Virgil Allmond  
Flotilla Commander  
October Report

It has been yet another, fairly busy month, for Big Pine Key, Flotilla 13-3. Two-Boat training continues with Station Marathon each Thursday. Last Thursday, Coxswain Luke Moore and Crewman, Bill Downes worked with a boat from Station Marathon as a new USCG Coxswain was undergoing one of his last check rides, before qualification.

Station Marathon personnel as well as Sector Key West personnel participated with our Beach Clean Up crew and together we picked up 51 bags of trash and hauled them out to US 1 for pickup. Both Station Marathon and Sector Key West personnel said they would like to help us with this ongoing effort.

We would like to say thanks to Dale Gittings for stepping in to run for Commander next year. I am positive that he will make a great Commander and look forward to working with him. Elections will be held at the November meeting. Please be sure to show up at our meeting and support our Elected Officers who have stepped up to serve our Flotilla next year.

You will see a report deeper in this newsletter, but I want to acknowledge our team of Vessel Examiners and FSO-VE, Diane Adam. We have done 914 vessel exams! This may be a record that never gets broken and If you are a Vessel Examiner, let me encourage you to seek out that last 10 or 20 vessel exams, in your neighborhood. I feel sure that we can reach 1000 as a lasting record.

Since our last newsletter, I was interviewed on Pirate radio WKYZ, Key West. The interview lasted about 30 minutes and we covered boating safety, Boating Skills and Seamanship Classes, Kayak/ paddle board ID stickers and Vessel Safety Examinations. It was an enjoyable experience.
The Staff Officers meeting for USCG Flotilla 13-3 was called to order at 1840, October 9, 2014. Reports were heard from Martin Mara, regarding the need to revise the “Selection Committee” findings. It was decided that we would do this at the regular meeting.

The regular meeting of Flotilla 13-3 was called to order, at 1900 by Flotilla Commander, Allmond. Virgil advised us that the Jordans, Esther and Bill will, most probably be selling their home in Big Pine Key and returning full time to Boise, Idaho. This is due to Bill’s health and Virgil suggested that we send some cards to the Jordans or call them to show support during this endeavor.

Phil (Doc) Stern announced that he will be removing his name from contingency for Flotilla Commander for 2015. Doc will be moving out of the area as of April, 2015.

Jan was called on to read the minutes from September 2014 meeting. A motion was made by Jo Allmond and seconded by Diane Adam to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried with affirmative vote.

Finance report was given by Martin Mara, FSO-FN and motion was made by Jan Kittsmiller to accept report as read. The motion was seconded by Donna Moore and passed as affirmative vote.

Martin also was asked to give the “Selection Committee” report, advising that we had a new slate of candidates as follows: Dale Gittings, to run for Commander next year with Ken Nelson as Vice Flotilla Commander. Virgil thanked the Committee members for working so hard on this Selection process.

Don Kittsmiller gave his Public Affairs report and Jim Adam gave a short report of the cooking days that were done by Don and Ken Nelson. Ken headed up The FS cooking days at Station Marathon. A more complete report will be given by Ken Nelson in our newsletter. Diane Adam, FSO-VE gave an “Atta Boy” to all Vessel Examiners who accomplished over 914 vessel exams thus far this year.

Donna Moore announced the next Beach Cleaning project on Long Beach Rd, at 0700 on Saturday, October 11.

(Minutes continued on Page Three).
Minutes from Flotilla Meeting, October 9, 2014 (continued from page Two)

The Rendezvous for October 12, 2014 will be at Sue Harfield’s at 1525 Key Deer Blvd, Big Pine Key at 4:00 P. M. Bring your own meats to be cooked on the grill.

Colt Fairchild, AUXLO at USCG Station Marathon spoke to us and thanked Don Kittmsiller and Ken Nelson for cooking and special thanks to Ken, who setup the schedule for cooking the four days that FS-1 was away on personal leave. Colt also talked about the two boat training and thanked our personnel (Luke Moore as Coxswain and Bill Downes as Crew) who helped finish the training for Nick Long as Coxswain. Regards were sent from Senior Chief at Station Marathon and thanks for the Cleanup crew our Flotilla provided with Donna Moore as the head. If we do more of these, the Station Marathon personnel would like to help.

Martin advised that our dues are payable now and please see him for this.

Jo Allmond brought up that we have quite a number of “repurposed” life vests and Virgil asked Jo to write up an AD to give to Don as PA officer to let the public know that we have these for use.

Awards were given out as follow:

Diane Adam received - Recreational Boating Safety Program Specialist Device Bob Morrow received -Auxiliary Performance Award for Vessel Safety Checks

These awards were issued but the recipients were not present to receive them:
Gerry Coady– AUX Weather & Vessel Examiner Bob Eichholtz—10 year Service Award & Public Education Award Dick McCausland—Recreational Boating Program Specialist Cheryl Heinz– Service Award Raymon (Sparky) Felix– Service Award

Meeting was adjourned at 2030.
Jim Adam receives sustained Service Award (750 hours)
Diane Adam receives her Recreational Boating Safety Specialist Device

Virgil Allmond, Flotilla Commander presents Bob Morrow with an Auxiliary Performance Award for Vessel Safety Examinations.

