



Division Election—Oct 19 Change of Watch—Nov 9



The Division 15 election was held on Saturday, October 19, 2013. Craig Elliot, Immediate Past Division Commander, conducted the election. Paul Pelletier was the only candidate for Division Commander and Diane Berman was the only candidate for Vice Division Commander. Mr. Elliot called three times for any other nominees for both offices, but nothing was heard. He instructed LaVonne Robinson, Secretary/Records, to cast one vote for each candidate and pronounced them re-elected for 2014.

The Division Change of Watch was held on Saturday evening, November 9, at the Southern Woods Country Club. A turkey dinner was served buffet-style with an ice cream bar to make sundaes for dessert. Guests included LCDR Mia Dutcher, USCG, Sector St. Pete Director of Response; LTJG Shawn Antonelli, USCG, Sector Enforcement Officer and AOM Administrator; BMC John Chandler, USCG, OIC, Station Yankeetown; BM1 Michael Greene, USCG, XPO, Station Yankeetown; Robert Weskerna, District 7 Chief of Staff (DCOS); and Braxton Ezell, District Captain (W).

Outgoing flotilla commanders were presented with awards for their service to the Auxiliary. Rocky Reinhold, Flotilla 15-8, received the Auxiliary Achievement Medal for his work assisting the US Coast Guard with ATON verifications in his area of responsibility (AOR). Andy Render, Randy Patton, Larry Berman, and Linda Jones received Certificates of Appreciation for their assistance to the Division Commander.

2013 Staff Officers were thanked and presented with Certificates of Appreciation, and 2014 Staff Officers were sworn in. It was a nice evening of Division 15 fellowship.



Robert Weskerna, DCOS, swears in Paul Pelletier as Division 15 Commander and Diane Berman as Division Vice Commander.
Photo by Mary Patton

Upcoming dates for your calendar:

- April 12, 2014—Division meeting
- Apr 19—TCT-Crystal River Bldg

Division 15 Bridge

Division Commander

Paul Pelletier

paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org

Vice Division Commander

Diane Berman

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Immediate Past Division Commander

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

Lydia Sorli, FC
Vincent Yedynak, VFC

15-8

Ray O'Connell, FC
Charles Dolan, VFC

Division Commander's Report

by Paul Pelletier, DCDR

2013 has ended and what a year it was! We had to deal with both sequestration and the government shutdown. We must remember that as volunteers, when the government shuts down, we must also shut down. This means *ALL* activity, unless called upon by the Coast Guard for a specific mission, such as a Search and Rescue (SAR) case. I want to thank the flotillas for all the invitations to COW's. I have been to some of them, but there were others I would have liked to attend, but because of my surgery, I was not able to. I want to thank all of you for the get well wishes and cards during this time.

As 2014 starts, I am honored to be Division 15 Division Commander for the second year. I want to thank all the FCs who have completed their two years and have turned their flotillas over to the 2014 staff. All the outgoing FCs did an excellent job, which made my job a lot easier. To all the new division staff officers and flotilla staff officers, I look forward to working with you in 2014. I want to thank you for stepping up to do an important job and for your dedication to the U.S. Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. During the first Sector

meeting of 2014, CAPT Gregory Case, USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, wanted us to relay his thanks for all the work the Auxiliary members do for the Coast Guard and Sector St. Pete. Another issue that was brought up by CAPT Case was speaking with members of Congress or the press. We are reminded that Auxiliary members must have permission to talk to the press. Members of Congress may mean well, but they have their own agenda, and if you suggest something and they run it up the chain, it may turn out that it is not what the active duty wants. So, as Auxiliary members, we need to stay out of this situation, but if the situation is unavoidable, I need to know about it immediately.

We will continue to work closely with Station Yankeetown—on the water, at the Station, and in training situations. We continue to have the ride-along at Station Yankeetown. If anyone wants to ride along when the gold side does their boat training, please email Andy Render, SO-OP, at: so-op.15@uscgaux-fl.org. Ride-alongs are done on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Station Yankeetown would also like to make use of Auxiliary facilities during these training



exercises so their members can do the boat training with different types and sizes of vessels.

