



**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT, SOUTHERN REGION
DIVISION 15**



**2022 THIRD QUARTER OFFICER REPORTS
FOR DIVISION MEETING 28 SEPTEMBER 2022
AMBROSIA DINER, QUEENSBURY, NY**

DIVISION BRIDGE

DCDR Gary Slusher

It seems like it was just yesterday that I stated the boating season is here and now we're wrapping up things post Labor Day, unofficially the last day of summer and the main boating season up north.

During the height of the season, we've kept our members focused on our missions and remained steadfast with our goal to promote safe boating for the public.

While our membership has been challenged with maintaining our objective due to limited numbers of involved members, we've adapted and remained flexible to consistently connect with the public year over year.

Flotilla meetings occurred in person but virtual meetings continued as well due to health concerns.

Our division members continue to work to keep current their CA, OP, VE, PV qualifications throughout the quarter. We're looking good to have things completed before time runs out.

The AUP with Norwich University through our Burlington VT flotilla has taken shape. A formal stand up ceremony will occur next month. Great hard work with all those involved.

A commitment with the Twin Rivers BSA council has been formalized with us at a division/flotilla level with an AUXSCOUT program. More details to follow as this work in progress develops.

Our division was awarded the NACO 3 Star Award.

Inquires continue through the AAMS platform for potential new members. Leads are being referred to each FSO-HR. They're doing their best to recruit new members to stay viable as a Flotilla.

Our next meeting which will include our election is Wednesday September 28th at 1800 hrs at the Ambrosia Diner in Queensbury, NY at exit 19 of I87.

Our Change of Watch is scheduled for Saturday November 12th at 1200 hours at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls NY.

Gary Slusher, DCDR

Semper Paratus

VCDR Seth Hopkins

We are in the election season at the District (just completed), Division (underway this meeting) and Flotilla (imminent) levels. Congratulations to our DIV15 Auxiliarist Extraordinaire Mike West on his election as District Commodore! We all look forward to his particular brand of servant-leadership and to the aplomb he brings to all his AUX service.

In electing officers and appointed staff, we complete a year of service and look to a new year as an elected or appointed leader, or as an Auxiliarist delivering a mission as part of the team. Keep an eye on the Big Picture; it is all too easy to get disheartened and discouraged in the weeds. Before carrying out a mission, there are materials to read, trainings to complete, qualifications to achieve, preparations to make, communication to establish, and programs to plan. After the mission, there is paperwork to fill out. All of this is necessary and appropriate, and in fact contributes to mission success. But in between the before and the after is ... the Mission. This is what resonates with us as individuals. Remember why *what you do* is important to you, to the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard, the boating public, and the United States of America.

Our upcoming Change of Watch, again so ably chaired by Lynn Enny, will be an in-person opportunity for us to center or re-center our individual and unit (flotilla, division) Auxiliary activities on that Big Picture of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. The National senior leadership web page www.cgaux.org/leadership/ expands on those core values:

- Honor – *Integrity is our standard. We demonstrate uncompromising ethical conduct and moral behavior in all of our personal and organizational actions. We are loyal and accountable to the public trust.*
- Respect – *We value our diverse membership. We treat each other and those we serve with fairness, dignity, respect, and compassion. We encourage individual opportunity and growth. We encourage creativity through empowerment. We work as a team.*
- Devotion to Duty – *We are volunteers who seek responsibility, accept accountability, and are committed to the successful achievement of our organizational goals. We exist to serve. We serve with pride.*

All DIV15 Auxiliarists are to be commended on making the choice to step up as a volunteer in “the best trained and most valued maritime volunteer organization in the world”. We are part of Team Coast Guard, and your individual contribution is key to the Team’s success in its work.

IPDCDR Charles Pound

2022 missions continue to be up and running in a pre-covid state more or less. Lower covid numbers and relaxed regulations allowing in person meetings for VE, PE and RBS missions as well as Operations have brought our mission levels back up to normal levels of support.

DCDR Slusher and VCDR Hopkins continued to inform the membership of changes in procedures and training so that 2022 has been a success. The 3rd Quarter meeting is the second face to face meeting since Covid began.

The District Procedures Guide will be updated later this year under the DDC-A and DDC-L Positions to assist members in job performance and paperwork flow.

Looking forward to seeing all in person again.

Respectfully submitted

Charlie Pound, IPDCDR

FLOTILLAS

15-02 Burlington FC Brendan Day

New Membership - We will have 2 new Auxiliary members join onto our Flotilla through the Norwich University AUP program by beginning/middle of October, with the AUP Program now being spearheaded by Charlie Poltenson. We also have two new prospective members (Andrew Squires and Victoria Chung) whose paperwork is currently being processed at this time.

-VE's in the Flotilla are current with their yearly requirements. Members that have their CORE training expiring soon have been working to remain current.

-3rd of July Fireworks at Station Burlington were a success. Thank you to all that helped out this year to make this event successful.

-Coast Guard Day was celebrated this year on Juniper Island. Bravo Zulu to Nye, Ring, and Bernier for their assistance standing watch and preparing meals for the Gold Side. The Flotilla plans on making this a yearly event going forward.

-Robert White will be leading the new AUXCYBER Task Force and is currently accepting new members that are interested in joining on.

-15-02 is down to 1 Aux Boat at this time

15-04 Albany FC Bert Dodge

Members -19
Active Members -16

Prospective Members – 2
Facilities - 3

As Flotilla Commander of 15-04, I am excited to share the efforts of members and cross-divisional collaborations in achieving unit and division goals, maintaining currency in qualification requirements, implementing new endeavors, and developing relationships with diverse groups in different parts of the flotilla's area of responsibility. This quarter, the VFC, FS-FN, FS-SR continue to work with me to comply with financial and monthly reporting requirements while the IPFC continues to provide guidance and support.

I am happy to announce that the two new members, Mike McNamara and Paul Franchini are formally enrolled in the Auxiliary Program and are engaging in self-paced study of core training courses and in courses of their designated specialties. John Bushey, a relative new member has achieved BQ status. This quarter, we continue have prospective new members attend monthly flotilla meetings.

This quarter, under VFC 15-09 Doug Auer's leadership, the Division 15 Aux Scout program has made significant progress with the signing of the Division 15 BSA/Auxiliary Charter, multiple site inspections and youth protection training. Albany Yacht Club and Tri-State Emergency Management have generously offered the use of their meeting rooms and facilities (team's boats and Bert Dodge's facilities). Several 15-04 and 15-09 flotilla members have taken the youth protection training (Auer, Robbins, Dodge, Fang, and Hoffman) and will participate in Aux Scout program in some capacity. On September 6, 2022, approximately 16 youths (ages 14 to 20), 6 BSA leaders and parents and 5 Auxiliary members participated in the 1st Troop Meeting held on at the Albany Yacht Club with a simultaneous Zoom Conference. Several additional youths have

expressed interest in participating in AuxScout program and several members of Flotilla 15-07 may participate in the boat crew/operation phase of the AuxScout Program.

IPFC Hoffman and I joined DCDR Slusher, Enny and Townsend in the annual July 2, 3, 2022 Lake Champlain patrol mission. Our May 25, 2022 National Boat Safety press conference has increased the visibility of the USCG Auxiliary among the local county, state, and federal enforcement agencies. During the week of September 12 through September 15, 2022, these agencies will conduct operational drills and 15-04 members will be available to assist with non-operational activity. A 15-04 facility received patrol orders for ATON/PATON verifications on the upper Hudson River to be conducted on September 22, 2022, with me participating in certification activities as an ATON verifier. On September 26, 2022, boat crew recertification exams for 15-04 members will be conducted on two 15-04 facilities under patrol orders.

