As we move through March, our activities have started to slow down a bit, but are far from over. Lois Gerig and the “yard sale crew” had another highly successful sale. We had an ICS-210 (FEMA course) for our boat crew candidates. Boat crew and Coxswain training is continuing almost weekly, as weather permits.

We are working on getting an 8 hour TCT (Team Coordination) course for the Boat Crew and for the AUX-CHEF graduates. The AUXCHEF Class took place at Sector Key West last weekend, March 15, 16 &17th, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all our participants.

Station Marathon is entering a team in the “Relay for Life” which will be held April 5 and 6th. At the March meeting the flotilla voted to donate $50.00 to their fund raising effort. If anyone would like to take part in this relay, either as a runner, or maybe serve as a sideline assistant (water server, etc) you can contact BM2 Colt Fairchild at Station Marathon, phone 305-743-6778.

Flotilla 13-03 will also have our trailer set up at Bahia Honda for the earth day celebration on April 20th, as we normally do each year. Any vessel examiners who wish to do exams or any one who would like to meet and greet, call Diane to let her know what hours you can work.

Division 13 will be setting up two PA booths at the Ocean Fest on March 30, 2013 from 1000 to 1800 at the Mote Eco-Discovery Center in Key west. One booth will be to meet and greet people and the other will be to assist children fishing. Volunteers are needed for both activities. Contact Jo Allmond, if you would like to volunteer.

I will be out of the keys April 3 through April 6 and going north May 1, 2013 for the summer.
March Vice Commander Report

The Big Pine Key Flotilla has had yet another extremely active month. We continue to be impressed at how the FSO's handle their individual responsibilities with such style, grace and ease. They are doing a marvelous job, serving the Flotilla, community and the United States Coast Guard.

The big labor project of this month is the remodeling of the “Chief's Mess”, at Sector Key West. This is being done by Jim Adam, Neil Fox, Martin Mara, Tom Anderson, Don Kittsmiller, and others. It has been an extremely tough assignment because each work day, the kitchen had to be unassembled to work and re-assembled before our volunteers left for the day. These guys deserve a medal for their super-human efforts in making this work for the “Chiefs” and for the other retired folks that use the kitchen at Sector.

Since my last report, Lois Gerig, Diane Adam and other committee members have pulled off one of the most successful rummage sales in our history. If you worked on the project, you are to be commended because, it was a lot of work, but we cleared over $2000.00. Some of the proceeds were used to provide scholarships to our Boating Skills and Seamanship Class for students under 18 years of age.

As I write this, tonight is the last night of our BS&S season. We had 24 students signed up for the class held at the Sugarloaf Fire Department. Tonight is the final exam. Assuming that all pass tonight, Bob Eichholtz will have graduated 69 “trained safe boaters” in the lower keys for this season. Think over the years, how many students have been turned out on the waters from our classes, and you will have some idea why there were fewer boating incidents in our AOR (area of operation). Both Eichholtz and his predecessor, Bob Holum, as well as our Instructors have had a real impact on safe boating in the Florida Keys. Next time you see one of these guys, thank them for their many hours of contribution.

( VFC report continued on page Three)
Our FSO-VE, (Vessel Examiner) Diane Adam and FSO-PA (Public Affairs) Jo Allmond, staffed a Vessel Exam day booth at Sunshine Key. All the rest of our Vessel Examiners were at other functions, or otherwise exhausted. Even though we have one of our Vessel Examiner members living at Sunshine Key, we still managed to do, 14 vessel exams that day.

Crew Training continues for 5 (new member) crew candidates. Yours truly is also working on being trained for Coxswain. The crew members in training are Ken Nelson, Peter Leando, Rev. Lynda Haring, Neil Haring and Sue Harfield. We are making good progress. All the crew are having to put up with driver mistakes, due to coxswain training, so when you see them, give them understanding and sympathy. Dick McCausland, and Luke Moore have contributed Coxswain hours to this mission and Bob McNamee and Tom Anderson have donated hours of their time to being crew. Thanks to all for their hard work.

