Dale Gittings
Flotilla Commander
February 2015 Report

It is now my second month as your Commander, and I have found that this job entails a little bit more than I had anticipated. That being said, I am enjoying the job and hopefully I can get the job done to everyone’s satisfaction. I only ask that everyone give me a little bit of a break, as I am still in a very large learning curve.

This month I wanted to talk a little bit about TEAMWORK. The one thing about teamwork is that it requires EVERYONE to be able to work together. A team is only as strong as its weakest player and as an example, look at a baseball team. If you have a terrible Center-fielder, who can’t catch a ball or can’t work with the left-fielder or right-fielder, then the TEAM is bound to lose.

It is important that we ALL work together and all personal issues and personality conflicts need to be put on the back burner. As such, I am asking everyone in the Flotilla to work together, even if you have issues with that person. All issues should be put aside, so that we can all work together professionally. You may ask why I am mentioning all of this, but one of the issues I’ve seen within our flotilla is that there seems to be some conflicts and hurt feelings going on within our ranks that seem to be causing less than harmonious day-to-day operations of this Flotilla. I am asking that EVERYONE try and settle your personal issues and if you cannot do so, please come to me with these issues, so that I can get all parties involved together and see if we can solve those issues and continue to work well as a TEAM, as we have done in the past.

Commander Report continued on page two
Commander’s Report continued from Page One

Again, I want to tell everyone to feel free to call or e-mail me as everyone’s input is important to our continued success as a flotilla. The best way to reach me is via email commander0701303@gmail.com or call my cell at 262-705-5127 or office 262-872-0432.

I check email on a daily basis and I promise that I will get back to you as soon as possible. If I do not have an answer, I will let you know that I am working on a solution and will close the loop with you, as soon as possible.

Respectfully, Dale Gittings, Flotilla Commander 13-3

Above Photo: The second Boating Skills and Seamanship class of the season held at Venture Out Resort was concluded on January 29, 2015 with 29 graduates, not all of whom are pictured. The following Instructors and helpers were on hand to teach and help out at this class. Starting left to right in the front are Virgil Allmond, & Diane Adam. To far right in front is Robert Eichholtz, our FSO–PE (Public Education Officer). In the second row in their tropical uniforms are, Neil Haring, Jo Allmond and Lynda Haring. In the back row with her ready smile and her ODU uniform is Gerry Coady, another of our capable Instructors. This class also yielded two new members, who were signed up on February 20. The third class of the season starts February 23. More to come on that class.

Photo: Don Kittsmiller- USCGAUX
Virgil Allmond  
Vice Flotilla Commander  
February 2015 Report

As your Vice Flotilla Commander, I was asked to talk about the Coast Guard Auxiliary in two places in February. I spoke to about 275 people at the Venture Out Boat Club meeting.

I used the slide presentation from the Boating Skills and Seamanship class as the basis of the talk, but put some heavy emphasis on the fun, frivolity and fellowship. I feel like we did a pretty good job, as they invited us back again next year and the good news is that we may get one or two new members from that group.

On Tuesday the 17th, I spoke to the Big Pine Key Rotary meeting. There were about 25 in attendance and we appeared to get the same reaction (good feedback).

The yard sale “sorta” sucked the life out of the Flotilla during late January and early February, but man oh man, was it a huge success. I don’t want to steal Lois Gerig’s thunder, but until you get to her report later in this newsletter, just know it was GIGANTIC! Many thanks to all of you who worked on the project or contributed in any way to its success. That money gives us a lot of leverage that most Flotillas only dream about.

We’ve got two boats on the water this week I hope to run a Paton patrol next week so there is activity during this Valentine month.
The following members of Flotilla 13-3 contributed talent, sweat, time, effort and not to mention items to sell at the President’s Day Sale on February 16th, making it a HUGE success.

We would like to thank, Diane and Jim Adam, Virgil and Jo Allmond, Dorothy and Tom Anderson, Don and Jan Kittsmiller, Gerry Coady, Bill Downes, Donna and Luke Moore, Owen Smith, Joe Gerig, Dale Gittings, Neil and Lynda Haring, Ken Nelson, Arlene Way and Martin Mara. We also had some new helpers known as Flea Market Volunteers (or honorary angels) who worked tirelessly: Nancy Holum, Brenda Scanlon, Sharron Sudimak (sister of Diane Adam) and our most recent helper, Chris Smith. In the event anyone who helped with this mission was not mentioned in this report, please consider yourself thanked.

We would also like to acknowledge Gift Certificates or merchandise from the following businesses, Monica’s Hair Shop, Bicycle Center, Kaya Restaurant, Winn Dixie, Publix, Karen Haack, M&M Auto, Octopuses Garden, Springer’s Restaurant, Ginger Snips and Back Body & Beyond.

