backdrop for the ceremony. Flotilla 15-01 provided the color guard and a display table with information about Douglas Munro and thanking all veterans for their service. There were about 60 people there including Mr. Ken Harrington, the original designer of the monument and organizer of the dedication ceremony that was held 15 years ago.

(15-1 FC Report cont'd on page 5)

15-1 Crystal River by Linda Jones, FC (report cont'd from page 4)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS and PUBLICATIONS

Bi-monthly newsletters have been published and sent to all members.

Seven articles about various topics of boating safety issues were published during National Safe Boating Week. Numerous announcements for membership, meetings and classes were published during the quarter also.

An article was submitted to one of the USCG AUX publications as of May 30.

VESSEL EXAMS/PROGRAM VISITORS

In April no VSC events were held. However, individual VEs continued to do VSCs on their own. In May there were three VSC events held, two of them during NSBW.

Program visits continued this quarter to our program partners.

OPERATIONS

Due to restrictions on patrols and bad weather, we did not complete as many patrols as usual in the month of March. Training patrols were completed with Gainesville: one in March, one in April, and one in May. For May, five patrols were scheduled, two on Memorial Day weekend, and one included two-boat drills with Gainesville. On another patrol, we included two members of the Ocala flotilla who were in need of training hours. Five patrols are scheduled for June, with at least four having trainees aboard.

On May 28, Linda Jones and FSO-OP Don Jones attended a meeting at Station Yankeetown for Commercial Towing Operators, Sheriff's Dept., FWC, and the Auxiliary about towing and emergency practices.

MEMBER TRAINING

Member training this quarter included two Diversity topics presented by Jim Simon, FSO-MT. We also went over the Operations quizzes sent out to the members each month.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Two new members have been processed and received their membership cards during this quarter.

15-2 Yankeetown by Chuck Morton, FC

We aren't doing much on-the-water work, partly because of the sequester, but mostly because our coxswains are working out of town and the weather has been bad on scheduled patrol days, like the last weekend of June. Even the scallopers weren't out due to the lightning, negating the early opening of scallops season.

We moved our flotilla meeting night to the last Monday of the month to see if that works better. – 6:30 pm at the Yankeetown Women's Club on 54th Street, Yankeetown, FL

NSBW was a moderate success, but there is a lack of public interest.

15-3 Ocala by Chuck Truthan, FC

Maia Jefferson was appointed FSO-DV upon receipt of her BQ certification. She has held one workshop that was well received by the flotilla. She is an outstanding speaker and is being encouraged to obtain her Instructor credentials.

Two members, Joyce and Charles Truthan, attended the AUXCHEF class at Clearwater Air Station (CWAS) in April. They were joined the next day by four additional members, Randy and Mary Patton, Andy Render, LaVonne Robinson, and two new AP members, Victor and Joyce Dvorak, who attended the Civil Rights workshop at CWAS. The following weekend, Nachshon Limor and Charles Truthan attended the annual AUXAIR workshop and egress and swim test at CWAS. Limor has also passed his check flight and is now a Flight Examiner (one of two) for AUXAIR at CWAS.

Six members, Barb Bickley, Victor & Joyce Dvorak, Nathan Richards, Joyce & Charles Truthan, have been participating in a crew training study group on a weekly basis and progressing through the "on-shore" training tasks.

Victor Dvorak is our new assistant FSO-OP and has started coordinating underway training with other flotillas on a space-available basis. He'll be appointed FSO-OP as soon as his BQ certification comes through. Two or three training patrols have already been conducted.

(15-3 FC report cont'd on page 6)

15-3 Ocala by Chuck Truthan, FC (report cont'd from page 5)

Joyce Dvorak is our new assistant FSO-HR and will be appointed as FSO-HR as soon as her BQ certification comes through. Joyce has many years experience in corporate HR.

Victor & Joyce Dvorak and Charles Truthan attended the Douglas Munro service in Crystal River on Memorial Day. They were also invited to attend the 15-1 fellowship picnic. Truthan brought a pair of jet skis to the picnic and Vince Maida (15-1) partook of the opportunity to fill his "need for speed" while Joyce and Vic learned to ride them.

The FC and VFC attended the COMSAL (commercial salvage) meeting at Station Yankeetown. This was the first meeting our flotilla had been invited to. We do have COMSAL operators in our AOR.

