

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



*Charlie
Noble*

Mary Patton, Editor so-pb.15@uscgaux-fl.org

Quarterly Newsletter of Division 15, District 7

Volume 28, Number 4, Fall 2014

2015 District 7 Incoming Bridge—Judith Hudson, DCOS(e)
and Commodore Robert Weskerna, DCO(e)



Photo by Mary Patton

Division 15 Bridge

Division Commander	Vice Division Commander	Immediate Past Division Commander
Paul Pelletier paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org	Diane Berman dhberman@uscgaux-fl.org	Craig Elliot craigde2@earthlink.net

Division 15 Flotillas

15-1 Jim Simon , FC Debra Thomas, VFC	15-2 Russell Konold , FC Richard Roberts VFC	15-3 Randy Patton, FC Mary Patton, VFC	15-4 David Hayes, FC Robert Currie, VFC
15-5 Larry Berman, FC Richard Rooney, VFC	15-7 M. Lydia Sorli, FC Donald Sorli, Jr., VFC	15-8 Ray O'Connell, FC Charles Dolan, VFC	

October Division Meeting Notes

Meeting started at 0900 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in remembrance of those members of the service who gave their lives for their country and for those who still serve.

Paul Pelletier, Division Commander (DCDR), thanked flotilla commanders for a great job in 2014. He announced that Rear Admiral John Korn, USCG, would be at Station Yankeetown from 1300-1500 on 22 October for an all-hands meeting. Members of the Auxiliary were invited to attend. The DCDR announced that the division Change of Watch would be held on 15 November at the Plantation Inn located in Crystal River. The cost is \$20.00 per person, and checks should be sent to Don Jones, SO-FN.

Diane Berman, Division Vice Commander (VCDR), gave a short report on both NACON and D-Train. She said it is her belief that Admiral Paul Zukunft, USCG, the new Commandant of the Coast Guard, will be a staunch advocate for the Auxiliary. She also said that the new DIRAUX, Commander William Seward, USCG, will be a big plus for the Auxiliary as well. Diane mentioned that the new VE manual will be available soon

and thanked Andy Render, DVC of the V branch, for his fine work on the manual. Ms. Berman reported that AUXLMS courses can now be taught as member training at flotilla meetings in order to have all members current on this required training. She reported the results of the District 7 election at D-Train. Robert Weskerna, presently District Chief of Staff, was elected District Commodore, and Judith Hudson, former D-CAPT (E), was elected District Chief of Staff. Paulette Parent, affectionately known as the founder of AUXFS (*Semper Gumby*), and former Division Commander of Division 8, was elected D-CAPT (W). Gary Barth, presently D-CAPT (E), was reelected to a second term, and Carl Motes, IPDCDR of Division 17, was elected as D-CAPT (N). All assume their new offices on 1 January 2015

Craig Elliot, IPDCDR, reiterated the consensus that the new District Commodore-elect Bob Weskerna will be a real asset to the District. Craig reported that there is a proposal being considered that inflatable life jackets will no longer be permitted—but it is just being looked at for now.

BMC Paul Chandler, USCG, Office in Charge of Station Yankeetown,

thanked Chuck and Kitty Dolan for their AUXFS help at the Coast Guard Day celebration at the Station, and he thanked Andy Render, SO-OP, for his work on developing a facilities manual, including photos and pertinent information such as size and draught of each of the Auxiliary facilities in the Station's AOR. The manual helps Station know which facilities would be useful in certain types of call-outs.

Linda Jones, the Division Fellowship Coordinator, reported that there are 36 members signed up for the Change of Watch on November 15 and urged members to send their check for \$20/per person by 31 October.

Paul Pelletier, DCDR, announced that the division now has its own Challenge Coin, which he passed around for everyone to see. He said it will be given to outgoing FCs and SOs for their service to the division. Diane Berman, VCDR, described a table at D-Train offering literature on the Mutual Assistance program, a service to the USCG and also Auxiliaries, which gives loans and grants to members needing financial assistance or who wish to pursue a college degree. She distrib-

October Division Meeting Notes (cont'd)

uted literature and asked Auxiliarists to help support the Mutual Assistance program by sending a donation. Larry Berman, FC, 15-5, and who facilitates the 4-hour TCT, suggested having only two TCT classes for 2015, due to a decrease in those needing the training. The bridge agreed.

