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# CHARLIE NOBLE

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**THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
USCG AUXILIARY DISTRICT 7 - DIVISION 15**  
JAMES T. HOLLEY SO-PB



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Tom Arney, VFC

**Flotilla 15-2**

Chuck Morton, FC  
Russ Konold, VFC

**Flotilla 15-3**

Lavonne Robinson, FC  
Charles E. Truthan, VFC

**Flotilla 15-4**

Alvin L. Hepner, FC  
Edmund D. Barry, VFC

**Flotilla 15-5**

Bruce C. Havens, FC  
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**Flotilla 15-7**

Don Sorli Sr., FC  
Maria L. Sorli, VFC

**Flotilla 15-8**

John G. Hughes., FC  
Ray O'Connell, VFC

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## **DIVISION COMMANDER REPORT**

**By Craig Elliot**



One way to make sure things will turn out the way you want them to is to plan. And we have plenty of things to plan for- we're in the midst of the boating season, the beginnings of the hurricane season, getting ready for membership renewal and dues payment, elections, the District Training Conference (D-Train), Coast Guard Day, and all those other things that we do all the time. It's not too early to start planning for Changes of Watch. So although it is summertime, many are taking vacations and the snowbirds have all flown north, we can't just sit around, relax and enjoy the season. Certainly, we do need to take time to enjoy ourselves, travel, and visit with family. In the back of our minds, however, we need to keep planning to make sure that things will turn out correctly and that we will enjoy doing them.

I want to thank everyone who answered the call of Coast Guard station Yankeetown to check on all the navigational aids in our AOR after tropical storm Debby. While many of us put in a lot of effort to accomplish this, no one accomplished more than the members of Suwannee flotilla- our smallest. They covered 100 miles of coastline, checking four channels of Nav Aids, spending 4 1/2 hours on the water, and traveling 229 miles between the channels by land, all the way from Suwannee to Keaton Beach, including Steinhatchee and Horseshoe Beach. It was indeed an outstanding accomplishment and a great service for the Coast Guard.

Two things that are coming up that you don't want to miss- Coast Guard Day and the D-Train. Last year Coast Guard Day picnic at Station Yankeetown was a super affair with great Fellowship and excellent food. The District Training Conference in the 3rd week in September will provide all kinds of information and training- Just check all the opportunities at the District web site. I really hope everyone takes advantage of these 2 events.

Last but not least are the Division elections for Commander and Vice commander. This will occur at our next Division meeting in the 1st week of October, and I would encourage all who are interested in serving in one of these two positions to contact Chuck Morton or Andy Render, members of our screening committee. The purpose of the screening committee is simple to collect letters of intent and to make sure that everyone who wants to run for one of these offices has met all of the prerequisites. Virtually all of our Flotilla Commanders have met these prerequisites, but if you have any questions please, contact one of these 2 individuals.

We have a very large and diverse Division. As shown by all of the activities that we conducted during National Safe Boating Week, our searches and rescues, our public education, and all the other activities that we do, we truly accomplish a great deal. I congratulate you all for that, and encourage you to keep up the great work. We are significantly helping the Coast Guard, helping keep people safe on the water and saving lives. You are greatly appreciated, and I thank you for all the many, many things you do.

Craig Elliot DCDR

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## **DIVISION VICE COMMANDER REPORT**

**By Paul Pelletier**

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With NSBW over I would like to remind everyone that Boating Safety is never over. I want to thank all the flotillas for their part in NSBW and there programs. We may never know how many people we saved by teaching the boating safety classes, but you can be sure we saved many lives.

With the boating season upon use along with hurricane season we must be prepared for both. We need to practice our skills for what we may be called upon to do. All facilities must be prepared with a full tank, and know where to get gas if needed during a hurricane response. This means what gas stations will be open and who has a generator if the power is out. Now is the time to prepare and finalize your plans.

I would like to thank all members for their work and for taking time out of there busy life to be part of the USCG Auxiliary.

Paul Pelletier VCDR

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## **IMMEDIATE PAST DIVISION COMMANDER REPORT By Larry Berman**

It's hard to believe that the second year as IPDCDR is coming into its last half. Time really does change.

