We have had a busy summer here on Big Pine Key with Flotilla 13-03. From an operation standpoint, two of our facilities and crews worked two separate “Swim around Key west” events with Station Key West. Three of our facilities and crews worked a SAR (Search and rescue) with Station Marathon. The “Aux Chefs” have cooked for nine days in July, August and September in the galley for Station Marathon.

More recently, three of our facilities with Coxswain and Crew answered a call from Station Marathon and were on standby to work the power boat, races, on the Oceanside of the Seven Mile Bridge however, the races have now been canceled.

Lastly, we have six new trainees who have completed the dockside training started in May and are going to have their first water training session the week of September 16.

Our first meeting of this season will be returning to the AARP (Dallas MacDonald) Senior Citizen Center September 12, 2013 (Officers at 1800, Coffee and cookies 1900 and General meeting at 1930).

Above Photos taken during Mini Lobster Season 2013. Left shows Virgil & Jo Allmond and Right is Ken Nelson.
The following article contains excerpts from the letter forwarded to us from Chief Graham (Station Marathon), thanking our Flotilla, as well as personnel from other Flotillas, with assisting during the Mini Lobster Season, July 24 - 25, 2013.

I am pleased to recognize Station Key West, Station Marathon, Station Islamorada, CGC Knight Island, CGC Kodiak Island, Auxiliary Division 13, and Air Station Miami for your mission execution in support of the Sector Key West, Operation Carapace compliance from 24 and 25 July, 2013.

Working seamlessly with a variety of Interagency Partners, your teams combined to conduct 314 Boardings that resulted in issuing 40 violations and 19 warnings while inspecting 4,465 Lobsters.

Demonstrating outstanding flexibility, units responded to 05 Search and Rescue cases and 02 Migrant Cases. Your ability to quickly respond to these cases was critical in maintaining a safe maritime environment for the influx of several thousand boaters to the Florida Keys during the two day Lobster Sport Season.

Anticipating the need for support of the SAR (search & rescue) and LE (law enforcement) Air Station Miami deployed HH-65 to Key West International Airport to decrease response time. The daily sortie of the helicopter and twice daily Aux Air Patrols were critical in locating areas of dense concentration of boats participating in the Sport Season Opener.

From the Dry Tortugas to the Upper Keys surface assets were providing SAR standby & conducting RBS boardings in support of the Operation, critical to this were Auxiliary Flotillas 13-02, 13-03 and 13-08. Each providing SAR standby and enabling Stations to concentrate on Enforcement Operations.

The professionalism, and dedication displayed by your crews, was greatly appreciated. “BRAVO ZULU“.

J. W. Reed, Acting Commander, Sector Key West
Jim Adam (Head GAP)  
Galley Assistance  
AUXCHEF Program

We have had a busy summer with our “GAP” program (AUXCHEF) while purchasing a new home here in Ohio. Consequently we have included more than one month in our report.

Station Marathon asked for and received help from some of our dedicated volunteers for the months of July, August and September. On July 5th, Don and Jan Kittsmiller cooked and then again on September 6th.

On July 26, we had AUXCHEF Ken Nelson, assisted by Michael Bloch, William Downes (13-03) and Donna Ferenci (Flotilla 13-02). In the galley at STAMAR (Station Marathon) On July 29 was Ken Nelson, Donna Ferenci and Michael Bloch. On July 30 and again on August 2, Our Chef was Jo Allmond, with help from our own Donna Moore and Donna Ferenci.

Tamekia Wright FS-1 and Christopher Beck FS-2 at Marathon really appreciate the Assistance from the Auxiliary.

Questionnaires applying to serve as AUXCHEF on a Coast Guard Cutter, have been completed by myself, Don Kittsmiller and Jo Allmond.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Adam

Note to file: After much debate, discussion and poll taking about the title of our volunteer Chefs, we now have a consensus that we are to be called “AUXCHEFS”, rather than Food Service personnel. The new manual still shows Food Service, so we will see? Aux Data records show that our team of Chefs have done 12 missions this year consisting of 335 hours.

Jan Kittsmiller, FSO-PB (Big Pine Channel Marker Editor)

See photos of cooking missions on the following page.
Photos of “GAP” Galley Assistance Cooking Projects starting date August 2010

Photo Left:  August 10, 2010
Don Kittsmiller and Jim Adam
Collaborating on “GAP” program

Photo Left: left to right
Sharon Hass (mother of Joe Scott, STAMAR)
Joe Scott FS-1, Marathon, & Jan Kittsmiller, Picnic for dedication of outdoor BBQ project August 10, 2010.

Members of 13-03 & 13-08 AUXCHEF class, 3-17-2013, Sector Key West. Back row to front, left to right, Tom Anderson, Jo Allmond, Jan, Ken Nelson, James Macotte, Don Kittsmiller. Also in the Class but not pictured was Jim & Diane Adam & Dottie Anderson

Photo right shows Jim Adam & Jo Allmond at Chef class, Sector Key West, March 2013.
The summer months provide unique opportunities for our Vessel Examiners to complete boating safety examinations. Those in the keys made use of the mini-lobster season and living in a high volume boating area, to complete exams.

For the months of June, July and August our vessel examiners did 82 vessel exams with 462 for the year thus far. Keep up the Good work!

I would like to call to the attention of all Vessel Examiners the Strategic plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety (RBS). http://uscgboating.org This report describes goals, objectives and strategies to reduce recreational boating injuries and deaths for 2012 through 2016.

The report is the result of efforts of many partners of the National RBS program and was designed so that anyone interested in planning can learn from this process and partners in boating safety can incorporate parts of it into their own organization’s plan.