Lastly, division elections were held. Diane Berman was elected Division Commander and Andy Render was elected Division Vice Commander. They were the only candidates—there were no nominations from the floor. The meeting ended at 1030 hours.



Division 15 Meeting Photos

All Photos by Mary Patton



Head Table: Paul Pelletier, Linda Jones, Diane Berman and Craig Elliot.



Linda Jones, 15-1, and Kitty Dolan, 15-8.



Dolores Spain, FSO-IS, 15-3.



Debra Thomas, VFC 15-1.

BMC Paul Chandler, OIC Station Yankeetown, and Diane Berman, DCDR(e).



Paul Pelletier, DCDR, Jim Simon, FC, 15-1, and Andy Render, SO-OP.

Division Commander's Report

by Paul Pelletier, DCDR



I would like to thank the members who attended the *all-hands* meeting at Station Yankeetown on Oct 22, 2015, called by Rear Admiral John Korn, USCG, Commander of Coast Guard District 7. We had seven members attend the event, and they spent time, including having a photo taken, with the Admiral and Master Chief Griffin. I presented Admiral Korn with the first Division 15 Challenge Coin on behalf of the division.

As I complete my two years as Division Commander, I want to thank our members for their loyalty to the Auxiliary. Many of you put in so much time, I'm sure it seems like a full-time job. At the all-hands meeting, Admiral Korn also thanked the Auxiliary for their work as part of Team Coast Guard. In the past two years, we have had to deal with many issues, and we weathered the storm. Issues

such as the sequester and the several-week government shutdown. We had many devoted members who wanted to continue to do the work of the Auxiliary during this time, but were not permitted to do so until the shutdown was over.

I would like to congratulate Diane Berman and Andy. Render on their election as our new Division Commander and Division Vice Commander, respectively. I wish them well.

I want to thank the Flotilla Commanders, Division Staff Officers, and Flotilla Staff Officers for their commitment to the positions they held and the many hours they put in during my term as Division Commander.

To the Radio Watchstanders and AUXFSs who volunteer at Station Yankeetown goes a big *Thank You*.

I know Chief Chandler and the men and women of the station really appreciate your assistance.



New Division 15 Challenge Coin. On the dark blue enameled obverse side is a manatee and the state of Florida, with a small star indicating Division 15's location. On the reverse side is the USCG Auxiliary logo.



Division Vice Commander's Report

by Diane Berman, VCDR

"Leadership" is not about power over someone and it's not about influence, either. Leadership is about truly believing in something, and getting others to believe in it, too. Being a leader requires more than public speaking skills or the ability to multitask—it requires a real belief in what you are trying to accomplish. Without that belief, it is very easy to become lost in the mundane tasks you are presented with, or the roadblocks along the way.

Without that belief, the people you are leading can lose them-

selves, and when that happens, it's very hard to regain the trust required to lead. It can be difficult at times, but a true leader uses that belief to overcome difficulties, to rally people, or they work around the cause of the difficulty to offset it so they can accomplish the tasks before them.

I fully believe in the programs and missions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Division 15. I know the direction I want to take the division and this is my driving force. We will succeed in making Division 15 a force to be reckoned with. Andy and I have

the same hopes and dreams for all of us. Leading is more than a powerful voice and an imposing presence. It's a belief in what you do. If we all can find something we physically, mentally, and spiritually believe in, we will be formidable.

I thank you all for the trust you put in Andy and I to lead this division. We, as a team, with your help, will do everything needed to advance the cause of Division 15.

Immediate Past Division Commander's Report by Craig Elliot, IPDCDR, DDC-R



Well, it's that time of year when we have elections and some of us move on and new folks take over. This will be my last message to you as the Immediate Past Division Commander. I want to say that it has been a distinct pleasure to serve you all, and I hope that my term as Division Commander and "Immediate Past" has been helpful to the division. Please do your best to encourage members to hold staff and elected positions at both the flotilla and the division level. Everyone should want to hold those kinds of positions, and

it is important that the members holding those positions continue to move on to positions of greater responsibility, or at least to positions with other specialties within the flotilla and division. The turnover is important not only for member satisfaction but for growth and developing experienced members to hold higher-level positions. Members who move through those positions are the lifeblood of our organization and provide essential knowledge and continuity. I would like to thank all of you for the work that you have done and will continue to do. Alt-

though I am stepping out of my positions at the division level, I currently hold a district position and will be around to continue to help as much as I can. So take care, keep up the good work, and together we will continue to have an excellent division.