At the end of May, two members, Maia Jefferson and Joyce Dvorak, attended the AUXCHEF training at Station Yankeetown. That same weekend, Joyce & Charles Truthan completed their PQS for AUXFS certification (note: the name of the program was recently changed from AUXCHEF to AUXFS to be consistent with the gold side.)

Our flotilla surface facility and our new storage trailer are now located at the maintenance area of the Carney Island (Marion) County Park. Our PA, VE, and RBS materials, as well as facility equipment, is stored there.

At our May flotilla meeting, Larry & Diane Berman (15-5) lead the flotilla in a Flotilla Action Plan.

The Change of Command at Station Yankeetown was attended by Charles Truthan, Randy Patton, Nachshon Limor and Andy Render. Truthan was assisting PADET 7 with photographic coverage of the event.

A "speakers bureau" is being established to increase PA/RBS outreach within our AOR.

Like most other flotillas, 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.

15-4 Homosassa by Ned Barry, FC

- Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott has been appointed as FSO-PA.
- Following patrols on June 9 and June 23, and recreational trips on the river in June, I can report that most ATONs are in their proper position.
- On June 18, Anna McQuade, FSO-PV, visited and distributed materials to many of our marine partners. A USCG Auxiliary Form 7046 was completed and submitted.
- On June 8 and 9, Flotilla 15-4 set up a booth at the 29th Annual Cobia Big Fish Tournament at MacRae's in Homosassa. We set up on the lawn in front of MacRae's both Saturday and Sunday. The weather cooperated and, as a result, we were able to do a number of vessel exams and distribute our brochures and pamphlets to the public.
- We have started a boat crew training class. Bill Schultz and Herb Zimmerman will be going through the training.
- We are in the process of recertification of the radios at MacRae's and at Green Acres.

15-5 Gainesville by Richard Roberts, FC

No report received.

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

04/06/13 Attended Division 15 meeting.

04/18/13 Held monthly flotilla meeting.

04/20/13 Held an information booth and recruiting activity and participated in the parade in Horseshoe Beach, FL.

04/26/13 Attended the "National Night Out" in Chiefland, FL. Set up an information booth and recruiting activity.

04/27/13 Held an information booth and recruiting activity in Suwanee, FL, during their annual fishing tournament.

05/16/13 Held monthly flotilla meeting.

06/20/13 Held monthly flotilla meeting.

07/05/13 Held an information booth and recruiting activity at Horseshoe Beach, FL, during their 4th of July activities.

15-8 Hernando by John Hughes, FC

- FSO-PA has set up and members are currently staffing a Recreational Boating Safety booth at the Hernando County Fair. The fair opened on Friday April 5, 2013, and will conclude Friday April 12, 2013. Flotilla staffed booth at Hernando County Fair for a four-day period, from May 5 through May 9. In excess of 450 people visited our display and were provided materials and discussions about Recreational Boating Safety. A raffle was held (free entry) and one of those that visited our booth won a "Free" Public Education class.
 - Flotilla responded to two SAR callouts, both of which turned into standby situations and were later terminated by Yankeetown. Each instance, coxswain, crew and RWS responded with facility and were either ready to launch or were launched within 30 minutes of notification.
 - NSBW EVENTS
 - a. Hernando Beach Ramp, May 9 (8:00 am -11:00 am) VEs
 - b. Blue Pelican Marina, H.B, May 9 (8:00 am -12:00) PV TENT
 - c. Sam's Club, Brooksville, May 9 (10:00 am -5:00 pm) PV TENT and VEs
 - Six members attend Change of Command ceremony at Coast Guard Station Yankeetown on June 7, 2013.
 - Flotilla held a 40th Anniversary Celebration of Flotilla 15-8, as a Fellowship event, on June 8, 2013, with 70 guests in attendance.
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Staff Officer Reports



SO-CM, Kenneth Seipp—Communications

No report received.

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.