THE MISSION OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

The primary mission of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is Recreational Boating Safety. We also have the mission of contributing to the safety and security of our citizens, ports, waterways, and coastal regions, as authorized by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. We will support the overall mission by improving the quality and delivery methods of our educational products. We will work with other like-minded organizations to increase awareness of safety on the water.

I look forward to a great year. I would also like to thank all our members' families who allow us to do our volunteer work with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Semper Paratus!

Division Vice Commander's Report

by Diane Berman, VCDR



The new year is looking to be a good one for our division. We have all new flotilla commanders and many new division staff officers that have all kicked off the year well. It is my hope that all of you have the confidence in your Bridge to ask for help and advice when needed. It is our job to advise and assist you whenever possible.

Communication is the key ingredient in keeping everything running as smoothly as possible. This communication **MUST** work both

ways. Paul, Craig and I are always available with an open ear and open mind. Calls or emails will be handled as rapidly as possible by all.

As for the new staff officers, I hope you are being mentored by those who have retired from these positions. If not, please let me know. You should not have to "reinvent the wheel" if there is someone who can show you the way. You also need to keep in touch with the FSOs under your direction. As a division staff officer, you are the go-to person for the FSOs. Keep an open line of communication with them and you will both benefit.

As I said previously, I expect this to be a very good year for us. I know that the Active Duty at Station Yan-

keetown is impressed with our division and the help that is given to them from the Auxiliary. We have a number of Radio Watch Standers and AUXFS personnel who work at the station on a regular basis, and there are those that answer the call whenever asked. The division can always use more people at the station, so speak to someone on the Bridge to learn how you can help. We have an excellent relationship with the OIC and XPO at the station, so we can act together when needed.

I want to thank all of you for the jobs you do for our division, our district, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Coast Guard. Bravo Zulu!

Immediate Past Division Commander's Report

by Craig Elliot, IPDCDR

Well, 2014 is here and we have a number of new flotilla commanders. If any of the commanders or staff members have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Diane, or Paul. The division staff is here to help make it easier for flotilla staff members, and I would hope that we all establish close communications with each other. Remember, nothing happens unless it happens in the flotilla!

I say this every year, and every year it's true. We don't know what special challenges we will have this year, but we will have unique challenges for sure. We will have them at the divisional level, and you will have them at the flotilla level. The best way to be able to absorb and handle unexpected events is to stay ahead of the game in your position. Plan well, organize well, and communicate well, and if you have things planned out into the future and have

most things going according to plan, you will have the time to spend on unexpected urgent requirements. Otherwise, the new urgent requirement gets dumped into the bag with all the other requirements that have become urgent and you may have a mess. Planning is the insurance that what you want to do will happen the way you want it to happen.

If you cannot get hold of Paul or Diane, please do not hesitate to contact me, although I am primarily in an advisory position as the Immediate Past Division Commander. That being said, I will do my best to help you and also coordinate the issue with Paul and Diane as soon as practicable.

One last recommendation—think resources! Most of our daily challenges and scheduling issues arise from not having enough resources. We may have a lot of members in



the flotilla, and many of them may be trained, but not enough volunteer. So think resources. If you're having problems with instructors, train more. Operational scheduling issues - get more boats and train more crew members. Whether it's VE, PV, or whatever, it usually boils down to "I need more people." The only way to solve that is to qualify more people. That may mean some extra work, but it will pay off and make things easier in the long run.

We are going to have a great year!

Craig Elliot

Flotilla Commander Reports



15-1 Crystal River by James Simon, FC

Flotilla

- All FSO positions have been filled for 2014.
- Flotilla COW was held on December 6th at Southern Woods CC. Great attendance by Gold Side & division staff.
- Several of our members are continuing to struggle with health related issues. I encourage you to email or call me to let me know whenever you hear about one of our members who needs our prayers or assistance in some way.
- Our Fellowship dinner was held at Chef Nepoli on Wednesday, January 15th. There were 25 people in attendance. Thank you to FSO-Fellowship Ralph Altavila for organizing the dinner.
- We continue to supply three Watchstanders to work at Station Yankeetown each week.
- We continue to provide two AUXFSs to assist at Station Yankeetown.
- The new 4-hour TCT class for Sunday, January 19, was cancelled due to instructor illness.
- The flotilla will man our new Marine Safety/Communication Trailer at this years Manatee Festival to be held Jan. 18 and 19 in Crystal River.
- Plans for National Safe Boating Week are underway.
- Vessel safety checks at various locations have been scheduled throughout the year. First event will be in February.

