



Crystal River, FL - Jim Simon, coxswain, and his crew from Flotilla 15-1, tow a disabled vessel to safety. The two gentlemen had just bought the boat and had it tuned up only to have it break down as soon as they got out into the flats. The tide was outgoing and the water was becoming very shallow, which made it a challenge for Jim and his crew.

Photo by Jodi Simon

Division 15 Bridge

Division Commander	Division Vice Commander	Immediate Past Division Commander
Diane Berman dhberman@uscgaux-fl.org	Andrew Render andy.render@uscgaux-fl.org	Paul Pelletier paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org

Division 15 Flotillas

15-1 Jim Simon , FC Ralph Altavilla, VFC	15-2 Leslie Moore, FC George Washburn, VFC	15-3 Mary Patton, FC Nachshon Limor, VFC	15-4 George Dooris, 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	

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 if 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



The focus these past few weeks, and for many weeks previously, has been on National Safe Boating Week's *Wear It* campaign. This obviously means that boaters should wear a life jacket whenever they are on the water.

Lately, there have been two Search and Rescues (SARs) that point out the wisdom of "*Wear It*." Station Yankeetown was called out a couple weeks ago concerning a 45-foot vessel taking on water with three persons on board (POB). All three were wearing life jackets and stayed with their overturned boat. It was reported that "they did everything right" and thus were saved.

Recently, *Coast Guard News* reported a capsized boat near Station Cortez with three POBs. They were pulled from the water and were all wearing life jackets and again it was reported that they did everything right. My guess is those three folks all took boating safety classes.

I read *Coast Guard News* daily and see what has been reported nationally by the Coast Guard. It is disheartening to read of suspended searches and searches that end with bodies being pulled from the water. Many of these fatalities could have been prevented by the regular and consistent use of life jackets.

The law states that a life jacket must be available for each person on board the vessel. Except in the case of children, wearing a life jacket is not necessary. Not necessary by whose standards? Certainly not by the Coast Guard or the Auxiliary. How many of us feel comfortable going out on the water without some type of life jacket when not on patrol? In my opinion, a law that requires wearing a life jacket will never happen, so public education becomes paramount.

In 2014, the Coast Guard counted 4,064 accidents that involved 610 deaths, 2,678 injuries, and approximately \$39 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational

boating accidents. When the cause of death was known, 78% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims without reported life jacket usage, 84% **WERE NOT** wearing a life jacket.*

National Safe Boating Week impacted Division 15 as well. I would like to thank all the flotilla NSBW chairs, and especially Linda Jones as the Division Coordinator for NSBW.

May brought the D7 Hurricane Exercise. On the last day of the five-day exercise, the Auxiliary was asked to activate their phone trees. All members were to be contacted and reported within an eight-hour window. I am proud to say that all the Division 15 flotillas came in at 100%. I want to thank the Flotilla Commanders/designees and callers for the great job they did.

It is never an easy job. Many flotillas call all of their members. Other flotillas use an opt-in system. What works for your flotilla? You will be asked, at some point, to answer a series of questions to establish how the Auxiliary can find you in case of an emergency. Questions such as: would you evacuate if ordered, where would you go and how can you be reached if needed? Remember that the Coast Guard is responsible for all members and would not like to have its resources used to find errant Auxiliaries.

Speaking of which, the Division needs someone to coordinate Hurricane Preparedness. It's not a difficult job, but an important one. Please help us out and contact Andy or me for more information. June first begins the 2015 Hurricane Season. I hope, as we all do, that it is a mild season and that our exercises in Division 15 are merely exercises and not a reality.

Mandated Training is something that's on everyone's minds. I hope that all flotillas are using the Workshop method of getting their members up to date on the training. All units must be done by the end of 2016. You may lose all of your qualifications if the

training is not completed. Contact your FSO-MT for further information.

