Acting Flotilla Commander Virgil Allmond - May 2013 Report

Well, here we are beginning a summer (slow season). Last summer started to change, when we began training 4 people through the PQS (personal qualification standards) for Boat Crew. Now, this year, we hope to begin to work with 3 new crew trainees. We will see how that goes.

We also have the two “Swim around Key West” events for which we already have two boats working each of these events. If you need or want crew hours for the summer, please contact Luke Moore, Don Kittsmiller or myself. Lastly, toward the end of the summer season, I hope to get in some two boat training with the new crew folks.

Luke Moore continues to work on the Aton Verifier class. We have six people signed up and have tentatively penciled it in for some time in July. If you are interested in becoming an Aton Verifier, please let Luke know. I learned at last meeting that you can be an Aton Verifier WITHOUT being boat crew qualified. Translation, you can get out on the water and check Atoms without being crew qualified.

I’ve asked and Flotilla Commander McNamee has appointed Lois Gerig and Diane Adam to serve on the “selection committee” for 2014 elected officers. So far it seems the hardest part of these leadership jobs is finding folks who will take on some responsibility as Staff Officers. We all enjoy the activities of the Flotilla, but in order to continue to do so, a few folks have to take on part of the leadership role. Think about serving for a year in one of those areas, when asked by the Commander for next year.

The June meeting/rendezvous combination will be at the Allmonds’ 3713 Gumbo Limbo St, Big Pine Key on June 16 at 4:00 P. M. I can promise that it will be simple (like burgers and brats) but the definitive answer is not up to me and will be announced when Jo decides. If you are of those blessed people, who live here full time, please plan on joining us.

For the Human resources report, I have 2 candidates who are reviewing material and making their final decision and I will have at least 3 who will attend the May meeting, who have requested an initial informational visit. I plan on working with them next week. We will try to have the best fun this summer down here in paradise.
REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND AND MEMBER CHARLES (BUD) HOLLOWAY

Some of you have already heard that we have lost one of our members, Charles (Bud) Holloway, to the dreaded disease, cancer.

Those of us who knew Bud, know that when we say Bud the “gruffy” one, we also knew that deep inside of him, was a soft heart that would allow him to do things for all of us. One thing will remain constant, when we think of Bud, and that is that his whole life, for many years was his work with the USCG Auxiliary and especially, Flotilla 13-03. He lived most of his last years, doing patrols, vessel exams, instructing at boating skills classes, QE (qualifying examiner) for boat crew/coxswain and water training and many other jobs for the Auxiliary.

We do not have room to list all of his accomplishments, but we will attempt to name some of them and include some photos of happy times with the Flotilla on the following pages. I am sure that all of you who knew him, have your own memories of knowing Bud, some humorous, and maybe some not. The information herein is taken from the AUXDATA records and shows, above all, how hard he worked for the Auxiliary over the years. The best estimation we have of hours put in is well in excess of 15,000 hours (computer records did not begin until 2002)

Some of the Certifications earned by Bud Holloway follow:

- Operational Auxilarist Specialist (AUXOP)
- Aton Verifier
- Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner
- Recreational Boating Vessel Examiner
- Watchstander—Radio Watch
- Qualifications Examiner (QE)

Awards Earned by Bud Holloway:

- AUX Achievement Award (1)
- RBS Device Award (1)
- Presidential Unit Citation (1)
- AUX Commandant Ltr Commendation (2)
- AUX Examiner Program ribbon (2)
- AUX Operations Program Ribbon (2)
- AUX PE Service Award (3)
- CG Unit Commendation (3)
- AUX Specialty Training Ribbon (6)
- AUX Operations Service Award (11)
- DOT Secretary Outstanding Unit (1)
- AUX Commendation Award (2)
- AUX Instructor Program Ribbon (2)
- Transportation 9-11 Ribbon (2)
- CG Meritorious Team Award (3)
- AUX Membership Svc Award (4)
- AUX VE/MDV Svc Award (8)
- Sustained Service Award (11)

See photos on following page
Above left Bud receives awards at COW December 2007 and at May 2007 meeting.

Photo above left: Bud at Change of Watch (COW) in December 2010 with Norma MacDonald, wife of Dallas MacDonald and Fran Morway, wife of Doug Morway. At this COW, we held a crossing the bar Ceremony for members of Flotilla 13-03, who had already crossed the bar.

Above right: Bud is shown at a Change of Watch (COW) in December 2007 receiving an award designed by some of our members and Bud expressed his delight at receiving an award from his "peers". Shown in the background is Captain Bushman, who was then Commander of USCG Sector Key West.

CROSSING THE BAR (Poem from USCG AUX Memorial handbook)

sunset and evening star, And one clear call for me, And may there be no moaning of the bar, When I put out to sea. But such a tide as moving seems asleep, Too full for sound and foam, when that which drew from out the boundless deep, turns home. Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark! For tho’ out our bourne of time and place, the flood may bear me far’.

I hope to see my Pilot face to face, when I have crossed the bar!
May, 2013 Vessel Exam Report
Flotilla 13-03 Diane Adam FSO-VE

April 2013 Statistics:
Vessel exams given: 86
Vessel exams total: 313
Vessel exams passed: 284
Vessel exams %: 90.7

Vessel examiners participated in Earth Day on April 20, 2013. With their visits came new knowledge of boating safety and environmental protection practices that will preserve our paradise called the Florida Keys. Examiners should verify that your email address and home address and ZIP Code are correct in AUXDATA. You can make corrections by logging into the AUXDIRECTORY at https://auxoicfer.cgaux.org, search for yourself, and make corrections if needed.

Our VEs should know to refer exams as described below to me as FSO-VE so that I may handle through the proper channel.

National V-Directorate “Recreational Boating Safety Alert Notice”

*This Notice is intended to be read by ALL USCG Auxiliary and USPS qualified Vessel Examiners*

In accordance with The Vessel Safety Check Manual, COMDITINST 16796.8, the vessel safety check (VSC) is intended to serve as a "prevention through education, outreach, and volunteer compliance" activity and to help recreational boaters gain a respect for the boating environment. Generally, any recreational boat is eligible for a Vessel Safety Check by a certified Vessel Examiner.

Per the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual, COMDITINST 16790.1G, Commercial Fishing Vessels, Uninspected Passenger Vessels (vessels carrying not more than six passengers, including at least one passenger-for-hire and of less than 100 gross tons), and Uninspected Towing Vessels (commercial vessel engaged in or intending to engage in pulling, pushing or hauling alongside or any combination of pulling, pushing, or hauling) are not part of the recreational boating Vessel Safety Check program. Examinations of these vessels require that an Auxiliarist hold a specific letter of designation from the Sector Commander/Captain of the Port/Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections under whom they work and from whom they have received orders to conduct such examinations. The best course of action for an Recreational Boating Safety - Vessel Examiner when walking the docks for potential exams is to be upfront with the vessel owner/operator: "Is your vessel at any time engaged in commercial activities?" If yes, then the Recreational Boating Safety - Vessel Examiner will explain that the vessel should have an exam that covers that category of vessel. It is important that the owner/operator understand the difference between vessel examinations for Recreational and Commercial Vessels. Multiple decals are authorized only on the commercial side. The vessel and crew must be appropriately fitted and manned to the commercial activity that the vessel is engaged in at the given time.
Vessel Examiner report May 2013 Continued from Page Four

In an effort to provide consistent education and compliance of Federal regulations within the Commercial Vessel (Commercial Fishing, Uninspected Passenger Vessels and Uninspected Towing Vessels) field of activity, the recreational Vessel Examiner, after determining that the Owner/Operator is engaged in Commercial endeavors (full time or part time) and in lieu of awarding a Vessel Safety Check Decal, should refer the Owners/Operators to their nearest Coast Guard Sector. U.S. Power Squadrons, Qualified Vessel Examiners are not authorized to conduct Vessel Safety Checks on any Commercial Vessel.