SAR Mission off the Coast of the Suwanee River by Jim Simon, FC, 15-1

On the morning of August 28, Flotilla 15-1, Crystal River, was called out by Sector St. Petersburg to assist in a Search and Rescue mission off the coast of the Suwanee River. Two men (71 & 45 years of age) left the Suwanee Marina the previous morning in a 16' center console boat. When they did not return that evening, the U.S. Coast Guard was notified and a search began around 3:00 in the morning. Don Jones, Jodi Simon, and I with the *Salt Shaker* headed to Suwanee around 10:00 am. There, we met up with Don Sorli from Flotilla 15-7, in whose AOR the Suwanee River resides. We had orders to search just off shore and to the north from the Suwanee channel. Water just off-shore is very shallow which made it difficult to search close in. After being on the water for about 30 minutes, we received orders from Sector to conduct a "Tract Line Search" pattern. Coordinates were received, entered into the GPS, and we headed to our CSP (commence search pattern) starting point. We had just notified Sector that we were beginning our search when a Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) vessel located the missing boat with both occupants 16 miles west of Suwanee marker #1. The boat had capsized with only about 3' of the vessel out of the water and with both occupants still with the boat. They had been out there for about 28 hours. Info was not available as to the time the boat capsized or the reason, but both men were in need of medical attention when they arrived back at the boat ramp.

This was a great opportunity for Flotilla 15-1's operations program. It shows that we have the personnel and facilities to assist the Coast Guard in SAR operations outside our AOR. The fact is that on this day's SAR, we spent most of our time traveling, and the outcome of this SAR was positive with the safe rescue of the two boaters. Our crew was prepared for a long afternoon on the water, especially in an area with which we were unfamiliar. Having Don Sorli on board was a great asset

Flotilla Commander Reports



15-1 Crystal River by James Simon, FC

During the third quarter, we provided one Watchstander to work at Station Yankeetown each week. Our flotilla has two FSO-FS people to assist with meal preparation for the Station during this quarter. Our flotilla provided space at our building for a TCT class.

FELLOWSHIP

Each month we have held Fellowship dinners at local restaurants. Lately, we have been averaging 30 people at each event.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- We held an “ABS” class during NSBW with nine students completing the class.
- We will be offering the “BS & S” class in September.
- We will be offering a “Paddlesport” class in October.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS and PUBLICATIONS

- Bi-monthly newsletters have been published and sent to all members.
- Participated in the “Rural King” grand opening with our Boating Safety Trailer present and members discussing boating safety and handing out safety material.
- We setup our Safety Display table at West Marine for Veterans Day.

VESSEL EXAMS/PROGRAM VISITORS

- Vessel Safety Check was held at several locations each month.
- Program visits continued this quarter to our program partners. One new “Program Partner” added.

OPERATIONS

- We continue to provide weekend patrols, and have placed our new Flotilla Vessel Facility “Zero-Two” in service beginning with our June patrols.
- Patrol handled boating accident on the busy July 4th Holiday weekend in Crystal Bay Channel Marker #17. Minor injuries with one damaged vessel.
- We participated in a SAR operation out of Suwannee for two missing boaters.

MEMBER TRAINING

- At every meeting, we had member training this quarter presented by FSO-MT Jim Simon. We went over the monthly operations quizzes sent out to the members each month prior to the flotilla meeting. Our topic for the next several months will be “AUXCOM”.
- At present time we have four members actively in “Boat Crew” training.
- One member has completed his TCO training and certification.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Our FSO-HR, Vince Maida, is doing an excellent job in working to help prospective members. We have four new prospective members in the application process.

DIVERSITY

No Report

15-3 Ocala by Randy Patton, FC

DIRECT SUPPORT TO USCG

Nachshon Limor continues to provide extensive hours for AUXAIR by working with Air Station Clearwater.

MEMBER TRAINING

- Member training sessions are normally held following each monthly flotilla meeting. Meetings are not scheduled for July of each year; and with a large number of members being out of town, no quorum was present for our normal August meeting.
- Member training is planned for the remainder of our flotilla meetings for the year, with the exception of the Change of Watch, and includes such topics as Communicator Qualifications, Leadership Planning, and Mandated Training.

