



April Division Meeting Wrap-Up



The division meeting was commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance and a brief moment of silence for the men and women who are serving or have died for their country. Paul Pelletier, Division Commander, welcomed BMC John "Paul" Chandler, OIC, USCG Station Yankeetown, and all Auxiliarists to the meeting. He asked Mr. Chandler for his comments.

Chief Chandler announced that there would be a barbeque cookout on Monday, April 14, to celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness Day and that Auxiliarists were welcome to attend. He explained that the hurricane calling tree, which was used in a previous exercise several years ago, would again be employed during a hurricane readiness drill set for the week of April 28. He said several Auxiliarists doing patrols had contacted the Station asking if they could tow boats in distress back to the marina and were told "no" by the officer of the day (OOD.) The Chief said that answer was incorrect and he has spoken to the men and women at Station to correct this. He announced that the Station would be getting a 29' boat to replace their current 25' craft, but for a short time, the two would overlap until all of his crew were trained on the new boat. Chief Chandler also announced that Sector St. Petersburg has increased the size of Station Yankeetown's Area of Responsibility (AOR) to include Jefferson county to the north, which resides near the bend of the panhandle.

Next to give his report was Craig Elliot, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR) and current Director of Response (DDC-R) for District 7 of the Auxiliary. He said Robert Weskerna, District Chief of Staff (DCOS), has completed a detailed district awards study and found that many awards given out did not make it into AUXDATA. This is in the process of being corrected. He further commented that when Auxiliarists in the division take courses online, they should print the completion certificate and keep it in a file for instances like this. On another note, Mr. Elliot said that flotillas may create their own certificates of thanks to present to a member of the public for services provided or to flotilla members for a job well done.

Andy Render, SO-OP, said he spoke to LTJG Shawn Antonelli, USCG, administrator of Auxiliary Order Management (AOM) for Sector St. Petersburg, recently and Lt Antonelli said Auxiliarists are still not providing enough verbiage in the Description box of orders requests. Andy said to think of it like one is going fishing. Describe where one is going, the size and type of boat, what kind of fish one expects to catch, what kind of fishing rod will be used and the type of line and sinker that will be used. Then, upon return, describe the area fished, what types of fish were actually caught, weight of the fish, and what one is going to do with the fish once returned to the marina. In other words, description, description, description! Mr. Render requested FCs to send the names of flotilla National Safe Boating Week



(Division Meeting Wrap-Up cont'd on page 14)

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 Elliot

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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

Division Commander's Report

by Paul Pelletier, DCDR



As we enter our busy season with more boaters on the water, NSBW programs are crucial to keeping the public safe. I encourage every flotilla to have NSBW events that demonstrate to the boating public our commitment to their safety on the water. We must remember our mission and continue our assistance to the USCG. I am proud to say Division 15 has always been dedicated to the support of the USCG..

Along with the busy boating season, another hurricane season arrives as well. We must remember at this time, we are in Condition 5. On June 1st, we go to Condition 4 until November 30, the end of hurricane season. Below are the storm descriptions and conditions:

Hurricane: An intense tropical cyclone, which has winds spiraling counterclockwise around a core or "eye" of low pressure with maximum wind velocities exceeding 75 miles per hour (65 knots).

Storm Warning: Winds of 55 miles per hour (48 knots) and above are forecast, or occurring. Possible inundation of coastal area due to storm surge may occur.

Gale Warning: Winds 39 to 55 miles per hour (34 to 47 knots) are forecast or occurring.

Storm Surge (Storm Tide): The rise above the normal tide level on the open coast due to the effects of hurricane winds and low barometric pressure on the water surface.

Tropical Depression: A tropical cyclone in which the maximum surface wind speed is 33 knots or less and which is expected to increase to storm intensity.

Conditions of Readiness

Condition IV: The seasonal hurricane condition will automatically be set by 1 June each year and extend through 30 November of each year.

Condition III: A condition of warning of the probability of 50 kph or greater winds within 48 hours

Condition II: A condition of wind probability of 50 kph or greater winds expected within 24 hours.

Condition I: A condition of maximum preparedness for 50 kph or greater winds expected within 12 hours.

Along with these conditions, we must remember that some areas may be open only to emergency crews after the areas are hit with the effects of a storm. Certain Auxiliary members *ARE* considered emergency crew and after the storm, our crews may be called on to get underway for ATON position verification or marine clean-up. This does not mean all members can go into the area to check on their house—only crews or watch standers are permitted into the area until it is cleared for the public to check on their property.

I appreciate all the work Division 15 members do for the Auxiliary. Let us be prepared to have a safe and productive boating season

Upcoming dates for your calendar:
May 17-24—Nat'l Safe Boating Week
July 12—Division meeting

Division Vice Commander's Report

by Diane Berman, VCDR



I have been in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 18 years and I have made many friends and acquaintances. I've found people who have become like family to me. Sometimes, due to distance and time constraints, we lose touch. It is heartrending to hear of the death of such a friend that you haven't been in touch with for a while. Loss is part of life but it seems that Division 15 has had more than our fair share in the past year or so.

Fellowship is one of the most important cornerstones of the Auxiliary. We work better with members we know. A funeral is not the best time to socialize, but it turns out that it is a time to catch up with old friends.

You may not be aware of it but meetings are an excellent time to get to know your fellow Auxiliarists. Obviously, you shouldn't be chatting during the course of the meeting, but why not go for coffee afterwards. My flotilla does just that. Many of us go for lunch after a Division meeting. Everyone is welcome and it is a fun time. Some flotillas meet during the month for fellowship—this is a great idea that fosters friendship. It doesn't

matter if there are two or twenty attending, the effort is there and people get to know each other and their spouses.

I've often said that one of the most satisfying things I do in the Auxiliary is working at Station Yankee town. Socializing, meeting, and working with my friends is another satisfying thing about the Auxiliary. None of us would work well in a vacuum.

This brings me full circle. I miss my friends who have crossed the bar, but my life has been enriched by their friendships.

Immediate Past Division Commander's Report

by Craig Elliot, IPDCDR, DDC-R



Everyone get ready! We are now entering our busy season. The weather will be improving soon, resulting in more boaters on the water. We are starting to prepare for National Safe Boating Week and the beginning of the hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through December 1 and can produce one or two storms as early as late May or the beginning of June. There is training to be done for both members and the public alike, QEs to schedule, and proficiencies to maintain. This is where the Auxiliary shines. Our focus should be on boating safety, and that means getting face time with the public any way we can to pass on our knowledge and keep them safe. Fortunately, we have excellent flo-

tillas and dedicated members to make all this happen successfully.

Don't forget to coordinate with other agencies whenever possible, such as Power Squadrons, the County Sheriff and Fish and Wildlife officers. It's not too late to brush up on all your skills by reviewing the training that you received for your specialty. And in all cases, don't forget that *planning* is the key and the insurance to make it happen. Get our new members involved early by taking them along with you on patrols, sitting in on PE classes, having them accompany you on Marine Dealer partner visits, and on radio watch standing. If you have a Public Affairs event with a display tent, be sure to have your new members go along to

watch and observe what happens at PA events, so they will understand the process and get involved themselves—sooner rather than later. I wish you success for the coming boating season, and it's my belief that we are going to have a great year. Keep up the good work, and you should be very proud of what you do!



Flotilla Commander Reports



15-1 Crystal River by James Simon, FC

During the first quarter, 15-1 provided 2 Watchstanders to work at Station Yankeetown each week. Our flotilla has two AUXFS members, Vince Maida and Mark Henehan, who have prepared meals several times for the station during this quarter. Our flotilla provided space at our flotilla building for a TCT class.

FELLOWSHIP

- Each month we have held Fellowship dinners at local restaurants. Lately, we have been averaging 32 people at each event.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- We held our first ABS class in February with 25 students completing the class.
- We held a GPS class also in February with 12 students competing the class.
- Upcoming classes are ABS in March & BS&S in April.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS and PUBLICATIONS

- Bi-monthly newsletters have been published and sent to all members.
- Several articles were published in the Chronicle on boating safety issues.
- FC gave a presentation to the Pine Ridge Fishing Club with 29 members in attendance.
- IPFC gave a presentation to the Dixie Shores Fishing Club with 34 members in attendance.
- Flotilla participated in this year's "Kids Fishing Clinic" along with Station Yankeetown personnel and small boat. Over 300 kids and parents attended. Article published in the local newspaper.

VESSEL EXAMINATIONS/PROGRAM VISITORS

- Vessel Safety Check was held March 16th at Twin Rivers Marina.
- Program visits continued this quarter to our program partners.

OPERATIONS

- We continue to provide weekend patrols, however, our main flotilla vessel, *Zero-One*, has been decommissioned due to maintenance costs.
- A night operations & ATON mission was completed on March 9th. Numerous ATON deficiencies were reported and documented.

MEMBER TRAINING

- At every meeting, we had member training this quarter presented by Jim Simon, FSO-MT. He 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, FSO-MT, for classroom instruction.
- At present, we have four members actively training for boat crew, and two members taking instructor training.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Vince Maida, FSO-HR, is doing an excellent job working with prospective members.

DIVERSITY

- Our FSO-DV conducted diversity member training at our flotilla meeting.

15-2 Yankeetown by Russell Konold, FC

No report received.

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 have been held following each monthly flotilla meeting:

- January – *PE Best Practices* by Mary Patton and LaVonne Robinson
- February – *Organization of the USCG Auxiliary* by Randy Patton.
- March – *Uniform Tips and Techniques* by Mary Patton.
- Maia Jefferson and George Hendricks both passed the Instructor Development course and will be working on completing the PQS tasks needed for qualification.
- Joyce Dvorak and Nathan Richards both obtained their VE qualification.

OPERATIONS

- Our Flotilla Asset, *Paratus*, completed several patrols on Lake Weir. Several flotilla members have also participated in patrols with Flotilla 15-5 in the Crystal River area.
- The FC and FSO-OP have made significant changes and updates to the flotilla Disaster Response Plan.

VESSEL EXAMS/PROGRAM VISITORS

- Our Lake Weir VSC Blitz continues to be conducted on a monthly basis.
- Chuck Truthan and five other VEs from Flotilla 15-3 traveled to Bainbridge, GA, on 9 March, to perform a VSC Blitz for the participants in the 2014 Bassmasters Elite Series Tournament. They were joined by VEs from other flotillas in Georgia.
- Numerous program visits were made during the quarter to our MDV partners.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND PUBLICATIONS

Flotilla 15-3 participated in a major PA activity over three days from 28 Feb through 2 Mar by staffing a display booth at the annual Miller Marine boat show north of Ocala. We were also assisted by Diane and Larry Berman from Flotilla 15-5. It is estimated that well over 1,000 persons attended the event during the course of the three days, and that we had direct contact with approximately 200 of them. This included:

- Distributing safe boating literature
- Performing several Vessel Safety Checks
- Discussing Auxiliary membership
- Registering people for an upcoming PE course
- We are also planning to display at the Marion County Parade of Senior Services at the College of Central Florida on 21 Mar.
- Additionally, we are scheduled to have a display booth at The Villages Outdoor Expo on 29 and 30 March. Past experience indicates that over 100,000 persons may attend this event.
- Flotilla 15-3 resumed publication of its newsletter, *The Compass Rose*, on a monthly basis beginning in January.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Our flotilla conducted its first PE class in two years on 15 March. The *About Boating Safely* class was coordinated by Vonnie Robinson, FSO-PE, and publicized by Barbara Bickley, FSO-PA. Even with another similar course taking place in Ocala by the Lake County USPS on the very same day, we still had a small but nice turnout of five very interested and motivated students. And most importantly, all of whom now know more about recreational

15-3 FC Report—cont'd from page 5

boating safety than they did before.

- Arrangements are being finalized for one or more additional classes during the year.

DIVERSITY

- Our FSO-DV, Maia Jefferson, has joined Women in Homeland Security, a non-profit organization for the advancement of women in the Department of Homeland Security.
 - Also during 2014, Maia Jefferson commenced the issuance of commemorative emails to celebrate diversity within the organization, beginning with Black History Month, February, 2014.
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15-4 Homosassa by David Hayes, FC

15-4 has enrolled two new members and we have two more pending. We have completed a Paddle Sports PE class and we have started our second BS&S course with approximately nine students. Ray Koeppel, FSO-OP, is sidelined with knee surgery. We have four active OPFACs available for patrols and crew training. Member training at each flotilla meeting continues. The March meeting featured marlin spike presented by Ray Koeppel. All members present had fun tying knots. George Dooris taught his second installment on Navigation at the April meeting. Member training at the May meeting will be presented by Ron O'Connell. The subject will be Auxiliary Aviation and Air Observation.

Georgia Young and Bob Currie have been very busy doing vessel exams. I will provide more info at the division meeting. We could spend up to \$75.00 for Easter treats for Station Yankeetown. I have already started gathering items for a basket. I will bring the basket to the division meeting on Saturday.

15-5 Gainesville by Larry Berman, FC

Gainesville flotilla has shown some signs of progress in the first quarter of this year. This has been helped by the transfer of a couple (hopefully when the paperwork is completed) with a long history with the Auxiliary and a great interest in recruiting.

Diane Berman, as AUXFS, and Larry Berman, as watchstander, continue to work for Station Yankeetown weekly.

We have already presented our 1-hour TCT update and the mandatory VE workshop to the flotilla. Anyone who missed this can take the VE workshop online..

We are planning a vessel examination exercise later in March and one in May along with NSBW. We are also working on other areas to be covered by our vessel examiners.

Diane and Larry Berman worked a session at the Miller Marine boat show in Ocala. Lacking a local concentration of boat dealers, many Gainesville people use Miller Marine, which is on the north side of Ocala. We met with many people and our new HR person (if the transfer comes through) will be working with the contacts.

Larry Berman is to talk with the Gulf Atlantic Yacht Club on Monday, March 17.

The biggest problem we have been having is the loss of contact with the Auxiliary University Program. One person, IPFC Richard Roberts, has been working with this. I would hope we could open up a display or booth, but nothing as yet. He is working with the ROTC people to get us a place to meet. While I don't receive reports from him, I would hope that he has some contact with people in the AUP program in National.

15-7 Suwanee by M. Lydia Sorli, FC

No report received.

15-8 Hernando by Ray O'Connell, FC

The first quarter of 2014 was a productive one for Flotilla 15-8. Our members contributed approximately 4,000 volunteer hours in service to the CG Auxiliary. Some of the first quarter's highlights include the following:

- Eight public education courses were offered and six were conducted. These classes included BS&S, How to use your GPS, How to use your radio, Introduction to Navigation, and How to Read Nautical Charts. These classes were publicized in local print and on-line media.
- Our members also participated in two PA events. Four members participated in the Four Chaplains' Service with two as color bearers. More than 20 members took part in the three-day Swamp Fest event held at Weeki Wachee State Park. The flotilla staffed an RBS tent, which made contact with 218 people. We also provided a six member color guard for each day's opening ceremonies.
- Our Change of Watch ceremony was held in January and was well attended. In addition, 60 members participated in a St. Patrick's Day party.
- Our AUXFS members provided direct support to Station Yankeetown and recruited several new members who are now in training to become FS certified.
- Five new members were sworn in. In addition to our regularly scheduled new member orientation sessions, a "planning your course" meeting was conducted for all members who joined in the last year to help them become more active in the flotilla's work.
- In the area of member training, the Auxiliary Weather course was offered and was well attended. We also conducted one- and four-hour TCT classes prior to regularly scheduled flotilla meetings. Two of our members attended the District 7 Leadership Training program at Air Station Clearwater.
- Finally, several patrols were run despite the typical inclement winter weather and a reduced number of facilities and coxswains.

Staff Officer Reports



SO-CM, Kenneth Seipp—Communications

No report received.

SO-CS, Diane Berman—Communications Services

Nothing to report.

SO-DV, Catherine McAllister—Diversity

What is diversity and how do we recognize it?

1. Diversity defines today's volunteers and workers. Today's Auxiliary represents our population's many different segments. They include men and women of varied races, religions, ages, sexual preferences, lifestyles, and social, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Some organizations also have employees or affiliates in other countries. Today's volunteers are equally diverse.
2. Diversity values differences, but doesn't stereotype them. Stereotypes assume all people in a group share the same characteristics. They tend to be limiting and often negative (e.g., lazy, indecisive, good at details but not the big picture). They fail to recognize individual differences. They usually reflect lack of exposure to members of stereotyped groups.
3. Diversity transcends affirmative action and does not invoke quotas.
Diversity
 - Accepts people's differences rather than focusing on them
 - Applies to all members of the workforce or organization, including white males
 - Is not required by any law or regulation
 - Creates a level playing field for all employees and volunteers
 - It does not set quotas
 - It does not favor or leave out members of particular groups in terms of hiring, promotion, and other job decisions or organizational decisions.
4. Organizations like the Auxiliary benefit from diversity. Individual's backgrounds contribute to different perspectives, but not to different abilities.

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SO-HR, Bruce McAllister—Human Resources

The weather is warming up and that means more people will be out on the water. Your efforts to recruit and maintain current membership is crucial to the future of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In today's busy world, it sometimes takes several members to accomplish tasks due to the busyness of member's lives. In many flotillas, it is just a few members who do the majority of the work. In others, the flotilla is small and the work has to be accomplished by the few members in the flotilla. To reduce the workload, it is imperative to make recruiting new members a priority. We would like to welcome the following new members: Flotilla **15-3** Roger Lippincott; **15-7** Josef Weiss; and in **15-8**, Frank Brunot, Charla Eitel, Rolland Eitel, James Nastelli, Karen Skonecki, Vera Bystry Wells, Kevin McGregor, and Bruce Ristich. Please watch for these new members and help them get plugged into your flotilla!

SO-IS, Larry Berman—Information Services

Things have been going pretty well in our division. Items seem to be entered on time. We might begin to look for currencies for the year and work on them. It's easier to look and correct things now than in December. All FSO-ISs should look at what needs to be done before the end of the year. Pay particular attention to the required **VE workshop, which needs to be done by the end of May.** Some people have been getting "pending REYR" notices. These are being sent out in error, so people shouldn't worry about them. For any other questions feel free to contact me at bermals@yahoo.com.

SO-MA, Winifred Fickett—Materials

No report received.

SO-MS, David Claspell—Marine Safety/Environmental Protection

SO-MT, George Dooris—Member Training

Flotilla 15-1 reports four members involved in boat crew training, one in TCO training, and two in instructor training. The flotilla is actively involved in member training at each flotilla meeting by providing quizzes on the Auxiliary Manual and AUXOP courses. One-hour TCT and Diversity training presented to Flotilla members. Four members have completed the VE workshop.

Flotilla 15-2 No report received

Flotilla 15-3 reports that the Flotilla conducted one hour session on Aux uniforms after the March meeting, that four of the five members who joined in 2012 have completed a minimum of seven of the mandated training courses, that two members qualified for VE during March, and that the member training for April will be the

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SO-NS, Patricia Dooris—Navigation Systems

SO-OP, Andy Render—Operations

During the first quarter, we completed 37 patrols. The patrols were primarily for training, ATON verification, and qualifying crew members and coxswains. A combination of inclement weather and a reduced number of operational facilities contributed to fewer patrols being conducted than were originally planned. With anticipated better weather and an increased number of operational facilities (OPFACs), patrols are expected to increase during the next several months.

All the flotillas submitted a "Dream Sheet" for Personal Protective Equipment from the Life Savings Systems catalog. The requests were combined, prioritized and submitted to station. By having a PPE request on file, Station will be able to quickly and accurately request equipment for us as funds become available.

It's that time of the year again for flotillas to submit their Hurricane Awareness Program (HAP) spreadsheets. The idea of the HAP program is that we take care of our own! When an emergency arises, we can warn our members of an impending event, and then check on their safety after the event has passed.

This is a 100% voluntary program. Any member (and their immediate family) may opt in or out of the program. All we ask is that you understand how the program works and accept certain responsibilities should you elect to participate.

Since we MUST be able to contact everyone registered in the program, if you decide to participate, you will need to let us know when you are going to be out of our AOR and if there is any change in your contact information. As I mentioned, it's your decision to participate, or not, in the program.

In speaking with Station Yankeetown, they are looking to increase their patrol activity with our operational facilities. This is an advantage for all of us. By training together, there is a real opportunity for us to learn from our counterparts on the gold side. We can gain firsthand experience from their towing and SAR practices. At the same time, Station will have an opportunity to practice towing a variety of different vessels and this will help them sharpen their skills. It's a win-win situation. Besides, it makes for a more exciting and productive patrol.

The division's operational program is off to a healthy start for the year. We anticipate adding a number of qualified coxswains and crew to our program, as well as additional OPFACs. Just one word of CAUTION – while it's fun and often enjoyable to be out on the water—we need to remember the SAFETY aspect when on a patrol. Let's not allow an enjoyable day on the water turn into an unpleasant experience.

SO-PA, Kathleen Dolan—Public Affairs

US Coast Guard Support:

- 15-4 Radio watch standing duty hours at Station Yankeetown: 48 hours in Communications Center with 20 hours at Homosassa.
- 15-5 Provided radio watch stander for 4 shifts and AUXFS support in galley for four shifts at Station Yankeetown
- 15-8 Provided one AUXFS support in galley at Station Yankeetown two shifts radio watch standing for two patrols in Hernando Beach

Community Involvement

15-1

RBS at Citrus County Kid's Fishing Clinic at Ft Island Park with a crew and boat from Station Yankeetown. Numerous contacts for membership, VEs and public education Vessel Safety Check station set up at Ft Island Trail Bait and Tackle on February 16, brochures and safety publications were handed out Jim Simon, FC, gave a presentation to the Pine Ridge Fishing Club with topics on boating RBS, membership, classes and Vessel Exams. Linda Jones, FSO-PA, and Don Jones, FSO-OP, gave a presentation to the Dixie Shores Fishing Club on March 6.

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SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications

Expect to publish the Spring edition of the *Charlie Noble* in late April.

SO-PE, Richard Rooney—Public Education

No report received.

SO-PV, Program Visitor, RBS —Charles Dolan

15-1: Started 2014 with 33 program partners and added one new partner (Patriot Sporting Goods). Our new Marine Safety/Communications Trailer was manned by members at this year's Manatee Festival in Crystal River the weekend of January 18 and 19. Now that we have our VSC decals, scheduling at various boat ramps and events is in the planning stage. Two articles were submitted to the *Chronicle*, one on 15-1's Program Partners and one entitled "Is Your Boat Ready?". Both were published in this week's *Chronicle*. Posters were made and given to Program Visitors for distribution to Partners for their upcoming *About Boating Safely* class.

15-2: Operations normal; no special events reported.

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SO-SR, LaVonne Robinson—Secretary/Records

Minutes from the quarterly meeting were sent out.

SO-VE, Anthony Soper—Vessel Examination

15-1- Two VSC events were held in March, one at Twin Rivers Marina and one at the Bait Shop with a combined total of 15 vessels given a VSC of which 8 were given decals and 7 failed.

15-2 - No FSO-VE report was received for that month.

Staff Officer Reports (cont'd)

SO-VE Report continued from page 10

- 15-3 - Only received an NSBW report.
 - 15-4 - No FSO-VE report was received for the month.
 - 15-5 - No FSO-VE report was received for the month.
 - 15-7 - No FSO-VE report was received for the month.
 - 15-8 - Only received an NSBW report.
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SO-PV Report continued from page 10

15-3: Set up and manned an RBS Boating display and provided VE support for the 3-day Miller Marine Boat Show in Ocala. They also added K-Mart in Belleview and the new Wal-Mart store on Maricamp Ave in Ocala to their Partners list.

15-4: PV program is progressing as usual. They plan to support the same events as last year with RBS materials. The Flotilla staffed an RBS booth at the Floral City Strawberry Festival.

15-5: Operations normal. PVs and VEs from this Flotilla assisted 15-3 in the staffing of their RBS booth at the Miller Marine Boat Show. The new FSO-PV is Diane Berman.

15-7: No reports or PV activity recorded in AUXDATA. Numerous emails have been unanswered. The lack of reports and recorded PV visits in AUXDATA was forwarded to VCDR and DCDR for action.

15-8: The new FSO-PV, John Schuck, was sworn in and assumed his PV duties. His working initiative is to revamp the distribution and balance of the PV workload by reassigning his PVs to specific Partners. He has also built a presentation to be used at future Flotilla Membership Involvement Event Nights. Additionally, the PV group distributed 1000 PE brochures to announce the 2014 Public Education schedule. In February, the PV Team performed a PV blitz of all Business Partners during the month. The FSO-PV visited all Partners during the month, as well.

SO-MT Report continued from page 9

VE 2014 annual workshop. **FSO-MT** conducted one-on-one training sessions for a member interested in the FSO-HR position and another interested in the FSO-OP position. Member training session for the February flotilla meeting conducted on the organizational structure of the Auxiliary. Developed an annual training program and presented to FC and VFC for consideration. Discussed VE certification with two members.

Flotilla 15-4 Reports that there was a flotilla training event in marlinspike at the March flotilla meeting. Thanks to Ray Koepfel for the training. Training in navigation will continue at the April meeting. The first AUXOP class of the year began on March 20. It will be held on four consecutive Thursdays at the Homosassa Flotilla building. The proctored examination will be held at a time and date to be arranged during the class. There was a QE mission for one of our trainees and for one crewman seeking recertification. Both passed. We have scheduled a QE mission for recertification of three additional crew members and several on-the-water practice patrols have been scheduled. The QE mission for the candidates is scheduled for May 20. Two members actively involved in crew training with two new members to begin shortly. There will be member-training at every meeting in 2014. Conducted a four-hour charting class. We will hold an AUXOP class (AUXPAT) beginning March 20 at the Flotilla building.

Flotilla 15-5 reports that in addition to on-the-water training, they presented the 2014 1-hr TCT update and the 2014 VE workshop after the flotilla meetings (one each month). Members are working on crew training.

Flotilla 15-7 Nothing to report.

Flotilla 15-8 reports the AUXWEA class is proceeding nicely, the four hour TCT class was well-received, and a one hour TCT is coming up at 1730 just before the next meeting on 16MAR.

SO-PA Report continued from page 10

- ABS Class held February 5, 7, 10 and 12
GPS for Mariners held February 8 & 15

15-3

RBS display at boat show at the Miller Marine Boat Show 2/28 through 3/2. Numerous contacts made for membership, VEs and for RBS classes. VEs were completed on a few of the Bass Masters boats. A VE blitz was held on February 22 at Lake Weir.