In the event you, as Vessel Examiner have a question regarding this subject, Please keep me in the loop and I will make sure that you find your answers.

Diane Adam, FSO-VE

Don Kittsmiller at Bahia Honda Earth-day, doing Vessel Safety exam at dockside.

Above photo shows team at Bahia Honda State Park VE/PA booth for Earth Day Booth.
We had a busy month in April. Jim and Diane Adam, Jo Allmond, Jan and Don Kittsmiller and Martin Mara all participated in the GAP (galley assistance program) at USCG Station Marathon.

Our new AUXCHEF qualified team consists of Jim Adam, Diane Adam, Jo Allmond, Dorothy Anderson, Tom Anderson, Don Kittsmiller, Jan Kittsmiller and Ken Nelson. In addition, our dedicated and talented volunteers include Michael Bloch, Lois and Joe Gerig, Sue Harfield, Martin Mara and Donna Moore. A master list of our team was created for all the FSO (Flotilla Staff Officers) of other flotillas.

Our team is in a smooth transition to creating meals from established menus, especially at Station Marathon. I want to thank Don, Jan and Marty for accepting the challenge of doing a “crawfish” boil and seafood meal. With Jan’s magic the “Coasties” enjoyed the meal immensely. According to the mess cook, Coley, the plates were piled high with shells.

If you volunteer with Jo, you will hear “it is too bland, add more salt” If you volunteer with Ken, he will say “it needs more pepper” and When Jo and Ken volunteer together, you will be part of a new reality Show, “salt versus pepper” on one of the food channels.

Above photo left: starting with back to camera is MK2 Reginelli, to his right is MK3 Vega, BMC Graham, FN Coley, and BM2 Rabczak. To the left of Reginelli is MK1 Croly and BM1 Crews.

Above middle photo shows Martin Mara working on cleaning shrimp with FN Coley assisting.

Above right photo shows Martin Mara and Jan Kittsmiller getting ready to serve the troops.
Morale and Appreciation Day at Station Marathon

On May 10, 2013 members of Flotilla 13-03 were invited and assisted with putting on a picnic for the troops as well as members of the Auxiliary at Station Marathon.

While some of the members of the Coast Guard were out doing their “War Games” with paint ball guns, FS1 Tameka Wright & assistants were working with some of our AUXHEF Team, Don and Jan Kittsmiller and Ken Nelson to set up a picnic feast including barbecue Ribs, hamburgers, brats and dishes brought in by our Flotilla members. Everyone enjoyed leisure time visiting with the personnel at Station Marathon and with each other.

Thanks to FS-1 Tameka Wright, FN Coley, as well as all of our Members, who brought in food to be enjoyed by all.

Photo above left:  FS1 Tameka Wright with FN Weise , USCG Station Marathon
Photo above right:  FN Weise, FN Coley, BM2 Rabczak & BM2 Weitzel

Photo above shows left to right MKC Rohlmann and BM2 Rabczak on April 26, when our AUXCHEF team, Don, Jan and Martin Mara fed troops. More photos on page eight of Morale day
Photos from Morale and Appreciation Day, May 10, 2013

Above left is Vice Commander Virgil Allmond and wife Jo Allmond.
Above right, left to right, Donna Moore, Jo Allmond, Luke Moore & Virgil Allmond.

Above left shows Carolyn and Frank Fasano enjoying good food May 10, 2013.
Above right Donna Moore and Gerry Coady chatting and sharing during Morale day picnic.

