EIGHT BELLS

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

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Welcome to Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8

Celebrating Our 40th Year Serving Jacksonville
Eight is Great!

mōdis

Public Section

Member Section

THE JACKSONVILLE LANDING

Photo By Jonathan Zander
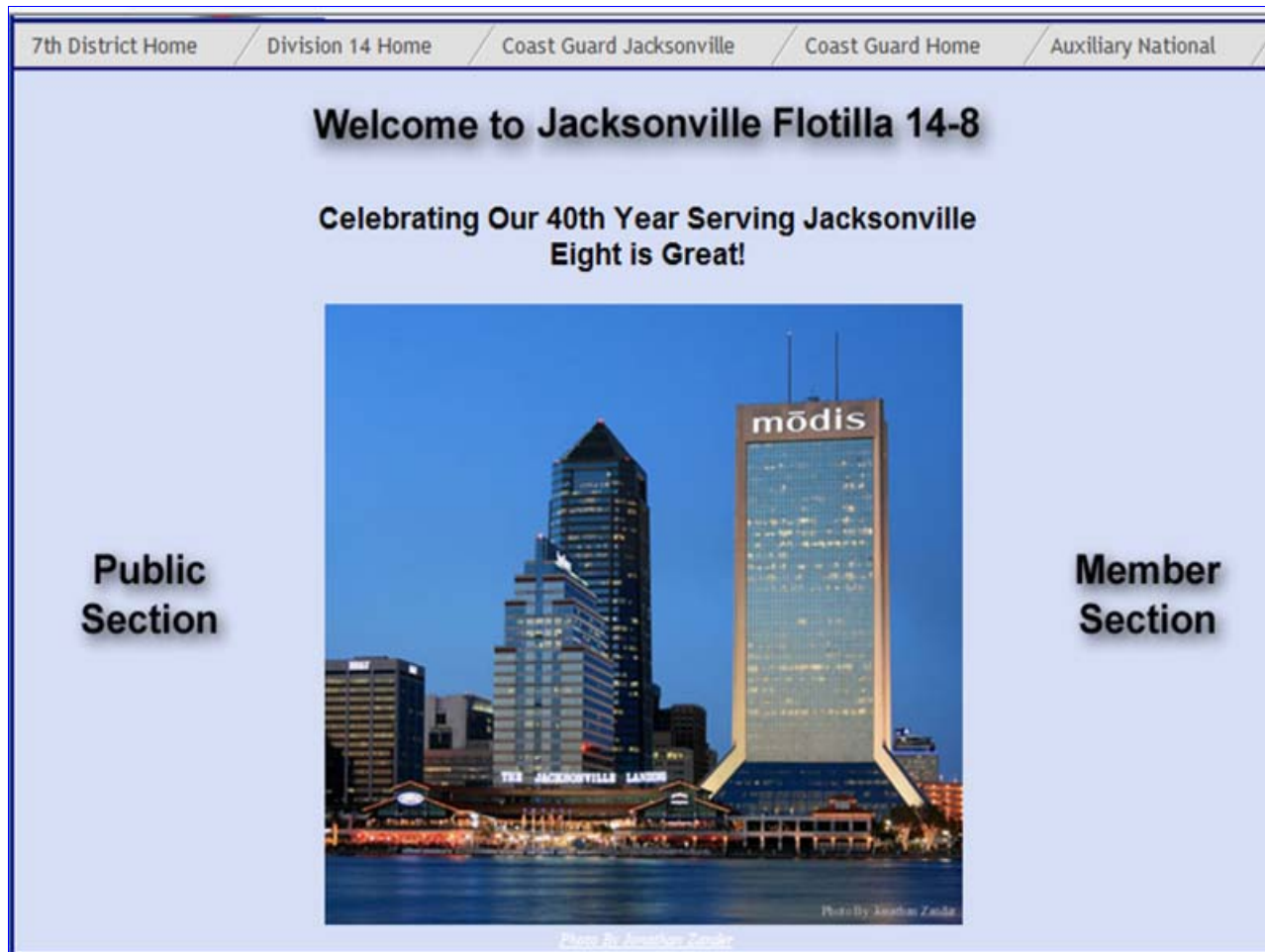
Webmaster Paul Burns wins runner up in Best of The Web for 2009

2009 Best of the Web

FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER

2010 A Year of Optimism

While 2009 is not over, it is never too early to start looking at the future of 14-8. The year 2009 was a tremendous, the **establishing of the detachment** in Green Cove Springs and subsequently the **certification of Flotilla 14-5**, the **Best of The Web** award for our website, the recognition of our **HITRON** volunteers, the recognition of the Flotilla for **recruiting efforts** and the **individual award for Charlie Smith**, the involvement of so many 14-8 members in the **USCG training co-op at Mayport** are some of the accomplishments we can claim. Now it's time to look ahead.

