



The Watchstander

Winter 2010

Meet Division 15: the Flotillas and Leaders

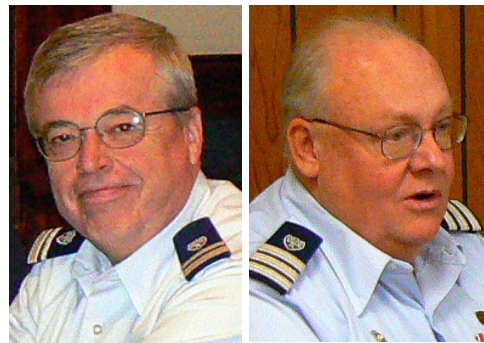
Division 15, Upper Hudson, includes 178 members in six flotillas covering an area in eastern New York and western Vermont from the Canadian border to the Hudson River below Catskill. Division officers provide administrative and training support to flotillas and promote National and District policy. All are welcome at the quarterly Division meetings scheduled for April 28 and September 15, and the meeting/picnic at Whitehall July 21. The Change of Watch will be November 14 in Glens Falls. *Right, Margaret Malone, Division Commander, and Gregg Trask, Division Vice Commander.*



Flotilla 15-2, Burlington, meets at CG Station Burlington on the first Wednesday of the month at 1900. The only flotilla based in Vermont, it has served the boating public for 55 years. Burlington Flotilla covers Vermont waters at the northern end of Lake Champlain with 36 members from VT and NY. 15-2 represents the Station at local events like the Burlington Boat Show, Kids' Day, and the Maritime Festival. They are active in recreational boating safety with several Vessel Examiners and Program Visitors. 15-2 provides operational support to Station Burlington and their sister flotillas. For 2010 they are working to qualify more boat crew and coxswains. *Above, Nick Flora, Flotilla Commander (FC) and Dick Bayer, Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC).*



Flotilla 15-4, Crescent, meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Clifton Park YMCA in Clifton Park, NY. Led by Chuck Meagher, FC, and Karl Saboda, VFC (*right*), meetings start at 1830 with fellowship at 1800. Crescent Flotilla has 11 members with an AOR that includes the Hudson River from Waterford south to Coxsackie (including the Port of Albany), the Mohawk River from Waterford west to Lock 7, and Saratoga Lake. 15-4 serves the boating public with an emphasis on recreational boating safety.



Flotilla 15-8, Plattsburgh, begins its third year with 29 members who meet the second Thursday of the month at South Plattsburgh Fire Department Station One, just south of Northway Exit 36. Plattsburgh Flotilla runs an active training schedule on Thursdays for its members. Their major goals are recruitment and training new Vessel Examiners and Program Visitors. The prospect of using the Operations Center on the lake will call for more operational ability—coxswains, crew, and facilities—to comfortably cover their AOR: the west side of Lake Champlain from the Canadian border to Split Rock. *Above right, Frank Williams, FC, and Carl Duford, VFC.*



Flotilla 15-09, Sacandaga-Mohawk, meets the first Thursday of the month at Stratton ANG Base at Schenectady County Airport. Fellowship starts at 1830; the meeting starts at 1900. Flotilla 15-9's AOR is Fulton, Montgomery and Schenectady counties and includes Great Sacandaga Lake and the Mohawk River from east of Erie Lock 7 to west of Erie Lock 15. In addition, air patrols cover all of the First Southern, communicating with Sectors New York, Long Island Sound, Northern New England, and Air Station Cape Cod. Flotilla 15-09 is proud to have NACO-O/IPDCO Tom Venezia among its 57 members. *Above left, Craig Hammer, FC, and Dan Miller, VFC.*



Flotilla 15-10, Lake George, meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 1830 at the Lake George Association building on Route 9N, just west of I-87 Exit 21. The 20 members of Lake George Flotilla have 4 boat facilities and 3 mobile radio facilities available for Coast Guard Auxiliary operations on Lake George and from Lake Champlain to the Hudson River, occasionally even beyond. *Right, George Enny, FC, and Robert Flynn, VFC*



Flotilla 15-13, Ticonderoga, meets in Crown Point at the Crown Point Telephone corporate offices on the third Monday of each month at 1900. The 20 members cover the southern end of Lake Champlain. "The members of the Bridge Flotilla are dedicated to energetically supporting the mission statement of the USCG Auxiliary. We use our training, talents and skills plus a genuine sense of fellowship to accomplish our goals," says Patricia Knapp. *Above, David Hirtle, FC, and Pat Knapp, VFC.*

The Division Board—those who vote at Division meetings—is comprised of the DCDR, VCDR, the six FCs, the Immediate Past Division Commander (*Jim Canavan, right*), and District Commodore Steve Ackerman (*far right*).