Operations

- Despite the cold weather, we continue to provide weekend patrols as necessary as weekend boating activity continues, especially with the influx of manatees in the river and many tour guide vessels out in force.

Miscellaneous

- FSO-HR Vince Maida is continually working to recruit new members; at present we have three that are in the application process.
- Several members replaced all the ceiling tiles at our radio room at the CR Preserve State Park.

15-2 Yankeetown by Russell Konold, FC

No report received.

15-3 Ocala by Randy Patton, FC

First of all, I would like to repeat the thanks I gave for your support of my candidacy for flotilla commander at our Change of Watch in December. I also pointed out some of the highlights from the past year, which included our joint Amateur Radio Service Technician Class license and AUXCOM course, which resulted in five new Amateur licensees and several members completing the AUXCOM course successfully. This gave them an Operations Specialty course toward becoming an AUXOP member. The crew training program resulting in (so far) two new members who are crew-qualified. The C-130 ride-along at Air Station Clearwater. Our OPFAC, *Paratus*, is now back in service. We acquired five terrific new members during the year and held successful PA events at the Marion County Parade of Senior Services, NSBW, the Marion Oaks Extravaganza, and a presence in three Christmas parades. Several of our members have completed, or are about to complete, their AUXFS qualification. We found a great new home for our meetings and other events at Marion Oaks Community Center. And fully one-third of our membership attended the 2013 D-TRAIN in Orlando, some completing Leadership Workshops, and four achieving their TCO qualification.

But we also face some important challenges in the coming year. We need to place an emphasis on recruiting new members, holding PE classes, and continuing crew and coxswain training. Many of us would like to become more involved in communications, which is an ideal activity for any flotilla, but especially for an inland flotilla. Our TCOs can operate marine radios and other stations on Coast Guard frequencies. They can go a step further and become qualified Coast Guard Watchstanders at Station Yankeetown. Those with Amateur Radio licenses can use their skills and equipment for public service activities both in the Auxiliary and as individuals.

One of the ways we hope to enhance recruiting results is by raising our profile in the community through PA events and with our speaker's bureau. Volunteers for both of these are greatly needed and welcomed.

Performing Vessel Safety Checks, of course, continues to be one of our primary recreational boating safety responsibilities. Let's strive to reach out and do more.

And last but certainly not least, let's remember that Fellowship is one of our Four Cornerstones. Let's enjoy working together to provide valuable services to the boating public and to the Coast Guard whenever and wherever the opportunities arise. We have a great flotilla, and it has the potential to be even better!

15-4 Homosassa by David Hayes, FC

No report received.

15-5 Gainesville by Larry Berman, FC

The Change of Watch (COW) was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at the Berman's house in Gainesville. Starting a new year, there's a lot to accomplish. If we can get everyone working together, we may well accomplish our goals.

The big thing on the block is the Auxiliary University Program (AUP), headed by IPFC Richard Roberts. We are hoping to get a group going that will be the envy of all. Our AUP is in the city of Gainesville, home of the University of Florida, as well as Santa Fe College, and part of St. Leo University, to name a few. The program would be open to university students at all the area colleges, so it may expand well and include some branch groups if needed. Our goal is to introduce college students to the Auxiliary. Many may even be interested in joining the U. S. Coast Guard, and this will be a great background for them. I congratulate Richard for getting this group organized, but now it is our time to fly. Keep going as the program progresses.

15-7 Suwanee by Lydia Sorli, FC

No report received.

15-8 Hernando by Ray O'Connell, FC

During the fourth quarter, even considering the governmental shutdown, members of Hernando Beach were quite active. Several of our members participated in the division Change of Watch Ceremony. Others attended the Christmas lunch provided for the members of Station Yankeetown.

Our FSO-PA, Kitty Dolan, organized the first "Cookies for Coasties" event which was held at our building. Our "cardboard" boat was decorated beautifully for the season and served as the display table for some of the donated cookies. In all, 20 dozen cookies were provided to the men and women of Station Yankeetown.