We would also like to thank Pastor Joyce Alexander and the First Methodist Church as well as the Salvation Army.

The bottom line is that we had a very successful sale and we will be announcing a substantial amount earned at our Sale in our next financial report at our meeting in March.
This has been an amazingly exhausting week with lots of twists and turns in the plot. Suffice it to say, we do not have room in this letter to give all details nor do we WANT to do that. I will say one thing, we have had a lot of opportunity to put into practice our TCT (team coordination training).

Regarding the Information Services Office, of our Flotilla, all entries have been kept up, even though, I have been in transition, installing new software, setting up a new computer system for our Shell Business and redoing the contacts on Don’s computer. We have input for water hours now, a total of 133 vessel exams and our program visitors have done at least 92 visits, distributing flyers for the Garage Sale as well as the Boating Skills and Seamanship Classes. All of these hours are Since January 1, 2015 through the date of this newsletter.

Speaking of the Newsletter, I would like to request that each staff officer help me out as much as possible by turning in their reports to me by the date of our meetings each month. It does take a tremendous amount of time for your humble servant to put together the newsletter and I do get positive comments from others about how much everyone appreciates getting the Internal news each month. Thanks to all for the support and I do love and appreciate every one of you.

Carolyn and Frank Fasano are hosting the Rendezvous March 15, 2015, at their home at 20842, 8th Ave W, Cudjoe Key, Florida. Time will be 3:00 P. M. Carolyn is supplying Corned Beef and Cabbage & will need side dishes. Please call her at 744-9901 to confirm what you are planning to bring. We look forward to a very enjoyable time. Our socials are the glue for all our activities and we should use this occasion to enjoy each other and have a good time.
Minutes January 2015

(Note from FSO-PB: We will be seeing our minutes published
in the newsletter in the month following the acceptance vote).

January 8, 2015, meeting opened at 1815 and newly elected Commander,
Dale Gittings led the pledge of allegiance. The following guests were recognized,
Eloy Gonzales, Don and Faye Durrough, Nat and Nancy Ostroff and Karri Larson.

Minutes from November 2014 and from the special meeting at the Change of Watch
were read, A motion to accept came from Bob McNamee and seconded by Jan
Kittsmiller. Vote to accept was affirmative.

It was explained by the Commander that we needed a motion to remove the name
of Ken Nelson, as co-signer on our bank account and confirm the signatures of Dale
Gittings, (Commander), Virgil Allmond (Vice Commander) and Martin Mara (Finance
Officer). The signature of the Secretary of Records, Dottie Anderson was required
at the bank to give testimony to the elections of new officers from the year before.
A motion was made by Lois Gerig to this end and seconded by Jan Kittsmiller and
vote from the membership was affirmative.

Virgil called on Officers and Committee Heads for their monthly reports.

A Vessel Examination Day is planned for February 3, 2015. January Rendezvous
will be at Lois Gerig's on BPK. There will be TCT class after the meeting for
February or March. Station Marathon has invited us to stand with them Friday,
February 6. Flotilla 1, 2 and 3 are invited.

A motion was asked for and made by Owen Smith to approve an expenditure
of $1000.00 for the purchase of advertising in the Lower Keys Chamber of
Commerce for printing of January 16, 2016. A second was given by Jo Allmond
The motion was passed with a 19 to 3 vote.

New member Gerard Bauer was sworn in by Commander Gittings. Eloy Gonzales
spoke to the members and offered his service to assist with upcoming BS&S
classes. (The awards and certifications were pictured in our newsletter for
January, 2015.)
USCG Coast Support: News Releases for January Boating Skills and Seamanship Classes resulted in being published 17 times by the local media. Bob Eichholtz, our Public Education Officer, remarked “This one has set a record, with 39 students signed up for the upcoming classes.”

Flags & Ceremonies: On Friday, January 9, members of Flotilla 13-3 and Flotilla 13-2 joined the Personnel from USCG Station Marathon, in giving a show of honor to the “Wounded Warriors” who passed by in their parade to Key West. One of our members also joined in with 13-1 in paying respects to the Wounded Warriors.

Community Support: On January 8th Flotilla 13-3 set up our annual Public Affairs booth at Venture Out Resort. We signed up 7 students with the help of our Public Education Officer, Bob Eichholtz, completed approximately 34 vessel examinations, under the supervision of our Vessel Examination Officer, Diane Adam and fielded many questions from the residents and visitors of Venture Out Resort, under the supervision of our Partner Visitation Officer, Jo Allmond.

