As your new Commander for 2015, I wanted to start out my monthly newsletter notes by personally thanking the Flotilla and our past Commander for the great work that everyone has done over the past year(s). Virgil, as past Commander and now Vice Commander, has left me a great Flotilla that has hard working people and one of the highest ratings for “Boating Skills & Seamanship Classes” and Vessel Exams in District 7. This means that I have very large shoes to fill and the only way I will be able to meet or exceed the expectations will be by continued involvement from the great members of the Flotilla, all working together for the future. I also want to make, participating in the Flotilla, a fun thing to do, while making it a place where you can meet “old as well as new friends”. I will expound more about that in the coming months, but for this month I wanted to tell you something about myself.

My name is Dale Gittings and I am a full time resident of Big Pine Key. I have lived here on Big Pine for the past 7 years and have no wants or desires to move from this area. My wife, “Mikki” and I call this our slice of paradise. As a full time resident, this means that I am available all year round for members to get hold of me for questions, concerns or comments about the Flotilla. I personally ask everyone, who has ideas and concerns about the Flotilla, please bring them to me and together we will be able to make this the best Flotilla in the District. I want to let all members know if you want to get more involved in the Flotilla, I am looking for you. There are various positions and committees that can use your personal talents and skills. I will tell you that the pay may not be great, but the personal satisfaction and the recognition that you will receive, is better than any paycheck.

The best way to reach me is via email as follows: commander0701303@gmail.com
Or one of my contact phone numbers, 262-705-5127 or office 262-872-0432. I will check email on a daily basis and promise that I will get back to you as soon as possible. If I do not have the answer (most likely) I will let you know that I am working to find out the answer and will close the loop as soon as possible.
Photos from Flotilla Meeting  January 8, 2015

Above Left: Flotilla Commander Gittings presents Lynda Haring with her first certificate for Sustained Service & USCG Unit Commendation. Neil Haring receives Unit Commendation. Above Middle: Gerry Coady receives certificate for the USCG Weather and sustained Service Award (750 hours) Above right, Gerald Bauer is sworn in as a new member by Flotilla Commander Dale Gittings, while FSO SR, Dottie Anderson looks on.

Above Left: Tom Anderson is presented with his Auxiliary Performance Award for Operations. Above Middle: Commander Gittings presents Jo Allmond her second Sustained Service Award. Above right: Commander Dale Gittings presents Dick McCausland the Auxiliary Performance Award for Operations.

Above Left: Flotilla Commander Gittings presents Lois and Joe Gerig the Commander's Award for their contribution to the Food Service Program. Above Middle: Tom and Dottie Anderson, Neil Fox, Jim Adam, Bob Morrow, Don and Jan Kittsmiller receive the Combined Team Award for Food Service, as well as building the galley office area at Station Marathon. Also included in this team, but not pictured are Luke and Donna Moore. Above Right: Michael Bloch receives the award he earned in 2013 for his assistance in the Food Service Program. Bob Morrow and Don Kittsmiller also earned the Commodore's Certificate of Excellence for Vessel Exams in 2014. Sorry the photo for that award was damaged, and could not be shown herein.
Virgil Allmond  
Vice Flotilla Commander  
January Report

I actually thought last month was my last report as Commander or Vice Flotilla Commander, but it just didn't work out that way. Things just happened to change my mind. I spoke with Ken Nelson yesterday and he is recovering nicely and is about to move up to Alabama to care for his Mother. We will miss him and his contribution to Boat Crew and the cooking program at the galley at Station Marathon.

Our new Commander, Dale Gittings direction is to make this year's CGAUX business more fun and for the two of us to clear the way so that we can do that and I fully support that objective.

Our first mission of the year, the annual Public Affairs, Boating Skills & Seamanship and Vessel Examination day at Venture Out Resort was a resounding success. By the time we get all the follow-up exams done, our number of vessel exams will approach 40 for this event.

Lois Gerig our Committee Head for the Flea Market Sale will most probably be calling some of us for donations for the sale, so say yes, when she calls.

We’re off and running wide open in 2015. Hold On..!
NUMBERS NUMBERS ?????????? CONFUSED?

When we read the stats and numbers, it sometimes looks like a lot of data all stacked together and sometimes makes us think that the numbers we put in are confusing. Why do they have to be entered the way we do?