Here's 12 reasons why I'm optimistic. In spite of losing many of our members to 14-5 <u>we still have 35 members on our rolls.</u>

1. We have 12 commitments for FSO positions for 2010 already with only 4 outstanding.
2. We have established a recruiting event and plan more.
3. We are looking at a new emphasis on our public information and public affairs to focus on our area of operation and the opportunities for boating education and safety as well as public information.
4. We have an established boating education program with a regular day and start time and a curriculum designed to make the education process more accessible.
5. We have 5 qualified instructors for this program.
6. We have Paul Burns remaining as our webmaster following up on the "The Best of the Web" award for 2009.
7. We will have 3 14-8 members involved in crew training.
8. We have 3 facilities registered and one applied for a total of four.
9. We will have two qualified COX with two COX in reserve.
10. We want to have at least one person in training for COX.
11. We have three members involved in HITRON.
12. We have one member signed up for a C school to prepare for his critical FSO position for 2010.

We are already on our way with plans that will include a calendar of events to be set before we even see the New Year. This snapshot of 2010 utilizes almost 50% of our enrollment and we have a plan to increase that throughout the year. If you hold a membership in 14-8 you will be contacted personally to determine what level you may choose to be involved. We understand that we are all volunteers but some volunteers only volunteer their dues. We will be looking for more than that. We encourage you all to be a part of an exciting year.

Jeff Blomgren, Flotilla Commander

COMMUNICATION SERVICES (CS):

Technical Tip: Windows7, the next-generation operating system from Microsoft has arrived!

You are going to be hearing a lot about the new Microsoft operating system Windows 7, which was released to the public on October 22nd. I have had a chance to look the program over, and I'd like to give you a quick review in the event you were curious. For a change I think that you are going to hear a lot of good comments about a new Windows release. The negative press surrounding a new Windows release often is related to a lack of compatibility with the previous version, previous hardware and simply the lack of familiarity of the new tricks, and improvements included in the new version.

How Does Windows7 Look? You will find Windows7 looks very much like Windows Vista, so if you have used Vista before, you will easily be able to find your way around Windows7. Windows XP users will have a longer learning curve, but once you look through the included guides and tutorials, you should get the hang of it quickly.

What's So Good About Windows7?
Besides being prettier, smoother, fancier and faster than previous versions of Windows, Seven proves to be more than just a fixed version of Vista.
Compatibility: Windows7 is likely to be friendlier than Windows Vista was with older hardware. I upgraded a two year old computer from Windows XP, and all my computer's parts and printers, and cameras, things connected to it worked right off the bat, I have done hundreds of Windows installations over the years and this the first time that has ever happened. *Security:* Windows 7 has advanced protection tools built in to help prevent and detect malicious software infections. *Backup and Recovery:* The newest version of Windows has the most useful backup and system recovery system that I have seen. A combination of ease of use, and such through restoration, it could save hundreds of dollars in computer repairs over the life of the computer. You can even reverse a program un-installation. I think that is amazing!

What's the Downside?
It takes a powerful computer to run Windows7. You need at least 1 GB of RAM (2 or 3 Gigs is recommended) a fairly large hard drive, and second separate hard drive to take advantage of Seven's superior complete system backup and restore option. A computer more than four years old may not perform better. You cannot directly upgrade from Windows XP to Windows7. Windows7 will save your documents, email, favorites and settings then restore them, but you will have to restore all of your personal programs, office suites, and games from the original installation disks. Seven will only preserve your programs when upgraded directly from Vista.