Lo and behold, another mandate was laid upon us. It is still in the works, but we will all have to take a mandatory Diversity Training course. Right now they are working on "Training the Trainer." Please email me if you are interested in the training to do the two-hour sessions. I'll keep you up to date.

In May, the Division held its annual ceremony at the Douglas Munro Memorial in Crystal River. It was a symphony of parts brought together by able conductor, Linda Jones. Not much happens in the Division in which Linda does not use her special hands-on methods. The Auxiliary, active duty Coast Guard, the American Legion, a professional sound system and even a bagpiper doing a beautiful rendition of the song, *Amazing Grace*, came together for a moving memorial.

In the past, it was expected that no patrols or other flotilla events would take place during division meetings and division events as all members of the division were encouraged to attend. Please let the Bridge know how to woo you back to the meetings.

Have a great beginning of the summer. See you at the July division meeting on July 11.

* USCG 2014 Boating Statistics

Division Vice Commander's Report

by Andy Render, VCDR



Writing an article for a newsletter is never easy! What can you write about that someone might actually read? How do you make it interesting and not just taking up space? The simple answer is, "I have no idea"!

I know that we spend a lot of time explaining to our members what we would like them to accomplish—fill out your 7029, do more vessel safety checks, get more patrol hours, more this, more that, and, by the way, have you completed the mandated training classes? The list goes on and on....

Well, I am going to do something a

little different. This time I'm going to ask YOU a question. What can Division 15 do locally to make your Auxiliary life easier and more enjoyable? Obviously we can't fix the vetting process for new members or change national policy, but is there something you would like us to do differently at the local level?

I'll look at each of your ideas and see if we can find a way to make them work. If it's something that we can't do, I'll get back to you and let you know why we can't do it. One thing I can promise is that I'll respond to every idea and concern you send me.

Now the ball is in your court—and I would really like to hear from you. Simply drop me an email at: andy.render@uscgaux-fl.org

Maybe in our next newsletter I'll have something to write about that will make for interesting reading.

Division Meeting Photos

All photos this page by Mary Patton



L to R: Ralph Altavilla, VFC and Vince Maida, FSO-HR, both from 15-1.



Randy Patton, SO-MT, and COMO Robert Weskerna,



Tony Soper, SO-VE, and Andy Render, VCDR.



L to R: BM1 Mike Shallue, USCG; Linda Jones, SO-SR; Diane Berman, DCDR; Andy Render, VCDR; and COMO Weskerna, DCO D7.

Flotilla Commander Reports



15-1 Crystal River by James Simon, FC

GENERAL

We continue to provide one (1) Watchstander to Station Yankeetown.
We continue to provide two (2) Food Specialists to work at Station Yankeetown.
Seven flotilla members attended the Commercial Salvage presentation at the Station.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We completed a BS&S Class with 9 passing the final exam.
About Boating Safely class scheduled in May.
NSBW activities are in the planning stage.
Life Jacket Zone project is underway with four boat ramps completed.
Boating Safety trailer was setup and manned for the Crystal River Boat Bash at the Crystal River Preserve State Park.

15-3 Ocala by Mary Patton, FC

Nachshon Limor, VFC, continues to provide assistance to Air Station Clearwater.
Our flotilla conducted an *About Boating Safely* class in March, with 24 graduates.
We set up a PA table at the Miller Boat Sales boat show and many of our ABS students signed up at the boat show for the class.
So far, we have offered two of the mandated AUXLMS courses in workshop format at our flotilla meetings.

15-4 Homosassa by George Dooris, FC

The first quarter of 2014 was a busy one for Flotilla 15-4. We completed, in January, a 16 meeting AUXACN class conducted by 15-4 which was attended by seven members from 15-4 and seven members from 15-1. Outcomes are still in doubt due to the difficulty in getting exams from District. We also offered an AUXPAT class in March, again with the participation of 15-1. So far, two students have taken and passed the exam. We taught a Paddlesports class in March for five students but cancelled a BS&S class scheduled for January due to lack of interest. We conducted 15 Vessel examinations, one of which was a vessel facility. We conducted 88 Program Visits and added a new program visitor and a new business partner. We conducted six patrols on the Homosassa River after cancelling several due to weather conditions. We have two potential new members being processed. We have offered three of the mandated training classes during Flotilla meetings. Finally, our publications officer has successfully submitted articles to five different publications.