SO-DV, Catherine McAllister—Diversity

Diversity Best Practices

Organizations commit, embrace and use these best practices:

- The organization's leadership models diversity principles
- The organization champions diversity for all stakeholders
- Diversity is part of strategic planning and is one of the organization's guiding principles
- Diversity principles are diligently applied to recruiting, retention and selection of leadership
- Diversity competencies are reflected in reviews, rewards, discipline and special assignments
- Diversity initiatives are allotted adequate resources
- The organization has a strong diversity champion in its leadership and mentoring is available
- Everyone in the organization receives training in diversity principles and understands his or her role as a diversity champion

From the "Valuing Diversity Training Handout #8"

SO-HR, Bruce McAllister—Human Resources

It is now mid-year and we have many new members. I want to welcome each one of you! For those members who are not new, why not call a new member and explain your role in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Perhaps they would be interested in learning and joining in your area. They also are more likely to ask a question with someone one-on-one rather than in a large group at a meeting. A high-five goes out to all our FSO-HR officers who have worked diligently to bring in the following new members:

| MEMBER NAME | Flotilla | MEMBER NAME | Flotilla |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Erdman, Wendi | 15-5 | Render, Georgina | 15-3 |
| Erdman, Adam | 15-5 | Dvorak, Joyce | 15-3 |
| Burley, William | 15-1 | Dvorak, Victor | 15-3 |
| Zimmerman, Herbert | 15-4 | Jefferson, Maia | 15-3 |
| Zimmerman, Marian | 15-4 | Leon, Christian | 15-8 |
| Pidek, Jacob | 15-8 | McClain, Timothy | 15-1 |
| Schuck, John | 15-8 | Schuck, Linda | 15-8 |

SO-IS, Larry Berman—Information Services

Things are going well and reports are going in well. There are two developments:

1. Water and air missions are now being inputted automatically through AOM. IS officers are to check the automatic insertions to assure that they are being inputted adequately.
2. We welcome Jack Cullin as FSO-IS in 15-8, He has been working with me on a one-on-one basis (as is now the norm due to sequestration) and has been certified as a flotilla inputter. We welcome Jack to our IS ranks.

SO-MA, Winifred Fickett—Materials

No report received.

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

Nothing to report for the quarter.

SO-MT, James Kelly—Member Training

All is quiet in the member training world; no major problems to resolve, no new items to introduce. More members are utilizing online training.

As we have seen, member training is a bit less active than a few years ago. This is the natural result of a decline in new members, the fuel of member training. This decline is, in turn, related to the decline in folks entering recreational boating. That relates to the national and world economy because recreational boating is an expensive activity.

SO-OP, Charles Morton—Operations

Auxiliary Order Management (AOM), is now an automated system. No more mailing the 5132—and the 7030 auto-populates to AUXDATA.

Canceled patrols do not need to be mailed anymore. The logon is the same as for AUXDATA, so those of you who never used AUXDATA, will now be able to do so.

When a patrol request is entered, it is necessary to be specific as to the intended purpose, Please try and work in membership (crew) training. I am instructed to disapprove any patrol with no itinerary. This may be modified after the patrol. To make it simple—*NO PLAN - NO GO!*

Regatta patrols are permitted. The Coast Guard wants accurate reporting of what was accomplished on patrol.

I sent in a Mission Analysis for the PWC incident off Pine Island/Bayport on June 16, 2013, in which we were not called to search for two overdue men on a PWC. The point is, with a small and relatively unstable vessel like a PWC, the more eyes on the water, the better. As it turned out, both men were currently in the military and knew survival skills.

The new OIC at Station Yankeetown, BMC John “Paul” Chandler, has had quite an active break-in period with three rescues of notoriety in his first two weeks: Two men were rescued 4 miles off Bayport on a broken-down PWC, five men were rescued from a disabled vessel taking on water off Cedar Key, and two men were rescued with two more never found, from a capsized vessel off Horseshoe Beach. The Auxiliary was not involved in any of these searches; Air Station Clearwater helicopters and the FWC coordinated the rescues.

SO-PA, Charles Truthan—Public Affairs

The second quarter has seen plenty of PA action in the Division. National Safe Boating Week was May 18 – 24. On May 18th, 15-1 had a “Wear It” photo-op at the dock of their Crystal River Radio room. Afterwards they enjoyed a wonderful picnic. Mark Henehan grilled the hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage, and everyone brought a dish. A couple of flotillas received “National Safe Boating Week” proclamations from their local/county officials. Most flotillas reported NSBW activities.

Several members from our division participated in “Operation Black Swan”. The Memorial Day ceremony at the Douglas Munroe Memorial was well attended with most flotillas present.

The division hosted the first-ever Division 15 AUXCHEF program in District 7. Eight members from several Division 15 flotillas were present at Station Yankeetown for the three-day training. AUXCHEF’s from 15-8 and 15-3 “ran the galley” on the third day as the AUXCHEF instructors supervised from the Mess Deck.

