

SO-PA, Kathleen Dolan—Public Affairs

15-1:

Two member provided 32 hours of Radio Watch for Station Yankeetown .

Two AUXFS members provided 32 hours of food prep/serve at Station Yankeetown several times this month.

Eight Safety Patrols took place this reporting period with radio watch.

Two Vessel Safety Check events were held Apr. 19 and May 3 at Twin Rivers Marina and Ft. Island Trail Bait Shop.

Life Jacket Zone – 4/21 Don and Linda Jones continued to work to get 6 of the 13 ramps in Citrus County under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department done so far. This is the National Safe Boating Week kick-off project for Division 15, organized by Kitty Dolan, SO-PA. Approval has been secured from the Citrus County Administrator.

Sheriff's department has agreed to display the electronic sign in two locations in Crystal River during NSBW through Memorial Day weekend with the message "*Life Jackets Float! You Won't! Wear It!*"

WYKE TV – May 8 Citrus Today – Linda Jones, FSO-PA, was interviewed by the host of the show, Dennis Miller, about National Safe Boating Week, the "Wear-It!" campaign, and the "Life Jacket Zone" stencils at local ramps. They also discussed the display of safety equipment and varieties of life jackets available to the public as well as upcoming boating safety classes.

12 articles/pictures/Public Service Announcements were submitted this month to various venues. Four articles/pictures/announcements were printed this period.

A *Chronicle* photographer came out and took candid pictures while we were painting the first *Life Jacket Zone* stencil. One of their reporters wrote an article to accompany one of the pictures.

By request of the editor of the *Chronicle*, Linda Jones, FSO-PA, submitted a series of seven Boating Safety articles to the *Chronicle* to be published during the week of NSBW.

Monthly newsletter sent to all members

15-4:

NSBW pamphlets ready to go. Plan is to have booths at 2 local stores, one being Walmart

Also, VEs be available at the 2 locations.

15-5:

Declaration made by the County Commission for NSBW

Awaiting use of Division 7 *Life Jacket Zone* stencil.

15-8:

Training on oyster bed restoration project during the April member meeting.

Continuation of BS&S class.

Life Jacket Zone ceremony on 4/22, ten members, two guests, Hernando County Commission Chairman Nick Nicholson, HCSO marine officers Roger Butts and Captain Jim Powers, and personnel from the Reef ball project and Hernando County Waterways were in attendance. Three ramps completed during ceremony.

Received proclamation from Hernando County BOCC on May 12 meeting for NSBW.

Four members and one six-month old chocolate lab presented "Life Jacket Safety" to 165 kindergarten children, introduced NSBW coloring contest

Judging and awards announcement for NSBW coloring contest will be on May 22

Electronic traffic direction signs placed at north and south entrances to Hernando County coastline that say *Life*

SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications

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

SO-SR, Linda Jones—Secretary/Records

Minutes from the April 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 3rd 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!

The Great Chili Taste-Off

by Linda Jones, FSO-PA, 15-1

What did the Easter Bunny bring the Coast Guardsmen at Station Yankeetown this year? Chili! All kinds of chili! Always looking for new ways to show their appreciation for the members of Station Yankeetown, Auxiliarists of Division 15 sponsored a Chili tasting contest at the Station.

The entries were judged in four categories: Chief's Choice, Cook's Choice, Coasties' Choice, and Members' Choice. As the entries arrived, Station Cook, FS2 Braden Coon, USCG, sampled each one so he could assign a "heat level" to each dish of chili.

In addition, Petty Officer Coon and his trusty AUXFS, Vince Maida of Flotilla 15-1, Crystal River, prepared delicious corn muffins, rice, and homemade tortilla chips. Coon made sure there were plenty of toppings and several Auxiliarists brought bottled water, soda, more chips, dip, and dessert to round out the menu.

Not only did the Auxiliarists participate by making chili entries, but also the Station XPO BM1 Michael Shallue, USCG, prepared a delicious entry himself.

The award for Cook's Choice went to Mike Bollinger of Flotilla 15-8. Coasties' Choice and Chief's Choice went to Vince Maida from Flotilla 15-1. Members' Choice went to Ralph Altavilla of Flotilla 15-1. Everyone had a great time sampling the different chilis and enjoying the fellowship. After surveying the active duty members and the Auxiliarists, Events Organizer Linda Jones, announced that considering the overwhelmingly positive response, Division 15 will make the *Chili Taste-Off* an annual event.

Bravo Zulu to all who cooked, brought drinks, desserts, or came to taste and/or judge the chili dishes. Now for next year, does anyone make a vegetarian chili?



FS Braden Coon, USCG, and Vince Maida, AUXFS, show off their tasty corn muffins.



Chili Taste-Off photos by Linda Jones.

Active-duty members of Station Yankeetown enjoy the fellowship

BM1 Michael Shallue, USCG, made his own chili dish to share.



Sector St. Petersburg's Fourth Annual Open House

by L. Bart Walker, Flotilla 15-3, Ocala



May 16, 2015, found my family and I with an open Saturday, which is pretty rare, so we headed down to the Sector St. Petersburg 4th Annual Open House. Although the event started at 1000, we got a very late start and did not arrive until 1300. With the event terminating at 1500, we were worried we would not get to see much in two hours, but we sure did! As we arrived and signed in, an HH 60 J-Hawk helo was demonstrating a rescue operation which deployed a rescue swimmer and used a basket hoist to rescue a simulated victim. My kids loved watching this demonstration. We then toured the cutter *Hawk*, the tug *Vise* and its barge, used to maintain ATONs, and the cutter *Appleby*, which is also primarily used to service ATONs. The crews on all three vessels were excellent guides. We then toured the display area where there were some small boats and crews, a port security boat and crew, and various displays by the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Reserve, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and a few allied local agencies. By now, it was getting very hot and close to the termination time, so we did not get a chance to see all of the displays. Of course, there was a large Auxiliary presence at the event. Several Auxiliary surface facilities were keeping out curious pleasure boaters during the demo of the helicopter and the cutter *Hawk*. All aboard the Sector grounds, Auxiliary members staffed PA displays, assisted with tours, and answered questions. The event was well-contained to the initial entrance area to help maintain security, but I was impressed with just how large Sector St Pete really is. My family and I had a great time and hope to be able to attend next year, but will plan to arrive earlier in the day to beat the heat!