OPERATIONS

- Several flotilla members have participated in patrols with Flotilla 15-5 in the Crystal River area.
- With the departure of Andy Render to 15-1, our surface operations program will be on temporary hold until Nathan Richards obtains his coxswain qualification. He is also planning to offer his vessel, which is significantly larger than the *Paratus*, for use by the Auxiliary.

VESSEL EXAMS/PROGRAM VISITORS

- Our Lake Weir VSC Blitz continues to be conducted on a monthly basis.
- Numerous program visits were made during the quarter to our MDV partners.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND PUBLICATIONS

Flotilla 15-3 is publishing its newsletter, *The Compass Rose*, on a monthly basis, except for July, when we have no scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Our PE classes are temporarily on hold due to the sudden illness of our FSO-PE. However, we anticipate scheduling classes again when conditions permit.

CHALLENGES

During 2014, our flotilla has so far endured the loss of two members who crossed the bar, one new and one non-active member disenrolling from the Auxiliary, and one member transferring to another flotilla. Additionally, some other members are contending with health issues, either acute or chronic. Clearly we need to recruit more active and younger members, who can be socialized into the Auxiliary and who will be willing to step up to hold both elected and appointed officer positions.

I, as well as several of our key members, continue to believe that one important operational capability for an inland flotilla such as ours lies in the radio communications area. We intend to continue to encourage members to become licensed Amateur Radio operators as well as Auxiliary Telecommunications Operators. Ultimately we seek to establish a complete Auxiliary radio station facility, which would include HF SSB, VHF, and UHF capabilities.

15-4 Homosassa by D. Rusty Hayes, FC

No report received.

15-5 Gainesville by Larry Berman, FC

We have two new members; two other members resigned. We continue to provide AUXFS assistance in the food preparation at Station Yankeetown and one member as a Radio Watchstander at the Station. We continue to do patrols out of Crystal River.

15-7 Suwanee by M. Lydia Sorli, FC

No report received.

15-8 Hernando by Ray O'Connell, FC

Direct Involvement with Station Yankeetown

54 FS hours provided by 2 FS certified members through 02SEP14.

Annual summer picnic – attended by 12 members and Chuck Dolan prepared the pulled pork for the event.

Two members were present at Station Yankeetown during the visit of Rear Admiral Korn.

Community support

Two members participated in the Hernando County EOC drill.

PA/RBS Events

75th Anniversary Open House was held on 21JUN14 involving RBS partners, HC Sheriff's Marine patrol, FWC, Station Yankeetown, CERT, etc.

Operation Dry Waters VSC stations were conducted 27-29JUN14.

Assisted with Coastal cleanup efforts.

Member Training

Two new coxswains completed training and were certified.

Crew class started with four students and finished with two students.

A four-hour TCT class was held at the flotilla for six students.

Search and Rescue Support Group first aid training with Paul Pelletier

CPR training for 14 members conducted by Mike Wells.

PE workshop conducted for 10 instructors by Jeff Hoff.

Auxiliary Seamanship class started with eight students.

PE Classes

One Paddlesports class was conducted.

Two ABS classes were conducted.

One BS&S class conducted.

One "How to read a nautical chart" class was conducted.

One Introduction to Navigation class was conducted.

Gulf Coast Academy ABS classes started with 88 middle school age children and will conclude on 17DEC14.

Fellowship activities

Halloween party planned for 07NOV14.

Celebration of the retirement of 3 members.

Other

Honor guard for one of our members.

Staff Officer Reports



SO-MT, George Dooris—Member Training

Flotilla 15-1 reports that four members continue their boat crew training and that seven members are attending the AUXACN (navigation) class being offered by Flotilla 15-4.

Flotilla 15-2 - No report

Flotilla 15-3 - No report

Flotilla 15-4 reports that it conducted boat crew training for three members needing recertification and one member seeking initial qualification. Three members passed their QE audit on September 22. They also have one member in coxswain training. They offered the one-hour TCT at the September flotilla meeting and began an AUXACN (navigation) class on September 17. The AUXACN class will continue until January 21, 2015, skipping Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's week.

Flotilla 15-5 reports that two of the AUXLMS mandated courses were offered at their September flotilla meeting.