IPFC Hoffman continues to develop relationships with local businesses as a Program Visitor and the Public Outreach Coordinator. These program visits resulted in requests for vessel examinations in diverse areas of Division 15. On August 6, 2022, Hoffman and I traveled to Baldwinsville NY (Syracuse), after multiple requests, to conduct 122 vessel examinations. On August 22, 2022, Hoffman and I conducted a total of 286 inspections on Lake George and Saratoga Lake. On August 24, 2022, Hoffman and I conducted a total of 114 vessel inspections on Lake Pleasant and two summer children's camps. On September 10, 2022, Hoffman, Kalfin, Bushey and Rick Robinson (15-09) joined me to conduct 75 inspections at the Flight of the Locks. On August 4, 2022, Fang participated in the Guilderland YMCA's Family Fun Day and shared the USCG publications about U.S. Coast Guard careers, Inky the Whale, and Sam the Otter with kids under 12 and their parents.

The USCG Academy Admissions program's fall recruitment season started in July and August 2022 with the planning of the fall college fairs in coordination with the Academy Admissions office and with the Upstate NY/ Vermont AAP Coordinator. The Albany based AAP Partners (Hoffman, Kalfin, Fang, Paul Dougall) and a Lower Hudson Valley AAP partner will be covering approximately 17-18 colleges from Cornwall to Saratoga in September and October 2022. This year, Hoffman and Fang will be covering two new fairs in Kingston and in Hudson, expanding our area of responsibility. West and Howarth (15-09) and Fang (observer) are expected to participate in Congressional Academy Night panel discussions in September and conduct applicant interviews in October and November. Albany AAP outreach efforts has come to the attention of the S Directorate, who will be providing guidance and linkage with the Academy's marketing team. We expect to collaborate with the Academy and S Directorate with the upcoming Academy Introduction Mission recruitment season.

FS-DV Fang continues to attend monthly Auxiliary Women's Initiative leadership meetings to increase awareness and develop programs. On July 6, 2022, Debby Howard from 8th Western Rivers presented on Parliamentary Procedures. On September 13, 2022, COMO Susan Thurlow presented on Accessorizing Women's Uniforms. The Auxiliary WLI Chapter was also invited to submit goals and milestones for affinity groups to be included as part of the USCG Auxiliary 2022-2028 Strategic Plan.

VFC Sacks continue to lead the TCO monthly drills prior the monthly flotilla meetings. Fellowship activities continue after monthly meetings, sharing personal stories and triumphs. Hoffman and Fang continue to participate in 15-09 monthly meetings. This quarter's program success is attributed to every 15-04 flotilla member and close collaborations with 15-07, 15-09, and 15-10 auxiliary personnel. I thank VFC Sacks, IPFC Hoffman, FS-HR/SR/PE/OP Kuhne, FS-VE Gabriels, FS-FN Tremblay and FS-DV Fang for their unwavering support and guidance in complying with the USCG Auxiliary Program mandates.

15-07 Kingston FC Alexander Keenan

No report received.

15-08 Plattsburgh FC Peggy Burgess

Received; Nothing to report.

15-09 Sacandaga Mohawk FC Dan Miller

FC - Following an unexpected resignation, much of the quarter has been spent re-engaging with members and recruiting Flotilla Staff Officers after a long two years of COVID-19 mandates. Attempts were made to have outdoor meetings scheduled at Mohawk Valley Marina, with one successful and two canceled due to extreme heat or torrential rain. Work continues on rebuilding social connections and engaging member training.

FN - Financial reports have been filed monthly. Ellen has notified the membership that dues are required by September 30th.

Response

CM - Kevin Dorsey conducted monthly AUXNET repeater drills, and invites members who are available on the third Thursday of each month to join in.

OP - The 2022 Water SKI show season has concluded, 5 patrols were completed and three canceled due to weather. It was noted that boat traffic on the Mohawk River was below normal levels.

Prevention

MT- John Ravas coordinated and co-taught with Mary Lou for member training on AUXDATA II

NS - Because of an injury to DSO-NS Al Olson, Art Kramer, ADSO-NS will also not be coming to Albany to assist in a PATON verification operation. We did receive orders for the mission but declined them in light of the injury. No other NS activity is planned for the remainder of 2022

PV - Lynda conducted several program visits as COVID restrictions were lifted.

FSO-VE - A very successful VE event was held on Sunday, June 26 from 9 am to 1pm at the Saratoga Lake State Boat launch. It was initiated by the SLPID Lake District Administrator and resulted in 62 vessel exams conducted. 6 CG AUX attended. There was a very positive response from the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District and the public.

Ellen Brown and Jack and Lynnda Hochmuth represented 15-09. Plans to do another VE event at a State Launch in the future were discussed,

FSO-PE - Public education has been on hold due to COVID and summer operations; however, 1 America's Boating Class has been scheduled at Burnt Hills HS.

Logistics

AS - We have completed all the necessary paper work for a new BSA Sea Scout Ship creation. Now that it is formed it is the first Sea Scout Ship in the Twin Rivers council district. Twin Rivers covers all of NorthEastern NY from south of Albany to Ulster County the Vermont and Canadian borders. The Ship designation will be "1415" related to the chartering 014-15 USCG AUX Division. We already have 20+ BSA Scout members signed up and administrative positions filled. I have been advised there are 3 young women who have expressed an interest in joining the Ship. The Ships leadership has ordered all of the required BSA uniforms, patches and accessories for the Scout members.

S - Mary Lou and John Ravas held an on-line seminar on AUXDATA II for member training.

CS - John Ravas has canvassed membership for content, updates to follow.

PA - 1 Division 15 public affairs event for the Coast Guard Birthday was attended by 15-09 FC and VFC.

PB - Sage has been working on content amidst a busy schedule.

MA - John reports minimal decrease in supplies due to limited activity levels.

HR - Doug Auer has been appointed FSO-HR for reporting purposes, but we are recruiting for a longer term prospect.

DV - Keven Dorsey has kept the Flotilla up to date on USCG monthly diversity observances.

SR - After a two month gap, Michelle Robbins accepted the Flotilla SR position.

15-10 Lake George FC Lee Townsend

15 members.

Enny and Pound continue standing watch for Station Burlington
Pound, Enny, Slusher and Townsend assisted in the July 3 fireworks event at Station Burlington.

Currently we have two vessels as assets for operations (Gary Slusher & Charlie Pound)

Two boating courses given - Cossyuna and Indian Lake

Glass completed a boating course for 6 individuals.

16 VE to date; VE have been completed by Glass, Pound, Enny and Townsend.

Slusher, Enny and Townsend worked in completing check rides for two individuals.

Currently all individuals up to date with core training- two needing to complete training prior to the end of the year.

STAFF OFFICERS

FN Finance SO-FN Ellen Brown

3rd Quarter

A detailed report will be provided to any member upon request.

Balance Forward \$ 7,416.82

Total Receipts 156.75

Total Disbursements - 420.25

Ending Balance \$ 7,153.32

A detailed report is attached following the last page of staff officer reports.

SR Secretary/Records SO-SR Seth Hopkins

Minutes of Q2 are provided separately. I respectfully encourage all FSO-SRs, if they have not already done so, to please begin using the new fillable PDF version of Form a7017 for the record of your unit (flotilla) meetings going forward. This was provided by the DCDR to the FCs (with copies to the VFCs) on 13 August 2022. Please let me know if I can assist. Thank you.

RESPONSE

OP Operations SO-OP Charles Pound

1. Operations were in full swing this past quarter, with MOM patrols, check rides, Station Burlington support and Aton checking. Being able to conduct missions face to face has brought us back to more or less normal levels with no issues to speak of.

2. Most members in the OPs program have the needed hours now and those that don't are scheduled to get them in the next few weeks so we should not have an issue with new REYRs.

3. The Operations season was up and running with Covid restrictions applicable where necessary. Latest guidance is on our website. The restrictions are such it should not impact our abilities in a substantial manner.