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.

15-8 Hernando by Ray O'Connell, FC

During the first quarter of 2015, the members of Flotilla 15-8 were actively engaged in numerous Recreational Boating Safety, Member Training, Public Affairs, and Fellowship activities. Eight Public Education courses were offered including ABS, B&S, Using your GPS, Using your radio, Introduction to Navigation, Suddenly in Command, Basic Canoeing and Kayaking, and How to Read Nautical Charts. Our vessel examiners completed 120 vessel safety checks for Paddling Adventures at Weeki Wachee State Park in addition to 27 VSCs for individual boat owners. Two new member orientation sessions were held which resulted in four new members with several more being processed. In the Public Affairs arena, our members provided the color guard for three days of Swamp Fest as well as an RBS tent where our members made over 300 contacts. Our FSO-PA, Kitty Dolan, also arranged one live radio talk show appearance and initiated the Life Jacket Zone program which quickly grew to a District-wide initiative. The Tripod Times was published monthly featuring flotilla events. The Auxiliary Communications course was conducted with all six members successfully completing the exam. Auxiliary Seamanship is currently underway with several students. One of our members, Craig Elliot, was awarded an ACLOC for his service as FSO-OP. In operations, patrols were conducted on most weekend days and the Search and Rescue Support Group met for advanced training. Honor guard services were provided for one of our deceased retired members. Finally, a Saint Patrick's Day fellowship dinner was attended by 70 members and guests.

See more photos and article about the *Life Jacket Zone* project, spear-headed by Kitty Dolan, SO-PA, 15-8, on page 12.

Here, Linda and Don Jones just completed the first *Life Jacket Zone* stencil in Division 15. Photo by Jodi Simon



Staff Officer Reports

SO-CM, Debra Thomas—Communications

15-1 Crystal River Richard Culp

Reminder that a Hurricane Exercise will be conducted May 11-15th.

Frank DeLucia is in training for watchstanding at Station Yankeetown.



SO-CM, Debra Thomas—Communications (cont'd from pg 5)

15-2 Yankeetown George Washburn

Working on setting up a new radio facility

No other items to report

15-3 Ocala Randy Patton

Nothing new to report

15-4 Homosassa William Maurer

Nothing new to report

15-5 Gainesville Kenneth Seipp

Flotilla continues to provide watchstanding support at Station Yankeetown.

Mr. Seipp participates in AUXMON, Shares and AUX HF nets.

15-7 Suwannee River Donald Sorli

Nothing new to report

15-8 Hernando Beach David Lemon

AUXCOM students continue their TCO training

SO-HR, Vince Maida—Human Resources

There is not much new to report this month.

Two new members were added to our Division this month.

Frank Hof - Flotilla 15-1

Gloria Goode - Flotilla 15-2

I still continue to have problems with receiving updated *E-Responder* reports from all the flotillas. For those flotillas which sent in the information, THANK YOU.

It is important that we report each flotilla's activity with *E-Responder* as it is closely tracked at the district level, but even more importantly, we don't want to miss out on possible new members.

SO-PV, Chuck Dolan—Marine Dealer, Program Visits

Five of the seven flotillas in Division 15 were actively supporting and promoting the US Coast Guard and Auxiliary's primary mission of Recreational Boating Safety with a Public Visitation Program.

374 Division wide PVs performed for the Year To Date (2015)

132 Division wide PVs performed for the month of April

15-1: 30 visits performed.

15-3: Nine visits performed. The FSO-PV position remains vacant.

15-4: 38 visits performed. They reported nothing exceptional this month. They will be setting up a display and offering VEs at the Homosassa Walmart on May 16 and again at our newest business partner, Custom Canvass, on the 23rd. They have a new member interested in their PV program and hope to have her through the program shortly.

