

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



# ***Charlie Noble***

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Quarterly Newsletter of Division 15, District 7

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## **Training with the Gold Side**



Andy Render, 15-1, watching the tow-line during rear-towing exercises with Station Yankeetown.

Photo by Diane Berman

## Division 15 Bridge

Division Commander	Vice Division Commander	Immediate Past Division Commander
Diane Berman <a href="mailto:dhberman@uscgaux-fl.org">dhberman@uscgaux-fl.org</a>	Andrew Render <a href="mailto:andy.render@uscgaux-fl.org">andy.render@uscgaux-fl.org</a>	Paul Pelletier <a href="mailto:paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org">paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org</a>

## Division 15 Flotillas

<b>15-1</b> Jim Simon , FC Ralph Altavilla, VFC	<b>15-2</b> Leslie Moore, FC George Washburn, VFC	<b>15-3</b> Mary Patton, FC Joyce Dvorak, VFC	<b>15-4</b> George Dooris, FC Robert Currie, VFC
<b>15-5</b> Larry Berman, FC Richard Rooney, VFC	<b>15-7</b> M. Lydia Sorli, FC Donald Sorli, Jr., VFC	<b>15-8</b> Ray O'Connell, FC Charles Dolan, VFC	

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## January Division Meeting

The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those serving in the military and those who have fallen, Diane Berman, Division Commander (DCDR), spoke on Areas of Responsibility (AORs) for patrols. She would like to have patrols posted on the division website when it can become password protected. In that way, flotillas with members who need crew hours can check the website to see which coxswains need crew members for a certain patrol and can contact that coxswain.

Diane thanked Andy Render, Division Vice Commander (VCDR), for conducting the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) inventory requested by Sector. This is equipment on loan from the U.S. Coast Guard. She also would like to start a "pre-owned uniform" inventory so members can contact flotillas which have pre-owned uniform items in their lockers for sale or use. Wink Fickett, SO-MA, volunteered to create a spreadsheet with items sent to her by division FCs.

BM1 Michael Shallue, USCG, Station Yankeetown, thanked the Auxiliary

for all its assistance over the past year and said he is looking forward to the new year with the Auxiliary, and that if anyone needed help with anything, to contact him.

Andy Render, VCDR, asked flotilla commanders to build a PPE "wish list" of items needed for patrols and crew/coxswain training and have it available in case money becomes available. The list is needed in a short time frame. Diane Berman, DCDR, requested FCs to submit their inventory and flotilla financial report, both of which are due at the end of January.

Mary Patton, SO-PB, was presented with the Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation (ACLOC) award for developing the *Charlie Noble*, Division 15's member publication, and for contributing more than 1779 hours in RBS missions. Division Staff Officers Winifred Fickett, SO-MA, Kitty Dolan, SO-PA, and Charles Dolan, SO-PV, were sworn in by BM1 Shallue, USCG, and Diane Berman, DCDR. The minutes from the October division meeting were approved. 15-8's FC said it has five AUXOP classes

scheduled for 2015. 15-4's FC said it has two AUXOP classes scheduled—AUXPAT starts in March and AUXSEA is scheduled for September.

There will be a TCT held January 11 at 15-1's building. The next TCT is scheduled for July, and if a third one is needed, it could be scheduled later in the year. Diane thanked Linda and Don Jones for coordinating the holiday turkey lunch at Station Yankeetown, and Kitty and Chuck Dolan for their AUXFS work getting everything cooked and on the table. Diane also thanked Kitty Dolan for coordinating the holiday *Cookies for Coasties* program.

Under New Business, Paul Pelletier, IPDCDR, recommended paying the cost to keep the division domain name and email group. It was agreed that flotillas would send the DCDR the number of new VE manuals they needed for their active VEs plus a few for trainees, and that division would purchase the manuals one time only. No other new business was conducted and the meeting ended at 11:10. There was a short Staff Officer meeting after the regular division meeting.

# Division Commander's Report

by Diane Berman, DCDR



I have listened to other division commanders' reports at Sector meetings, and I have formulated some ideas. Some of these ideas will be brought up at the April division meeting, and some will come later when I have thought them through. After all, if we do everything right away, what's left for the rest of the year?

A number of years ago when Larry (Berman) was DCDR, he basically eliminated the concept of strict AORs. Currently, 15-5 has two facilities at Crystal River and we patrol there with 15-1's (Crystal River) blessing. We often perform two-boat training with them on our patrols.

To me, this is thinking globally—having the entire division's AOR worked by all of the flotillas. Flotilla 15-5 has been providing underway hours for a number of flotillas in the division. Many of our patrols have

crew members from 2 or 3 flotillas besides 15-5. Additionally, we all cross-train with the active duty members of U.S. Coast Guard Station Yankeetown. We are hampered in opening up all of our patrols by the fact that, at this time, patrol schedules cannot be posted on a website, even if the site is password-protected. It is my goal to overcome this impediment so that any flotilla in the division can post their open slots to *ALL* the crew-qualified members in the division to "share the wealth" of training opportunities.

I have discussed some of my plans with Andy Render, VCDR. One of my ideas was to have a central PPE inventory, managed in such a way that if one flotilla had equipment that another flotilla could use, the equipment could be traded, with the proper paperwork, and save the Coast Guard from providing duplicated equipment. I am happy to report that Andy took this

idea and ran with it. I would also like to see a division "available uniform inventory," since many flotillas have excess items that can be purchased or traded as needed. All these ideas feed into my idea of the division as "global" and the flotilla as "local."

I am sure that many of you have good ideas on how you would like the division to progress during 2015. Please email your ideas to me at [dhberman@yahoo.com](mailto:dhberman@yahoo.com) so we can discuss them at the next division meeting.

My vision is to build on what my predecessors have accomplished, not reinvent the wheel, but together, *we can make the wheel run better!*



# Division Vice Commander's Report

by Andy Render, VCDR

In the Auxiliary we can't measure our success by reading about the boating accident we prevented because we conducted a boater safety class, nor can we measure success by what the evening news didn't say about the family we convinced to purchase the correct size life jacket for their children. When nothing happens in the boating world, we have had a good day! When a boating accident headlines the news, maybe we missed something we might have done to prevent it...

So how in the world do we motivate ourselves to continue our work toward boating safety when the results of all our efforts go unnoticed? Who recognizes the hours we put into the Auxiliary and the time we spend away from our family?

Have you ever seen a **Public Education Instructor** receive a lifesav-

ing award for teaching a father of four how to properly handle his boat when he was approaching Hell's Gate in heavy weather?

What about the **Program Visitor** who supplied a young family with the boater safety literature that convinced them to purchase the proper size life jacket for their three-year old child the day before their boat went down off Cedar Key?

How about the **Vessel Examiner** who saved a family of six because their boat was not issued a Vessel Safety decal until they had a properly-working fire extinguisher on board?

Our rewards are often few and far between. No one thanks us for not issuing a VSC decal or making sure that our PV display boxes contain the necessary boating safety booklets. Certainly not the boaters who tell us how they have been boating for 20 years and don't need a boating safety class!

We measure our success in "**PREVENTATIVE SARs**"—how many times last week did Station Yankeetown **NOT** have to launch a boat to pull someone out of the water, or how many times did Air Station Clearwater **NOT** have to send out a helo to look for an overdue boater. The adrenalin starts to pump when Station calls and asks us to launch for a SAR case. Maybe we were called because we failed to prevent an accident from occurring.

Some Auxiliarists receive awards for completing certain tasks, or are recognized at a flotilla meeting for having done a great job. They feel a sense of self-satisfaction, of having given back to the community. But if you really want to make someone's day, just walk up to them and say: "**Thank you for what you did in the Auxiliary today!**"

# Flotilla Commander Reports



## 15-1 Crystal River by James Simon, FC

### GENERAL

We continue to provide (1) one Watchstander to work at Station Yankeetown.

We continue to provide (2) AUXFS members to work at Station Yankeetown.

We continue to hold our monthly Flotilla Fellowship Dinners on the third Wednesday of each month. Location for February (TBA)

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We have an “ABS” Boating Safety Class scheduled to begin February 3rd.

Our Boating Safety Trailer will be at the Apopka Marine Boat Show February 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We have a “Paddlesport” class scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## 15-3 Ocala by Mary Patton, FC

Flotilla 15-3 had no direct support activity to the Coast Guard, other than Nacshon Limor’s continuing AUXAIR service with Air Station Clearwater.

The flotilla manned a PA event and provided RBS outreach at the Experimental Aviation Association’s B-17 and Ford Tri-motor fly-in at the Ocala Int’l Airport, 16-18 January. We signed up 5 people for a PE class and about 18 people requested information about joining the Auxiliary.

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## 15-4 Homosassa by George Dooris, FC

The fourth quarter of 2014 was a busy one for Flotilla 15-4. We were in the middle of a 16 meeting AUXACN class conducted by 15-4 which was attended by seven members from 15-4 and seven members from 15-1. The class is still being conducted. We intend to offer further AUXOP classes in conjunction with 15-1. We offered a BS&S class and also made a presentation on the Homosassa River to residents of River Haven Village. We conducted 12 Vessel Safety Checks, 60 Program Visits, and 13 patrols on the Homosassa River. We had a QE mission resulting in the qualification of a new coxswain and a new crew member. We have two potential new members being processed.

