
EIGHT



BELLS

**Monthly Voice of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8 Jacksonville, Florida
Seventh Coast Guard District**

Volume XXXIV No. 1

January 2008



*Jack Holler, our new FC and his wife Kathy enjoyed the Flotilla Holiday Dinner at GQ's
Many of our new members attended...see more photos on page 4.*

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

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| JAN | 01 | HAPPY NEW YEAR! No Regular Flotilla Meeting |
| | 08 | Flotilla Change of Watch Dinner and Ceremony – NAS Jax Yacht Club |
| | 11-13 | District 7 Winter Conference – The Florida Mall Hotel - Orlando |
| | 19 | Division Board Meeting and General Meeting - 0900 |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline |
| | 24 | Detachment meeting - 1830 – Fleming Island Library |
| FEB | 05 | Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline |
| | 28 | Detachment meeting - 1830 – Fleming Island Library |
| MAR | 04 | Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club |
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FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



As we close the books on 2007 and look forward to 2008 I want to thank all the Flotilla Staff Officers and the members of 14-8 for their cooperation and patience.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ralph Little for having his article "Patrolling Old Man River" published in the *Navigator*, the national magazine of the USCG Auxiliary.

Our annual holiday party/meeting was a wonderful success. It was attended by some 25 members and guests. The food was great, but the company was better.

The District 7 Winter Conference will be held in Orlando from 11 January to 13 January. The theme of the conference is "Learn---Contribute--Inspire". There will be an opportunity to become Instructor qualified.

Marine Safety training will include Harbor Safety and EPIRB. More information and pre-registration can be found on the District 7 website <http://cgaux7.org/>. Attending a conference can give members a chance to experience the Auxiliary beyond the flotilla level. Give it a try!

I look forward to seeing you at our Change of Watch Dinner to be held on 8 January at the Navy Jacksonville Yacht Club.

Jack Holler, Flotilla Commander 2008

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Two actions occurred in Public Affairs in December. An article with photograph was submitted to the *Mandarin Newsline* for its January edition. The article features a sailboater who I've been working with in preparation for conducting a Vessel Examination prior to his ocean voyage to Palm Beach. The article's theme is in support of Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) and provides contact information for arranging same. I met this young man while (successfully) attempting to meet my VE requirement for the year, and I must admit that because of the meeting and continuing contact, I've come to view VSCs as a more important part of my routine.

The second action is my and Carolyn Strong's 16 month odyssey to publish an article in the Auxiliary's *Navigator* magazine. See the recently released Fall edition for a 3-page article with pictures on my experiences with a flotilla in Iowa, entitled "Patrolling Old Man River". Two of the Iowa principles are now a DCP and VCP and are planning to visit us in February (Iowans like Florida in February) and I hope they can meet some of our members and visit HITRON.

For the future, we're anticipating the approaching decision on our BoatUS grant application in January. I've also contacted another transient boater to address the February Flotilla meeting on his experiences transiting his trawler from Buffalo, NY to our waters for the winter. He has some insights on traffic, ATONs, and navigation difficulties.

Debra Inlow has agreed to become the FSO-PA for 2008.

Ralph Little, FSO-PA 2007

MEMBER TRAINING:

I will teach the Vessel Examiner's course at the STELLAR building on Monday and Thursday evenings, 1900 to 2100 beginning Monday, 14 January. At this time five members have said they will attend. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to join us.

Claire Bailey has agreed to become the FSO-MT for 2008. Let's all give Claire a hand when she calls looking for instructors.

Bob Strong, FSO-MT 2007

PERSONNEL SERVICES:

The 2008 Change of Watch will be held on 8 January at the NAS JAX Yacht Club. See the flyer that was sent out earlier.

Charles Smith will replace me as FSO-PS beginning 1 January 2008. Please join me in giving Charles as much support as we can to recruit new members for the Auxiliary and especially for the 14-8 Detachment.

Bob Strong, FSO-PS 2007

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS FOR 2008

AN-- Al Ricker	OP-- Chris Vonderheide
CM--Tom Sorensen	PA-- Debbie Inlow
CS--Paul Burns	PB-- Carolyn Strong
FN-- Bob Strong	PE-- Neely Inlow
IS--Fred Cooke	PS--Charlie Smith
MA-- Bob Flaige	PV-- Rusty Gardner
MS-- Merrill Varn	VE-- Rusty Gardner
MT-- Claire Bailey	SR-- Chrystal Wickline