4. PPE inspections continue to be an issue, with some Flotillas not keeping records correctly or current. Should a problem occur, the records will be critical in determining if further action is required.

5. Uniforms for OPs include the untucked ODU as well as the new CGA shirt and pants. Further uniforms need to be checked for correctness and be worn correctly. Failure to do so will cancel the mission. The new Polo shirt and Tactical Pants are getting good reviews.

CM Communications SO-CM Fred Brown

Comms remained active and productive during our summer months. VHF Comms Monthly Net was active under NECO Kevin Dorsey 15-09. HF COMMs was well attended by DIST1 North and South and several stations from Dist.5, Dist.7, Dist. 8, Dist. 9, and Dist. 11S. We held a Zoom meeting after each Dist. 1 net which further helped in the training and fellowship aspects of our Comms skills. Anyone interested in joining the Zoom meetings can contact me
And I will send connect details. All antennas are up and running as of this date.

P R E V E N T I O N

MS Marine Safety SO-MS (vacant)

MT Member Training SO-MT Lynn Enny

Boat Crew/Coxswain Check Rides.

At the time of this report. Seven members have successfully completed check rides. Four more are scheduled for later in the month.

Core Training

An email was sent to members who will have some or all Core Training courses expiring at the end of December. Please encourage the members to do this prior to December. A reminder will be sent every couple of weeks to remind members.

Below is the link to find information on who needs to update Core Training. This needs to be done no later than 15Decmeber2022.

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=m-dept>

Competency Maintenance

Reports will be sent to members to show what hours/count each of their qualifications show.

NS Navigation Systems SO-NS Alan Nye

ADSO-NS-ANT Burlington Alan Nye

There are 19 PATONs to report for Lake Champlain. One of these has been visited, the report form is needing to be filled out. Abigail, my vessel is the only AUX Facility on Lake Champlain is in the shop for repairs. I am hopeful to get it repaired by the meeting. If not I will work with Chief Smith to get the ANT Section to assist. Two PATONs on Memphormagog need to be redone. I have been out of town for a week and have some family issues I am dealing with so have let these slip a little but will get on them big tiime in the next couple of weeks.

PV Partner Visitation SO-PV Chris Hoffman

As of today we now have 827 visits, which is above last year at this time.I am striving to have over 1000 visits with this fine fall season.I will be emailing the FSO P,V, from each flotilla to send me their total program visits from each meeting and to encourage their members to beat their own visits from last year.

VE Vessel Exams SO-VE Rich Gabriels

No report received.

PE Public Education SO-PE (vacant)

LOGISTICS

IS Information Systems SO-IS Lynn Enny

Please see MT report earlier in this document.

CS Communications Svcs SO-CS Ruth Ring

Uploaded Division Quarterly minutes to Division website.

15-2 Uploaded April and June 2022 newsletter to website.

Added updates to flotilla Facebook page.

15-4 Nothing to report.

15-7 No report.

15-8 No report.

15-9 No report.

15-10 No report.

PA Public Affairs SO-PA Charles Poltenson

The following is a summation of PA activities from the Division:

15-02: No Report

15-04: No Report

15-07: No Report

15-08: No Report

15-09: No Report

15-10: July 4th weekend a PA Safe Boating booth was staffed at Empire State Plaza.

Division PA:

Final planning took place via phone and in-person meetings at the USS Slater in preparation for the CG Day event. A speech was prepared, but due to vehicle problems I was unable to attend the event. Arrangements were made to get speech to the venue and DCDR Slusher graciously covered the event.

The Division Store successfully concluded its run and is now shut and the items are being processed for shipping in the next several weeks to those who placed orders.

PB Publications SO-PB (vacant)

MA Materials SO-MA Charles Pound

1. With a bit of scrambling, our members were able to get the needed PPE (epirbs especially) to conduct the needed patrols and training this past quarter. The PPE list will be updated shortly and sent to Flotilla Commanders for needs in the upcoming year. With a head start now we hopefully can keep everyone functional as needed.