Note: The name of the AUXCHEF program has been officially changed to the **Auxiliary Food Services (AUXFS)** program.

(Report continued on page 10)

SO-PA, Charles Truthan—Public Affairs (PA report cont'd from page 9)

Flotilla 15-8 celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a Gala. Members worked feverishly remodeling their building as well as in food preparation for the big event. Eighty-eight lbs (precooked weight) of pork butt was trimmed, rubbed with Buckeye Chuck's secret rub and gently placed on the smoker; twenty five lbs of coleslaw and potato salad were readied along with twenty nine lbs of Brenda's Famous Old Chicken Bar-B-Q baked beans. Appetizers were prepared for serving on the multilevel buffet during the social hour with the dinner buffet following. The color guard opened the ceremony with presentation of colors; John Karpisac gave a wonderful invocation and closed the evening with a beautiful benediction. John Hughes did an excellent job of main emcee, and Rick Foti really made the evening special with a walk down memory lane.

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 doing a great job!

SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications

I am honored to have been appointed as SO-PB and editor of the Division 15 newsletter in May, 2013 . I have now published my 'first issue' of the *Charlie Noble*.

I hope you enjoy it!

SO-PE, Jeffrey Hoff—Public Education

As of July 1, 2013, Flotilla 15-8 has completed 15 separate Public Education classes, with over 45 students receiving their FWC Boating Safety Cards. Our Public Education Program has a rotation of many of the Coast Guard's recommended PE classes (e.g., About Boating Safely, Boating Skills and Seamanship, Suddenly in Command, How to Use Your Radio, Introduction to Navigation, GPS, Paddlesports, and How to Read a Nautical Chart). With only half as many students attending compared to last year's numbers, the Public Education team has been working with our new FSO-PA to get more media attention. More contacts have been made and more class brochures have been passed out than ever before. The PE team has been at all the recent events such as Swamp Fest, National Safe Boaters week in Weeki Wachee Springs, The Hernando County Fair, Vessel Inspection Day where over 100 vessels were examined, Sam's Club, and The Blue Pelican Marina, where we set up tents for boaters to have their boats examined and they could pick up Safe Boating information. The PE team of 15-8 is a very active and dedicated group. They are constantly developing new plans for Public Education.

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

SO-SR, LaVonne Robinson—Secretary/Records

Minutes from the April quarterly meeting sent out.

SO-VE, Anthony Soper—Vessel Examination

No report received.

This Is A Drill—This Is A Drill This Is A Drill!

By Andy Render, Hurricane Awareness & NSBW Coordinator



Did you notice the hurricane that blew through our AOR during the middle of May? Most of us never saw the high winds or the pounding surf. That's because Hurricane Kirk was a drill... Coast Guard District 7 simulated a hurricane bearing down on Florida, and Sector St. Petersburg continually sent out updated messages on its progress.

Your Hurricane Awareness Coordinators were kept busy as the "hurricane" roared up the coast. After it moved past, our division then conducted a post event accounting for the safety of our participating members.

The idea behind the Hurricane Awareness Program (HAP) is, "in the Coast Guard, we take care of our own"! When an emergency arises, we have a procedure to warn our members of an impending event, and then check on their safety once it has passed.

The process starts early in the year with your HAP coordinators contacting each member of their flotilla to see if they are interested in participating. In May, the Coast Guard conducts a practice event to ensure we have everything in place.

An actual event would be declared should Sector St. Petersburg determine that a hurricane (or any event) is imminent in our AOR. Sector contacts the Active Duty, Reserve and Auxiliary Points of Contact (POC) and initiates the program. The notification process filters down through the various area coordinators and the divisions are asked to initiate their calling plans.

Six of our flotillas participated in this year's event and everything worked as planned. We completed our post assessment calling process in record time. Over the last three years, your coordinators spent a lot of time planning, refining and double checking the process that your flotilla developed to contact their members. This year their hard work was evident by the crispness and effectiveness of their actions.

At your next flotilla meeting, take a moment to THANK them for what they are doing to ensure your safety!



Photos courtesy of Microsoft.

If It's May, It's Time for National Safe Boating Week!