15-5: Nine visits performed.

15-8: 57 visits performed. No special events reported.

SO-IS, Larry Berman—Information Services

The following Information was received from the DSO-IS

Standby Hours – Questions continue to come up on what are Standby Hours (23A) and when can they be used.

Per DVC-UI the COMDTINST M16790.1G - Auxiliary Manual dated 081711 sections J.9 n page 5-57 clearly states:

“Unless in uniform and in the presence of their facility, Auxiliary unit, or Coast Guard unit, Auxiliarists who make themselves available to recall by an OIA may not claim the time they are awaiting a potential call. For example, an Auxiliarist who has informed an OIA that they will respond to a call-out during a heightened period of readiness (e.g., a period of hurricane preparedness) but who may otherwise go about their personal business, may not claim the hours awaiting call-out. If called to respond, Auxiliarists may claim the hours from the time they proceed to respond, are engaged in the mission, and until they resume their personal business.”

Note: the ANSC-7030 instructions for 23A are as follows: 23A STANDBY BRAVO STATUS - Hours spent as available under Coast Guard orders with an Auxiliary Operational surface/air facility with a qualified Coxswain/Pilot and Crew. For Air, it is time spent On-Deck for picking up passengers, fueling, lunch, etc. For Vessels, it is time spent In-Port for lunch, fueling, or standby. Coxswain/Pilot hours are reported as “Lead” and Crew hours are reported on additional lines.

AUXLMS – AUXINFO has a report set up for the Mandatory Classes required for all members. AUXLMS courses taken on-line will be fed to AUXDATA on Mondays.

If a Flotilla is doing a course in a classroom situation (either online or PowerPoint), a 7039 form can be completed and entered into AUXDATA using the correct workshop code by either the FSO-IS or SO-IS. (Members should sign a Completed Training Attestation form and give to the flotilla to keep for records.)

Another way for those who do not use the online computer program or the classroom setting is to do a PDF or PowerPoint file which can be pulled from the National website. After completing the course, the individual will sign the Completed Training Attestation form which comes with the file and should submit it to the flotilla. The FSO-IS should get a copy, scan, and send to DSO-IS for entry into AUXDATA. Hopefully, with all these options, the members will be able to complete the mandatory classes.

Note: ICS 100 and 700 are now also required for all members to complete. They can only take the online FEMA course and completion should be submitted via D7 Help Ticket to ADSO-IS ICS.

Information below was received from DVC-UI and DIR-U about the Self-Attestations that members are allowed to use for the Mandated Training courses and the plans to record them in AUXDATA. Please read over the note and if you have any questions, please let Sue Hastings, DSO-IS, know.

There is a new form for the Self-Attestations but, **until it is up in Forms Warehouse**, the form and a 7030 should be sent to the IS officer.

1. **Preferred Method:** Take AUXLMS course online. *Course completion will be automatically fed to AUXDATA.*
2. **Classroom Setting:** Flotilla teaches course using either online or PowerPoint presentation. Instructor completes 7039 with Trainees for the proper course using Code 06B. *IS officer will enter the 7039 into AUXDATA with Instructor and Students as any other Workshop.*
3. **Self-Attestation:** Member goes to website and uses PowerPoint/PDF file or goes over a hard copy of the course. Completes the Self-Attestation form and submits to FSO-IS officer with copy of 7030 for Code 06B Trainee for the amount of time to take the course Here are the ways the Mandated Training can be entered into AUXDATA:
(Until new 7067 form is available). *IS officer will enter into AUXDATA, using Code 06B, with member listed as Trainee (no LEAD), Select Task for course, then Task Capture for Trainee. Do not do Approvals of these until notified.*



SO-MT, Randy Patton—Member Training

Flotilla 15-1

Four new members well into their boat crew training. We have two members taking their boat crew requalification on 06/14. We have one member taking her boat crew QE on 06/14 and one member going for his Trident certification. One member completed the ICS 100 course. And one member taking the “Captains 6-Pack” course by Adams.