Flotilla 15-8 also participated in the annual Brooksville Christmas parade. It was an enjoyable event with high visibility for the flotilla. A boat was decorated and our members rode inside and walked alongside giving candy to the children lining the parade route.

One of our major fellowship events each year is the traditional Christmas Party. Again this year the event was well-attended, the food was excellent, and our members enjoyed the traditional gift exchange and "auction".

The fourth quarter of the year is also an opportune time to reflect back on what has been accomplished throughout the preceding year. While 15-8 saw its membership drop by more than 15% in 2013, the remaining members were able to contribute more than 16,500 hours of service to the Auxiliary. Nearly 1050 hours of operational support were provided to the Coast Guard. The numbers by area follow: marine patrols – 584 hours; member training – 193 hours; recreational boating safety – 13,598 hours; public affairs – 376 hours; and public education- 341 hours. In addition, 15-8 conducted 159 vessel examinations and 479 program visits.

Finally, Kitty Dolan, FSO-PA, had an article about AUX Food Service program published in the *Navigator*. Entitled "Have Knives, Will Travel," the article describes the genesis of the new FS program and highlights some of its members.

Staff Officer Reports



SO-CM, Kenneth Seipp—Communications

No report received.

SO-CS, Diane Berman—Communications Services

No report received.

SO-DV, Catherine McAllister—Diversity

No report received.

SO-HR, Bruce McAllister—Human Resources

No report received.

SO-IS, Larry Berman—Information Services

Diane Berman has been working as AUXFS at Station Yankeetown and Larry Berman has been working as a radio watchstander on Mondays. It is great working at the station and the members greatly appreciate our activity. I can't tell you the feeling when we go in and they greet us. Try it - you'll like it.

The end of the year has come and the REYR has been run. Now is the time to look forward to next year. Check your members to see what they need to accomplish in 2014 to remain current for the year. Start now. Avoid the December rush.

SO-MA, Winifred Fickett—Materials

No report received.

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

Nothing to report.

SO-MT, George Dooris—Member Training

Flotilla 15-1 reports four members involved in boat crew training, one in TCO training and one in instructor training.

15-1 is actively involved in member training at each flotilla meeting by providing quizzes on the Auxiliary Manual and AUXOP courses.

Flotilla 15-4 reports three members actively involved in crew training with two new members to begin shortly. There will be member training at every meeting in 2014.

Flotilla 15-5 has planned a one-hour TCT refresher for the next meeting.

SO-NS, Patricia Dooris—Navigation Systems

No report received.

Chuck Morton's Final Report as SO-OP:

It's been a pleasure working with all of you—when I first joined the Auxiliary back in 1968 things were a lot different. I'm glad to see the expansion of Auxiliarist's opportunities of late, but there are a lot of unnecessary things in my opinion.

I remember going out on patrol in Wilmington, NC, all by myself. The boat crew program didn't exist. Many facilities did not have radio - and if they did, they were either HF-SSB or CB. Cell phones were non-existent!.

The first big tow I did was to bring in a 43-ft motorsailer that the owner had intentionally de-masted. He was in his late 70's (78, I believe) and he had the mast removed because he liked the boat but was not able to hoist the sails anymore and didn't want to wait on the draw bridges along the Intercoastal Waterway. His motor had quit, and I came across him. He saw my "blue ensign" and hailed me. As it turned out, he was a former Auxiliarist and asked me to tow him in. I only had a 14-ft open boat with a 28 hp Scott Atwater and told him I didn't think I could do it.

He said "nonsense"—his engine was only a 20 hp Atomic so I had more power than he did; so we rigged a side tow with me on his port quarter. I pushed and he steered all the way back to his marina, which was a distance of about four miles or so. When we were about 200 yards from the dock, he told me to cut power and we slipped into his berth as pretty as you please. That was the day I learned how to rig a side tow, the importance of lots of cleats (which I had), the inertia of vessels, and the steering advantage of a sailboat. I also learned about TCT (although that had not been invented yet). Old guys had a lot to teach young whippersnappers.