15-4

BS&S Course last session with final exam and graduation ceremony with photo shoot. This graduation class produced two new members.

15-8

RBS booth set up and well manned at the three-day, 21st Annual Swamp Fest held at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park.

- BS&S Course last session with final exam and graduation. This class produced four new members.
Five new members sworn in at monthly meeting in February

Local Media Involvement:

15-1

Five articles/pictures/announcements were submitted and published in Citrus County Chronicle about classes, membership and special topics

15-3

Advertisement in The Daily Sub for ABS course to begin March 15th at Gander Mountain of Ocala

15-4

- Five written articles all with photos were submitted to local news media during February one has been published in Citrus County Chronicle.
- Regular monthly meeting announcements in the Chronicle's "Veterans Information" page.
- Regular monthly meeting announcements under "Public Education" in the Chronicle's Public Meeting

15-8

- Up-coming safe boating class announcements to Tampa Bay Times, Hernando Times, Tampa Tribune, Spring Hill Scene Magazine and on-line, Hernando County Government Channel, USCG Aux 15-8 Facebook pages, WWJB radio and their three affiliates, and WJQB True Oldies Radio.
- Photos of new member swearing-in and Swamp Fest sent to Hernando Times, Tampa Bay Times, Tampa Tribune and posted to three different Facebook pages.
- Sent information for flotilla monthly meetings to be added to the "Club" section of three local publications

Problems and Suggestions:

15-4

Due to having monthly meetings at a county-owned community center, provides a photo background that includes a pool table, bingo machine or clutter on walls and furniture. Would like to be able to have a digital background that can be used. Any help with this would be appreciated.

Recommendations:

15-8

Open communication between all PAs in our division. Help each other with ideas and information.

Division 15 Photos



15-8 Color Guard for Swampfest. L to R: Bob Simon, Paul Pelletier, Chuck Dolan and Vera Bystry-Wells. Photo by Kitty Dolan



Easter baskets packed and donated to the active duty members of USCG Station Yankeetown by Division 15 members. Photo by Paul Pelletier



Diane Berman, VCDR and AUXFS, prepares lasagna for Station Yankeetown while their FS1 had the day off. Photo by Kenn Carriere



Kenn Carriere, 15-5, also performing AUXFS duty at Station Yankeetown. Photo by Diane Berman



L to R Vera Wells, Bruce Ristich and Kevin McGregor are sworn in by Ray O'Connell, FC, 15-8 Photo by Kitty Dolan



Steve Hampton, 15-1, teaching an ABS class. Photo by Linda Jones

What is Diversity and How Do We Recognize It?

by Catherine McAllister, SO-DV

1. Diversity defines today's volunteers and workers • Today's Auxiliary represents our population's many different segments. They include men and women of varied races, religions, ages, sexual preferences, lifestyles, and social, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Some organizations also have employees or affiliates in other countries. Today's volunteers are equally diverse.
2. Diversity values differences, but doesn't stereotype them • Stereotypes assume all people in a group share the same characteristics. They tend to be limiting and often negative (e.g. lazy, indecisive, good at details but not the big picture). They fail to recognize individual differences They usually reflect lack of exposure to members of stereotyped groups.
3. Diversity transcends affirmative action and does not invoke quotas.

Diversity

- Accepts people's differences rather than focusing on them
 - Applies to all members of the workforce or organization, including white males
 - Is not required by any law or regulation
 - Creates a level playing field for all employees and volunteers
 - It does not set quotas
 - It does not favor or leave out members of particular groups in terms of hiring, promotion, and other job decisions or organizational decisions.
4. Organizations like the Auxiliary benefit from diversity • Individual's backgrounds contribute to different perspectives, but not to different abilities.
 - Different experiences, skills, approaches, talents, and perspectives benefit all organizational functions. Diverse employees can help employers and organizations better identify and respond to diverse customer needs.
 - Diversity enables employers and organizations to make the most of a person's difference rather than worrying about them. It recognizes that the human desire to contribute and succeed is not limited and doesn't exclude members of any group. It allows organizations to recognize that people who share a common background may share certain perspectives, experiences, or tastes. It shouldn't assume that all members of any group share any specific perspective, experience, or taste.
 - It encourages employers and organizations to tap diversity for a new perspective on their markets, including finding: New or expanded markets for their products, services or volunteers. New ways of marketing their products, services or organization. New ways to enhance the image to new customer, and members.
 - It encourages organizations to be open to diverse talents and work approaches, including: New ways to organize and manage teams and projects. New communication approaches. Untapped talents in the organization (e.g. skills in other languages). Employee experiences that provide different perspectives and knowledge.
 5. Seek ways to welcome and benefit from diversity Mix diverse co-workers to help open minds and reduce bias and stereotypes. Encourage all individuals to express views, suggestions, insights, and ideas. Emphasize to employees and members that expressions of bias or stereotype are not acceptable. Treat all members as individuals.