Division Staff Officers:



Information Systems Officer (SO-IS): Karl Saboda

ksaboda@nycap.rr.com
518 877-5529

The SO-IS is the record-keeper who collects and enters into AuxData reports of activities and competencies for Auxiliarists in the Division. He also oversees and assists Flotilla Staff Officers (FSOs) for Information Systems.



Finance Officer (SO-FN): Hugh Conners

lonesail@charter.net
518 563-2711

The SO-FN supervises and maintains records of Division finances, prepares the budget, and maintains close contact with FSOs-FN.



Chief of Response: Gregg Trask

glt@cptelco.net
518 597-3800

The Chief of Response coordinates the efforts of the Division's Operations, Communications and Aviation personnel to support the active duty, whether through direct operations or by providing the communications network by which critical mission information is carried. He oversees the SO-OP, -CM, and Aviation Chairman.

Operations Officer: Charles Pound

The SO-OP coordinates the Division's air and surface operations program, facilitates training opportunities, keeps FSOs-OP informed about program changes, and assists them.

cedpjr@aol.com
518 792-7482



Communications Officer: Jim Canavan

canavan@adelphia.net
H 518 793-3741, C 518 796-5040

The SO-CM oversees the Division's communications activities, promotes training, and keeps FSOs-CM informed of changes.



Aviation Chairman: Ron Volungus

ronvol@juno.com
518 383-0447

The Aviation Chairman oversees aviation activities and training for the Division including Search and Rescue (SAR), coastal security, and ice reconnaissance.



Chief of Prevention: David Hirtle

khrtl1@peoplepc.com
518-597-3398



The Chief of Prevention oversees the Staff Officers that provide the training and community outreach to head off problems before they arise, what the Coast Guard calls “Preventive SAR.” The Chief of Prevention oversees the SO-MS, SO-MT, SO-PA, SO-AN, SO-PV/VE, and SO-PE.

Marine Safety Officer: Craig Hammer

chammer1@nycap.rr.com
518 370-2877

The SO-MS oversees the Division’s support of the Coast Guard’s Marine Safety and Environmental Protection program, including marine environmental response assistance and environmental education, and keeps FSOs-MS informed.



Member Training Officer: Lynn Enny

glanenny@aol.com
518 499-2883

Working with other SOs, the SO-MT coordinates Division-wide training and testing opportunities and acts as a resource for FSOs-MT.



Public Affairs Officer: Don Craig

dcraig@westelcom.com
518-588-7185

The SO-PA is charged with helping FSOs-PA to acquaint the public with the work of the CG and Auxiliary and attract the public to our classes and seminars, always reminding members that recruitment is everyone’s business.



Navigation Systems Officer: Mike Balch

mjbaldch@myfairpoint.net
802-247-6688

The Auxiliary assists the CG by inspecting the condition and position of Aids to Navigation (ATONs). The SO-NS oversees the Division’s efforts and assists the FSOs-NS.



Vessel Examinations & Program Visitor Officer: Nick Flora

The SO-VE and -PV encourages the delivery of the boating safety message to the recreational boating community by encouraging and assisting the FSOs-VE and PV to continually improve their outreach programs.

nflora@us.ibm.com
802-862-7266



Public Education Officer: Robert Flynn

flynner1@verizon.net
518-793-7187

The SO-PE encourages the development of instructors and assists FSOs-PE with public education courses.



Chief of Logistics: Jim Quaile

jpqcgaux@aol.com
518 893-7350

The Chief of Logistics oversees the staff officers who provide services to the members: SO-CS, SO-PB, SO-MA, and SO-PS.



Communications Services Officer: Jim Quaile

The SO-CS stays current with what's on the web, maintains the Division website, <http://a01415.uscgaux.info/>, and helps the FSOs-CS.

Publications Officer: Margaret Malone

caphuff@charter.net
518 561-0561

The SO-PB publishes the Division newsletter, supplies material to other Auxiliary publications, and aids the work of FSOs-PB.