Tropical Storm Debby certainly did a lot of damage to west Florida. People were inundated and there were some floods in certain areas. It came close to having us activate our hurricane plan, and I'm sure people watched others in our units to make sure everyone did OK. I hope everyone's hurricane is up to par and we're ready to go. Having four numbered storms in June gets us all thinking.

Flotilla leaders, this is the time to look at your members and make sure they are up do date on their currency requirements. Pay special attention to things like Navrules for coxswains. Make sure that people have sufficient opportunity to complete their requirements well before the end of the year.

All members should be looking forward to next year's elections. Remember, it is YOUR leaders you are seeking. Make sure they are qualified and willing to work. You might think the FC or VFC are cushy jobs, but they aren't and need qualified persons to make a successful Flotilla. If you think you may want to run for a job, look up the qualifications you will need to run. If you are not sure, check with your FSO-IS or myself to make sure you qualify. Much of the information is available in the computer.

Larry Berman IPDCR

# FLOTILLA COMMANDER REPORTS

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## FC REPORT 15-1, Crystal River

By Linda Jones

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Flotilla 15-1 remains a very active unit in the second quarter of 2012.

This quarter, we were notified that our staff officer for Human Resources is eligible for the NACO Membership Growth Award.

We continue to provide 3 Watchstanders for Station Yankeetown three days a week. During the month of April, Flotilla 15-1 held a hot dog/hamburger barbeque at Station Yankeetown for their staff members. All food items were brought by the members of our flotilla – from potato salad to carrot cake.

On Memorial Day, our patrol held a cook-out for lunch at our Radio Room and invited patrol members from Station Yankeetown to join us. There were 7 USCG present.

### Operations:

Patrols for the second quarter have been consistent. A patrol was completed on Memorial Day. During the second quarter, we have had several on-the-water joint-training patrols with Station Yankeetown. At present, we have three crew trainees and two coxswain trainees.

We continue to foster inter-flotilla cooperation with flotilla 15-4. Several members of their unit were crew members on our patrols in April and May. June's schedule has at least one 15-4 member on each of our patrols.

### Member Training

Within our Flotilla we continue to hold monthly training sessions. Operations personnel must complete a review quiz on different topics related to their responsibilities as crew/coxswain. In preparation for Hurricane Season, we reviewed the procedure for the Calling Tree. After the Calling Tree took place, we reviewed the procedure and discussed ways to improve our responses.

### Public Affairs

We have been more successful lately obtaining coverage in the newspaper. In addition, the Sheriff's department helped by promoting National Safe Boating Week with the use of their electronic sign on the roadway saying "Life Jackets Float-You Won't- Boat Safely". Pictures of our Safe Boating classes and the coloring contest for "Ready , Set, Wear-It" have appeared in the Chronicle.

Our new in-house newsletter is thriving thanks to member Jodi Love. Our members are enjoying receiving the e-newsletter which has articles and pictures of events, as well as a new feature called "meet the member".

### Recreational Safe Boating and Public Education

Vessel Safety Check events were held in April, May, and June. During National Safe Boating

Week, we held multiple Vessel Safety Checks. For the entire week, we had Vessel Examiners available at West Marine to check boats for customers, as requested. Another VSC during that week was held at a Twin Rivers Marina, and another at a local bait/tackle shop. An article was submitted to the Chronicle about the importance of getting a safety check done on your vessel.

On several different dates, we staffed our Boating Safety Information tent at the Vessel Safety Check events at Ft. Island Trail Marine Supply and Bait Shops, Twin Rivers Marina, West Marine (inside table set up), at our Flotilla Radio Room boat dock, and at the Crystal River

Preserve State Park Boat Bash.

In April we graduated 10 people from our Boating Skills and Seamanship class, and three others who didn't complete the class will be continuing with the class in September. During National Safe Boating Week, we held an About Boating Safely class and graduated nine people ranging in age from 13-66.

With respect to the activities generated during National Safe Boating Week:

1. "Ready, Set, Wear-It" photo of participants in PFD's including Mayor and his wife
2. Proclamation presented by Mayor Farley in support of NSBW
3. About Boating Safely class
4. Vessel Safety Checks (2 events – plus West Marine)
5. Coloring Contest – 2 private schools and Crystal River public library participated – prizes were donated by Homosassa Wildlife State Park, the Butterfly Exhibit, Manatee Bowling Lanes, Crystal River McDonalds, Crystal River Dairy Queen, and Flotilla 15-01 members
6. Electronic Sign – Sheriff's Dept. "Life Jackets Float-You Won't - Boat Safely"
7. WYKE-TV – ½ hour show on boating safety and NSBW featuring FC Linda Jones
8. Blessing of the Fleet – patrol participated
9. Boating Safety Information tables (West Marine, Twin Rivers, Ft. Island Trail Marine Supply and Bait Shop, and flotilla Radio Room)
10. Patrols
11. Memorial Day Service – Crystal River Monument USCG
12. Cook-out at our Radio Room with Active Duty USCG – Memorial Day

Pursuant to the latest directives, to show support of the U.S. Power Squadron, our patrol participated in the "Blessing of the Fleet" on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, which the Power Squadron organized.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, a delegation of our members participated in the Memorial Day service for the USCG and all Veterans, led by Flotilla Commander Chuck Morton of Yankeetown. Commander Linda Jones of Crystal River replaced the American flags that were in disrepair and Don Jones prepared pvc holders for the flags.

Our monthly Fellowship dinners continue with about 25 people attending.

Linda Jones FC

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## **FC REPORT 15-2, Yankeetown**

**By Chuck Morton**

Things are looking up -- we hope to have 2 new crew and a new Coxswain after the QE mission on 7 July. It's been hard to hold things together with only 1 coxswain up north and he is frequently gone away working.

Training has been going well and we have renewed interest in activities. NSBW was reasonably successful with 2 PA events at Wal Mart in Dunellon and our "Burma Shave" signs were a hit again. Not many VSC's were done. I finally got the paperwork on James Myers a new member and a 5 year award for Celeste Widman, our FSO/SR

Chuck Morton FC

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## **FC REPORT 15-3, Ocala**

**By Chuck Truthan**

1. Current progress relative to District Strategic Plan.
  - a. Leadership Development
    - 2 members completed Flotilla Leadership Course on-line.
    - VFC "mentoring" program in full motion with one member being mentored. The member receives all communications normally sent to VFC, assembles the monthly FSO reports, performs the VFC staff report at monthly meeting and other common tasks of the VFC position.
    - 1 member now on National CS staff
    - 1 (new) member appointed to SO-PV
    - 2 members achieved AUXOP status
    - several AUXOP classes completed by other member(s)
  - b. Joint Planning and Mission Development
    - working with 15-1 and 15-5 on crew training
    - several members have participated with Station Yankeetown on their training days
  - c. Organization/Management
    - Fewer members holding multiple FSO positions
  - d. Support of Auxiliary National Programs
    - Monthly VSC Blitz occurring at Lake Weir
    - NSBW held at new location – Ocala Boat Basin on the Ocklawaha River
    - New FSO-PV appointed
2. Accomplishments in Recruiting and Retention.
  - Continuing work on a mail marketing to shore side residents of Lake Weir:
  - Assisting new CGAUX member from Sarasota Flotilla, who works in Ocala, with his quals.
  - Regularly contact and follow-up with e-responders and other inquiries for membership.
  - Awaiting reinstatement of member who's USPS certified letter was returned as "undeliverable" (and he'd changed his phone number without notifying anyone in the Flotilla)
3. Program performance in OPS/RBS.

- a. Depict demonstrated auxiliary support provided to USCG.
  - Patrol(s) performed with 15-5
- b. Highlight specific unique support.
  - Member Training with Station Yankeetown
4. Problems encountered/potential problems and suggested solutions.
  - Have resolved most of prior quarters issues with Gateway communications via direct contact with staff.
  - E-Responder issue: Not receiving “clearance to contact” prospective member in timely fashion.
5. Assistance required from specify; DCO/ DCOS/[DCAPT]/ EXCOM/DIRAUX.
  - No reply from DIRAUX regarding member’s claim from Deepwater Horizon incident despite several contact attempts from member to DIRAUX

Chuck Truthan FC

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## **FC REPORT 15-4, Homosassa**

**By Ned Barry**

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### Operations

We are making good progress in getting required underway hours completed. Four coxswains have completed more than the 12 hour requirement while three need a few more hours. Total underway hours for all coxswains for 2012 is 101.9. Of our 15 boat crew members, one has more than 12 hours. All others are still in process. The total underway hours for crew is 96.1. Most of these hours were served onboard facilities, other than our own, belonging to 15-01, 15-08 and with Larry Berman. We are very grateful for their assistance.

Other annual requirements to be completed are for TCT. We have 2 coxswains needing to complete 1hr TCT and 4 boat crew members who need to take the 8hr TCT instruction. There are two TCT classes scheduled during the remainder of this year, one on 8 July and the second on 13 October. Both classes will be at the 15-01 facility in Crystal River. Individuals needing this instruction are, Elaine Miranda, Al McNamara, Dee Imhoff and Bobby Ward.

As we have previously reported, there are requalification due this year for four coxswains and 1 boat crew member. David Claspell, once his facility is certified, will be seeking coxswain certification, as well. We will have a great deal of training to work through in the latter part of the summer to complete the process. We also are close to having another facility inspected for certification and this should alleviate some of the training issues.

All crew members should be aware that when going out with other flotillas that the patrol start time will probably be different from what 15-04 is. In fact, the patrols being scheduled at 15-04 have been getting underway at 0900.

### Information Systems

At our June Flotilla meeting we reviewed the flotilla website. From an Information Services standpoint, I hope there was sufficient emphasis on reporting mechanisms that everyone is more

comfortable with acquiring and using the various forms for recording activities. And very important is the use of form 7028, "Change of Member Information". It is your tool for keeping the auxiliary up-to-date on your contact information. It is available at the PDF file for forms and must be submitted manually with your signature. Please use it every time you change your address, phone and email.

#### Program Visitor

Georgia Young and Anna Hughes visited our partners on June 3rd. They distributed materials . USCG ANSC 7046 forms have been completed and submitted. A case of FL Boaters Guides was ordered from Bill Griswald at FWC. Georgia will be out of the area until September. We continue to encourage more participation from our members.

#### Public Education

Paddlesports Class conducted June 92012 with 10 Students. All Passed.

A big Thank you to lead instructor Anna Hughes and to Bob Currie for help with instruction and Mike Morin for assistance with registration & packing up. Their assistance was greatly needed & appreciated.

#### Human Resources

Currently there are two individuals that are in the process of completing the required paperwork to become members of the Flotilla. We hope to have everything from them by June 26th. As well there are 3 other individuals that have shown interest in joining our Flotilla. We are staying in touch with them. One of the participants in the Paddlesports class held last week requested information and one the USCGAUX sent.

Ned Barry FC

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### **FC REPORT 15-5, Gainsville**

**By Bruce Heavens**

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No Report

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### **FC REPORT 15-7, Suwanee**

**By Don Sorli**

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04/03/12 Took vessel Charlie Noble to station for assistance. Had problem with engine. Station maintenance Department found problem and fixed it in less than 5 min.

04/19/12 Monthly Flotilla meeting

04/27/12 "National Night Out" held in Chiefland in conjunction with Chamber of Commerce and Central Florida College. Gold side participated by bring a vessel for display.



05/01/12 Patrol scheduled and was cancelled due to high sea conditions.  
05/17/12 Monthly Flotilla meeting.  
05/22/12 Safety Patrol was held a Cedar Key in conjunction with safe boating week.  
06/05/12 Night safety patrol scheduled cancelled due to weather.  
06/12/12 Night safety patrol held completing our requirement for SAR.  
06/21/12 Monthly Flotilla meeting.

Don Sorli FC

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## FC REPORT 15-8, Hernando Beach

By John Hughes

### Safe Boating Week Activities

1. Flotilla conducted several Vessel Examinations held at Hernando County Boat Ramp, Bayport.
2. Flotilla Color Guard participated in Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to officially open the new Hernando Beach Channel (100 participants).
3. Flotilla held an Open House providing VE's, PE info and PV materials to approximately 200 neighborhood residents.
4. PV visited approximately 20 participants in PV program and provided with Certificates of Appreciation.

### Hurricane EXPO at Weeki Wachee State Park

The Flotilla participated In the Hernando County Emergency Management Hurricane Expo at Weeki Wachee State Park – speaking with and handing out safe boating materials to approximately 100 people.

### New Membership

Flotilla received seven (7) email responders, provided orientation and accepted applications for membership from five (5) prospective members, two (2) new members were sworn in.

### SAR

Flotilla responded to a request from US Coast Guard Station Yankeetown for assistance with a stranded boater on 13 June at 2230 hrs. One Facility responded with Radio Watch at Flotilla Building. The SAR was successfully completed at approximately 0300 hrs. with sailboat returned to its dock in Hernando Beach.

John Hughes



**\*\* DIVISION 15 – STAFF REPORTS \*\***

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**SO–HR Report**

**By Bruce McAllister**

Angela instructs us to send the spreadsheet, but some of the officers don't have or do not know how to use Excel, so they can just email back the contacts they have made. HR Officers receive the contact information as it comes in, but sometimes they cannot find all the names and phone numbers to do the report so I send them with the monthly email. They then can just use the email and have all the candidates in one place that they are supposed to be contacting. We are the only division that makes it this easy for them, most divisions make the officers responsible to keep their own lists.

For your reports, please call each candidate for an update status of all those listed on the List. If you have made 3 attempts to contact with no response, the e-responder should be removed. Indicate date and type of contact attempts made and also responses. For your convenience I list candidates by flotilla. You can either send me a list of the recruits with the date, type of contact, and the response or fill in the information on the Excel sheet and attach to an email to me. Thank you so much for your dedication to the future of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Bruce McAllister

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**SO–NS Report**

**By Rodney Reinhold**

Summary of Activities:

24 Verifications and 20 Discrepancies were reported by 15-1

2 Discrepancies were reported by 15-7

39 Verifications and 4 Discrepancies were reported by 15-8

After meeting with St Petersburg ANT a notice was sent out to Division 15 Flotillas on how and when to Report all Discrepancies that fall under the CRITICAL AND URGENT ATON/PATON . Upon observation call St.Petersburg Communications Center by tell # 727-824-7531, they are open 24/7.

FSO-NS offices that are vacant: 15-3 & 15-5

With the Hurricane season up on us we have to bring our AOR's up to date by checking all our ATON/PATON's as soon as possible and sending the reports to the SO-NS.

Note: be sure to use the 2012 light list. If any help is needed Please e-mail [fchiefag1@verizon](mailto:fchiefag1@verizon) or call 727-808-0815 cell#.

Rodney Reinhold

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## **SO-OP Report**

**By Charles Morton**

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1) Operations have been picking up, but we still are getting a few weather related cancellations. If you do decide to cancel please try and remain on B-1 Status. I send the schedule to the Station in advance and they may have planned their operations based on them knowing we are covering a particular area. I send them the information on Thursday or Friday so the Officer of the Day has only that data to rely on. If you do cancel please notify the station directly of your intent and your readiness status. Just so you will know what the Bravo Status is:

B-0 means can be underway immediately.

B-1 means can be underway in under an hour.

B-2 means can be underway in 1 to 2 hours.

2) Some members are again beginning to take advantage of Station Yankeetown's ride along program. Auxiliarists can go out on a CG vessel on their training day - preferably the second or fourth Thursday of each month. Contact me to participate.

3) Doing 2 boat drills with a station boat and an AUXFAC is a good learning experience as well. If the CG doesn't come to your area consider bringing a facility to their training area, usually Yankeetown or Crystal River.

4) Hurricane conditions -- the pre season drill went well, but remember we are in Condition 4 from June 1 to Nov 30 so be prepared. Have your "Grab and Go kit at the ready, vessel fueled up and keep your vehicle at 1/2 tank or better. Keep others informed if you are leaving the area so we don't waste time looking for you.

Chuck Morton

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## **SO-CM Report**

**By Richard Culp**

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June was an active month for communications. Several Auxiliary members recently met at Station Yankeetown to discuss plans and preparations fo a local HF test between the station and local units. Special thanks to the members that attended.

As hurricane season is upon us, training continues as Sector St. Petersburg had an ECO liaison class scheduled in June. Reviewing the duties of the Auxiliary representatives delegated to the local counties EOC offices will result in more productive performance and job confidence.

Additionally several members have enrolled in an introductory HF class that is being held in July

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## **SO-IS Report**

**By Larry Berman**

Going into the second half of the year, it is time to review your members as to where they stand in their yearly currencies. Make sure that we can avoid the December rush to do the necessary vessel exams, dealer visits, teaching and crew duties.

It is also a good thing to review the year to date of your flotillas. Make up the reports and review them with your FC. Look at the areas which you have in your flotilla plan for the year to see what needs to be improved and what is going well. Make this a banner year for you and for your flotilla.

The new Auxofficer II has just been released. One interesting update is that the member can fill out his/her changes and have that automatically changed in AuxOfficer. It also sends a 7028 to the FSO-IS or SO-IS to make the changes in Auxdata. Remember that the OFFICIAL changes are still in Auxdata, but this hastens Auxofficer. The information still has to be entered in Auxdata but the IS officer will have received that and be able to enter it. It does improve the time delay for the update.

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## **SO-MS Report**

**By Paul Pelletier**

No Report

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## **SO-PA Report**

**By Charles E. Truthan**

1. US Coast Guard Support: Nothing reported.
2. Flags and Ceremonies:
  1. 15-2
    - a. On Memorial Day, Chuck Morton Officiated a ceremony honoring SFC Douglas Munroe, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient who lost his life on Guadalcanal rescuing Marines who were stranded on the beach.
3. Community Support:
  1. 15-1, 2, 3, 4, 8 National Safe Boating Week report already submitted.
4. Local Media Involvement:
  1. 15-4
    - a. 10 articles were submitted to the Citrus County Chronicle during the reporting period of April 12 - May 11, 2012 resulting in nine publications. Since the first of the year through may 11, 2012 there have been 72 articles published.

b. Since May 11 one additional article, (the NSBW article with a photograph) has been submitted to the Chronicle, Homosassa Beacon and the Tampa Bay Times.

c. In addition 3 new articles have been submitted to our new website along with the NSBW article. All have been posted which makes a total of 10 that are currently posted in the "Scotty's Boating Tips" section of the website.

d. Public education and meeting announcements are submitted to the Citrus County Chronicle, Homosassa Beacon and also to the Tampa Bay Times for insertion in their

e. Citrus Sunday section. The Public education courses and meeting announcements are also submitted to the local radio stations and TV station and the number of times they are aired is difficult to track.

2. 15-3

a. PSA's sent out for ABS class 23 June

5. 15-5, -7, No report

Charles E. Truthan

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## **SO-MT Report**

**By Jim Kelley**

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A positive bump in the road, some Auxiliarists not having the courses they wanted available heroically challenged and succeeded via home study. The classroom environment does contribute to making learning easier, so these folks are to be saluted for their extra effort and success.

In some areas we sense a slowdown in member training activity. But does this perhaps relate to a slowdown in membership growth? New members are the fuel of member training.

Jim Kelley

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## **SO-PE Report**

**By Elaine R. Rodrigues\_De\_Miranda**

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Flotilla 15-01: CRYSTAL RIVER

April – BS&S 10-session w/10 students passing. 3 will return in Sept.

Public Affairs Events:

May – NSBW Activities: 1) Ready, Set, Wear-It event on the 19 May.

21 participants. 2) PFD & Safe Boating display at West Marine and radio room at Crystal River State Preserve Park on 19 & 20. 3) Crystal River Mayor proclamation in support of NSBW to Flotilla on May 14. 4) Boating Safety Coloring Contest at two local schools. 5) Join USPS in Blessing of the Fleet w/patrol vessel.

June – Info table at VE checks at Boat Ramp & West Marine

Flotilla 15-02: YANKEETOWN – No programs scheduled

Flotilla 15-03: OCALA – No info submitted

Flotilla 15-04: HOMOSASSA

April About Boating Safely offered to public (11) participants.

May All About Charts offered to public (4) participants.

June Paddlesports offered to public (10)

Flotilla 15-05: GAINESVILLE – No report

Flotilla 15-07: SUWANEE – No report.

Flotilla 15-08: HERNANDO BEACH

April 12 About Boating Safely (9) participants.

April –June 12 BS&S (10) participants

May – Hernando Beach Nav (4) participants.

May - Paddlesports (2) participants.