Flotilla 15-2

No report received.

Flotilla 15-3

AUXLMS course, *Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information* (#810015) – was presented at the flotilla meeting by Mary Patton, FC, on 9 June.

Flotilla 15-4

No regular training was offered in May except the AUXLMS course, *Civil Rights Awareness*, on 05 May, reported previously.

The next course to be offered by the flotilla is AUXSEA (Seamanship). The course will run for five evenings commencing September 9, 16, 23, 30 and October 7. All dates are Wednesdays, and the starting time is 1900 hours. The location is Flotilla 15-4's building at 7910 Green Acres St. in Homosassa. All Auxiliaries are welcome. Anyone wishing to attend the course is asked to call me at 352-232-2580 or email me at pdooris@dooris-assoc.com.

The fifth Mandated Training course, *Sexual Harassment Prevention*, will be presented at the flotilla's 01 Sept meeting utilizing the workshop format.

Flotilla 15-5

Ongoing crew class (once weekly)

Flotilla 15-8

AUXNAV is continuing, nothing further at this time.

SO-OP, Andy Render—Operations



May was a very productive month for our Division. We completed 19 patrols which included crew and coxswain training as well as several patrols in preparation for upcoming QE missions. Patrols covered all major rivers in our AOR as well as the Crystal River power plant entrance.

During this period, the Coast Guard Rescue 21 radio network experienced an outage. All three flotillas with fixed radio stations responded, and within a short period of time, we had coverage over most of our AOR. Congratulations to Flotillas 15-1, 15-4, and 15-8 for responding quickly to the situation. Below is a short explanation of some of the features of Rescue 21 and the location of the towers.

In a post-review of the event, it became obvious that at the division level we needed a plan on how to notify flotillas when Rescue 21 goes down. A new **Emergency Auxiliary Radio Support (EARS)** system is being developed to refine how the division can best communicate with the flotillas, coordinate our response with Station Yankeetown, and provide the flotillas with the necessary support information when responding to these situations. The EARS program should be finalized before the end of June and has already been reviewed with Station Yankeetown. Since each flotilla is different, how they respond to these Rescue 21 outages is best decided at the flotilla level.

June will bring about a slight change in the order approval process pertaining to the AOM program. We were notified that due to legal issues, Auxiliaries can no longer approve orders in the AOM system. Approvals must be signed by an active duty Coast Guard member (E-6 or higher). The DCDR and I met with BOSN Chandler and BM-1 Shallue to review the process. Basically, you should not see any changes in the approval of patrols, with the exception that we are requesting the FSO-OP submit requests for orders a few days earlier than before. This is simply to ensure that there is ample time for Station Yankeetown to approve the patrol requests.