When an IS Officer is faced with putting all these statistics into the System, who is lead? What category do we put these in? These are all, believe it or not, IMPORTANT, as the numbers are used in a lot of different venues to show what types of missions we are doing, who is doing them and for what purpose they are used. The AUXDATA system actually provides the answers for us and any time we do our input, we have a system for which we are given rules and if you are the one doing the input, it DOES make sense. For example: When a mission is one where the Public is greeted, we can ONLY put these hours in one category and that is PA (Public Affairs). All additional hours during this mission is covered under the other categories such as Vessel Exams, (each vessel examiner is responsible for submitting their form 7038 with the exams done). For the person signing up BS&S students, that person is responsible for turning in a mission form with the additional hours spent signing people up. and for Partner Visitor the FSO-PV Representative is responsible for turning in hours spent talking about boating safety, giving out pamphlets, etc. For the most part, we depend on the PA Officer to Cover all of the completion of the form for time spent at the PA Mission, as this is covered under that job Duties. We all hear a lot about Teamwork, and I assure you that a Public Affairs Booth is one important time that Team Work is very necessary as we are Vulnerable to Public Scrutiny! We are all seen as examples of the Auxiliary.

Jan Kittsmiller  FSO-IS
Robert Eichholtz  FSO-PE  
Public Education  
January 2015 Report  

First class of the season concluded on December 17 with 18 graduates including 2 scholarships. Second class of the season started January 12, 2015 and we have 35 students registered presently. Third class of the season will start February 23, for which we have 9 students registered. For more information, please visit our web site at a0701303.wow.uscgaux.info and select “Boating Safety Classes”. (for info about our programs) “Public Safety Scholarship” (for info about our Scholarship program) or “Public Boating Course” (national Course finder) from the list on the left side of screen.

Jo Allmond FSO-PV  
Partner Visitation  
January 2015 Report  

Toward the end of December, several of our Program Visitors placed flyers for the January Boating Skills and Seamanship Class, with some of our Partners and other commercial establishments. I have heard that one person enrolled in the class after seeing the flyers. In January we will distribute flyers for the President’s Day Sale at the Methodist Church in Big Pine Key.

John Rhode FSO-MT  
Member Training  
January 2015 Report  

Members completing training in November and December 2014 are:

Phil (Doc) Stern: AUXSEA  
Lynda Haring: Online Test for Instructor  
( Presently doing PQS training under Bob Eichholtz)
BS&S (Boating Skills & Seamanship) classes began January 12, 2015 with 35 registered students. On January 8, we had our first Public Affairs Booth, at Venture Out Resort, conducted vessel exams, signed up BS&S students & greeted the public.

On December 11, 2014, Flotilla 13-3 had its annual Change of Watch. Michael Pollard, Officer in Charge at Station Marathon, swore in our new Flotilla Commander, Dale Gittings and Vice Commander, Virgil Allmond. BMCS also swore in one of our new members, Fran Frederic. From the Color Guard provided by Station Marathon to the awards presentations our Change of Watch was a great success. Thanks to ALL for the hard work.

Donna Moore and her coastal clean up team ended the year with 220 hours and over 120 large bags of trash from our beaches. 18 members of Flotilla 13-3 earned the Coast Guard Team Commendation. Diane Adam, FSO-VE and her vessel examiner crew conducted 1047 vessel examinations in 2014. Jo Allmond and her Marine Partner Visitors conducted 262 marine visits in 2014 and the Operations Water Team accumulated 362 hours doing patrols, Power Boat races and other operations related jobs. Flotilla 13-3 contributed 415 hours of direct Coast Guard support from repairs, building and cooking for Station Marathon. There was also 562 Public Affair hours from radio spots, print media and various other projects. Robert Eichholtz conducted 3 BS&S courses with 37 class sessions, 53 Public Education class hours, graduating 57 students and awarding 11 scholarships to deserving students.

Three new Press releases were prepared and sent out by January 1st, 2015 and Flyers for the BS&S Flyers were designed, printed and distributed. We were published 16 times for BS&S and 9 times for the scholarship program. We also reached the public through Radio, TV, and newspapers with over 175 ADS.

Combine all of the hours for Flotilla 13-3 done by our Vessel examiners, Partner Visitors, Human Resource hours, Marine Safety, and Flotilla 13-3 contributed in excess of 5000 hours in support of The United States Coast Guard in 2014.
Photo Right:
Members of Flotilla 13-2 & 13-3 were on hand at Station Marathon Friday, January 9, 2015 to greet the Wounded Warriors as they passed by on their ride to Key West.