Who should get Windows7?
Without a doubt, if you are buying a new computer, you should get it with Windows7. I would even go as far to say, if Windows7 costs a few dollars more, spend a few dollars more. I do not recommend buying a new computer with Windows XP. Although still quite useful, Windows XP is approaching the end if its support and lifecycle. If you are a Windows XP user, who frequently gets into trouble with virus and spyware infections, investing in Windows7 could save you quite a bit in future repair bills and computer related headaches. If you are a Windows Vista user, my advice is to stay with what

you have for a while longer, unless you just have to have the latest stuff. Windows7 does show noticeable improvement over Vista, but your investment in Windows Vista is only a year or two old, and Microsoft will continue to support and improve Vista for another 6 years.

<div align="right">Paul Burns, FSO-CS</div>

MARINE SAFETY (MS):

Read below an interesting letter concerning compass bearing corrections from Frank Larkin, the Navigation Systems Division Chief (DVC-MN) who receives questions from members across the nation.

The following is one with an informative reply:

Letter to Frank Larkin:
You claim under item "GPS headings and bearings" that "If magnetic, you will need a copy of the OPFAC's Deviation Table." This is, I think, not true.

Please consider that the GPS is factoring in magnetic *variation*. The table from the OPFAC is supplying *deviation*. The GPS has no knowledge of any local magnetic anomalies such at those produced by the boat and its equipment. The information from the satellites is not changed by these local magnetic fields.

Clearly, the piece of information that the user needs to have to convert between magnetic and true heading is the *variation* in the area of the GPS receiver. There is no impact to the GPS from *deviation*.

Please either help me understand by further explaining your statement, or issue a correction. It is important to start issuing such corrections. If the information was important enough to publish, it needs to be corrected if there is a problem.

Mr. Larkin's reply:
The point that I am making is that when you are reading magnetic bearings you will need to use the deviation table for the ship's compass in order to convert any compass bearings to true in order in order to plot them on a NOAA chart. The time to get the table is before you get underway. In certain situations, if bearings are needed during a charting exercise while on the ATON patrol, compass bearings which taken with the ship's compass would have to be converted to true in order to plot them on a NOAA chart. It is just a precaution.

Personally, I was accustomed to using an electronic deviation self-correcting compass on my OPFAC that provided readings in True until last year when I converted to a new analog compass. The type of bearings that I usually run into during a chart updating exercise requires the use of a compass; however, I find it hard to take accurate bearings on a 25 footer with any kind of wave action. I would much rather take fixes at my location and extract a fix off the chart for the object and then use the "Vertical/Horizontal Error Calculator" that is on the Chart Updating web page to calculate the distance and bearing at True to the object for my reports. However, I always suggest that we ask for a deviation table in advance just in case it is needed to convert a magnetic compass bearing to true when completing a final report later. Best regards, Frank Larkin DVC-MN

<div align="right">Merrill Varn, FSO-MS</div>

PUBLIC EDUCATION *(PE):*

Bruce Ennis and Bob Strong spent Saturday, 19 Sept. working with eleven Boy Scouts ages 11 to 17. The boys are training to obtain the Motor Boating Merit badge and are all members of Boy Scout Troop 892 located on Fleming Island. The training was done at the waterfront home of one of the boys located on Doctor's Lake. The boys have to obtain their State Boaters Education ID card to qualify for the badge so the training was directed toward that goal. One of the boy's parents provided his 28' CC boat to assist in the training. Bruce used the boat to define boating terms, lighting, safe fueling, trailering, docking and anchoring. Bob covered Rules of the road, ATONS and misalliance other items. The Clay County Sheriff's office provided the Florida State textbook and the boys were asked to study the book and to be prepared to take the examination in two weeks. Later in the day another scout parent arrived in his boat. The boys split into two groups and each were to get a chance to learn boat handling with parental supervision. Bruce and Bob didn't hang around to witness the results.

The Monday evening boating classes are doing OK. To date, twenty members of the boating public have attended the program and are in various stages of completing the three required classes and examination. The only problem to date is getting participants to return and take the examination. Given the access problem at stellar, we need at least three members present in order to get started, one instructor and two aids. If you can help, please notify Bob Strong ahead of time and arrive by 1815. One aid may leave after 1700. The participants seem to like this new program. Please everyone help spread the word.