In our future reports for vessel examiners, we will have information on commercial vessel examiners and the importance of their role in the Vessel Examiner’s program. Our own flotilla has only one Qualified Commercial Vessel Examiner, Dick McCausland.
Our Navigational System Officer along with Eric Putnam, SO-NS, set up a class to qualify more of our members as verifiers for the navigation systems. This was held on August 20 at the Methodist Church on Big Pine Key.

This designation was called Aton Verifier (aids to navigation) in the past. The job has been redesigned with new requirements. We had nine members in the class as follows: Luke Moore, Virgil Allmond, Jo Allmond, Don Kittsmiller, Bob McNamee, Katy McCarthy, Philip (Doc) Stern and Martin Mara and the instructor Eric Putnam SO-NS. (Division Officer)

Five people have been through the PQS for this job, which includes a night patrol and we have four more that require the PQS. As soon as the first group are in aux-data then some of those people can mentor the remaining four to complete the requirements.
We had one pollution call-out in July, with no action taken, No pollution calls were received in August or September.

This month and last month our Beach Cleanup team did 20 hours of hard dirty work with 21 bags of smelly, stinky garbage picked up from our beautiful shores. Bravo Zulu goes to our hardworking cleanup leader, Donna Moore and her team Including, Jo Allmond, and Katy McCarthy. Others have helped in the past, but have not made it back down to the Keys as yet this year.

Flotilla 13-03 will be cleaning at the very end of Long Beach Road on Big Pine Key on September 21, 2013. The start time is 7:30 A. M. If you are not an early bird, you may come at any time. We will be shooting for a noon finish time. Water will be provided as well as bags, and buckets.

Anyone interested in helping Donna and the team, please call Donna at home 305-515-2866 or cell 561-302-6026.
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
District 7, Flotilla 13-03  
Financial Report  8/31/13  

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Note: CD is renewable 9/30/2013, currently paying @ 0.16%. Unless otherwise directed, I will let it roll over and automatically renew.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martin Mara FSO-FN
Flotilla 13-03 general meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Virgil Allmond at 1930, September 12, 2013 with the pledge to the flag. Two visitors and prospective new members were introduced, Jeff Lewis, USCG (retired) and Donald James. Elsie Metcalf, our Division Commander and her husband, Jerry Metcalf were also welcomed to our meeting. Also present at meeting was Eric Putnam, Division Aton officer, who was there to finish paperwork for the ATON class we just held for our Flotilla.

Elsie advised us of the upcoming Division meeting at Station Marathon Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 1300. One of the subjects to be discussed is more patrols from beyond the reef. All Coxswains are especially invited but everyone is welcome. Elsie also suggested that the Commanders and Vice Commanders consider the networking possibilities of the Rotary and that membership in that organization may be valuable as a recruiting tool.

Jerry Metcalf talked about a possible ongoing program being discussed regarding “Chugs” or “Rusticas” which are now marked and left in place by the Coast guard. If approved, trained Coxswain & Crew would “tow” these vessels in to shore where they could be hauled away, thereby eliminating possible hazards to navigation.

Under the subject of “Operations”, Virgil advised everyone that some of our personnel was recently called on for a SAR (search and rescue) to search for the body of a man missing during a recent diving accident. Also, Virgil announced that the current boat crew trainees will be going out on their first water training mission Wednesday, September 18, at 1300 hours, if not rained out.

Minutes continued on Page 10.
Flotilla 13-03 Minutes continued from page nine

Jan gave a quick run-down of the significant number of hours worked by all this year. As Publications Officer, Jan asked for reports from officers in writing, because without these we do not have material for the newsletter.

We had a “no report” from the PA officer, Jo Allmond and Virgil then called on other officers to make their reports. Martin Mara gave his financial report (copy of which can be seen in our August/September newsletter). Luke Moore, our Atons Officer had a report on the Aton class but Virgil sort of forgot this, for which he apologized and you will see Luke’s report in our newsletter.

Robert Eichholtz gave a short presentation, explaining that Jan had retired as his “sign up” person for the Boating Skills and Seamanship class, so he was asking for assistance in this area. Don Kittsmiller, Marine Safety Officer gave his report. No pollution call outs for this past month but Donna Moore continues her usual great job with her team of Beach Cleaning persons. Donna Moore gave her Marine Visitor report and announced that we need the other visitors to do some marine visits. Donna also gave us the Information about the upcoming Beach cleanup that will be on September 21st, at Long Beach Road at 0730 or (7 :30 A. M.) Please call her if you can be of help.

The meeting continued with Virgil swearing in some of our newer members, Phil (Doc) Stern, Alex Tannucilli and Katy McCarthy. Welcome new members.

Awards were given at the meeting as follows:
Don Kittsmiller received his 9th award for VE/MV (vessel examiner & marine visits)
Robert Eichholtz was presented his 7th Outstanding Public Education award.

Under new business, Virgil brought up our need for a new projector and possibly a walk around mike to be used just for meetings, so that he can make presentations on pertinent subjects (such as ribbon checker program) and others.

Don made a motion for $250 to be used for this equipment. The motion was seconded by Donna Moore. A discussion ensued and Martin Mara then made a motion that the previous motion be amended to make the amount $450.00. The amendment was voted on in the affirmative and carried by majority.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Kittsmiller in the absence of our Secretary, Dottie Anderson. No Rendezvous had been planned for September, So Jo Allmond graciously volunteered to be the hostess for this month.
Above left, Don Kittsmiller receives his 9th VE/MV award
Above right, Bob Eichholtz receives his 7th outstanding Public Education Award.

Above photo shows Virgil Allmond VFC swearing in newest members
Alex Tannucilli, Phil (Doc) Stern and Katy McCarthy at September 12 meeting.

At August Rendezvous/meeting, Bob McNamee presents William Downes his new member package.