The best part -- no paperwork! I just called the CG station when I got back. We would file a float plan, and if we didn't call in by an hour or so after our scheduled return, they would come looking for us. But that never happened.

Oh, by the way...when I started out, gas was 30¢ a gallon or less. Shrimp were 85¢ a pound, blue crabs were 10¢ each but peelers (soft shell crabs) were a quarter. I did inshore shrimping some and crabs were by catch so we kept them in a holding pen 'til they would shed. A quarter beat a dime every day of the week!

I hope to see some of you on the water, or at *Crabby Bills*.

SO-OP, Andy Render—Operations

The New Year begins with the retirement of our resident surface operations expert!

Chuck Morton has been a member of the Auxiliary since Noah launched his ark, and Chuck was appointed Division 15 Ops Officer when John Paul Jones was an Ensign. Captain Ahab's beard, knowledge of our AOR, and his Seaman's Eye will be just about impossible to replace. I'm not sure anyone can fill those waterlogged shoes!

That brings us to the new guy! How in the world can anyone compete with a legend? I CAN'T! So let's just say I'll need help from everyone in the division! To start with, there are no plans to do anything different, and we will try to keep things on an even keel. Our FSO-OPs have a lot of experience and their know-how is more than anyone could hope to expect. I'm going to try to stay out of everyone's way and keep our operations program running and ALMOST as trouble-free as our Captain Ahab did.

So, if you have any suggestions on how we can improve our operations program, or if you have any questions, please let me know. This is an easy email address to reach me: so-op.15@uscgaux-fl.org

As we kick off 2014—let's all wish **Chuck Morton** "Fair Winds and Following Seas"!



SO-PA, Kathleen Dolan—Public Affairs

US Coast Guard Support:

15-1: Two members provided AUXFS support for Christmas dinner. FSO-OP Don Jones, FC Linda Jones and Tom Arney delivered gifts to all Station Yankeetown Coast Guardsmen including Mascot Mayday.

15-4: Provided Radio Watch hours: Station Yankeetown Radio 32 hours and Homosassa Radio 18 hours

15-5: Diane Berman worked four shifts for AUXFS and Larry Berman sat four radio watches for Station Yankeetown

15-8 one member provided AUXFS support at Station Yankeetown

Community Involvement:

15-1: Participated in the Crystal River Christmas Parade with walkers and a float

Removed a floating hazard from river while on patrol and had a Fellowship dinner in local restaurants with 32 members in attendance.

15-8: Participated in the Brooksville Christmas Parade with walkers and a float

Local Media Involvement:

15-1: Article in local newspaper about debris in the water and how members keep the public safe

15-4 Feature recruiting article in local Chronicle newspaper.

SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications

Expect to publish the winter edition of the **Charlie Noble** in early February. Most flotillas have published a newsletter.

SO-PE, Richard Rooney—Public Education

No report received.

SO-PV, Program Visitor, RBS —Charles Dolan

If you're a new FSO this year or would just like a review of all the things a FSO-PV is supposed to do, I have the perfect link for you!! Here's the official job description for your FSO position as PV. Just click on the link below:

<http://vdept.cgaux.org/pdf-files/FSO-PVJobDescription.pdf>

Additionally, If you would like to conduct some training and conduct a workshop for your flotilla PVs this year, there is one available for you to use.

The PV workshop is not a “required” workshop this year

- It can be completed in a classroom setting, as in years past (it's available in PowerPoint)
- If completed as a workshop (classroom setting), it must be recorded on ANSC Form 7039 to receive credit in AUXDATA (check box #16 in section 1 and submit per policy)
- And most importantly, please let your friendly SO-PV know of your workshop plans so I can attend!

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=WORKSHOPS>

Once on the above link, just scroll down the page and click on **2014 PV Workshop** to bring up the PowerPoint presentation.

If you have questions or need help, please feel free to contact me.

SO-SR, LaVonne Robinson—Secretary/Records

Division meeting minutes disseminated.

SO-VE, Anthony Soper—Vessel Examination

15-1

No FSO-VE report received

15-5

FSO-VE reported that they are planning a VE blitz on Sunday 23 March 2014, 1000 - 1600 at the Suwannee Marina.