Photos: Mike Robinson USCGAUX

Photo above shows the personnel of USCG Station Marathon assembled to greet the Wounded Warriors on their ride to Key West, January 9, 2015.

Photo Right: Flotillas 13-2 & 13-3 formed a team to support the Wounded Warriors.
Left to Right, Dottie Anderson, Gerry Coady, Donna Ferenci, Joann Griffor, Sheila & Don Weston, Eric Putnam, (back left to right) Tom Tarlton, Tom Anderson, Owen Smith, Virgil Allmond, John Rhode, Dottie & John Mattern, Jim Matthews & Mike Robinson.
Dick McCausland, FSO CM
Communications
January 2015 Report

Now that I am back in the keys, I will be doing inspections on the Following radios.

1. Don Kittsmiller, Auxiliary radio #2, the last date of inspections Was 12 March 2012. His is not due as of this date, but is Coming up.

2. Richard McCausland, Auxiliary radio #6 last date of inspection was 11 February 2012.

3. Heinz Kropp, Auxiliary radio #8 last date of inspection was 11 February 2011.

4. All facility radios must be inspected every three years.

5. Anyone wanting to participate in the Auxiliary Radio Watchstander And Communications Program and have a facility, must take and complete the Auxiliary Communications Specialty Examination with a passing score of 85 percent or greater.

6. If you are interested in this, please contact me.
Our first ATON patrol in quite a while was held. Luke Moore was Coxswain with Tom Anderson, and I serving as Boat Crew. Luke and I are also Aton Verifiers.

We covered 27 of our 67 Patons (private aids to navigation) in our area of operation. We visited each one, took a photo of both sides and I wrote a report on each individual Paton to send in to USCG Sector Aids to Navigation Team so that they can update the local notice to Mariners, the Light List and Charts. Actual repair may or may not ever come.

We are planning to inspect 20 or 25 more Patons after the middle of January.
In 2014, Flotilla 13-3 signed up 3 new members and at the December Change of Watch, we swore in Fran Frederic, who joined in 2012. So far in 2014, we have one new member who now has an ID number and if you see Linda Henderson or Fran Frederic, please welcome & encourage them. Also do not forget to say Hi to Gerald Bauer (photo page 2)

Above Left: Linda Henderson is shown arriving at our Change of Watch, 12/11/14. Above Right: Fran Frederic after being sworn in by BMCS Michael Pollard, (Officer in Charge of USCG Station Marathon, while Virgil Allmond IPFC looks on)

Don Kittsmiller FSO-MS
Marine Safety
January 2015 Report

In 2014 Flotilla 13-3 had a few pollution call outs, but our most noteworthy Contribution was our campaign to clean up our local Coastline, led by our hard working, Donna Moore. The coastal cleaning team spent 220 hours gathering over 130 bags of trash which included everything from buoys to dishwashers. All of this was done in some of the most trying weather. Our fearless leader, Donna, not only organized the teams 1 to 3 times a month, but was also there sludging with them, through all the muck & mire along the coastline.

Photo left: Donna Moore receives Plaque from IPFC Virgil Allmond for her efforts as team leader of the 13-3 Coastal Cleanup Committee.
Notes for the Good of The Flotilla:
Jan Kittsmiller FSO-PB (Publications)

Our Annual Flea Market Sale will be at the United Methodist Church, Key Deer Blvd, Big Pine Key on February 16, 2015. If you can donate items or assist with the sale, please call Lois Gerig at 872-4760. Proceeds from the sale will be used towards boating safety courses and scholarship funds for students under 17 years of age.

We have just received word from one of members, Joseph Scott that he has lost his mother, Sharon Hass (who was also a member). Some of you that have been around for a while may remember Joseph, as he was the FS-2 at Station Marathon, that was instrumental in prompting our idea of an outdoor grill at USCG Station Marathon in 2010. Below is a photo of Joe and Don, at a rendezvous in January 2011, at the home of Tom and Dottie Anderson. Joseph and his mother, Sharon Hass Fink became members of our Flotilla 1/27/11. Our thoughts and Condolences go out to Joe in this time of personal loss.

Above Photo left: Joseph Scott and Don at a Rendezvous in January 2011.
Photo right: Sharon Hass Fink, Joseph Scott's mother.