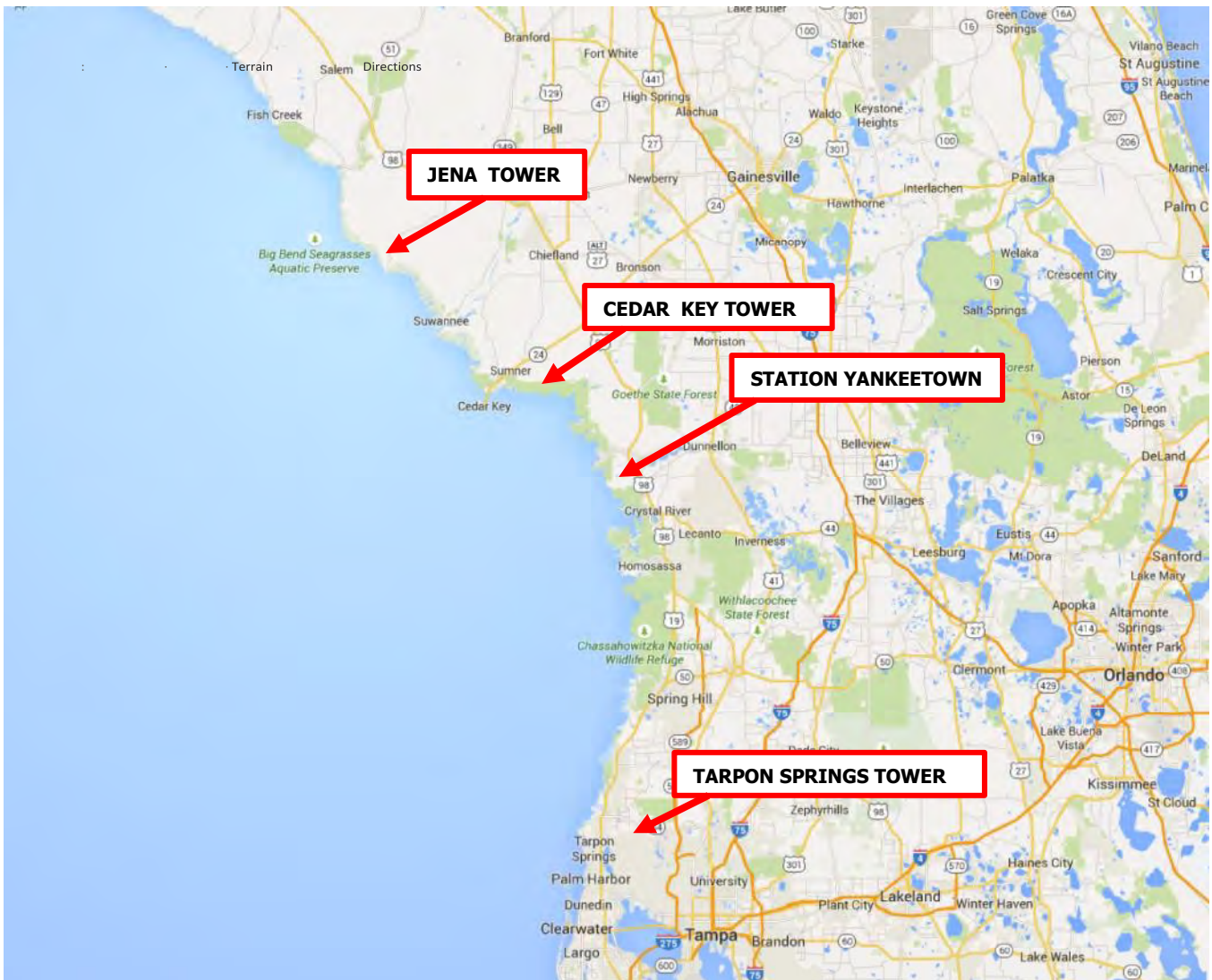
Our operations program is healthy and growing with new members training for both the crew and coxswain positions. Several additional boats are anticipated becoming OPFACS within the next few weeks. It would appear that we can look forward to an active and successful summer.

NOTE: Please see map on page 10.

Appendix C

"RESCUE 21" RADIO TOWER LOCATIONS

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA



During periods of a "Rescue 21" outage, the Coast Guard not only loses the ability to hear distress messages at greater distances, but also the capabilities listed below.

- Direction-finding capability that provides search and rescue responders with lines of bearing to vessels in distress.
- Digital selective calling support, which allows mariners with DSC-equipped and registered radios to transmit, at the push of a button, their exact GPS position and vital vessel information to the Coast Guard and other DSC equipped vessels
- Geographic display to help identify hoax callers
- Improved information sharing and coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and federal, state and local first responders.
- Enhanced signal clarity, recording and playback capabilities.
- Simultaneous monitoring and relaying of information over multiple frequencies
- Automated transmission of urgent marine broadcasts.

Without these benefits it is critical Auxiliary Watchstanders focus on the task at hand and are extra vigilant while monitoring radio traffic.