Flotilla 15-7 - No report

Flotilla 15-8 reports they have four crew members ready for a QE audit, that they just completed an AUXSEA class, and that they will begin an AUXPAT class on October 9

SO-OP, Andy Render—Operations



During the District 7 Training Conference (D-TRAIN) in Orlando this past September, I attended a workshop on Operational Facilities. Much of the information covered was routine and served as a refresher. There were, however, several items that, while not new, were good reminders for all of us.

First, it was strongly stressed that the Offer-for-Use form (ANSC 7003) is considered a **legal document** and cannot be updated or modified by **anyone except** the originator of the document. Therefore, please pay particular attention when completing the form so it does not need to be returned to the boat owner for small, and seemingly trivial, corrections.

Also, use both feet and inches when describing the length and width of the vessel. As a reminder, when designating your facility number, the first two numbers which designate the length of the vessel should always round **down** to the lesser length. For example, if your vessel is 23' 9", the prefix for your OPFAC number would be "23". For flotilla-owned facilities, you should use the manufacturer's advertised length.

Another important item is that the crew and coxswain serving on any vessel that can reach a speed of 35 MPH (30 knots) must wear an orange or yellow PFD rated for speeds of 50 MPH or greater. The vessel's maximum speed rating cannot be lowered when renewing the Offer-For-Use form, unless there is documentation explaining the reason for the change in speed capability.

Once your vessel has been accepted for use by the DIRAUX Office, you will receive a letter of acceptance. This document must be carried aboard at all times.

Don't be surprised if when a QE is aboard your vessel, they conduct an inventory of the safety equipment carried aboard. That is a part of their QE mission.

Overall, the workshop was very informative and contained a lot of good information. If you have any questions about the above items, please let me know.

SO-PA, Kathleen Dolan—Public Affairs

US Coast Guard Support:

15-1:

One member provided 13 hours AUXFS support
One member provided 28 hours of Radio Watch for Station Yankeetown
Nine patrols were completed

15-4: Two members provided 36 hours of Radio Watch for Station Yankeetown
Homosassa Radio 32 hours

15-5:

Diane Berman worked four shifts for AUXFS
Larry Berman sat four Radio Watches for Station Yankeetown

15-8

One member provided AUXFS support at Station Yankeetown
Four patrols with Radio Watch completed

Flag Ceremonies:

Members from 15-1 and 15-8 participated as Honor Guard for the funeral of 15-8 member Robin Soper.

Community Involvement:

15-1

Fellowship dinner held at The Olive Tree

15-8

Manned RBS booth at Second Annual Hernando Beach Card Board Boat Race

Local Media Involvement:

15-1

Three articles/pictures/announcements were submitted this month for publication to the Chronicle. Three articles/pictures/announcements were published in the Chronicle.

15-4

Three articles were written and submitted to the Citrus County Chronicle during September. All three have been published. Other routine articles regarding meeting notices and course schedules have also been published in the Chronicle during August.

Important Note:

15-2

Members meeting on 9/29: discussion related to future of the flotilla was held.

SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications

Four flotillas published newsletters during the quarter.

SO-PV, Program Visitor, RBS —Charles Dolan

Five flotillas in Division 15 were actively supporting and promoting the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary's primary mission of Recreational Boating Safety

15-1:

The Recreational Safe Boating Information trailer was set up and staffed at Rural King's Grand Opening event on Aug. 17, 2014, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM and again on Aug. 23, 2014. Several contacts were made for classes, membership, and vessel safety inspections.

SO-SR, LaVonne Robinson—Secretary/Records

Minutes from the July & October quarterly meetings will be sent out.

SO-VE, Anthony Soper—Vessel Examination

Sent out several emails received from the DSO-VE.

- The events that the flotillas have performed have gone a long way in making our AOR a safer place.
 - Over 200 VEs were completed during Safe Boating week.
 - One of the most important things during a VE is showing people items that need to be corrected.
 - The VE blitzes were very productive.
 - Keep up the good work VE team.
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In Memorium

Elaine Rodrigues de Miranda, 15-4, and Former SO-PE

Along with family and friends, members of Homosassa Flotilla 15-4, as well as other United States Coast Guard Auxiliary members, honored the memory and service of Elaine Rodrigues de Miranda during a “Celebration of Life” service conducted at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Crystal River, Florida, on August 2, 2014.