Addendum to the report:

On 16 January 2014, the USCG Prevention Department on Davis Island gave the Auxiliary permission to examine Commercial Fishing Vessels (CFV) again. The program had been stopped during the government shutdown in October 2013. An examination was performed on 16 January and the vessel was given a Safety Decal which is good for 2 years.

Spotlight on George & Patricia Dooris

by Wilbur 'Scotty' Scott



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members, Patricia and George Dooris of Homosassa Flotilla 15-4, were recently honored for their many years of dedicated service to both Flotilla 15-4 and to U.S. Coast Guard Station Yankeetown.

During their fifteen years of service, each has served as a past Flotilla Commander of Homosassa Flotilla 15-4. They continue to serve flotilla 15-4 as coxswains on board Flotilla 15-4 patrol vessels. In addition, both "Tricia" and George continue to give freely of their time as instructors, teaching numerous safe boating courses for the boating public as well as preparing and providing in-service training programs for Flotilla 15-4 personnel.

On weekends when they are not on the water participating in patrol or search and rescue missions, you will find them volunteering their time as Communications Specialists at Station Yankeetown, operating the radios at that facility. They have been doing this for the past thirteen years, and both have said they enjoy working with these dedicated men and women of the Coast Guard. George and Tricia admitted that they sometimes serve in the capacity of advisors and surrogate grandparents to some of the younger servicemen and women at the station who are there serving their country.



Tricia and George Dooris
Photo by Wilbur B. Scott



The Dooris's on patrol.

Photo by Anna Hughes

Being a part of the "Coast Guard Family" is taken literally by Tricia and George as their son, Mathew, (who is also a long-time member of Flotilla 15-4), has been serving on active duty with the Coast Guard for the past 13 years. With the rank of Lieutenant Commander (LCDR), Matt is currently stationed in San Pedro, California, serving as the Safety and Environmental Health Officer for Coast Guard District 11 (South).

When Tricia and George were asked what being a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary has meant to them, both agreed that although it has been time-consuming, it has been educational as well. They summed up their feelings about their service by saying, "It has indeed been a very enjoyable experience, and we would not have missed it for the world!"

Rusty Hays, Flotilla 15-4 Commander, said, "We are fortunate to have Tricia and George as members of our flotilla, and we thank them for their many years of service, not only to Flotilla 15-4, but to the U.S. Coast Guard and to their country as well. We look forward to their continued service for many years to come."



Flotilla Changes of Watch

15-1 Crystal River

The Change of Watch ceremony for Flotilla 15-1 took place on the evening of Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, at Southern Woods Country Club.

Special guests attending were BMC J. Paul Chandler, USCG, OIC, Station Yankeetown, and his fiancée, Amy; BM1 Michael Greene, USCG, XPO, Station Yankeetown; BM2 Glenn Feenstra, Flotilla Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO) and his wife Deanna; Diane Berman, Division Vice Commander; and husband Larry.

James Simon was sworn in as Flotilla Commander, and Deborah Thomas was sworn in as Flotilla Vice Commander. After the swearing-in ceremony, Flotilla Staff Officers for 2013 were recognized for their contributions, and Flotilla Staff Officers for 2014 were sworn in.

Awards and certificates of appreciation were presented to members for outstanding contributions to the Auxiliary and flotilla. Vincent Maida, FSO-HR, FN, and AUXFS, was awarded a plaque for "Outstanding Auxiliarist for 2013" for going above and beyond in all areas.

In Chief Chandler's closing comments, he expressed his appreciation for the dedication and commitment of Flotilla 15-1 members. He was impressed with how many hours the members devote to assisting the USCG through operations, providing Station Watchstanders, and AUXFS personnel to cook for them. Chief Chandler thanked flotilla members for demonstrating through our various fellowship projects that we appreciate the Coast Guardsmen serving Station Yankeetown.

The evening's program ended with members presenting Linda Jones, Flotilla Commander 2012 and 2013, with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a standing ovation.