Above photo shows Ken Nelson, AUXCHEF working hard at grilling hamburgers & Brats at our Appreciation and Morale Day picnic at 5/10/13, Station Marathon.
On April 20, 2013, our Flotilla was very well represented at Bahia Honda Earth Day celebration. At least 16 folks from our Flotilla attended. Thanks to Lynda and Neil Haring, Don Kittsmiller, Bob McNamee, Virgil & Jo Allmond, Donna & Luke Moore, Dottie & Tom Anderson, Jim and Diane Adam, Gerry Coady, Bob Morrow, Bob Eichholtz & Dick McCausland. Additionally, three members from Flotilla 13-02 caught a ride on one of 33' Coast Guard Boats and came to help us. Everyone that wanted, was treated to a tour of the 33' Coast Guard Facility.

We conducted 36 vessel exams and boating safety literature was given out to more than 80 people who came by our booth. We also had the opportunity to provide free life jackets to three needy people, all children. They were very grateful. Vice Commander Virgil Allmond has asked for a volunteer to head up a committee to continue recycling life jackets.

The following is an excerpt from a letter our Flotilla received from “Monay Markey”, Park Services Specialist.

On behalf of the management and staff at Bahia Honda State Park, we would like to thank your organization for making our 2013 Earth Day Celebration a success. We greatly appreciate your staff taking time to set up a booth at our event and we want to extend our invitation for participation in the 2014 Celebration.

Above Left: Lynda Haring greets some of the public who visited our earth Day Booth
Above middle: Virgil gets out the word that we are doing free Vessel Safety Exams.
Above right: Bob McNamee, Flotilla Commander and Don Kittsmiller IPFC talk with one of the Crew from the 33 FT Coast Guard Facility from USCG Station Marathon.
Marine Safety report May 2013

This month, I was part of the Incident Management Team for a two day PREP Exercise in Key West with the Sector Prevention Team.

Our goal was to test the ability of all Florida Keys assets, both civilian and governmental, to respond to a major disaster. This particular exercise was to a major oil spill on Key West harbor. Everyone in Auxiliary Operations has taken ICS (Incident Command System) classes and this exercise put that system to the ultimate test. When this exercise started, Chief Hillyer, while standing Sector Communications Watch, simulated that an Auxiliary Vessel on patrol in the area was sent to the scene and stayed on station until relieved by Station Key West. I had the job of submitting the paper work. The second day, I had the pleasure of riding a Sea Tow vessel with Chief Duncan McAndrews. We went to Wisteria Island, Sunset Key and then over to Mole Pier, taking photos of any possible oil in the water or on land. We sent these photos back to the Command Center for evaluation. Keep in mind that this was an exercise, but also good practice. I had a few small jobs but felt like part of the team and I can tell everyone that they can be very proud of everyone’s efforts. If an incident should occur in the future, these professionals are up to the task.

This Last month was a busy one for Donna Moore and her Beach Cleaning team. They collected over 45 large bags of trash from our precious beaches. So far this year, Donna and her team have collected over 132 bags of trash. It is good to also know that Donna and her team have taken the HAZWOPER classes so we do not have to worry about the safety of those doing this project. Assisting Donna was Dottie Anderson, Jo Allmond, Gerry Coady, Nancy Hunting and Ken Nelson. Next time you see any of these members, say Thank You or better yet, volunteer to help. Anyone wishing to assist, please call Donna at 305-515-2866 or 561-302-6026.

Photo: Another way to clean the beaches.
May 9, 2013 Minutes for Officers Meeting

Vice flotilla Commander, Virgil Allmond suggested a less formal setting where we each address any areas of concern prior to the general meeting. Thus, foregoing the duplicate reading of full reports. He also noted that the June, July & August meetings will combine with the rendezvous date for those months. The September event will be decided at the August meeting.

Coxswains may utilize having any Aton examiner on their facility, even if that Examiner is not also boat crew qualified. If anyone is interested in qualifying as an Aton Examiner, contact Luke Moore. There is a class to be scheduled some time in the near future. It was reported that the POMS system is being reworked.

