This month’s topic FUN: In a recent meeting at the Division level, that I attended, one subject that kept surfacing from a lot of the Flotilla Meetings is the subject of having fun. Every Flotilla Commander and our Division Commander agree that we need to do something in order to attract people and with the current way of doing business at every flotilla, there seems to be more increase in the workload which reduces the fun factor. What has been decided for our entire Division and what I have seen in my short tenure is that we need to find a way to influx more fun into our activities. Our next meeting is going to have some surprises that I am working on. I would love to hear from anyone who has an idea on how to make our work more fun instead of like “work”. I am a person who believes that there are no silly or stupid ideas, but rather an idea that could have merit and may just need some tweaking.

In keeping with this, if you have a desire and want to see changes to the fun level for the Flotilla, I am looking for some individuals to be on a committee that will help with the fun factor and working with awards, just let me know. You can make a difference.
Virgil Allmond  
Vice Flotilla Commander  
March 2015 Report

We have received two e-mails this month from up the line, one even from the D7 Commodore about proper uniform. In addition to the standard admonitions about uniforms, such as wearing all the same uniform at one mission or event, wearing the proper white socks with boat crew and shorts and tee shirts that are not faded or in disrepair, we learned that anytime our pictures are taken, we should be uncovered and remove your sunglasses. the last two mentioned were new to me.

Last year we made some strides toward being properly attired at all times, but please take notice, everyone is seeing us in our newsletter photos and out in public, so please strive for perfection in how we look in uniform.

There was some water training missions, but otherwise we were all recuperating from February. April promises to be busy. Thanks for all you do, when no one is looking.

Note from Editor Jan:  
Please remember in your prayers and thoughts, our friend and longtime member Esther Jordan, who is going through a really tough time while she is closing up her home here and gets back to Idaho to her husband Bill, who is in hospice.

We love you Bill and Esther!
First of all, I want to announce that Lynda Haring has successfully completed the Instructor Development Course and has been qualified as Instructor. Welcome Aboard, Lynda!

Our third class of the season recently concluded with 24 students, including 1 scholarship student, successfully completing the course. This brings our season total to 71 students completing the course. To my knowledge (going back to 2009-2010), this is our highest graduate total. Season 2012-2013 is in second place with 68 students successfully completing the course.

Our next course will be in late November or early December. As we wrap up the season, I just want to say “Thank You” to all members of the PE team, including our Instructors, everyone assisting with the class sessions, everyone involved with sending out the press releases, distributing flyers and anyone else who has contributed to the Public Education effort. I am incredibly fortunate to be associated with a team who gets the job done efficiently and effectively. I don’t have to ask for help or prod you to do things, as everyone knows what their job is and what needs to be done. It is truly a thing of beauty and I am proud to be associated with each and every one of you.

Photo above left: Virgil Allmond (VFC) covers Highway Signs on the water in Boating Skills & Seamanship Course, ending March 11, 2015.
Photo above right: John Rhode covers navigation at the latest Boating Skills Course.
Requested update to a member’s request from another Flotilla to Flotilla 13-3.

With the assistance of Dale Gittings, Jan Kittsmiller and Jim Adam, we are processing one new member from the E-Responders Network and signed up two additional members from our last BS&S class. These two people were encouraged to do our Boating Skills & Seamanship class and join the Auxiliary by Cheryl Heinz. I have one more person to contact from an E-Responder and Dale Gittings has two possible candidates for membership.

I designed a “Flotilla new member follow-up form for Bridge and Flotilla Staff Officers” to help with the new member process. I also designed a “Welcome Aboard” letter for staff and new members. Dewey Jackson has informed me that the Division is adopting these forms for use with other Flotillas.

This report is my last one for FSO-HR. (Recruitment and Retention is an “All Hands Job” and Flotilla 13-3 is off to a great start.)
So far it has been a relatively quiet month and not much going on. On Wednesday last, Luke Moore with his crew, went to Niles Channel in some dense fog and completed some on the water training with some normal communications with personnel at Station Marathon on channel 23A.

This week I completed some radio checks, one with a Radio Facility and some others which were not. We try to do this as a friendly gesture to see if our radios are correctly working. If any of you feel you may be having some problems, or you are having poor reception, please call and I will try to check the problem.

First use your radio and turn to channel 26 and call for a radio check. It interferes with no one and cost nothing, then you can see if you are getting and receiving a clear reception and signal. If you are in Sugarloaf, use Channel 24.
Martin Mara  FSO-FN
Financial Officer
February 2015 Report

Assets: $3,542.00
Savings: $5,656.00
Checking: $9,166.00
Total Assets $18,364.00

Liabilities: There are no outstanding liabilities at month end, January 2015

Activity since end February:
Deposit of $1,620.00
  ($160 flea market, $350 dues, $1,110.00 BS&S)
Checks written/Paid Out $0000.00
Audit: The annual audit is complete and has been submitted.
Dues: Twenty one (21) members remain unpaid for 2015 ($735.00)

Other Actions Requested

1. Dues Increase
Based on National and District proposed increases in 2016, $12 + $2 = $14,
we will now be paying out $38.00 in dues up the line vs our current $35.00
member assessment.