15-2 Yankeetown

The change of watch was held at the Isaac Walton Resort Restaurant in Yankeetown, Florida, on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. Russ Konold was sworn in as the new Flotilla Commander and Richard Roberts was sworn in as the new Vice Flotilla Commander. The ceremonial activities were over-shadowed by the praise and honor which was bestowed on Chuck Morton, former Flotilla Commander, who is retiring from the Coast Guard Auxiliary after many, many years of service.

15-3 Ocala

On Monday evening, December 9, 2013, Ocala Flotilla 15-3 had their Change of Watch (COW) ceremony.

Special guests at the COW were Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz, IPDCO, and wife Barbara; Chief J. Paul Chandler, USCG, OIC, Station Yankeetown, and his fiancée, Amy; BM1 Michael Greene, USCG, XPO, Station Yankeetown; and BM3 Jon Adams, Flotilla 15-3 Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO); Craig Elliot, DDC-R, and his wife, Peggy; and Diane Berman, Vice Division 15 Commander, and husband, Larry.

Gerald R. (Randy) Patton was sworn in as FC, and Mary Patton was sworn in as VFC by Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz. The Prologue to the Oath of Office was read by BMC J. Paul Chandler, USCG. After the swearing-in ceremony, Flotilla Staff Officers for 2014 were called to the front of the room to be sworn in. The Prologue was read by BM1 Michael Greene, USCG, and the Oath of Office was administered by Craig Elliot, District 7 Director of Response, and Immediate Past Division Commander for Division 15.

Randy Patton, Flotilla Commander for 2014, gave his remarks and thanked the COW committee for making it a special night, and he also thanked the FSOs for 2013.

Mary Patton, VFC for 2014, said she was eager to work with the new and returning FSOs on items such as PE classes, PA events, and providing speakers for clubs such as Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.

In his remarks, Chief Chandler said the Auxiliary is very important to Station Yankeetown, because by providing AUXFS personnel to cook a couple days each week, it relieves USCG personnel to take much-needed training. He also lauded the radio watch standers who give of their time to assist station personnel.

15-4 Homosassa

On December 3, 2013, Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 conducted their Change of Watch ceremony. David "Rusty" Hays was sworn in as the new Flotilla Commander, replacing Ned Barry, outgoing Flotilla Commander. Administering the Oath of Office was Paul Pelletier, Division Commander.

Following the official swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Hays outlined his goals for the coming year for Flotilla 15-4. One of his main priorities is more time on the water by flotilla patrol vessels, as well as more time in the air by flotilla aircraft conducting safety and environmental patrols. In addition, he announced his plans for an energetic public education program for the boating public and increased monthly training for flotilla personnel. Bringing in new members to Flotilla 15-4 also ranks high among his priorities. Assisting Mr. Hays in reaching these goals will be newly-elected Flotilla Vice Commander Robert Currie and the members appointed as Flotilla Staff Officers (FSOs).

Approximately 70 members, special guests, and spouses attended the Change of Watch ceremony. Following the program, and a brief business meeting, those in attendance enjoyed a delicious potluck style dinner.

15-5 Gainesville

Change of Watch was held at the home of Larry Berman and Diane Berman.. Guests included several active duty US Coast Guard members from Station Yankeetown; Paul Pelletier, Division Commander; Randy Patton, Flotilla Commander, 15-3, and Mary Patton, VFC, 15-3. After a lovely dinner of barbecue ribs and chicken, the new Bridge was sworn in. Larry Berman was sworn in as Flotilla Commander and Richard Rooney was sworn in as Vice Flotilla Commander by Paul Pelletier. Flotilla Staff Officers from 2013 were presented with Certificates of Appreciation, and then the FSOs for 2014 were sworn in.

Larry said he expects the flotilla will have an active 2014 and thanked everyone for coming.

15-8 Hernando Beach

Flotilla 15-8 held their COW on January 11 at the flotilla building on Hernando Beach. Fifty-eight members and guests enjoyed the evening with an open soft bar and catered buffet dinner. The program opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation being led by Chet Bowman, FSO-MT. Our master of ceremonies, Rick Foti, was able to keep the program right on track and introduced our Honored Guests: Station Yankeetown OIC BMC John Chandler, USCG, and wife Amy; Craig Elliot, DDC-R, and wife Peggy; Paul Pelletier, DCDR; Diane Berman, VCDR; Auxiliary Liaison Officer BM2 Jason Carter, USCG, and wife Keelyn; and 15-5 FC/SO-IS Larry Berman.