The general meeting opened at 7:30 P.M. With the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Elsie Metcalf, Division Commander was welcomed as a guest along with two people who were brought by Bob Morrow. Minutes were read and accepted as read. The financial report for the month was summarized by Vice Commander Virgil Allmond. “All is well, we have money” the paper documentation is in the capable hands of Martin Mara. Jan Kittsmiller recognized that some of our members are having problems getting their class information into AUXDATA through normal channels. She reported that she will press forward when needed. Our Flotilla has logged 12,000 hours so far this year.

Don Kittsmiller reported about the Incident Command Exercise done in Key West. He said all those ICS courses taken really work and he is confident that our teams are ready to go when needed.

Jan Kittsmiller read the GAP report from Jim Adam. A master list of all the available AUXCHEF has been done along with the names of any volunteers who assist them.

FSO-MA Tom Anderson has turned over the materials to Martin Mara while he is away for the summer.

(Minutes continued on page twelve)
May 2013 Minutes for 13-03 (continued from page eleven)

The VE report from Diane indicates 13-03 has YTD exams of 313 with a 90.7% passing rate. Jo Allmond gave her report on Bahia Honda Earth Day, stating it was very busy. 36 vessel exams were done that day. We were joined at the booth by two members of 13-02. Donna reports 132 bags of garbage from beach cleanups and 113 man hours YTD. John Rhode opened his report with recognition of our newest Coxswain, Virgil Allmond & 3 new crewmembers Lynda Haring, Sue Harfield and Ken Nelson. Lynda & Neil Haring have also completed the AUX-weather course. John made everyone aware that crew members need to take the initiative to contact the coxswains during the year as crew for them when they go out. It is really the responsibility of the crew to make sure that they get their 12 hours yearly requirement. Virgil asked Jan if she would send out an email to those that need hours this year. Donna Moore reported that we had 15 marine visits this past month. Luke reports that we need to do some ATON checks during the storm season. If anyone is interested in doing these, call Luke.

Luke Moore, Virgil Allmond and Don Kittsmiller will have facilities in the water for the swim around on June 7 and 8. Luke and Virgil will have facilities out for the swim around on June 22 and 23.

Dick McCausland brought us up to date on Bud and his prognosis is not good. The Flotilla sends good wishes to Bud’s family and we will have more information as soon as possible.

A planning session will be set up for the Lobster “Mini” season. Flotillas 13-02 and 13-03 will be working together on this.

The monthly combination meeting and rendezvous for June 16, will be at the home of Virgil and Jo Allmond, 3713 Gumbo Limbo St, BPK, at 4:00 P.M. Menu will be announced by Jo Allmond and you may call her at 770-617-0581 to discuss what side dishes to bring for the hamburgers and Brats.

Don Kittsmiller noted that he has a bin to donate, in which to put used PDFs for our free life vest distribution.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. (2030)
Sue Harfield, Lynda Haring and Keen Nelson qualified as boat crew. Virgil Allmond qualified as Coxswain.

The following members qualified as AUXCHEF: Jim and Diane Adam, Jo Allmond, Dorothy and Tom Anderson, Ken Nelson and Don and Jan Kittsmiller.

Neil and Lynda Haring completed AUX-WEA (aux weather)

Jan will be sending out a reminder via email to those of you who need to be aware of the need for more water hours.

Photo above left: Ken Nelson, Lynda Haring and Tom Anderson during water training this year on Dick McCausland’s facility. (2013)
Above right: Tom Anderson and Marco on patrol, doing navigation in (2011).
As FSO-PB, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes their reports, additions, tips, photos, drawings & advice to our newsletter. Without your contributions we would not be able to publish our letter and we need all your input to keep this publication active.

From time to time, we will have to edit some of the material, change however, slightly and we may even have to cut the material due to time and space. Also, we may attempt a little humor. (We hope nobody will be offended and we always welcome your comments and additions to this publication.)

Thanks again to all and we will have a slight respite from the news for at least a month, while we leave town and try to make a little money at our Shell Shows. We can always be contacted via email as I do take my I-Pad along with me.

The following drawing was done by one of our talented members and we can give you the author’s initials (Ted Giesbrecht). This is an example of things NOT to do on a patrol.