On February 1, we set up a Public Affairs Booth at the Chamber of Commerce grounds for the Lower Keys Rotary Club & their annual Super Sunday Spectacular. We talked with over 65 people about various aspects of boating Safety. We answered many questions from people who had real concerns about boating safety and they appreciated our knowledge in that area. We discussed the Coast Guard Auxiliary and what we are all about, with at least 6 persons who are interested in joining our organization. Our Public Education Officer, Bob Eichholtz reports 7 more students signed up from this booth. Thank you to Bob, Jan Kittsmiller, Owen Smith, Bill Downes, Tom Anderson, Diane Adam, Virgil Allmond and Dottie Anderson for their help with this booth.

Local Media: Press releases were sent out for the upcoming BS&S classes For February/March, 2015. We have been published 6 times for this campaign. Jan and I also printed over 150 flyers for the Boating Skills classes and these were distributed by our Partner Visitors.
1. Requested update for a member request to transfer to Flotilla 13-3
2. received E-Responders for two possible members. I have completed
   The first interview with one applicant and he is filling out his application. The second E-Responder is busy and we have not made an appointment
3. Submitted disenrollment paperwork for two of our members, who are Relocating.
4. Two new applications have been completed with the exception of the fingerprint cards for two new members who came to us from the last Boating Skills and Seamanship class.
5. Dale Gittings advises that he has two more possible candidates for membership.
6. With the help of some of the staff members, I have updated a form To welcome new members into the Flotilla.

Recruitment and Retention is an “ALL HANDS JOB” and Flotilla 13-3 is off to a great start for 2015.

Photo above left: Owen Smith talks with members of the public about boating safety at the Super Sunday Spectacular at the Chamber of Commerce grounds, February 1, 2015.
Above middle: Bob Eichholtz talks with a prospective scholarship applicant for upcoming BS&S Class.
Photo above right: Don Kittsmiller answers questions about membership with a couple attending the Super Sunday Spectacular.
Marine Safety Report February 2015
Don Kittsmiller, FSO-MS

Donna Moore and her Coastal Cleanup Team, spent a total of 15 hours, so far this year, cleaning trash and debris from the shores of Scout Key. Her team picked up 20 large bags of trash and other assorted items.

Helping Donna with her quest to clean the beaches is a varied number of members. This last one was Ken Nelson, Arlene Way, our newest member, Linda Henderson and a friend of our Flotilla Brenda Scanlon.

On January 31st, Donna worked with assistance from Ken Nelson cleaning the beach around Niles Channel. They spent 6 hours and picked up 12 bags of trash.

Above photo left: Ken Nelson and Arlene way help Donna put trash from shore into bags.
Above middle: Amy and Linda Henderson help Donna pick up debris from Beaches.
Above right: Amy is looking over the type of trash that is regularly washed in from who knows where.
I’ve just been made aware of the new annual requirements for those of us who are AV or AV-PQS qualified. There are now new annual requirements of 4 PATON inspections and 2 Bridge inspections and all six of these must be listed as a separate 7054 and 7055. The following is the direct quote.

“From January 1, 2015, all qualified AV or AVS PQS must verify on an annual basis for currency, four ATON/PATON and two Bridge verifications, one day and one nighttime. All verifications must be filled out using the forms 7054 and 7055 and routed to the verifiers regional Assistant District Staff Officer, navigational Systems (ADSO-NS).

Failure to complete these currency requirements will result in the verifier being placed into a REYR, recertification required for failure to meet the yearly requirements status and will need to perform the missed verifications during the following year, in addition to the six required ATON verifications.

After the second year, failure to complete the currency requirements will result in the verifier being placed into a REWK status, meaning recertification required for failure to attend a workshop or to have the required number of annual verifications in the two years, and the verifier will be required to complete the AV PQS again to recertify. For further information and to view the D7 DIRAUXINST.3532.1, go to the Navigational Systems Web page.

I have gotten behind my own schedule for PATON inspections and hope to get caught up in March. My next patrol will start ocean-side, of Niles Channel through the Kemp Channel. I am taking pictures of any patons not watching properly and completing an individual report on each discrepancy. Those watching properly do not require an individual report, but simply one report covering all the “good ones in the channel”.

Thanks to both Luke Moore and Dick McCausland who volunteered their facilities for PATON patrol, since my boat is still down. (Note from IS officer– Please do not forget to turn in your mission reports for atons/patons on your forms 7030.)
As of February 2, 2015, the statistics for Vessel Exams in Flotilla 13-3 are:

Vessel Exams given 63, Paddle-Craft given 42, total 105. The Venture Out Public Affairs day, which included the vessel Examiners for on site exams produced 39 of the exams listed above.

VEs will be contacted to conduct referral requests for the near future. These referrals will be from the BS&S classes and Jan Kittsmiller’s recording of the requests, picked up at the BPK Rotary Super Sunday Event. Thanks to Jan.

A request to all Vessel Examiners, please submit your forms 7038, mission reports in a timely manner. The Flotilla reports are due to be sent “up the ladder” the first business day of each month.