Flotilla 15-1

On May 18th, we had a “Wear It” photo-op at the dock of our Crystal River Radio room. Afterwards we enjoyed a wonderful picnic. Mark Henehan grilled the hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage for us and everyone brought a dish. A boating safety information table was set up at West Marine from May 17—25th. We received several contacts and requests for vessel exams. Vince Maida, Ed Hattenback and Don Jones were the VEs. On May 13, the Mayor of Crystal River presented a proclamation at the City Council meeting to Linda Jones, Flotilla Commander, in support of National Safe Boating Week. We had an electronic sign positioned on Hwy 19 between West Marine and Cody's Restaurant from May 15—28th. The message was “Life Jackets Float, You Won't. Wear It!” We completed three Vessel Safety Checks and gave out Safe Boating information. Safe Boating information was on display in our new trailer at the Wal-Mart in Inverness.

Flotilla 15-3

NSBW event was held at Carney Island, Saturday, May 18, using the same format as the past several years.

- A VE station was staffed by C. Truthan and N. Limor. Six vessels were examined.
- A PA booth was staffed by L. Robinson, M. Jefferson and C. Truthan.
- News releases announcing the event were sent to radio stations and newspapers.
- Radio Public Service Announcement was confirmed as one visitor from The Villages attended due to hearing it.
- The Marion County Fire & Rescue was briefly in attendance with Auxiliarist E. Schultz, then they were called away to emergencies.
- Marion County Sheriff stopped by as did the Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC).

Flotilla 15-8

- Safe boating week was kicked off early on May 14 with the Board of County Commissioners signing proclamation 2013-75 declaring May 18 through 25 National Safe Boating week in Hernando County. Nine members took part in this event.
- May 17 was “Wear your PFD to work day”, one business did respond to our publicized offer of our PA taking their picture and then submitting it to the NSBC.
- May 18 was the first official day of NSBW. A recreational safe boating information booth was set up at Blue Pelican Marina, one of our partner businesses. It was also the “Most PFDs worn on the same day” to break the world record set last year. Photos by M. Fitzgerald and official paperwork were sent to NSBC for verification and entry into the official world record count. We had a good turnout of seven members and eight VEs for the event. At least sixty contact visits and 16 VSCs were made during this event.
- On May 19 we were located at Sam's Club's on Hwy 50. A recreational safe boating information booth was set up in front of the store and a VE station was set up in the east parking lot. Two members and four VEs were at this event. Sixty-five contact visits were made, eight persons signed up for the June 18 *Suddenly in Command* class, and four persons signed the yellow “Interested in Joining the Auxiliary” cards. The interest cards were turned over to M. Bollinger for follow up contact and two vessel safety checks were completed within the next week from visits at this event.
- On May 23 we had seven VEs descend upon Paddling Adventures, one of our partner businesses, to perform 120 vessel safety checks and four contact visits.



15-1 members at West Marine. Photo by Linda Jones



15-8 PA booth set up in parking lot at Sam's Club. Photo by K. Dolan.

NSBW Photo Ops



15-1 public service electronic road sign along US 19 in Crystal River, FL. Photos by Linda Jones

15-3 PA booth at Lake Weir, Ocala, FL.

Photo by Chuck Truthan



15-8's "Wear It" PA event at the Blue Pelican Marina.

Photo by Paul Pelletier



15-4 Homosassa NSBW Activities

by Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott



Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 was very active in recognition of National Safe Boating Week with numerous vessel safety checks being conducted throughout the week.

On Saturday, May 18, two booths were in operation at the new Super Wal-Mart store in Homosassa. The booths were located on each side of the main entrance to the store. The booth closest to the entrance was utilized as an informational booth. An assortment of pamphlets, booklets and brochures were distributed to the general public. Also taking place at this booth were recruiting activities and the

taking of reservations for upcoming Public Education courses. The second booth was operated by Flotilla Vessel Examiners and was also a distribution point for additional safe boating materials. Five actual vessel safety checks were conducted at this booth during the hours of operation and in full view of the general public, who seemed very interested in the activity. Appointments were made for future VSCs with boat owners who did not have their boats with them at the store.

A new twist was added at the PA booth with the presence of Flotilla 15-4's mascot, Gemma, a Golden Labrador Retriever who is a

trained Service Dog owned by Rusty Hays, FSO-VE. Gemma was the source of lots of attention and admiration by numerous children and their parents during the course of the day. She loved all of their attention, being the friendly dog that she is, and of course, it also gave flotilla members an opportunity to discuss safe boating issues with both the children and their parents. Gemma was identified on her halter as a friendly dog who loved to be petted. She proudly wore her "Service Dog" halter which was adorned with her "On Duty" USCG Auxiliary patch!