Thanks to Dick McCausland FSO-CS (Communications) for reviving our radio watch-standers. During our last on the water session, Dick arranged a radio watch with Heinz Kropp and Bud Holloway. This effort provided significant help to our trainees in learning radio procedures.

Donna Moore and her “Beach Cleaning” crew have picked up over 69 bags of trash this month. Last year’s record was a total of 400 bags of trash being removed from our shoreline. Donna and her team are making life in paradise a little better for all of us.

One of our Public relations projects this month as in past years was a success at our booth held at Sugarloaf Fire Department. We talked with over 50 people about membership as well as signed up several new students for our boating skills class.

Lastly, Jo and I have been working on becoming instructors and within this last week we did our presentations at the Boating Skills Class. Jo did hers on navigation and passed with flying colors. Bob McNamee told me that I would be on permanent probation. I know he must have been teasing. Folks, we do have fun here, but to get anything out of this, it is in proportion to what is put in.
Nick McManus  
IPVFC Immediate Past Vice  
Flotilla Commander

Moving On Up!  March 2013

To Coast Guard and Auxiliary Friends:  Greetings and please forgive my impersonal, group note to you all.  As I kind of dropped out of sight from my visits to the keys and “work” with the Auxiliary and Coast Guard, I wanted to jot you all a note to let you know where I have been and Whassuuup!

For a variety of reasons, family, personal and business, I decided it was time for me to come back to Kentucky, full time.  My daughter just delivered our 5th addition to the grand-babies, all of whom are very young and after a personal investment went sour, I realized that after 17 years of having two half lives, it was time to come home.  I have sold my home on Summerland Key and am returning to the Keys to pack my stuff as we close the house deal on the 27th of March.  Then I am back to my home in Lexington, Kentucky, home of the KY Wildcats and my loving family.

The purpose of my writing is to say thank you.  Thank you all for the great experiences, all the wonderful boating, flying and yes, Don, the fishing experiences.  (whoops, forgot to say, catching experiences).  The Keys offer so much to do, but the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary provided an experience for me that allowed me to grow, serve and learn in so many ways.  To all of you on the “Gold side” Commander Tomasulo, Dan, Kara, Chuck, Will, Duncan and Jeff, I thank you for your direction, support and interest in my efforts and making those of us in the Auxiliary, feel welcome and better able to support your efforts.

To Jerry and Elsie, my days of refereeing you two from the back seat of Sabre 3 may be over.  Don and Jan, thanks for all the support and coaching.  To Bob Mc and all my Auxiliary friends, I very much enjoyed the fellowship of a GREAT group.  My hope is that others will step out of their comfort box and get involved in just one more Auxiliary activity.  It is amazing how I have grown in just 4 years, because of you all.  I promise to fly my Mooney back to check on you all. God Bless and stay well.
March Minutes for Big Pine Key Flotilla 13-03

The Staff Officer's meeting was called to order at 6:15 P. M. and Officer's reports given. This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P. M. The regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob introduced guests. Doc Stearns was introduced as a prospective member. Also present was Elsie Metcalf, DCDR for Division 13. Our friends Don and Faye Durrough from 082-05-04 in Cincinnati, Ohio were present. Don and Faye have helped us many times in the past at our BS&S classes and working PA booths.

Minutes from February meeting were read and approved as read. Motion to accept was made by Martin Mara and seconded by Diane Adam.

Staff reports were given and Martin Mara gave the report from Lois Gerig, our Fund Raising Chairperson.

A motion was made and seconded to increase the trailer maintenance account an additional $200.00. This will enable Bob Morrow and Dick McCausland to make necessary repairs to the mobile radio that is in the trailer. It was explained by Don Kittsmiller that the pre-condition for an RBS trailer was to have a working mobile radio and list it as a facility. Bob Morrow will also be purchasing a jack and lug wrench for the trailer.