I will start the annual process of planning for the upcoming Boating Skills and Seamanship season in October. For more information, please visit our website a0701303.wow.uscgaux.info and select “Boating Safety Classes” (for more information about our programs) “Boating Safety Scholarship” (for information about our scholarship program) or “Public Courses (national course finder) from the list on the left hand side of the screen.
This week, upon receiving notice from Phil “Doc” Stern, stating due to unexpected changes in his personal life, he was reluctantly forced to withdraw his name from consideration for the position of Flotilla Commander for next year.

The committee is happy to inform the membership that Dale Gittings has agreed to run for the office of Commander at the November elections.

The Committee therefore, offers the following slate of officers for our elected Offices of Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander for 13-3 as follows:

- **Flotilla Commander**: Dale Gittings
- **Vice Flotilla Commander**: Kenneth Nelson

As stipulated in the Standing Rules, nominations from the floor are both permitted and encouraged on the night of the election. Only members physically present at the meeting are eligible to nominate or vote.

Respectfully submitted for the committee,

Martin Mara
CC: Jan Kittsmiller, Donna Moore, Don Kittsmiller
USCG Support:

Since sending out a press release on our Kayak and Canoe Project, we have been published by the Key West Citizen, News Barometer, Key West Keynoter, Paradise Magazine and the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. For this one project, we had 24 multiple ADS. Our Flotilla has over 900 Vessel checks with the support of the media. What a success for the Vessel Examiner Team of Big Pine Key as well as our leader, Diane Adam, FSO-VE.

A news release was sent out on our participation in the International Coastal Cleanup Day, September 20, 2014. The Big Pine Key Flotilla teamed up with Coast Guard personnel from Station Marathon and Sector Key West and cleaned beaches on the west side of Scout Key. Eleven total volunteers worked from 0700 until 1200, picking up 51 bags of trash. The work was difficult, with the heat, bugs and terrain. All ended well because Donna Moore had Chicken Noodle soup with all the trimmings, waiting for everyone on completion of this project. Participants from the Coast Guard were Mike Janesh, Colt Fairchild, Alyssa Cavallo, Elliot Gould, Amy Perry and her son Jeremiah. From the Auxiliary were, Katy McCarthy, Jo Allmond, Donna Moore, Ken Nelson and myself. Well done to our organizer and leader, Donna Moore.

Two boat training continues with Station Marathon each Thursday. The Coast Guard also helped one of the perspective Coxswains in training with his Long Tow procedures. This is a very successful program.

Flags and Ceremonies:

Report for USCG Auxiliary recruiting Service Award was done this month Under the category of “Don’s Award Corner”.

International Coastal Cleanup Day, September 20, 2014 Photos by Don Kittsmiller

Photo Above Left: Katy McCarthy, (Flotilla 13-3), USCG Personnel, Mike Janesh, Colt Fairchild, Elliot Gould, Alyssa Cavallo, Amy Perry, (Amy’s son Jeremiah) Jo Allmond and Donna Moore, (13-3).

Photo Above Right: Elliot Gould, and Jeremiah examine some material that was found on the beach, which could have been a home made boat covering.

There were two additional helpers for the Coastal Cleanup, Ken Nelson, who was cleaning in another section of the Beach, & Don Kittsmiller, who was taking photos when not cleaning.

Ken Nelson VFC of Flotilla 13-3 set up and worked for four days October 7-10 at USCG Station Marathon, galley. Assisting Ken on the 8th of October was Don Kittsmiller, who likes to do his “healthy salad” and one of those days, Ken was assisted by Donna Ferenci, who is Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 13-2. If my information is correct, Ken did all the other days cooking by himself to help our FS-1, Wildman, who had to be on emergency leave.

Photo above left shows Ken serving some of our hard-working Coast Guard. Photo above middle shows Don’s salad on which he likes to have boiled egg slices. Photo above right shows Ken whipping up some of his toppings for the “Delicious Enchiladas”.

DON's AWARD CORNER

AUXILIARY RECRUITING SERVICE AWARD

The Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award is awarded for Recruiting Seven or more new Auxiliarists into the Auxiliary as determined and credited through the Flotilla Commander.

Don Kittsmiller  FSO-PA
WOW!! REALLY? WOW!!!!

Statistics to the end of September, 2014 are just amazing!! Our Team's Completions show dedication to the importance of boating safety.

Congratulations!!

Vessel Exams given to October 1, 2014: 914
September Vessel Exams given: 168 (118 were paddle craft)
Vessel Exams passed: 820
Percentage Passed: 89.7

V-Directorate
Vessel Examination & Partner Visitation

Check the USCGAUX national VE page monthly to discover a myriad of information such as the following article:

Question: Recently when I was out underway, I saw a boat that had red and green rope lighting for navigation lights. The lighting was where your Rub Rail would be. They ended on the curve of the bow. Would lights like this be acceptable as NAV lights?

Answer: It sounds like what you are seeing are the LED lights. If the boat is new and if lights were installed by the manufacturer, then it would pass an inspection for a Vessel Safety Check. If someone installed a piece of rope light, then they are not. Lights need to be USCG approved and each side should shine 112.5A degrees from center.