Dinner was followed by the recognition of the seven past FCs in attendance by ovation and IPFC John Hughes awarding certificates of appreciation and challenge coins to all of the outgoing FSOs.

Retirement recognition was presented to Rodney "Rocky" Reinhold for an illustrious twenty-two year career in the Auxiliary by Ray O'Connell, incoming Flotilla Commander.

Paul Pelletier, DCDR, administered the Oath of Office to Ray O'Connell, Flotilla Commander for 2014, and Chuck Dolan, incoming Vice Flotilla Commander. After remarks from the new FC and VFC, the 2014 Flotilla Staff Officers were given the Oath of Office. They are: Mike Bollinger, HR; Chet Bowman, MT; Kitty Dolan, PA; Craig Elliot, OP; John Fahey, VE; Jeff Hoff, PE; Dave Lemon, CM; Paul Pelletier, NS; Adriana Probus, CS and PB; John Schuck, PV; Linda Schuck, DV; and Laura Uribe, SR.

The ceremonial cake was cut by Ray O'Connell's wife, Ann, and the song "Home from the Sea" was played before closing remarks were given by Rick Foti, MC.

Flotillas Change of Watch Photos



15-1 FSOs for 2014.

Photo by Jim Simon, FC



Paul Pelletier, Division Commander, congratulates David (Rusty) Hays, new Flotilla Commander, 15-4.



L to R: Randy Patton, FC, 15-3; Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz, IPDCO; and Mary Patton, VFC, 15-3.

Photo by Barbara Bickley, FSO-PA



L to R: Chuck Truthan, IPFC, 15-3 and Randy Patton, new FC. Photo by Barbara Bickley, FSO-PA.



Ray O'Connell, FC, 15-8, congratulates Ronald (Rocky) Reinhold on his retirement.

Photo by Kitty Dolan, FSO-PA



Paul Pelletier, Division Commander, swearing in Ray O'Connell as FC and Charles Dolan as VFC of Flotilla 15-8. Photo by Kitty Dolan, FSO-PA

Division Photos



L to R: AUXAIR members Shon Limor, 15-3, Guenther Noder, 4-3, and Ron O'Connell, 15-4.

Photo by Wilbur Scott



Cookies for Coasties. Flotilla 15-8 had a large table of cookies for the active duty.

Photo by Kitty Dolan



Michael Bollinger stands in front of one of 15-8's facilities in their local Christmas parade.

Photo by Bob Simon



Flotilla 15-4's facility, *Sea Spirit*. Crew L to R: Rusty Hays, Bob Currie, and coxswain Ray Koepfel.

Photo by Wilbur Scott



Flotilla 15-3 put together a work party to erect a canopy over their facility, *Paratus*.

Photo by Mary Patton

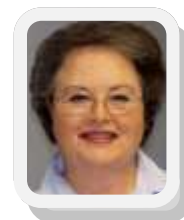


15-8's Christmas party.

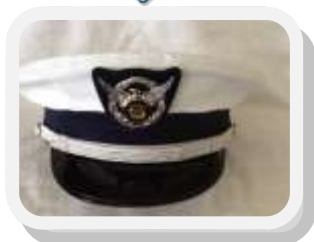
Photo by Craig Elliot

Let's Talk Uniform Head Gear

by Mary Patton, SO-PB



This is the **ONLY** ball cap authorized for the Auxiliary. If you have a ball cap with your flotilla's location on it, please do not wear it. The 'location' hats were discontinued as of December 2012.



Incorrect Auxiliary band



The Combination Cap band shown above is for use by the **U.S. COAST GUARD**, with the Coast Guard Insignia. Notice at the top of the insignia backing, the dip in the center (arrow). The Auxiliary insignia backing is **rounded** at the top. See bands at left.

The two Combination Caps shown above are **AUXILIARY** hats—the device backing is **rounded** at the top, no dip.



As you can see from the photo at left, not all Auxiliary Combination Caps have the correct hat band.

Let's endeavor to wear the correct uniform. We are, after all, representing the US Coast Guard when we wear our uniforms.