June – Suddenly In Command (6) participants

June – How to Use your Radio (1)

June – How to Read Nautical Chart beginning June 23

June – ABS beginning June 26

Elaine R. Rodrigues\_De\_Miranda

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## SO-PV Report

By Mary Patton

1. Was appointed to the SO-PV staff officer position effective June 5, 2012. I expect I will receive the SO-PV records at the Division meeting on July 7. I Sent an email to all FSO-PVs in the Division, asking for their April, May and June reports. Six flotillas have sent in reports, and one flotilla did not respond to several emails requesting reports. Several flotillas are in the process of qualifying new Program Visitors. Supply issues with ANSC continue to concern PVs regarding their dwindling supply of brochures and pamphlets.

2. Flotillas were very active this year during National Safe Boating Week (NSBW).

-15-1, Crystal River, reported that due to the supply issues with the ANSC, they limited

their visit to dealers to maintain the brochures supply for priority partners (see photos from 15-1's NSBW kickoff).

-15-2, Yankeetown, set up a booth at the local WalMart and placed signs along the highway to their boat ramp, similar to the 'Burma Shave' signs from the '50s and '60s.

They report that boaters in the area thought the signs were a great idea.

-15-3, Ocala, reported mailing out PE flyers to all program partners announcing the Flotilla's June 23 ABS course. Program Visitors followed up with visits to partners during NSBW to make sure the flyers were posted and encouraged the partners to promote the course with their customers. On May 19, members participated in NSBW activities at

the Ocala Boat Basin, providing Vessel Safety Checks, boating safety talks and a PA booth. Marlinspike lessons were provided, as well (see attached photos).

-15-4, Homosassa, reported cleaning their building and organizing materials, clothing, PFD's and readying materials and supplies for NSBW kickoff on May 19. Florida Boater's Guides were ordered through Bill Griswold from the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

-15-5, Gainesville—no report received.

-15-7, Suwannee River, nothing to report

-15-8, Hernando Beach, reported they held an Open House and participated in the ribbon cutting

ceremony on May 20 as part of NSBW to acknowledge the completion of the Hernando County Dredge Project. They provided a Color Guard for the opening ceremonies and representatives from the US Coast Guard attended.

3. I encourage all Vessel Examiners to become cross-qualified as Program Visitors.

4. I encourage PVs to suggest partners who should receive a Certificate of Appreciation, and to notify their Public Affairs staff officers to publish an article about these 'star' partners to call attention to both the partner and the Auxiliary.

Mary Patton

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**SO-VE Report**

**By Tony Soper**

No report

Tony Soper

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**SO-CS Report**

**By Diane Berman**

1. I am continuing work on the website for the Division and also on the 15-5 website (until the FSO-CS returns)

2. The FSO-CS of 15-3, Randy Patton, attended the Aux 04 Class in San Diego.

3. There has been a significant update to AUXOFFICER. I suggest you take a look and familiarize yourself with the use of this valuable tool. There is a "Quick Start Guide" link in the lower left corner. SO-CS officers, I suggest you pass this info on to your FSO-CS officers. I encourage all of you to give a briefing to members and staff periodically on the use of this tool. Remember, there is a link to it, at the top of every WOW website under AUX MEMBERS.

<https://auxofficer.cgaux.org/auxoff/unitstaff.php>

Notice of this has been sent to all of the Division's CS Officers.

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## **NSBW Coordinator**

**By Andy Render**

As busy as Division 15 has been for the last month or so, NSBW could well have stood for: Nearly everyone Stayed Busy & Worked.

It's difficult to say exactly how many central Florida boaters we reached during National Safe Boating Week. But leaning toward the conservative side, you would have to say we influenced "TONS" of people!

TV broadcasts, radio spots, newspaper articles and even a flashing roadside billboard were used—Now add on the coloring contests held in local schools, the numerous boat ramp presentations given to high school students, Boy Scout groups, and kayak and canoe clubs.

Well, lets not forget the dozens of Vessel Safety Check Stations that were set up along both the coast and inland. Did we mention the displays set up at local stores, boat dealers, marinas and boat ramps? AND there was the "Ready-Set-Inflate" demonstration, along with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – officially opening the new Hernandon Beach Channel. Many of these events were well supported by the active duty people from Coast Guard Station Yankeetown.