(From the Coast Guard Auxiliary National website)

Division Meeting Wrap-Up cont'd from page 1

(NSBW) coordinators and a brief description of planned activities to him now.

Paul Pelletier, DCDR, requested that FCs make sure that the phone numbers on the hurricane calling tree lists are correct. Paul called on Linda Jones for a report on fellowship. Ms. Jones, IPFC 15-1, said the division Change of Watch (COW) is scheduled for November 15 at the Plantation Inn, Crystal River. We will have a separate building on the Inn's grounds to hold the COW and it will be an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner. More details as the event gets closer. She said a Memorial Day Program will be held at the Douglas Munroe memorial on Saturday, May 24, at 9:00 am, and the American Legion would provide a color guard. Uniform of the day would be tropical blue, unless you will be doing on-the-water patrols directly after the event—then ODUs would be acceptable. Ms. Jones announced that Easter baskets would be dropped off at Station Yankeetown on Monday, April 14.

Andy Render, SO-OP, reminded members that the VE Workshop could be taken online or given in person, but it needs to be completed by all current VEs by June 30, 2014. VERY IMPORTANT—if you take the VE Workshop online, DO NOT CLOSE the program in less than 30 minutes because the course is timed and it will not give you credit for having passed in AUXDATA. The meeting was then adjourned.



A Tale of Two Conferences

NACON and D-Train in Orlando

by Randy Patton, FC, Flotilla 15-3

2014 is a very special year for Auxiliary conferences in Florida, since both the National Conference (NACON) and the District 7 Training Conference (D-TRAIN) will take place in Orlando this summer and fall.

Both conferences are significant not only for the opportunities available for training and fellowship, but also because top National and 7th District leadership will be elected at each respective conference. Let's take a little closer look at these elections

At the District 7 level, this fall will see the election of a new District Commodore (DCO), Chief of Staff (DCOS), and two District Captains, including our own DCAPT-W. The voters in these elections will be the current district bridge, District Captains, Division Commanders, and the Immediate Past DCO. The National Commodore (NACO) or his representative also has the opportunity to cast a vote in this election.

At the National level, a new NACO, Vice NACO, and Deputy NACOs will be elected, largely by the current District Commodores along with the current National bridge and Immediate Past NACO.

The salient point here is that the leadership for the entire USCG Auxiliary which directly affects us here in District 7 will be decided in Orlando this sum-

mer and fall. We can witness these important events for little more than the cost of driving to Orlando, because the business meetings are open to members and one doesn't have to stay overnight or attend a banquet to watch the action unfold.

Right now, only limited information is available for both conferences, and it is detailed below. Much more information, including conference agendas, will be coming in the next month or two.

NACON:

The 2014 National Convention of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Orlando, FL., will take place from August 21 – 24 at the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819. The Convention provides a great venue to enjoy fellowship, get the latest information on Auxiliary programs, and attend informative workshops.

A special Auxiliary room rate of \$95 per night has been arranged for single/double rooms, excluding applicable state and local taxes. Reservations may be made by calling the reservation department's toll free number 1-800-204-7234 or booked online. You must request the group rate for Coast Guard Auxiliary Association to receive the convention room rate. Hotel reservations must be made by 5:00 pm Eastern on Wednesday, July 23,

2014. Reservations after the cut-off date will be accepted based on hotel availability at the group rate. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. Check-out time is 11:00 a.m. Self-parking for hotel guests is complimentary.

Registration information for NACON 2014 is pending and will be provided as soon as it becomes available. Whether or not there will be exhibitors this year is still undecided. Check this website for the latest information: <http://cgauxa.org/nacon/>

D-TRAIN:

The District 7 Training Conference will be held September 19, 20, and 21 (with the possibility of Thursday, September 18, added back in) at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center (at the Florida Mall), 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32809 (www.thefloridahotelorlando.com). Group reservation rates and the conference agenda are not yet available as of this writing.

Check this website for the latest information: <http://uscga-district-7.org/dtrain.html>.