A motion was made by Diane Adam and seconded by Donna Moore to purchase the Kayak/Canoe stickers for the Vessel examiners to hand out, as Nick McManus had done a lot of research on this project and this was originally our project. Our motion was not to exceed $1000.00 for this printing. A vote in favor of this motion was unanimous.

FC McNamee distributed a sign up sheet for any members who wish to take a tour of Station Marathon sometime within the next two weeks.

A motion was made and seconded to contribute $50.00 from Flotilla funds to the “Relay for Life” event to be held in Marathon on April 5th and 6th. We also sent out an email to all members that let everyone know they could take part in this if desired.

Ken Nelson received his Ribbon for the beach clean up Team Award.
March Report for Vessel Examiners

Our vessel examiners just as all of our “Team” do not limit their contributions of time and talents to just vessel safety checks. as the FSO-VE Officer, I want to thank them for their efforts at our annual fund raising event, for their presence all on Sunday, February 17, 2013, at the Sugarloaf Fire Department Fish Fry and for setting up and cleaning up from the sale at the Methodist Church. Our flotilla team followed up this very busy time with a Vessel Exam Event at Sunshine Key Marina and resort on February 21, 2013. Our statistics for vessel exams year to date is 173 exams, 163 passed, with a 94.2 % passing.

If anyone needs a referral for Vessel Exams, please call me at 872-4071. Also, look back through all your records from last year. Did you obtain a telephone number for contact this year? Take a few minutes and follow up with former people who required an exam before. If you cannot get to them, let one of the other Vessel Examiners or me know.

Division 13 held a class for Uninspected Vessel Examiners on March 14 and we had one person who took this. We also have one other person in our Flotilla who is already qualified for this. If anyone is still interested in pursuing this particular part of the Vessel Examination Program, call me and I will steer you to the proper persons to get this done.

Remember to put your reasons for failure on your reports for vessel exams, as this information has been kept for statistics and for the purpose of improving the VE program.

Additional Vessel Exam decals have been ordered and of course in our supplies, we have brochures and supplemental handouts available for our examiners. Contact me for any assistance in this.
March Report GAP Program (AUXCHEF)

I wanted to let everyone know that the following members of Flotilla 13-03 have completed 3 full days of training at Sector Key West and passed the exam with flying colors. Tom and Dottie Anderson, Diane and Jim Adam, Don and Jan Kittsmiller, Ken Nelson and Jo Allmond. Our Instructors were Paulette Parent and Toni Borland, AD-DSO-HR (Assistant District Staff Officer for Human resources). Also instructing was the FS-3 from Sector Key West, Tabatha Abromowitz. Overseeing this presentation was Rad Hoffpaur, FSCS (Senior Chief) at the Sector Key West Galley. Also attending the AUXCHEF class was James Marcotte of 13-08, Joann Griffor and Donna Ferenci of 13-02 as well as John Yongue of 13-01

We have a TCT class set up for Tuesday, March 26 at Sector Key West, taught by Mr. Bill Porter of Flotilla 13-01. We do appreciate the work of our Commander Bob McNamee, the Sector Coordinator, Dewey Jyckson, as well as Mr. Porter for setting this up for all of us. After we all complete the 8 hr TCT, we will all have to get the various Food Service personnel at each perspective galley to sign off our PQS requirements. Then the designation of AUXCHEF can be placed in our permanent personnel record. The rules are that we all must maintain our 8 hr TCT every two years. Our Instructors have asked me (Jim Adam) to be The POC (person of contact) for the AUXCHEF program for the Keys area.

The instructors divided us into teams for the third day of actual cooking. Dottie and Tom Anderson, Jan Kittsmiller and Jo Allmond were the “Bakers” and had to be at Sector early to do the baking and did not leave early. Don Kittsmiller was with Jim and Diane Adam along with John Yongue and Jim Marcotte worked with rubbed chicken breast, cheese sauce (to die for) The Marathon team cut up 200 pounds of fruit. (Wow)

We also learned to work large scale cooking equipment, clean grill and the deep fryer as well as learn about preventing cross contamination and cleanliness of the galley. Our Instructors gave us a review of “AWESOME”.
Publications Report - March 2013

As most of you team members in Flotilla 13-03 know, we started a GAP (galley assistance program) in our Flotilla several years ago and have been filling in for the FS personnel at Station Marathon, Starting with FS-1 Joseph Scott. I think I can speak for everyone who has helped, when I say how much we all have enjoyed cooking for the troops and how appreciative that the Coast Guard Personnel is that we are cooking for them. It is for sheer pleasure of seeing how much the guys enjoy what we cook, that we do this.