2. PE Classes have been taught in person this past quarter using the new books. These are less expensive than the previous version enabling either lower pupil costs or higher margins. The books are readily available.

3. All other public facing materials, books etc. are available to those distributing it to the public. No supply issues noted.

HR Human Resources SO-HR Gary Slusher

Please see info within DCDR Report on page 1

DV Diversity SO-DV Lee Townsend

Town Hall meetings continue to be held monthly.

Flotillas within the division are encouraged to attend / either leadership or staff officer.

Helen Fang continues to represent our division in Women's Leadership Initiative events as well as informing us of upcoming topics.

In addition she participates in promoting the USCG Academy program and the AIM mission. In so doing she has been instrumental in organizing representation at college and community events.

CA Culinary Assistance SO-CA (vacant)

ANCILLARY MISSIONS

STANT Burlington Liaison Lynn Enny & Alan Nye

Station Burlington has appreciated the dedication of the three radio watchstanders who assist at the station.

ANT Saugerties Liaison Curt Fleck

D-15 (South) also known as Kingston 15-07 had plans to do some training with the personnel at ANTSAUG. Unfortunately, due to a lack of OPFAC availability within the Flotilla, this didn't take place. So we wasted an entire boating season. No other activity with the station took place.

Emergency Response Coord. Jim Canavan

Canadian CGAUX Liaison (vacant)

Honor Guard Chair (vacant)

Change of Watch Chair Lynn Enny

Saturday- 12 November 2022 at The Queensbury Hotel. More details will be available soon.

Awards Chair (vacant)

Vermont State Liaison Officer Robert White

- Met with Sgt. Jenna Reed from VT Fish & Wildlife to discuss first VT boating course and activities planned at Apple Island Marina for June, July, August and September.
- Cancelled June Safe Boating Class at Apple Island due to lack of enrolled students..
- Conducted. July VT Safe Boating Class at Apple Island Marina.
- Cancelled August Safe Boating Class due to lack of enrolled students.
- Conducted VSC's at The Moorings Marina in Malletts Bay, Colchester, VT.
- Conducted RSBVP at The Moorings Marina in Malletts Bay, Colchester, VT.

- Conducted RSBVP at the Burlington Waterfront Marina Store, Burlington, VT.
- E-mail discussions with Vermont Boat and Marine Association on ongoing Lake Champlain water quality testing locations and schedule.
- Participated in Lake Champlain Burlington Waterfront (by Waste Treatment Plant and North Beach) water quality testing.
- Ongoing e-mails regarding Sector Northeast Cybersecurity activities.
- Scheduled interview to renew with USCG Sector Northern New England Cyber Task Force.
- Nothing more to report.

**DETAILED QUARTERLY REPORT
FROM SO-FN ELLEN BROWN
FOLLOWS THIS PAGE**





**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
 First Coast Guard District
 Southern Region
 DIVISION 15**



QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
 3rd Quarter
 July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022

BEGINNING BALANCE: 1 JULY 2022 \$ 7,416.82

RECEIPTS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Deposit</u>		
9/12/2022	Flotilla 15-04	2022 1st & 2nd Q Dues	45.75
9/12/2022	Flotilla 15-09	2022 1st Quarter Dues	55.50
9/15/2022	Flotilla 15-07	2022 1st Q Dues	55.50

TOTAL RECEIPTS -----(+) 156.75

DISBURSEMENTS:

<u>CK#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	
1051	7/1/2022	James Canavan	Radio items	280.00
1052	7/31/2022	USCG Aux First Dist(SR)	2022 1Q Dues	123.75
1053	8/31/2022	USCG Aux First Dist(SR)	2022 2Q Dues	16.50

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----(-) -420.25

ENDING BALANCE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 \$ 7,153.32

I hereby swear under penalties of perjury that transactions described above were completed and are true and accurate.

Ellen M. Brown
 ELLEN M. BROWN SO-FN