
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXV No. 7

August 2009

CELEBRATING THE 40TH BIRTHDAY OF FLOTILLA 14-8

On Saturday 18 July, members and guests of Flotilla 14-8 celebrated our 40th birthday with a dinner party at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club, where our flotilla was first chartered as Jacksonville Flotilla 10-8 in April 1969. The room was decorated with red, white and blue stars and multi-colored balloons and there was a festive party feeling in the air.

We started with a “meet and greet” cocktail hour which proved to be both entertaining and interesting. Jeff Blomgren, FC then introduced our special guests, including CWO Jim DeVane, Commanding Officer of USCG Station Mayport, Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14, David Green, VDCDR 14 and his lovely wife Nell, both members of Flotilla 14-4, Buz Palmer, a charter member of 14-8 and Derek Lloyd a charter member of Flotilla 14-2. After the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation, we had a delicious meal prepared by “Cilla’s Traveling Treats” with recorded dinner music provided by Jack Holler.

While dinner was being cleared away Jeff introduced our only remaining charter member, Buz Palmer who was Flotilla Vice Commander under our first Flotilla Commander Andy Anderson in 1969. Buz later served as FC in 1974 and 1976. Jeff presented the Auxiliary Membership Service Award to Buz for 40 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary. Buz then cut the first piece of the large cake, decorated with our motto “8 is GREAT”. As cake was being served, Jack Holler drew tickets for door prizes, including Suns baseball tickets, gift cards for Carabba’s restaurant and Starbuck’s coffee and an assortment of other gifts.

Buz Palmer related some stories of his early experiences with the Auxiliary and told us that our flotilla was the only Search and Rescue asset Coast Guard Mayport had on the St. Johns River West and inland from Mayport in the early days. Communications were very different then, using AM radiotelephone (this was before the days of VHS marine radios). He told us of early “Invasion” exercises with the Beaches Flotilla (now 14-4), the USCG and Navy Seals, sneaking out of Ft. George Inlet and landing on Jacksonville Beach. He recalled that 14-8 helped start many other flotillas in the area and he congratulated us on establishing a new unit at Green Cove Springs.

Bill Edgerton, our Past National Commodore and long time member of 14-8 related many stories from his active days with the flotilla. After Bill spoke, Jack drew for more door prizes. We then watched a short video made up of pictures from the flotilla archives, including a photo of each of our past Flotilla Commanders, activities on the water and off, special awards received by our members, etc.

The slide show brought us through the years, right up to the present, with pictures of our new Division 14 Honor Guard and of the Detachment kick-off ceremony at Green Cove Springs in June.

Brenda Edgerton, Flotilla Commander in 1994, related stories of the close ties between Flotillas 14-8 and 14-2 though the years, including some stories of comical “awards” passed back and forth between our flotillas. One of those stories involved a turkey, which kept reappearing in many different forms. One year, our flotilla was awarded the “Aggrandized Agitator Award” with a golden turkey on top, presented to us by Darwin Coy, Division Captain at the time a long time member of 14-2. I’m sure it was a coincidence that their member Derek Lloyd is an appliance repairman and has access to agitators like that used to make the award. Long story short, the “Aggrandized Agitator Award” has resided in someone’s attic for many years just waiting for a chance to see the light of day. Brenda made sure that it went back to its rightful owners by presenting it to Derek Lloyd, who said we probably have not seen the last of it.

After more door prizes and a 50/50 drawing, won by Buz Palmer, Cris Vonderheide stood and read a list of members who have crossed the bar, then asked for a moment of silence in honor of their service as Auxiliarists.

Members, both active and retired, along with our special guests, gathered under the “8 is GREAT” banner for a group photo. There were 48 attendees at the party and a good time was had by all.

Contributed by Carolyn Strong, Flotilla 14-8 Historian



Both current and retired members along with their invited guest celebrated on Saturday, July 18th Flotilla 14-8’s 40th Birthday

Just a thank you note, for the great time we had at the 40th anniversary party. It hardly seems possible so much time has passed since you guys lent some members to start 14-2. I really enjoyed the memories discussed and camaraderie expressed between our flotillas.

I am sure the rivalries between our flotillas will continue, which is all part of the fun. I was saddened when Chris read out the names of folks who had crossed the bar, as so many memories went with them. Thanks again for the invite, a wonderful time. Have had no bids on the agitator yet, may try E Bay,

Sincerely,
Derek Lloyd, 14-2

FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Flotilla 14-8 has posted a net gain of 9 new members and applied and received notice that the Flotilla Membership Growth Award would be forth coming. In addition we have submitted the personal recruiting award for Charles Smith FSO-PS for recruiting 7 new members in the measurement period.

Flotilla 14-8 has established a detachment in Green Cove Springs at the Reynolds Park Marina. The detachment leader, Fred Cooke, was appointed by Flotilla Commander Jeff Blomgren and the detachment has held two meetings. The Keel Laying Ceremony took place in June with members of the Clay County Sheriff's Department, the active Coast Guard, Division 14 representatives and Reynolds Park facility representatives present. Jesse Stevens acted as MC for the gathering and the Honor Guard was in attendance as well as a new member for 14-8 transferring from South Florida, Arthur Tenney, who is a piper and bugler.

Paul Burns FSO-PB has updated the 14-8 website adding many new features that make the website a "one stop shopping" opportunity for members with the ability to access many of the needed information available through the Auxiliary system. In addition, Paul has established a website for the new detachment with links from the 14-8 website.

Flotilla 14-8 held its first cooperative Vessel Inspection at the Knights Marina with the Clay County Sheriffs Marine Safety Unit. Future joint activities are planned.

Flotilla 14-8 had a 40th anniversary celebration held at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club in Mandarin on July 18th.

Flotilla 14-8 had 7 members participate in the Coast Guard Rodeo and had 10 members registered for the classes held at Station Mayport. In addition we have three members who are active in HITRON.

Flotilla 14-8 vessel examiners inspected 18 boats at the NAS Marina with plans to regularly visit the facility in the future.

Rusty Gardner FSO-VE is working on a new emergency radio DVD and has been selected for the National PA staff as a video expert. Rusty also developed a display of the unit and the display shows the proper wiring and activation process. When doing Vessel Exams, Rusty provides education opportunities for boat owners to learn the procedures.

Bob Strong has revamped the PE program for 14-8 by scheduling regular Monday night training sessions. The sessions run for three weeks with a test administered on the fourth Monday.

Respectfully submitted;

Jeff Blomgren
Flotilla Commander 14-8

STAFF REPORTS

MEMBER TRAINING (MT):



Thank you to everyone who attended the July 11 Piloting, and Navigation in Restricted Waters at Station Mayport. There was a record attendance and the program scenario enabled us to think about a real world situation while underway. The next session is August 15th on Search and Rescue (SAR). Let me know if you will attend at clairebailey@bellsouth.net.

Also coming up:

- Continuation of the Administrative Procedures Course at the Detachment location, Reynolds Park Yacht Club, and it's not too late to attend – Thursdays at 0700.
- Aids Verifier training - Saturday, August 29, 0900 - St. Augustine Yacht Club. Send name to, Chuck Farmer mountstandfast@comcast.net
- Team Coordination Training 8 Hour - Tuesday, September 15, 0800 - HITRON, Cecil Field, Bob Pape instructor. Reply to Robert Pape [bo2009 lou@juno.com](mailto:bo2009lou@juno.com)
- The Seventh District Fall Conference is scheduled for September 10 through the 13th and is open to all members. Plan on attending three days of instruction, fun, and relaxation. For group rate reservations of \$104 per night contact: the Hilton Bayfront Hotel, St. Petersburg, FL, located at 333 First Street South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701-4342 727-894-5000 direct. For the meeting agenda and all the details, go to cgaux7.org.

Claire Bailey, FSO-MT

OPERATIONS (OP):



The operations training session at Mayport on 7/11/09 on the subject of piloting and reduced visibility was presented by Bob Funk. As with the first session, a large group attended. The next Mayport training session is on 8/15/09, topic is search and rescue.

Another operations training session titled "Operations Academy" is being presented by Flotilla 14-4 September to November 2009. This reportedly will take an individual through the entire gamut of material for crew or coxwain, culminating in a qualifying exam.

Our own flotilla has several members who have expressed interest in getting involved with operations. Some of these individuals took a familiarization patrol on Bob Funk's boat and my boat on 7/19/09, at which time we met up and practiced towing and man overboard exercises across from Green Cove Springs. If you enjoy boating, operations is the way to get into this and challenge yourself and learn

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM 2009 40th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Cake for Flotilla 14-8 40th Birthday



Service Award is presented to Charlie Smith by Jeff Blomgren, FC 14-8 and Charles Trippe, FVC 14-8



Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14, member of Flotilla 14-2



David Green, DVCDR 14 and his wife Nell, members of Flotilla 14-4



Brenda Edgerton, Past Flotilla Commander 14-8, COMO Bill Edgerton, Past National Commodore and COMO Joe Norman, Past National Vice Commodore-Atlantic Area. All three are members of 14-8



Carolyn Strong with CWO Jim DeVane, CO USCG Station Mayport

FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM 2009 40th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Gary and Sue Wakeman, former long-time members of 14-8 who now live in Tallahassee, FL



Derek Lloyd, member of Flotilla 14-2, graciously accepted the notorious "Aggrandized Agitator Award", presented by Brenda Edgerton on behalf of the members of 14-8.



Buz Palmer with his 40 year service award



Buz Palmer, Charter Member of Flotilla 14-8 receives an Auxiliary Membership Service Award for 40 years of service to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

2009 THE MAYPORT CHALLENGE AT STATION MAYPORT



Crew teams race against time in Dead Reckoning by Plotting and Running a Course using Speed/Time/Distance.



A Coast Guard Person assigned to each Auxiliary Vessel evaluate performance, time, and efficiency tasks on board



At fuel dock in Julington Creek. Left to Right: Cris V, C Trippe, N Thaggard, W.Vick.

2009 GREEN COVES SPRINGS DETACHMENT



Flag raising ceremony presented by the Division 14 Honor Guard for the new Detachment in Green Cove Springs

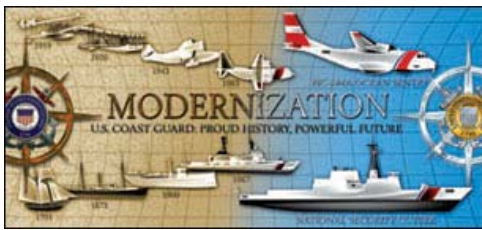
Division 14 Honor Guard Piper



Division 14 Honor Guard



American and USCG Auxiliary flags flying high at the new Green Cove Springs Detachment



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 23, 2009

Contact: Lt. Nadine Santiago
(202) 372 - 4644

Coast Guard launches Web-based, merchant mariner credential verification tool

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Coast Guard announced Thursday the launch of a new, Web-based tool to provide information on the validity of merchant mariner credentials.

The Merchant Mariner Credential Verification tool was created following Operation Big Tow, a marine safety operation focused on ensuring uninspected towing vessels are being operated by properly licensed individuals. The operation identified the need for an open and rapid means of verifying the validity of merchant mariner credentials. The Merchant Mariner Credential Verification tool provides marine employers the means to ensure they are hiring mariners with valid credentials. It also allows Port State Control officers in foreign ports a real-time capability to verify U.S. mariners' credentials.

“Since Operation Big Tow launched, the National Maritime Center has received many calls from marine employers wanting to verify the validity of their employees credentials or the credential of mariners they are considering hiring,” said Capt. David Stalfort, the commanding officer of the National Maritime Center. “Our goal with this tool is to offer better customer service to these employers.”

There are three ways to verify the validity of a MMC:

- Credential type and serial number;
- Mariner Reference number; or
- Last name, date of birth and last four digits of the mariner's social security number.

For more information about the National Maritime Center's Mariner Licensing and Documentation program visit <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc> or the Homeport site at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and then select Merchant Mariners.

FLOTILLA 14-8
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday 4th August 2009 at 1930
FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB
9010 San Jose Blvd

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| August | 04 Flotilla Staff Officers Meeting -1830 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
04 Flotilla Meeting -1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
08 8 th Annual National Marina Day - http://www.auxbdept.org/
15 Search and Rescue (SAR) at Station Mayport– See Claire Bailey
20 Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB
29 Aids Verifier Training – St. Augustine Yacht Club – See Claire Bailey |
| September | 02 Flotilla Staff Officers Meeting -1830 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
02 Flotilla Meeting -1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
14 Boat Crew Training – Begins at 1900 - Queens Harbour Multi-Purpose Rm.
15 Team Coordination Training 8 hrs – HINTRON, Cecil Field
20 Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB- See Claire Bailey |

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8 IS GREAT !

Visit our award winning website at <http://a0701408.uscgaux.info/>

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.*