I say all of that to say this, when someone said we had to take an AUXCHEF class, I personally went kicking and screaming (which everyone who knows me, can attest to). Imagine my surprise when I enjoyed this class so much and I believe everyone that went will agree that it was a blast! We learned a lot about handling food and had a lot of fun also. When Paulette Parent appointed us to our assignments for our last day of class, she said and I quote “I will not put Don and Jan together” and imagine this, the entire class, who knows us just laughed. Oh well, what Can I say. I was placed with the “Master Bakers” Tom and Dottie Anderson and I can honestly say that I learned a lot and I enjoyed it very much. I felt that all of the students worked together really well, like a “well oiled machine”

Our Instructors said that we were all awesome and they actually attended our Rendezvous that night, at the home of Frank and Carolyn Fasano, and a good time was had by all.

(See next page for photos from AUXCHEF class)
Below Left is Ken Nelson, James Marcotte of Key Largo, Don Kittsmiller, Jo Allmond, Jan Kittsmiller and Dottie and Tom Anderson.
Below Right is FS-3 Tabatha Abromowitz showing how to clean the Deep Fryer.

Below is Dottie Anderson, our own Baker Extraordinaire
Below Right Toni Borland, AD-DSO–HR AUXCHEF Instructor
joins Frank Fasano at Rendezvous March 17, 2013.

Below Left is Diane Adam and Don Kittsmiller working on sauce.
Below Right we tried our smell factor to see if we could identify Herbs and Spices.
Chief's Mess Project Sector Key West.

We have one more day of work to complete this project. Some of the crew will be in on Tuesday to take down our braces for the back-splash. We have not set a day to complete this project, but we will inform all when we do. The crew of Tom Anderson, Neil Fox, Martin Mara, and myself, Don Kittsmiller have put in a 12 hour day today (Sunday, March 24) in order to get this job done. Our Foreman, Jim Adam is home with a kidney problem and could use a call to cheer him up.

Above left, Jim Adam puts together the dishwasher.
Above right, a view of finished counter and sink.

Above Left Don is working on side board and right Tom, Neil Fox Jan, Jim and Don admire counter.

Tom Anderson putting on front finish panels and Don almost done. This job has taken around 5 weeks.
Report on Marine Safety and Beach Clean Up March 2013

Donna Moore and members of her beach cleaning team completed one cleanup in February and three in March, totaling 114 bags of trash removed from our beaches, for this year. Anyone wishing to assist Donna and her team, please call her at (H) 305-515-2866 or (C) 561-302-6026.

We had no pollution call outs this month in Marine Pollution category.

The following is a list of the members who have helped Donna clean up our beautiful beaches:

TEAM LEADER: Donna Moore


We trust we did not miss anyone. Thanks to ALL!
Communications Report March 2013

At 1000 hours on February 23rd, we conducted our 3rd radio net check on channel 83 with the following radios, radio 6, (myself) radio 7, Bud Holloway and radio 8, Heinz Kropp. All transmitting radios were working fine. Aux radio 2 was not available and mobile 1 needs repairs. I checked the radio and found that it would only receive channel 72 and we could not pick up the weather channel.

On Tuesday February 19th and March 12th we conducted on the water training for new crew along with teaching them proper Radio procedures. When we use our radios while doing water training, it gives the new crew a chance to learn without extra pressure and worry of messing up while practicing.

