



The Watchstander

Winter 2009

Meet Division 15: the Flotillas and Leaders

Elected Officers:

Division 15, Upper Hudson, includes 153 members in six flotillas that cover an area in New York and Vermont from the Canadian border to the Hudson River below Catskill. Division officers work to give administrative and training support to flotillas, as well as promoting National and District policy. All members are welcome at quarterly Division meetings at the American Legion in Lake George scheduled for April 1 and September 16, and the meeting and picnic at Lake George July 25. The Division Change of Watch will be November 15 at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls. *Right, Jim Canavan, Division Commander (DCDR), and Margaret Malone, Division Vice Commander (DVCDR).*



Flotilla 15-2, Burlington, meets on the first Wednesday of the month at CG Station Burlington. The only flotilla based in Vermont, it has served the Coast Guard and the boating public for 54 years. Burlington Flotilla covers the northern end of Lake Champlain with 30 members from Vermont and New York and represents the Station at local events like the Burlington Boat Show, Kids' Day, and the Maritime Festival. *Left, Nick Flora, Flotilla Commander (FC), and Pip Wales, 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. Meetings start at 1830 with fellowship at 1800. Crescent Flotilla has 16 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. They



serve the boating public with an emphasis on recreational boating safety. *Previous page, Greg Burdick, FC, and Charles Meagher, VFC.*



Flotilla 15-8, Plattsburgh, starts its second year with 27 members who meet the second Thursday of the month. Plattsburgh Flotilla runs an active training schedule on Thursdays for its members. Their major goals are qualifying boat crew and finishing refurbishing the building that will house their Operations/Communications/Training Center on Lake Champlain south of Plattsburgh. *At left, Tom Malone, FC, and Frank Williams, VFC.*

Flotilla 15-9, Sacandaga-Mohawk, meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Stratton Air National Guard Base at the Schenectady County Airport. Sacandaga-Mohawk Flotilla patrols Great Sacandaga Lake and the Mohawk River west to Lock 14 as well as conducting air patrols. They claim ARCO-EAST Tom Venezio among their 40 members. *Right, Diana Kolsbun, FC, and Craig Hammer, VFC.*



The 20 members of **Flotilla 15-10, Lake George,** meet 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. 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. *Left, Mike Balch, 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. 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, IPFC. *Right, David Hirtle, FC, and Gregg Trask, VFC.*



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



Division Staff Officers:



Information Systems Officer (SO-IS): Karl Saboda

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

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



Secretary (SO-SR): Michele Burdick

The SO-SR records and distributes the minutes of each Division meeting, maintains records, and supports FSOs-SR.



Chief of Response: Gregg Trask

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

Operations Officer: Gregg Trask

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.

Assistant Operations Officer: Charles Pound

Communications Officer: Jim Canavan



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

Aviation Officer: Ron Volungus

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



Chief of Prevention: Mike Balch

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 "Preventative 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

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.



Member Training Officer: Lynn Enny

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: Tom Malone

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 the members that recruitment is everyone's business.



Aids to Navigation Officer: Jim Wilson

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



Vessel Examinations & Program Visitor Officer: David Hirtle

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.



Public Education Officer: Charlie Pound

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



Chief of Logistics: Jim Quaile

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, and supports the FSOs-CS.

Publications Officer: Margaret Malone

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



Materials Officer: Carl Duford

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



Personnel Services: Ray Dahle



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



Liaison and Program Chairpersons:

- Station Burlington Liaison: Mike Balch
- Station Saugerties Liaison: Charlie Pound
- Canadian CG Auxiliary Liaison: Ray Dahle
- AuxChef Program Chairman: Bob Minter (*far left*)
- Honor Guard Program Chairman: Terry Tremblay (*left*)



Aviation Patrols

While in Division 15's AOR the boat patrols have halted for the winter, the air patrols continue. In addition to their other duties, air patrols provide updates on the extent of ice formation on Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, Long Island Sound, Long Island offshore, and the Connecticut River, information valuable to the Coast Guard. Station Burlington needs to know where ice has formed so they are able to respond appropriately to a rescue call. And since commercial traffic continues on the Hudson River as far north as Albany, knowing the ice



conditions is important so the Coast Guard can utilize icebreakers to keep the shipping channel clear. The frigid conditions in mid-January have made having up-to-date information essential.

Six members of Flotilla 15-9, Sacandaga-Mohawk, are qualified in the air program: Ron

Volungus, Aircraft Commander; Craig Hammer, Air Copilot; Jim Quaile, Air Crew; and Air Observers Cindy Benson, James Morzillo, and Jim Wilson, who, along with Ray Dahle of Flotilla 15-8, note and photograph what they see during the patrol. Additionally, Rick Castle, Al Grandin, Dan Miller, Fred Muller and John Valentine are qualifying as Observer Trainees. Dan Miller just flew his first Training Observer Mission. Below are photos taken during recent patrols. Locations of the three photos are given at the bottom of the page. (Photos: Ron Volungus and Jim Morzillo)



Division 15 Calendar

- MARCH** 27-29 District Conference, Mystic, CT
- APRIL** 1 Division Meeting, Lake George American Legion
25 Annual Training Day, Whitehall Firehouse
- MAY** 23 Currency Maintenance Training Day (South), L. George
- JUNE** 13 Currency Maintenance Training Day (North), Station Burlington
- JULY** 3 Burlington Fireworks
25 Division Meeting and Picnic
- SEPTEMBER** 16 Division Meeting and Election
- NOVEMBER** 15 Division Change of Watch, Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls
- DECEMBER** 4, 5, 6, District Leadership Conference, Mystic, CT

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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Top photo: Ferry crossing between Cumberland Head, NY, (foreground) and Grand Isle, VT. Middle photo: Cohoes Falls on the Mohawk. Bottom Photo: Thaddeus Kosciusko Bridge, better known as the Twin Bridges, carrying Route 87 traffic across the Mohawk River.