Marine Safety Report

By Marc Lang, SO-MS 14 December 2007

1. SO-MS assisted Clay County Sheriffs Marine Unit and FWC officers with recreational vessel safety exams and Marine Sanitation Device inspections. The areas of Green Cove Springs at Red Bay Marina and Reynolds Yacht Basin were the locations where the vessels were checked.
2. The Florida Legislature failed to assist Florida's marinas with a tax break. The intent was to tax a marina based on actual use instead of best possible use. Marinas cannot afford the taxes. It does not matter if you have a boat on all 10 slips or only 5 slips, they are taxed for all 10. The full potential is the problem. In 2008 the marina exemption bill will be tried again.
3. www.Rulefinder.com This is a new website designed to bring the boating regulations together. The (ABYC) American Boat and Yacht Council, the ISO, the USCG and the European Union regulations all will be assembled at one place. The library will assist manufacturers and others by having this information available.
4. By a vote of 4-3 the Non-Motorized Subcommittee of the FWC recommended against registering canoes and kayaks. If it passed the operators would need to pay for a registration, apply numbers to the craft and carry a registration certificate at all times.
5. Under Georgia State Law 52-1.31 and 52-1.32 it is illegal to live aboard a structure (boat) on Georgia's waterways. It hinders the passage of navigation.
6. If anyone wants to provide a monofilament (fishing line) recycle program container at a boat ramp contact Wayne Beard (14-9). Wayne has the info on the BoatUs sponsored program. You must also maintain the container by emptying it and sending in the contents. Contact Wayne by email at jew@gbso.net.

FROM THE DIVISION CAPTAIN:

At the request of both D7 COMO Allen Brown and CDR/USCG David R. Allen, DIRAUX 7 we are changing our January Division Meeting date from 26 January to 19 January. The 26th conflicts with N-Train and both want to attend our meeting. I encourage a good turnout for the meeting. I am hoping to get someone from SCC-J, the command center at NAS-JAX, to talk about the center and its function. We will start the general meeting at 0900 followed by the Board Meeting at approx 1030.

Robert M. Funk, DCP 14

Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 1:29 PM

Subject: Terminology Change

In order to standardize the terminology used with the boating public and (now) government agencies and affiliated associations, all are asked to begin using the term “life jacket” exclusively in all reports rather than “PFD”. The change is desirable because we are all part of the Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety’s national thrust to promote life jacket wear and their endorsement of the “Wear It” theme, which is replacing “You’re in Command.” The National Safe Boating Council and state boating authorities are also embracing “Wear It”; and promoting “life jackets” not “PFDs.”

Thanks,
Stu

Stuart D. Soffer
NLLC-Area Coordinator ATL(E)
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Remember - to be a survivor - WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!!!

14-8 PHOTO ALBUM
FLOTILLA HOLIDAY DINNER 04 DECEMBER 2007
Many of our new members attended



Sandra and Kieran Snow



Chrystal Wickline and Rusty Gardner



Tom Sorensen



Karen Evans (right) with Claire Bailey

NACO's Holiday Message

This Holiday season we gather with our friends and family to share good wishes and celebrate the significance of this special time of year. The friendships we have developed take on added meaning during the holidays, and it is a pleasure to send cards and gifts to those who hold a special place in our lives. It is also a time to pause and remember the men and women of our armed forces who are away from their families as they serve in defense of our nation. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for a safe return home.

Thank you for the time and effort you give to our Coast Guard and for being part of this wonderful family we call the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Your efforts and dedication carry the spirit of this holiday season all throughout the year.

We volunteer to serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for many different reasons; ultimately, we derive the satisfaction of a job well done as we serve our fellow citizens on the water, in the air, in the classrooms, on the docks, and even in cyberspace. We enjoy the unique challenges of recruiting, mentoring and fellowship with the finest volunteers in America.

The success and challenges of this year are behind us, and while I pause to be thankful for all that has been provided to us, I am ever mindful of the wonderful opportunity the new year brings. This week the annual Coast Guard Ball in Washington DC is in honor of the volunteers of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. This prestigious event in our Nation's Capital brings a fantastic focus to the incredible contribution our Auxiliarists make to the safety and security of America's, ports and waterways.

My wife Mary Kay and I extend our Aloha and most heartfelt wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy holiday.

Steve Budar

National Commodore



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FLOTILLA 14-8
CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER / CEREMONY
Tuesday 8 January 2008

NAS JACKSONVILLE YACHT CLUB
At Jacksonville Naval Air Station
Beginning at 1800

Uniform Tropical Blue Long
Or Appropriate Civilian Attire

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8 IS GREAT !

EIGHT BELLS is published at no expense to the government. Cost of its publication is borne by the dues paying members of Flotilla 14-8 of the 7th District U.S. Coast Guard.

PRIVACY ACT: Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization.