

Waypoints

DIVISION 15, 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION
1st Quarter 2018

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Division 15 Change of Watch

The Division 15 Change of Watch took place on November 11, 2017 at the Red Apple Inn in Heber Springs. Captain Roxanne Tamez, Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Lower Mississippi River attended and swore-in the Division 15 leadership for 2018.

Commander Dan Turner began his second term as Division Commander and said, "I want to thank you who served during 2017. We overcame many challenges and you continued on to lead the way. To take a leadership position at the flotilla, division or any level, you provide a beacon for the all of us and especially the new members to follow. Our thank you certificates from the division included a watermark of the Cape May Lighthouse as a symbol of that beacon that helps sailors to safety and shines for your mates to see and follow. As you know, the Cape May Lighthouse is also the beacon to the USCG training center. Thank you for those that have continued to serve and to those that have stepped up to the plate. We will continue to work together to provide quality to everything we do."



Kevin Rardin (Vice Commander) and Dan Turner (Division Commander) are sworn in by Captain Roxanne Tamez and Commodore David Starr. Photo by Bill Flanigan.

Life Jacket Loaner Station Enters Fourth Year

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission recently brought Flotilla 15-8 a new supply of life jackets for the loaner station established at the I-30 boat ramp near Auxiliary Station North Little Rock about four years ago.



Photo by Greg Deen

Life jacket sizes available for loan range from infant to Adult-Super and are available for use by anyone that gets to the ramp and realizes that they don't have enough or that a child has outgrown their jacket.

The station receives regular use and the Commission re-supplies it with about 8 jackets a year and in 2017 a few boaters donated their own jackets by leaving them at the station. Extra life jackets are stored at the station and members routinely add fresh ones when needed.



Michael Strobel, SO-OP presenting the 2018 Operations Refresher Workshop to 25 members at Camp Robinson in January, 2018. Photo by Blake Sasse

Flotilla 15-3 Report

The flotilla held a Tennessee boating safety class at Bass Pro in December. There continues to be interest in qualifying as aircrew. We are looking to be able to offer aircrew training in Millington in 2018 if possible. Two memberships are in process of DirAux approval. The flotilla represented the Auxiliary at Veterans Day events in the Memphis area, and also took part in wreath laying in December. Members continue to travel to take part in operations training when possible and the help is much appreciated. We are looking to schedule Crew Academy and BS & S class during the winter months. The Change of Watch was scheduled for Saturday January 20th, but the government shutdown meant that we could not meet for either the COW or for our January flotilla meeting.

Flotilla 15-5 Report

The flotilla completed its Change of Watch and has sworn in staff officers for 2018. Three new members have been sworn in and will soon be assigned mentors. Vessel exam stations are planned to begin at local boat ramps in April or May. Jodie Haralson was sworn in as FC and Mina Alber was sworn in as VFC for 2018.

Flotilla 15-6 Report

The flotilla conducted our Change of Watch on December 13, 2017 at Western Sizzlin in Russellville, AR. The flotilla contributed \$500 to Hurricane Disaster Effort in Texas and Florida. Two new members have completed their mandatory training and have begun boatcrew training.



Flotilla 15-6 Change of Watch, 2018 Staff. From Left to Right: Joe Peldun, Shiree Peldun, Ed Meyer, Blaine Selby, Myra Harris, Dennis Carl Harris, Jayson Simmons.

Flotilla 15-7 Report

In 2017 the flotilla worked the Hot Springs Boat and RV show and held boater education classes at the station, National Park Community College and Lakeside High School. Along with regular patrols on Lake Hamilton, the flotilla also participated in the "Trash Bash" shoreline cleanup event.



David Keyser swears in Shane Hardin as Flotilla Commander and Doris Ayers as Flotilla Vice Commander for 2018. Photo by Wanda Thorp.

Flotilla 15-8 Report

In 2017, we disenrolled two members, enrolled four members and gained two members by transfer.



*Frank Wilson, 2018 Flotilla
Commander*

Western and had three new boatcrew members become qualified and another that has done everything but the QE. FSO-NS Chris Cooke helped the flotilla complete, for the first time in several years, a check of all navigation aids in our area on the Arkansas River from mile 2-171.

Greg Deen, FSO-PE, organized 23 boater education classes with 553 students, of whom 478 graduated. Several articles about the Auxiliary were published in local papers this year.



*James Harrison 2018
Flotilla Vice
Commander*

Jeremy Kurck conducted CPR and first aid training for the flotilla and is now leading an emergency medical responder class.

Frank Wilson was sworn in as the Flotilla Commander at the Change of Watch ceremony on December 5, 2017 held in North Little Rock. The oath of office was conducted by Lt. Kyle Reese, Chief of Inspections at Sector Lower Mississippi River. Bill Van Cleve was given a special recognition award for his outstanding and long-term service to the flotilla's operations.

Operations had an outstanding year under FSO-OP Bill Van Cleve whose leadership will be sorely missed. The flotilla was the second-ranking flotilla in underway hours in 8th

Division Marine Safety Report

Flotilla 15-7 has been working with the Trash Bash Council and had their annual spring clean-up "Trash for Cash" on February 24th. Despite thunderstorms, they worked with a team of 12 volunteers to pick up trash along the Ouachita River. Work at other clean-up sites were postponed due to the weather.

2018 Division Meeting Dates

April 14	Russellville
July 14	Possibly by WEBEX
October 13	Location to be determined
November 13	Division Change of Watch

2018 Officers and Staff

DCDR	Dan Turner
VCDR	Kevin Rardin
IPDCR	Pat Lewis
SO-CM	William Flanigan
SO-CS	Blake Sasse
SO-DV	Kevin McDonald
SO-FN	Clara Myer
SO-HR	Pat Lewis
SO-IS	Willem Loupatty
SO-MA	Joe Zehler
SO-MS	Pat Lewis
SO-MT	Vacant
SO-NS	Frank Wilson
SO-OP	Michael Strobel
SO-PA	Vacant
SO-PB	Blake Sasse
SO-PE	Vacant
SO-PV	Vacant
SO-SR	Pat Lewis
SO-VE	Vacant

Waypoints is the official quarterly newsletter of Division 15, 8th Western Rivers Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Photos and articles may be submitted by January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th.

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Division Change of Watch Photos (Photos by Bill Flanigan)