"A new twist was added at the PA booth with the presence of Flotilla 15-4's mascot, Gemma, a Golden Labrador Retriever, who is a trained Service Dog."



PA table set up for NSBW event. L to R: Georgia Young, Ned Barry and Bill Mauer. Photo by Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott, FSO-PA.

Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott completed a Vessel Safety Check on Raymond Becker's boat. Photo by Rusty Hays, FSO-VE.



Gemma, a trained service dog, taking a break from her duties. Photo by Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott.

15-8 Hernando Beach NSBW News

by Kathleen Dolan



Hernando Beach Flotilla 15-8 started National Safe Boating Week off a little early by receiving Proclamation 2013-75 on May 14th from the Hernando County Board of Commissioners proclaiming the week of May 18 through 24, 2013, to be Safe Boating Week in Hernando County. While awarding the proclamation, the commissioners were wearing inflatable PFD's to help kick off "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day," and they all signed pledge cards to wear their life jackets while boating or fishing, to encourage others to wear theirs, and to boat safely and responsibly at all times.

On Friday, May 17th, we assisted one local business by taking pictures of their personnel and submitting that photo to the National Safe Boating Council's "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day" campaign. The staff of servers, cooks and dishwashers all wore one to demonstrate how easy it is to wear an inflatable PFD in the work place.

The next morning, May 18th, started bright and early for fifteen of our members at one of our partner businesses, Blue Pelican

Marina. While seven members set up and manned the Recreational Boating Safety information booth, eight VEs were conducting vessel safety checks at the boat ramps. At 11:00 am, everyone gathered with their PFDs on to sign-in and take the photographs for submission to the world record try for the most PFDs worn on the same day. We all had a great day with sixty contact visits made and sixteen VSCs completed.

Sunday was not a day of rest for seven of our members. We set up an RBS information booth in front of Sam's Club and a VSC station out in the parking lot. A member brought his Hovercraft to put on display beside our booth and boy was that a conversation starter. We all had so much fun talking with the many people going in and out of the store. Our members completed sixty five contact visits and two VSCs. In addition, four visitors signed "interested in joining the auxiliary" cards and eight signed up for our next *Suddenly in Command* class. It was a busy, interactive fun day!

After a busy start to NSBW, a few days of down time were needed to get ready for May 23rd. Seven

members armed with clip boards and cans of bug repellent were ready to face the morning sun and the Florida state bird, the mosquito. We arrived at Paddling Adventures, a kayak and canoe livery at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, to complete VSCs on all one hundred twenty of their water craft and had four contact visits with customers of this partner business.

Members of 15-8 didn't want NSBW to end too soon, so we added one more event to our calendar. We were asked to come back to a partner business, Blue Pelican Marina, for the Memorial Day Customer Appreciation Party. Four members were able to spend four hours having fun interacting with the happy customers of the marina. Sixty five contact visits and 2 VSCs were completed. Several appointments were made for VSCs in the next week, and many referrals were given for our PE classes in the coming months. This event was the perfect wrap-up for NSBW, and due to the referrals for the PE classes; we had eleven walk-ins for our radio class the very next evening. What a bonus!



Auxiliarists from Flotilla 15-8 with Hernando County, FL, county commissioners, who proclaimed the week of May 18 – 24, 2013, as Safe Boating Week in Hernando County.

AUXFS: *Hey, What's Cookin'?*

(The name of the AUXCHEF program has been officially changed to AUXFS, in keeping with the gold side program)

Excerpts from an article by Robert A. Fabich, Sr., published in **Coast Guard Auxiliary Live blog**

"The purpose of this program is to give Auxiliarists another means to contribute to and support active duty USCG, relieving the Food Service Specialists (FSS) at small boat stations and cutters so they can take leave, attend schools or perform other duties," explained Paulette Parent, AUXCHEF instructor, during her opening remarks.



CLEARWATER, FL – AUXCHEF students prepare mac and cheese as a portion of the lunch time meal at Air Station Clearwater March 3, 2013. Seven students from around USCG District 7 were responsible for serving breakfast and lunch as part of a hands-on training session. USCG Auxiliary photo by Auxiliarist Toni Borman, Public Affairs Officer.