Elaine was sworn in as a member of Flotilla 15-4 on December 8, 2001. During her years of service with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, she served as Flotilla 15-4 Staff Officer in charge of the flotilla’s Public Education program. She was particularly instrumental in organizing and administering a successful and long running safe boating program for area youth. In addition to her educational talents, Elaine also served as a communications specialist, vessel examiner, and as a crew member on board Flotilla 15-4 patrol vessels and aircraft.

While a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Elaine earned numerous awards for her dedication and contributions to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Among them are the prestigious

“Auxiliary Commandant’s Letter of Commendation”, “Auxiliary Public Education Service Award”, a “Presidential Unit Citation”, “Coast Guard Team Commendation Award” and a “Coast Guard Unit Citation” as well as several other awards.

Elaine’s vast knowledge of sailing and boating was the result of years of study and hands-on experience. She earned a U.S. Coast Guard “Captains” license which was later elevated to a 100 Ton “Master’s” license. Elaine enjoyed sharing her knowledge of the sea and boating with others and in the past had specialized in teaching other women how to sail. Being an adventurous person, in 1990 she, along with a second vessel, sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to the Netherlands. Her love of the sea and boating was second only to her family.

Flotilla Commander David “Rusty” Hays, on behalf of all of the members of Homosassa Flotilla 15-4, extend to Elaine’s devoted husband, Pim, also a long time flotilla member, and the entire family our heartfelt sympathies. Elaine will long be remembered as a person who was always there with a smile and helping



hand for anyone who was in need of her assistance or advice. Her smile and laughter will truly be missed by many.

We thank you, Elaine, for your service to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Coast Guard, your community, and to your country!

NACON 2014 Photos



Randy Patton, FC, 15-3, is presented the Meritorious Team Commendation Award at NACON. L to R: ADM Paul Zukunft, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Randy Patton, and RADM John Korn, Commander, US Coast Guard District 7.
Photo by Mary Patton



Jan Munroe, DIR-U, speaks with Randy Patton, BC-UCW
Photo by Mary Patton



Top echelon National staff being "frosted" at NACON 2014.
Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: Newly-elected National Commodore, Mark Simoni, and Terry Barth, his Executive Assistant.
Photo by Mary Patton

D-TRAIN 2014 Photos



Mary Patton, SO-PB and editor of the *Charlie Noble*, received the 2nd place division newsletter award. L to R: CDR William Seward, USCG, DIRAUX , Mary Patton, Robert Weskerna, DCO(e), and Stephen Ellerin, DSO-PB. Photo by Randy Patton



Craig Elliot, 15-8, IPDCDR and DDC-R, received the Coast Guard Auxiliary Commendation Medal award. L to R: CPT Wilford Reams, D7 Chief of Prevention, Craig Elliot, COMO John Tyson and DCO(e) Robert Weskerna, Photo by Mary Patton



Andy Render, 15-1, and Dolores Spain, 15-3 Photo by Mary Patton



At the formal banquet at D-TRAIN, Paulette Parent, DCAPT-W(e), center, being "frocked" with her new shoulder boards by Braxton Ezell, present DCAPT-W, as Toni Borman looks on. Photo by Mary Patton



Camaraderie at D-TRAIN. L to R: Andy Render, 15-1, Joyce and Victor Dvorak, 15-3, and Randy Patton, FC, 15-3.

October Division 15 Meeting Photos



Diane Berman, DCDR(e), presents an Auxiliary flag to BMC J. Paul Chandler, USCG, OIC Station Yankeetown. The flag will fly when there are Auxiliarists working at the Station.
Photo by Larry Berman



Randy Patton, FC, 15-3, who is known to LOVE ketchup, is presented with a bag of ketchup-flavored potato chips by Diane Berman, DCDR(e).
Photo by Mary Patton



Linda Jones, 15-1, left, and Kitty Dolan, 15-8, chat during a break at the Division 15 meeting. BMC Chandler, OIC Station Yankeetown, sits in the background.
Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: Paul Pelletier, DCDR, Jim Simon, FC, 15-1, and Andy Render, SO-OP, during a break in the division meeting.
Photo by Mary Patton



Debra Thomas, VFC, 15-1, during a break at the division meeting.
Photo by Mary Patton

Bravo Zulu!