Rescue swimmer demo with an HH-60 J-Hawk helicopter.
Photo by L. Bart Walker



USCG cutter Hawk at Sector St. Petersburg's Open House.
Photo by L. Bart Walker



USCG tug, *Vise*, and barge used to maintain ATONs.
Photo by L. Bart Walker

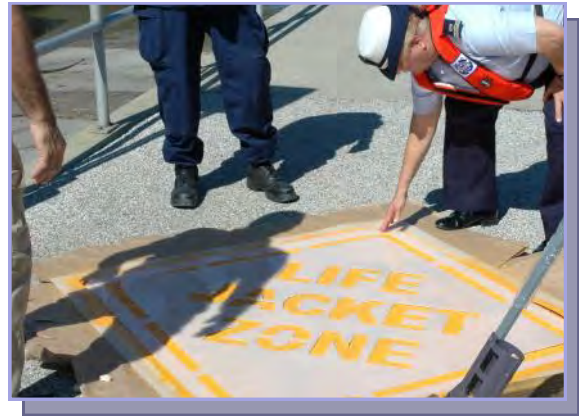


USCG cutter, *Appleby*, which is primarily used to service ATONs.
Photo by L. Bart Walker

Life Jacket Zone Project



15-8 members Mike Bollinger and Kitty Dolan display the stencil prior to painting. Photo by Vera Bystry-Wells



Second part of stencil is positioned by Kitty Dolan, 15-8. Photo by Vera Bystry-Wells



15-8 members and guests at the ceremony and painting event. Hernando County commissioner Nick Nicholson, is on the left. Photo by Rick Foti



15-8 members, guests and painters prior to the start of the ceremony. Photo by Rick Foti

Life Jacket Zone Helps Boaters Remember to “Wear It”!

by Linda Jones, Flotilla 15-1, Crystal River

“Do I have to wear it?” That’s the question Auxiliary Public Education instructors are often asked during a safe boating class. The answer we give is, it depends on several levels, but you should wear one anyway—it may save your life!

However, many boaters (mostly adults) still do not wear a life jacket while underway. The main complaint we hear from boaters is that it is just too hot during the summer to wear a life jacket. Wearing a life jacket can make you very warm, but it can also make the difference between life and death.

Many times we have reminded people that when seat belts came into vogue, some people did not like wearing them, either. However, over time, we became used to wearing them. In fact now, most of us wouldn’t move the car without buckling our seatbelt. Life jackets are just like that. Once you begin wearing them on a regular basis, you feel uncomfortable leaving the dock without one.

The idea of creating a “Life Jacket Zone” at local boat ramps in our area was suggested to all Flotilla Staff Officers in Division 15 by Kitty Dolan, SO-PA. She completed a lot of research about this project and found that Auxiliary units in several other states and along the east coast of Florida had successfully launched this project with the help of their communities and local marine law enforcement. Dolan spearheaded the project in Hernando County, Florida.

Linda Jones, FSO-PA, Flotilla 15-1, Crystal River, organized the project for Citrus County with the guidance of Kitty Dolan. There are 13 County boat ramps and several other city ramps and private ramps in Citrus County. We hope that seeing the “Life Jacket Zone” sign will remind people to “Wear It” for a safe day on the water.

More Division Photos-Memorial Day & NSBW



15-1 members Don Jones and Barry Ramsey patrol Kings Bay waters for the Blessing of the Fleet, on May 9.
Photo by Andrea Harris



Linda Jones, FSO-PA 15-1, and Dennis Miller of WYKE TV, talk about boating safety, NSBW, the *Life Jacket Zones* project and the "Wear It!" program. Photo by Don Jones



Citrus County Sheriff's office placed this electronic sign on the median of US 19 in Crystal River, flashing, "A Life Jacket Floats, You Won't. Wear It!"



Members, family, and friends of Flotilla 15-1, Crystal River, are SeaTow Captains Ernie and Jimmy. Front row left to right: Joe Crummer, USCG and AUXLO, Ralph Altavilla, Flotilla Vice Commander, Robert Holmes, Crystal River City Councilman, and James Simon, Flotilla Commander, 15-1.

Photo by James C. Jones



Monument commemorating Douglas Munro, the only member of the U.S. Coast Guard to receive the Medal of Honor. He received the Medal for his heroism at Guadalcanal during World War II. The monument is in Crystal River, FL.

Photo by Jodi Simon





Meritorious Team Commendation Award is presented to Andy Render, DIR-Vd and VCDR, Division 15, by Commandant of the US Coast Guard, ADM Paul Zukunft. The award was given to the Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check Manual Rewrite Team at N-Train. Also pictured is Mike Klasik, DIR-V.

Photo from the National US Coast Guard Auxiliary website.

Linda Jones, SO-SR, Flotilla 15-1, waits as the final notes of *Taps* are played at the Douglas Munro Memorial Day commemoration in Crystal River. Photo by Jodi Simon