Materials Officer: Carl Duford

milret1508@yahoo.com
518 643-0956

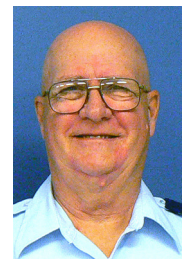
The SO-MA keeps track of Division supplies and equipment and assists FSOs-MA to obtain needed supplies.



Personnel Services: Dick Bayer

rjbayer@fairpoint.net
802-796-4432, 802-578-2475

The SO-PS assists the FSOs-PS in guiding new members through the application process and helping them settle into the Auxiliary.



Liaisons and Program Chairpersons:

Station Burlington Liaison: Mike Balch
Station Saugerties Liaison: Charlie Pound
Canadian CG Auxiliary Liaison: Tom Malone (*right*)
AuxChef Program Chairman: Tom Malone
Honor Guard Program Chairman: Terry Tremblay
(*far right*)
Change of Watch Chairman: Lynn Enny



Division 15 Experiments with Phone Conferencing

The January 20 Division meeting was held by telephone conference with 17 Board members and Staff Officers participating in the one-hour experiment. Feedback was positive. Although several officers commented that they missed meeting face to face, they saw the value in not having to take a chance on January driving conditions.

Here are excerpts from some Staff Officer reports:

SO-CM I have just completed the installation of a new Auxiliary repeater in Woodbridge, NJ, and have begun the process of installing a repeater in western Massachusetts that will serve western Mass as well as southern Vermont and eastern New York.

In Division 15 we are planning a drill/training event for our communications truck to take place in the lower Champlain Valley, probably the Port Henry area.

In the spring we will renew the monthly VHF repeater drills in Division 15.

SO-CS Through the internet the USCG Auxiliary has the opportunity to increase public awareness and provide a professional appearance. The Auxiliary suggests that unit websites reflect the 'Look and Feel' of Team Coast Guard. To this end they have created a set of templates that can be used for redesigning unit websites. The templates all have the same look and feel but have underlying differences in the technology used.

My objective is to select a template and apply it to the Division site and then recommend this approach to the Flotillas that wish to participate.

SO-IS Reminder – use proper and latest forms from web site. Outdated forms are no longer accepted for processing.

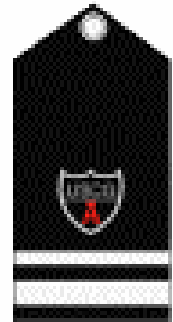
If one chooses to fill out forms by hand instead of using pull down and keyboard, **MAKE SURE YOU FILL IN ALL FIELDS** as stated in the instructions. (PE, make sure you tell me the STATE taught.)

There are new “99” categories and new PA categories.

Reminder – mission reports must be turned into FSO-IS within 45 days.

I am planning an AUXDATA AUX-10 course for April 16-18. FCs to provide names of attendees NLT 2/28/10.

All new member applications – please send me a copy of the first page of the application. I need to input emergency data and patriot information.



SO-NS BM1 Miller, the ATON/NS Petty Officer at Station Burlington, has targeted Private Aids to Navigation (PATONs) as an area that needs significant improvement. Most of the private aids can be inspected by an Auxiliary Aids Verifier; we have an opportunity to become heavily involved in this. BM1 Miller will arrange training for any Division members interested in becoming Aids Verifiers. He would like to have this program ready to start actual inspections in the early spring.

SO-OP Operations in Division 15 are in the initial planning stages for 2010 waiting for the ice and snow to melt.

- Mandatory TCT refreshers will be held May 22 in Lake George and June 12 in Lake Champlain.
- ICS 210 offered in Lake George on April 10, 2010.
- The old working blue uniforms will no longer be allowed after 31 DEC 2012.
- To remain current, coxswains/crew/PWO require 12 hours. PWO requires additional 6 hours.
- Feb 2010 Loran C will be turned off.
- ICS 210 required for current coxswains must be completed by March 2010.

SO-PA I plan to help the various flotillas to increase and improve their image in their local communities.

The first thing for FSOs-PS is to create an e-mail media list. This will include local newspapers, local radio and television stations, and all of the small organizations that provide community services and information, such as town governments, schools, retirement homes, veterans organizations, fire departments, etc. They all have newsletters and we never know where a bit of Auxiliary information will end up.