Photo by Randy Patton

Bravo Zulu to Mary Patton, VFC, 15-3, Amateur Radio call sign K3MBP, for passing the Amateur Extra Class license exam. The Amateur Extra Class is the highest Amateur Radio license class issued by the FCC. Mary has been a licensed ham radio operator for 38 years. She also holds the Auxiliary TCO qualification and has been interested in radio communications for over 40 years.



Coast Guard Day Celebration by Andy Render



Celebrating Coast Guard Day at the Eisenhower Rec Center at The Villages are L to R: Rebecca Shallue, BM1 Mike Shallue, XPO, Station Yankeetown, daughter Alyssa Shallue, BMC J. Paul Chandler, OIC Station Yankeetown, Amy Chandler, Georgina Render and Andy Render, SO-OP.
Photo owned by Andy Render



The Eisenhower Rec Center at The Villages.
Photo by Andy Render

During the first weekend of August there were several events in our local area to celebrate the 244th birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard. It all started on Friday, August 1st, when Station Yankeetown held an all-hands picnic. There were active duty, retirees and Auxiliarists all sharing BBQ and telling stories. Of course, we did not see any Auxiliarists playing volleyball out in the hot sun! That was left to those who were more fit for that type activity. Most of us sat in the shade snacking, telling tall tales and drinking lots of water!

On Saturday, August 2, The Coast Guard Club of The Villages held their annual USCG Birthday Party. John Murphy (retired Captain, USCG) contacted Chief Chandler from Station Yankeetown and invited him and a few guests to be a part of their celebration. The birthday party was held at the Eisenhower Recreation Center, which is decorated to recognize those who have served in

the armed forces. The main lobby and all of the meeting rooms are adorned with museum quality military uniforms, artifacts and mementos, all donated by local residents. Chief Chandler, his wife Amy, BM1

Mike Shallue (Station XPO), his wife Rebecca and daughter Alyssa, represented Station Yankeetown and they, in turn, asked Andy Render and his wife, Georgina, to represent the Auxiliary.

Just before the meal, both the Chief and the BM1 were recognized for their service in the Coast Guard. After a BBQ buffet, Coast Guard veterans discussed ships on which they had sailed and stations where they had served. It was soon obvious that these ex-Coasties all had a lot in common and enjoyed reuniting to reflect on their time in the service. To make things interesting, they determined the person in the room who was the earliest to enlist in the Coast Guard in 1939, and also in attendance was one of the original SPARS (women Coasties), who enlisted during WW II.

There was a lot of pride in being a part of Team Coast Guard that day in the Eisenhower Rec Center. Happy Birthday, Coast



U.S. Coast Guard Monument.

Photo by Andy Render

Stop the Presses!

Photos from the Division 15 Change of Watch



The new division bridge is sworn in by the DIRAUX, CDR William Seward, USCG. Andy Render, VCDR(e) left, and Diane Berman, DCDR (e) right. Photo by Mary Patton



Don Jones, 15-1, is presented with the ACLOC award by CDR Sean Ryan, USCG, and CDR William Seward, USCG, DIRAUX. Photo by Jodi Simon



L to R: Paul Pelletier, DCDR, Diane Berman, DCDR(e), and Karen Miller, DCDR, Division 11. Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: Diane Berman, DCDR(e) and Paulette Parent, DCAPT(e) West. Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: Larry Berman, DDC-P(s), Andy Render, VCDR(e) and Craig Elliot, IPDCDR, DDC-R. Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: BM1 Michael Shallue, USCG, XPO, Station Yankeetown; BMC J. Paul Chandler, USCG, OIC, Station Yankeetown; CDR Sean Ryan, USCG, Vice Commander, Sector St. Petersburg; and Dolores Spain, FSO-IS, 15-3. Photo by Mary Patton

Diane Berman, DCDR(e) swears in 2015 Staff Officers. L to R: Andy Render, Tony Soper, Linda Jones, Vince Maida, Dolores Spain, Mary Patton, Randy Patton, Don Jones, Larry Berman, and Debra Thomas.

Photo by Jodi Simon



CDR Sean Ryan, USCG, Vice Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, and CDR William Seward, USCG, DIRAUX, present the Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation Award (ACLOC) to Jodi Simon, 15-1. Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: Members of 15-1 Vince Maida, Jim Simon, and Ken Hollsten.

Photo by Jodi Simon