I have made up a procedures guide for the new crew trainees to help them while training.
Above is a photo of our graduates from the Boating Skills and Seamanship Class at Sugarloaf Fire Department. Please note the two young men seated at right front row. They are the recipients of our “Boating Safety Scholarship”. Left to right Steven Jorgenson and Zachary Gracey.

Robert Eichholtz  FSO-PE  Public Education  Report March 2013

First of all, THANK YOU all for helping to make this a GREAT BS&S season. We could not have done it without you.

We graduated 69 students in three classes this year. My records only go back four years and this is the most we've graduated in those four years, the next best number, being 61 in 2009-2010. When you add on the folks who paid and did not complete the class, we have made a lot of money for the Flotilla. It is a success all the way around. The public gets vital boating safety information and we get the cash in our account, as well as the knowledge that we may have helped avoid potential incidents.

Photo right shows our FSO-PE helping Students with navigational problems, at the February 2013 class. Also Shown is member Neil Haring.
March 2013 Report for Fund-Raising Committee

First, the event was extraordinary on many levels, several of which I will touch upon. The most important aspect of president's day for the Flotilla was the example we set of recycling. Many of the donations would have been discarded, had they not become purchased merchandise for our customers.

Second, I delivered $2617.00 ( $2500 flea market with $117.00 split the pot) to our treasurer, Martin Mara, to be deposited.

Third, we were pleased to report two scholarships were awarded for our Boating Skills and Seamanship Class. The recipients were Zachary Gracey and Steven Jogenson.

Fourth, on a personal level, Pastor Joyce Alexander was the epitome of cooperation. I am so appreciative. I would like to acknowledge an amazing intrepid team of volunteers. Esther and Bill Jordan, Diane and Jim Adam, Virgil and Jo Allmond, Luke and Donna Moore, Dottie and Tom Anderson, Don and Jan Kittsmiller, Lynda and Neil Haring, Bob Eichhlotz, Bob McNamee, Ken Nelson, Martin Mara, Joe Gerig and Nancy Holum. These people collected, cleaned, loaded, transported unloaded in the dark, set up organized, sold and smiled all day.

Fifth, on the housekeeping level, I want to acknowledge new ideas executed, Nancy Holum , not only suggested a bake sale, she volunteered to be chairman. Delicious homemade goodies were donated. Winn Dixie and Publix Supermarkets supplied fresh fruit. The church allowed us to use a classroom for the sale of electronics and electric items. They also allowed us to hold the bake sale in their kitchen area, which put us inside out of the weather.

Continued on Page Fifteen
Fundraising Report Continued from page Fourteen.

A big surprise in sales was the clothes. Our presentation of hanging slightly used, clean clothes on hangers proved successful. Jewelry is a big seller. We intend to disperse with the electronics on our next sale. They simply do not sell. We are considering a silent auction along with the jewelry department for next time. Other big sellers were tools, small appliances, fishing equipment, kitchen utensils and books. One high priced item was a chipper and a compass.

Some of you have asked why do we want to have such a large treasury? This is an interesting question. Money permits us to move to a higher level in our missions and support our boating safety and education with more gusto. It has been suggested that we work with schools. We have already established a good relationship with Marathon and Key West High school to provide the scholarships to allow students to attend our boating class free of charge. There is a strong impetus since the Florida Law demands an ID for anyone that is under 18 or born before 1/1/88 may be allowed to operate a vessel over 10 HP.

You may have suggestions for next year and I welcome them.

A dear person in my life often said “nothing succeeds like success”.
FOR THE GOOD OF THE FLOTILLA:
PHOTOS FROM OUR MARCH 17, 2013 RENDEZVOUS


Left above Carolyn and Frank Fasano hosted the Rendezvous at their home and right is Frank’s birthday cake. We were celebrating Frank’s birthday as well as St. Paddy’s Day.

Photo right shows Lois Gerig, Frank Fasano & right forefront is Toni Borland, ADSO-HR one of our Instructors for The AUXCHEF Class. Present, but not shown here is Paulette Parent, ADSO-HR/AUXCHEF, who will be our POC for this new program.