Currently, there are 60 qualified AUXFS cooks throughout USCG District 7 and an increasing demand for more. The Air Station Clearwater course is one of four being held in District 7 this year.

The course academics included sanitation and safety, tools and equipment, food preparation, meal planning, serving techniques, nutrition, hygiene, storing food, recipe conversions, herbs and seasoning, cooking principles and USCG administrative requirements. An additional eight hours was dedicated to hands-on training under the direct supervision of active duty FSS preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner meals for Air Station Clearwater CG personnel and retired military families.

Throughout these three days the students exhibited skills other than the desire for cooking. Their coordinated activities and competency accomplished a compelling common goal. They fostered HONOR by sharing knowledge among themselves in regards to Coast Guard ethics. RESPECT by ensuring proper uniform wear, and the importance of diversity in the Auxiliary and USCG relations. DEVOTION TO DUTY by participating in a program that is unfunded. Each student is personally responsible for all related training, travel, lodging, uniform, and station assignment expenses. The additional teamwork of the students, in light of potential funding cuts to the Auxiliary, is a recipe far beyond a course that already exemplifies the Auxiliary contribution. These Auxiliarists prove their willingness to go above and beyond for Team Coast Guard at their own expense.



CLEARWATER, FL – USCG active duty FSS staff oversee the preparation of corn bread being made by student Robert A. Fabich, Sr., during hands-on AUXCHEF training March 3, 2013, at Air Station Clearwater. USCG Auxiliary photo by Auxiliarist Toni Borman, Public Affairs Officer.



CLEARWATER, FL – Instructor Paulette Parent demonstrates how to identify herbs by smell and texture during the classroom session of AUXCHEF training at Air Station Clearwater March 2, 2013. USCG Auxiliary photo by Auxiliarist Robert A. Fabich, Sr., Public Affairs Officer

In Memorium

Bill Southard, Former FSO-PV, 15-8



William H. Southard, age 69, passed away peacefully at Sturgill Hospice Care Center, surrounded by his family after a one-year battle with brain cancer on Thursday, May 16th, 2013.

He was born in Schenectady, New York, on September 2, 1943. After serving in the US Naval Reserve, he joined the Pine Grove Fire Department. He served New York's Capital District area for 39 years, and was a former fire chief for Pine Grove Vol. Fire Department. William was also the fire commissioner for Rotterdam-Princeton- Guilderland Fire District

5 (Albany and Schenectady, New York) for 25 years.

He retired from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Rensselaer, NY, in 2009 after 16 years as a senior process maintenance manager. Prior to that, he worked for Sterling Winthrop Pharmaceuticals research division for 29 years, leaving as a maintenance compliance supervisor. He valued serving his community, and during his retirement, he joined the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and was appointed FSO-PV for Flotilla 15-8, Hernando Beach, and became

a volunteer radio watchstander for the US Coast Guard at Station Yankeetown.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Sandra (Hayward) Southard, of 48 years, daughter Deanna Ruggiero of Spring Hill, FL, son Todd Southard of Rensselaer, NY, grandson Brandon Ruggiero and granddaughter Savannah DeGaetano of Spring Hill, FL. He is also survived by a sister Linda (Danny) Johnson, of Scotia, NY, and several nieces and nephews.

Division Meeting article cont'd
from page 1

ters of intent to run for the offices of Division Commander and Division Vice Commander should go to Chuck Morton. Please refer to the criteria for election of division officers in Chapter 4, Section F, as well as Appendix C, of the AUXMAN.

Andy Render, Division Hurricane Coordinator, reported that it is important to keep each flotilla's calling tree list of members updated and know who and where members are located. For example, are they snowbirds who go north for the summer or are they

on vacation for the next several weeks? This could be very important information when initiating a calling tree due to a hurricane bearing down on the Florida peninsula. Please do not submit changes in these lists until Andy requests them.

There was a discussion held on financially supporting the Division Commander and Vice Commander to attend D-Train 2013 in September. After discussion and voting, it was approved. Another discussion

was held, initiated by Linda Jones, FC of 15-1, on the division paying the division and national dues for the first year for high school students who join the Auxiliary; it was approved after discussion and voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

After a short break, Ensign Shawn Antonelli, USCG, answered questions on the new AOM for about 45 minutes.



HH-65C Dolphin Helo. Photo by Roy Berrios, USCGAUX



Auxiliary facility on patrol. Auxiliary archives photo