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## 15-5 Gainesville by Larry Berman, FC

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.

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## 15-8 Hernando by Ray O'Connell, FC

Flotilla 15-8's newsletter, *The Tripod Times*, was published in October, November, and December of 2014. During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the flotilla offered five Public Education courses (*BS&S*, *Using you GPS*, *Introduction to Navigation*, *Suddenly in Command* and *How to Read Nautical Charts*) and ABS for 90 Gulf Coast Academy students. There were two member training AUXOP courses offered—AUXSEA and AUXPAT. In addition, there were several opportunities for members to complete their one- or four-hour TCT requirement. Fourteen patrols were conducted and two new crew members earned their certification. The Search and Rescue Support Group (SARSG) met for advanced operational training. Several members provided AUXFS support to Station Yankeetown. Two new-member orientation sessions were conducted. Members of the flotilla also participated in the annual holiday luncheon for Station Yankeetown and Cookies for Coasties. Two PA events were conducted – the Hernando Beach Christmas Boat Parade and the Brooksville Christmas Parade. The flotilla Change of Watch ceremony was well attended, as was the holiday party. Finally, five new members were sworn in during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter bringing our yearly total to 27 new members.



## Flotilla 15-1 Welcomes Their Youngest Member

L to R: Deborah Thomas, VFC; Emma Jordan; and Jim Simon, FC. Photo by Paul Jordan

Emma Jordan, 18, was recently sworn into the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary by James Simon, Flotilla Commander, 15-1, Crystal River. Jordan is a senior at Crystal River High School. She is Vice President of her high school Future Farmers of America (FFA). Jordan also has a part-time job, maintains outstanding grades, and has been accepted to several colleges. In addition, she raises 2 hogs, a sheep, and helps with the FFA steer. In January, she will begin training to become a USCGAUX crew member.

## Staff Officer Reports



### VCDR NOTE:

With most of our Division Staff Officers having been appointed to their new positions just a few short weeks ago, there is little or nothing for them to report. More importantly is what they accomplished during our recent SO / FSO meeting. I have had a lot of positive feedback about the meeting and the job our SOs did in passing along the information.

## SO-MT, Randy Patton—Member Training

**Flotilla 15-1**—We have two members continue their boat crew training, expected QE mission March. We have two coxswains preparing for their coxswain re-qualification in March. Five new members are well into their boat crew training. We have five members who completed the Navigation Class now waiting to take final exams. The one-hour TCT yearly refresher will be presented prior to our February meeting (if available). I will be presenting the Operations Workshop to our crew trainees as well as all coxswains and crew members in March. QUIZ FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING – AUXCOM CHAPT. 3 A!

**Flotilla 15-3**—Deckplate Leadership Series, ADM Papp video, with pre- and post- discussion, facilitated by Randy Patton, was presented at the February 10 meeting. The March meeting is being held at the Marion County EOC with a tour of the facility. We plan to present mandatory training courses at the next few meetings.

**Flotilla 15-4**—AUXACN was completed on January 21 and written Part A tests were ordered for administration on January 28. Due to DIRAUX Help Desk reorganization, the tests have not arrived as of this writing. One class participant elected to take the online test, and Larry Berman served as proctor.

The first of the Mandated Training courses, Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Identification Information, was presented at the flotilla's February 3 meeting utilizing the workshop format previously approved by members at the January meeting.

Plans for Member Training activity in March include:

1. The second of the Mandated Training courses, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, will be presented at the flotilla's March 3 meeting utilizing the workshop format.
2. The next Member Training course, Auxiliary Patrols (AUXPAT), will commence on March 4 at 1900 hours at the flotilla's building located on Green Acres St in Homosassa. All are welcome. Anyone wishing to attend the course is asked to email pdooris@dooris-assoc.com.

**Flotilla 15-5**—15-5 will do the TCT 1-hour update at the February meeting. Four-hour course presented in January.

**Flotilla 15-8**—We're off to a good start. Our AUXCOM class going from 21 JAN-25 FEB.

1. The one-hour TCT class before the meeting on 19 JAN.
2. The four-hour TCT on 26 JAN and another one-hour TCT before the general meeting on 16 FEB.
3. We're also looking forward to AUXSEA starting 5 MAR.