Secondly, I will provide information about potential media events. For instance, National Safe Boating Week in May is an opportunity for all flotillas to engage the public about wearing life jackets, if nothing else. Also, all flotillas have events that might be an opportunity for news photographs and interviews. All of these are chances for recruitment and increased public awareness of the mission of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Aviation Chairman From October through December, 34 missions were scheduled, 20 were completed and 14 missions were cancelled due to weather/mechanical problems. Dan Miller completed his qualification as Observer. Tom Catellier, Gregg Hunter, Dick Lynch and Chuck Zarriello have started to participate in air missions. Ron Volungus was designated as an Air Facility Examiner for 1st Southern District

An aviation egress training and swim test was conducted locally on Saturday, December 12. Six members completed the training.

My aircraft was tasked by Sector Northern New England to take aerial videos of the Champlain Bridge demolition with special permission by the Coast Guard to enter the restricted flight zone for this effort. Unfortunately, the day of the implosion, the weather was not suitable for the flight due to a heavy snow storm.

Winter Months Provide Time for Training



Although air patrols continue year round, boating-related activities slow to a halt, providing an opportunity for flotillas to offer training. Flotilla 15-9 is teaching the Auxiliary Patrol course, while 15-8 is offering Advanced Coastal Navigation. (At left, Tom Malone and Don Craig make sense of a tide table worksheet.) Both are AUXOP courses, part of an advanced training program available to Auxiliary members. The Operational Auxiliarist (AUXOP) is one who has completed the six AUXOP courses and is entitled to wear the special AUXOP device on his or her uniform.

Shown at right, the Specialist Ribbon is awarded when an Auxiliarist has passed the first AUXOP course. A star is added to the ribbon for each successive course. Once the Auxiliarist has passed all six specialty courses, the ribbon is removed and replaced by the AUXOP device (right). In addition to Patrols and Advanced Coastal Navigation, the other four AUXOP courses are Communications, Seamanship, Weather, and Search Coordination & Execution.



For more information on the six AUXOP courses, go to the training website at http://www.auxtdept.org/AUXOP_New2.htm.

In Port Watchstanders Welcomed on Wire

Charlie Pound, Station Saugerties Liaison, reports that USCG Cutter *Wire* has undergone an almost complete crew change recently. Auxiliary In Port Watchstanders were especially welcome during the holidays. Pound stood watch December 4-6. Jim Canavan stood watch December 31-January 3. He was joined January 1-3 by George and Lynn Enny.

The 65-foot *Wire* and four other USCG cutters are responsible for keeping a channel open through the ice so that an average of 300 vessels that transit the Hudson River during the winter months—carrying over 5 million barrels of petroleum products including home heating oil—are able to reach their destinations. In Port Watchstanders monitor the vessel while it is docked at Station Saugerties. Additional Watchstanders are welcome. Training takes about 30 hours. (Right, Jim Canavan at the *Wire* in 2007.)



Members of Flotilla 15-2 and her friends from across the Division were saddened to hear of the death of Jacquelyn Roach on January 7 in Florida. Jackie had been an Auxiliarist for 24 years. She served as Flotilla Commander of 15-2 and was elected as Division 15 Captain in 1992 and 1993. Jackie held an AUXOP rating and maintained her Instructor and Coxswain qualifications until her death. She was an indomitable woman, and she will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to her husband Bob Roach and to their family.



Division 15 Calendar

March 19-21: District Conference, Mystic Marriott, Groton, CT

April 10: ICS 210, Skenesborough Fire Dept., Whitehall, 0900

April 11 (Sunday): Operations Training and Tabletop Exercise, 0900, Skenesborough Fire Dept., Whitehall; Donna Cole, Instructor

April 16-18: IS Training (Aux 10), Whitehall High School

April 28: Division Meeting, Lake George, 1830

May 22: Operations Currency Maintenance Day-South, Harris Bay Yacht Club, Lake George, 0900

June 12: Operations Currency Maintenance Day- North, 0900

July 21: Division Meeting and Picnic, Skenesborough Fire Dept., Whitehall, afternoon-evening

August: Joint Picnic with Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

September 15: Division Meeting and Election

November 14: Division Change of Watch

December 3-5: District Leadership Conference, Mystic Marriott, CT

The editor thanks Don Craig, Ron Volungus, Nick Flora, Frank Williams, Craig Hammer, Dan Miller, Jim Quaille, Karl Saboda, Mike Balch, Charlie Pound, Tom Malone, and Jim Canavan for their contributions to *The Watchstander*.

The information contained in this document is subject to the provisions of the FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT of 1974 and may be used ONLY FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS of the COAST GUARD and the COAST GUARD AUXILIARY.

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