I am, therefore, recommending a MOTION to increase yearly dues for
Flotilla 13-3 from $35.00 per year to $50 per year, effective 2016
(payable October 2015).

2. When I assumed the position of FSO-FN, I suggested a strategy that
would build a “reserve” of $10,000 to assure the perpetuity of the Flotilla.
This was done by CDs and Savings account. Since being approved, this
reserve has increased to $9,198.00. I would like to transfer $800.00
from checking to savings this month. I do not believe this requires a
motion. If anyone disagrees, please make the motion so that we can discuss.
The Officer's meeting was waived following a general consensus of those present. The regular meeting was called to order at 1906, followed by the Pledge to the Flag. Minutes from January meeting were read and approved.

Dewey Jackson was recognized as our guest. Flotilla Commander Gittings read Human Resources, Marine Safety and Public Affairs (left by Don Kittsmiller). Other reports for committees were read. Donna Moore’s beach Clean up is tentatively scheduled for February 24. Yard Sale coming up. Dottie will send out an e-mail with details.

Dewey Jackson reported that 13-3 was in the top 1% in the Country for Vessel Exams! He also invited everyone to attend the commissioning of the “Isaac Mayo” in Key West on March 28th. He will send out a confirmation by email. Also Dewey mentioned the “Table Top” discussion of managing disasters such as oil spills, which is scheduled for March 12. Sector Key West will be getting a new Commander this Spring.

Fran Frederic thanked us for loaning her Virgil Allmond for a presentation at Venture Out. Members in need of one hour TCT, please stay after meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2055.

Donna Moore was presented an award for 100 vessel exams and Ken Nelson was presented with a Team Award as well as an Exceptional Meritorious Service Award and a Challenge Coin.
Members completing Training in February, 2015 are as follows:
One Hour Team Coordination:

Dottie and Tom Anderson
William Downs
Dale Gittings
Lynda Haring
Robert McNamee
Luke Moore
Ken Nelson
John Rhode

On the Water Training will be covered in the Operations Report.

We still have a good supply of caps, shirts, belts, buckles, insignia, etc. As usual, I bring some items with me to the auxiliary meeting and often to the Rendezvous. Just call (603-236-1936) is there is something that you would like for me to bring.

I intend to do another inventory before April and may have some questions regarding the items on hand after that.
This is my first report as FSO-VE and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Diane Adam for her dedication and untiring support for the Vessel Examiner Program.

As of March, we have 156 vessel exams performed by our vessel examiners. Of those done, 100 were Recreational vessels and 56 were paddle-craft.

Donna Moore (pictured above right) and her Coastal Cleanup Team, spent a total of 24 hours gathering trash and debris from the beaches of Big Pine Key. Her team picked up 27 bags, two tires and other assorted items.

Helping Donna with her quest to keep our beaches clean was Ken Nelson, Dottie Anderson, Gerry Coady, Katy McCarthy and Linda Henderson.

SUPER JOB TEAM!
Don Kittsmiller  FSO-PA
Public Affairs
March 2015 Report

USA Coast Guard Support:

News releases for the February/March Boating Skills & Seamanship Classes, resulted in being published 12 times by the local news media. Over one hundred flyers were distributed by our Marine Partner Visitor team headed up by FSO-PV, Jo Allmond.

Community Support:

On Sunday, February 1st, our Mobile trailer was set up on the Chamber of Commerce grounds for the lower Keys Chamber of Commerce and Lower Keys Rotary Club, for the Super Sunday Spectacular. We talked with over 65 people about various aspects of boating safety. Everyone expressed appreciation for the informative answers given to their questions. We talked with at least 6 people who were interested in information about joining our organization. Bob Eichholtz signed up 7 people for the upcoming BS&S class.

On April 25, we will be participating in the annual “Earth Day” celebration at Bahia Honda State Park. This has been verified and we are assured of a our usual spot. This will be a Public Affairs booth with some vessel exams at the Marina and some of our members will be available to speak to the public about boating safety.

Local Media Involvement

Two BS&S after class articles with photos of the class, were published by the local media. This will be my last PA report. I want to thank everyone for their help and I have enjoyed doing this job, as it allowed me to utilize the PA training courses that I completed.
For The Good of the Flotilla:

Our monthly Rendezvous was held on March 15, 2015, at the home of Frank and Carolyn Fasano. The Fasano's went all out with their Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner and a beautiful birthday cake for Frank, whose birthday will be March 23 and I don’t think he minds if we say it will be his 83rd. We all had a ball at the Rendezvous and would like to say THANKS to Frank and Carolyn for their wonderful hospitality, including music. The following Photos are a testimonial to how much fun it was!

Above left: Carolyn & Frank Fasano, at the Rendezvous 3-15-15, getting ready to light candles on cake.
Above middle: Carolyn greets some of the guests at Rendezvous. (Bob Holum, Nina & Dick McCausland
Above right: Donna Moore is pouring a glass of Lemonade? (Yeah, that’s lemonade).

Above left: Joann John arrives at Rendezvous.
Above right: Bob and Nancy Holum getting ready to sample the food at Rendezvous.