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## SO-OP, Andy Render—Operations



Our division had a very successful year in surface operations during 2014. We ended the year with 22 operational facilities, manned by 21 coxswains, and 33 certified crew. We conducted 257 missions for a total of 1289 hours on the water.

To go along with the numbers, we have been strengthening our relationship with Station Yankeetown. We updated the Auxiliary Operational Facility Book kept in the Communications Center and have come up with a call-out plan when Station needs our assistance on a SAR case.

Late in the year we received a supply of PPE for our crews. We are beginning to inventory all of the division's PPE gear (by type and size) so we can make the most of the equipment which has been issued and to cut down on duplications. This should help us when ordering future equipment so that we can purchase some of the smaller, yet important, items we have not been able to get in the past.

Training continues to be conducted on all of our patrols and, with our increased proficiency, we will be able to respond in as safe and effective a manner as any active-duty Coast Guard crew member.

## **SO-PA, Kathleen Dolan—Public Affairs**

### **US Coast Guard Support**

**15-1**—One member provided AUXFS 8 hours support cooking two turkeys and numerous sides for Station Yankeetown Christmas luncheon on Dec 19, and two members provided 20 hours preparing meals at the Station. Linda Jones, SO-Sunshine/Fellowship, coordinated food and activity for Station Yankeetown luncheon with many 15-1 members attending, providing side dishes and cookies for the *Cookies for Coasties* program. One member provided 40 hours as a Radio Watchstander for Station Yankeetown. Seven patrols during the period and several two-boat drills were completed.

**15-8**—Two members provided sixteen hours AUXFS support at Station Yankeetown Christmas luncheon cooking two turkeys and sides and assisting in galley during event. Dozens of homemade treats collected during Annual Christmas party for delivery to Station Yankeetown as part of *Cookies for Coasties*. Six patrols with Radio Watch completed. Member was congratulated during Annual Christmas party for completing 62 VEs within an eight month period. Ten members attended the SO/FSO division training on 24 JAN.

### **Community Involvement**

**15-1**—Fellowship dinner potluck held 17 DEC at flotilla building that had been decorated by several members two days before. Two members developed a new PE schedule and posted to USCGAUX website and submitted to the *Citrus Chronicle* year-long calendar. Staffed the RBS Information display at the Citrus Manatee Festival 17-18 JAN with over 300 contacts made. Met with county commissioners about the “Life Jacket Zone” promotion on county boating ramps.

**15-3**—PA booth staffed at the Experimental Aviation Assn, B-17 and Ford Tri-Motor Fly-In 15 JAN—approx. 250 people at the RBS booth. Outdoor Expo on 14-15 FEB with RBS booth and 45 min-presentations on Saturday and Sunday on an RBS topic, as well as a 30-minute “kids event” presentation on Sunday.

**15-8**—New PE schedule finalized and sent to printer, posted to USCGAUX. Eighteen students halfway through a BS&S class. Met with Hernando County Port Authority for discussion on “Life Jacket Zone” promotion.

Jan 8, eight students completed first ABS class of 2015

Jan 13 BS&S class started

### **Local Media Involvement:**

**15-1**—2015 PE schedule submitted to and printed by *Citrus Chronicle*. In Jan, three articles submitted and published, plus contact made with three radio stations and Bright House to provide PSAs for boating classes.

**15-8**—Three articles on upcoming PE schedule submitted to nine local publications and three social media sites. Eleven photos and captions submitted to three local publications. Fifteen-minute display on Government TV four times per day.

• **Important Note**—Welcome to 15-1’s new FSO-PA, Delores Brand, and 15-3’s new FSO-PA, Joyce Dvorak. •

## **SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications**

Four flotillas published newsletters during the quarter. The Spring issue of the *Charlie Noble* was published.

## **SO-SR, Linda Jones—Secretary/Records**

Minutes from the January quarterly meeting will be sent out.

## **SO-VE, Anthony Soper—Vessel Examination**

What’s not to be excited about? A new year, new job, new challenges! First I’d like to thank John Fahey for the last five years as FSO-VE. He leaves a hard act to follow. Last year the flotilla completed 219 vessel examinations. Not bad at all. I want to thank you, John, for all your hard work. This year, I challenge the Flotilla Vessel Examiners to achieve 350 exams. That works out to 24 exams per examiner. I believe we can do this. To that end, we have a big event scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Paddling Adventures. They have about 135 canoes and kayaks for us to process with 35 more due to be delivered in March. Thanks in advance to the crew that has volunteered to work this event. Remember to wear your PFD while conducting exams. Let’s be safe out there, have some fun, and hit the ramps!