There was an About Boating Safety course and a class on Teaching Nautical Charts. At one of the safety booths, marlinespike was taught to all those interested. Additionally, there was a safety presentation to a large boating club and an open house held at a local flotilla building. All of these events were taking place while the Division did not skip a beat in conducting our regularly scheduled safety patrols.

JUST HOW BUSY WERE WE ?—

We estimate that our division donated about 500 hours during the week and influenced around 1500 boaters. That does not include the folks who heard about boating safety on the radio, TV, or from our flashing road sign.

You might say that in Division 15: Nearly everyone Stayed Busy & Worked

Andy Render



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**Diversity**

**By Richard Roberts**

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No report

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**Materials**

**By Winfred Fickett**

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No report

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**WEBMASTER**

**By Charles Morton**

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If you haven't done so, check out the Division webpage at <http://www.a07015.uscgaux>.

## Misfortune on Withlacoochee Bay

by Bob Seguin, Ocala, FL, 15-3



Bob Seguin

On Thursday, June 14, 2012, Jeff Barry of Yankeetown Flotilla 15-2 and I were out on a U.S. Coast Guard training patrol with BM2 Danny Hart and MK1 Joe Majewski, USCG. We were using two boats, a 20' and a 27'. I rode in the 20-footer. Just before departing, we received an emergency distress call from a 62-foot shrimp boat taking on water out in Withlacoochee Bay in the vicinity of green marker 17, about 2-3 miles out of the Withlacoochee River, on the west coast of Florida. They scrambled the 27' and went after it. We were sent out as a follow-up so the 27 footer could take the fishermen on board to shore. The shrimpers had beached the boat on a shoal so it wouldn't sink and it was listing to starboard about 45 degrees. When we arrived, the fishermen were being taken ashore and we stayed to survey the situation. After we made sure the vessel was securely beached on the shoal and would not move, we noticed a gasoline smell and saw the sheen of it on the water. We reported this to Coast Guard Station Yankeetown and we asked if we should place an oil boom around the vessel. They agreed, so we returned to the dock to get 5 lengths of boom, each about 40 feet long. We tied the boom to the stern of our boat to tow it to the scene, since it was too heavy to carry in the boat. On the way back out, one of the links broke, so the 27-footer retrieved it and followed us out with the remaining boom. At the scene, they came alongside our boat and we retrieved it and linked it to the remaining boom segments and proceeded to ring the boom around the beached vessel. It was shoaled about 50 yards out of the marked channel, so it was not a hazard to navigation. When the scene had been secured, we headed back to port. What started out to be a routine patrol, turned out to be an exciting day for us.



Left, Coxswain MK1 Joe Majewski, USCG, with Auxiliarist Bob Seguin, right.

Photos by Jeff Barry, USCGAUX, Flotilla 15-2









15-3: L to R, Barbara Bickley, Vonnie Robinson, and Bob Seguin learning the fine art of marlinespike.  
Photo by Mary Patton



15-3: Bob Seguin performing a VSC on a pontoon boat at the Ocala Boat Basin for NSBW.  
Photo by Mary Patton

# Meeting Pictures — Taken by Charles Truthan











## National Safe Boating Week Activities 15-1, Crystal River



### **“Ready, Set , Wear It”**

On May 19th at noon members, friends, guests and the Mayor of Crystal River and his wife, participated in the “photo-op” on the dock at our Radio Room. We had 21 people for the event.

Photo by Jerry Cubbison, FSO-PA, 15-1



May 19th Mayor James Farley of Crystal River presented a Proclamation to Linda Jones, Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 15-1 in support of National Safe Boating Week. This took place at the Crystal River Preserve State Park dock next to the Radio Room.

Photo by Jerry Cubbison, FSO-PA, 15-1



More photos from Crystal River 15-1.



Photos By Jodi Love  
Linda and Don Jones Cooking Memorial Day lunch for the patrol group and some of the Yankeetown Coasties.



**“Blessing Of The Fleet”**

Our patrol participated in the “Blessing of the Fleet” sponsored by the U.S. Power Squadron. It took place in Kings Bay, Crystal River  
Linda Jones, Steve Hampton, Al Alborano and Don Jones