## December Nuts 'n Bolts Training



Pat Dooris, 2014 SO-NS, gives pointers to the incoming FCs on the NS officer duties at the flotilla level.

Photo by Mary Patton



George Dooris, the incoming 15-4 FC and 2014 SO-MT, provided training on flotilla member training techniques.

Photo by Mary Patton

Division 15's Nuts 'n Bolts training took place on Saturday, December 13. The thought behind this training is to give newly-elected flotilla commanders and flotilla vice commanders training and direction on what they can expect when they take office on the first of January. For instance, when reports are due, what to include in the reports, the flotilla vice commander (VFC) as chief of staff, etc.

Division Staff Officers (SOs) give a five- to ten-minute talk to the FCs-elect on what their duties are and, conversely, what the Flotilla Staff Officers (FSOs) of the same designation should do down the chain in the flotillas. All FCs attended, as well as the FCs(e) and VFCs(e).

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## January SO/FSO Training

On Saturday, January 24, division Staff Officers (SO) and flotilla staff officers (FSO) met at the West Citrus Community Center for several hours of training. The idea was to bring the SOs and FSOs together to receive training on their duties both within their flotilla and sending their reports up the chain of parallel staffing, and what to include in their reports. Participating in the training session were SOs Deborah Thomas – Communications, Diane Berman – Communication Services, Don Jones – Finance, Vince Maida – Human Resources, Larry Berman – Information Services, Winifred Fickett – Materials, Randy Patton – Member Training, Andy Render – Operations, Kitty Dolan – Public Affairs, Mary Patton – Publications, Linda Jones – Secretary Records, and Tony Soper – Vessel Examinations. Everyone agreed that good information was passed along to all the new FSOs and that it was a worthwhile training session.



## Change of Watch Photos



15-1—L to R: Ralph Altavilla as VFC and Jim Simon as FC being sworn in by MK3 Jackson, USCG, from Station Yankeeetown.  
Photo by Jodi Simon



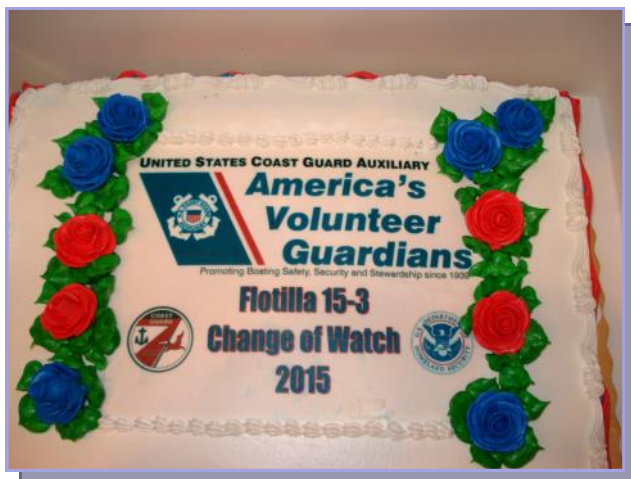
15-3—Mary Patton is sworn in as FC by Diane Berman, VCDR, and Paul Pelletier, DCDR.  
Photo by Randy Patton



15-7—L to R: BMC J. Paul Chandler, USCG, and Paul Pelletier, DCDR, swear in M. Lydia Sorli as FC and Donald Sorli, Jr, as VFC.  
Photo by Don Sorli, Sr.



15-8—L to R: Craig Elliot, DDC-R and IPDCDR, Paul Pelletier, DCDR, swear in Ray O'Connell as FC and Chuck Dolan as VFC.  
Photo by Michael Wells



15-3's cake.

Photo by Mary Patton



15-8's cake.

Photo by Michael Wells

# January Division 15 Meeting Photos



BM1 Mike Shallue, USCG, presents the Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation (ACLOC) to Mary Patton for her work supporting Coast Guard missions and developing the Division 15 newsletter, *Charlie Noble*.

Photo by Randy Patton



George Dooris, FC, 15-4; Bob Currie, VFC, 15-4; and Patricia Dooris, 15-4.

Photo by Mary Patton



Andy Render, 15-1, VCDR; Jim Simon, FC, 15-1; and Vince Maida, 15-1, SO-HR

Photo by Mary Patton



L to R: Tony Soper, SO-VE; Don Jones, SO-FN; Linda Jones, SO-SR; and Deborah Thomas, SO-CM

Photo by Mary Patton



Preparing to swear in three Staff Officers are, L to R: BM1 Mike Shallue, USCG; Diane Berman, DCDR; Winifred Fickett, SO-MA; Kitty Dolan, SO-PA; and Chuck Dolan, SO-PV.

Photo by Mary Patton