Bob Strong FSO-PE

OPERATIONS (OP):

Flotilla 14-8 provided support for the First Coast Head Race on 10/10/09. This is a yearly rowing regatta held on the Arlington River. Heinz Fredrich and John Davis organized the auxiliary's participation in this event. Marc Lang, Derrick Lloyd, and Ken Beccard provided the three Auxiliary facilities used.

A large number of college and club teams compete on rowing skulls. As I understand it, all the organizers and participants are volunteers. They depend on Coast Guard Auxiliary resources to maintain no wake zones along the race course. The organizers and participants expressed their appreciation for our being there, knowing that we basically sat in the very hot sun all day. For me, this event was a good example of how the auxiliary, and specifically operations, can make a positive impact on our community.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

Paul Burns, FSO CS, 14-8 received the 14-8 Award of Excellence for his work in redesigning and producing our 14-8 website. Paul also went beyond that and established a link that took in the detachment in Green Cove Springs. Paul's efforts gained him National recognition as runner-up in the "**Best of the Web"** contest which chooses the best websites from all the auxiliary websites. Since the websites have been standardized and they essentially all look the same, there was no razzle dazzle special effects to muddy up the choice. The websites were chosen on the basis of content and ease of use. Paul's "One Stop Shopping" approach gained him this National recognition. Congratulations Paul Burns.

Nine candidates were sworn in as new members of 14-8 and immediately had their transfer requests approved and submitted for 14-5. A tenth candidate was sworn in when we realized that we had his ID number but had not yet received his member packet. Part of the 14-8 flotilla meeting was to vote on establishing the detachment as flotilla 14-5. The motion was approved and passed unanimously

Ralph Little received the National Commodore's Certificate of Excellence for HITRON Watch Standing. 14-8 Vice Flotilla Commander Charles Trippe also received this award but was unable to make the meeting.

Whit Vick received his ATON Verifyer Certificate from Division Commander Jesse Stevens.

Jacksonville Sea & Sky Spectacular
November 6-8, 2009
Jacksonville Beach Oceanfront
Free Admission

- **Admission is Free Event Hours 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

- **Sky Show:** The show will open each day with an American Flag fly over and a performance of the National Anthem. Schedule of appearances coming soon!

- **VIP Viewing Areas:** VIP viewing areas include Premier Seating, Cabana Seating and Corporate Cabanas to put you in the heat of the action near show center.

Veterans Day Parade
Wednesday, November 11, 2009
11:01 a.m. Downtown Jacksonville

Parade Route

The parade will begin at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, continue down Water Street, left on Newnan Street to Bay Street/Gator Bowl Boulevard and will end at the Jacksonville Municipal Stadium

Viewing Areas

Bleacher seating will also be provided at the corner of Water Street and Hogan Street as well as Marsh St. near the Maxwell House Building.

Did you know Veterans Day was formerly known as Armstice Day?

On November 11, 1918 at 11 a.m., World War I officially ended. On the one year anniversary, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11th "Armstice Day" in honor of the end of the war and to honor World War I veterans. This day was marked with public celebrations and a two minute halt to business at 11 a.m. In 1938, an act of Congress made Armstice Day a national holiday.

In 1954, the U.S. Congress and President Dwight Eisenhower changed the name of the holiday from Armstice Day to Veterans Day to honor veterans who have protected our freedoms in all wars.

For more information about Veterans Day, visit:

http://www.coj.net/Departments/Recreation+and+Community+Services/Special+Events/Veterans+Day+Parade.htm

2009 Jacksonville Light Parade
Saturday, November 28 at 7 p.m.
## Downtown Riverfront

Each year, boats of every shape and size are imaginatively adorned with decorations that captivate senses and stimulate imaginations. Seafarers and landlubbers of all ages are sure to be dazzled by the area's largest lighted boat parade.

The information below was provided courtesy of the City of Jacksonville Recreations and Community Services. More information can be found on the following website: http://www.coj.net/Departments/Recreation+and+Community+Services/Special+Events/Light+Parade/default.htm

Safety Rules and Regulations

Carrying out a large event on the water requires diligence on the part of every captain. All vessels should conform to the USCG regulations regarding equipment and personal floatation devices. The best proof of this is the display of the USCG Auxiliary Courtesy Examination Decal.

1. Vessels must be able to maintain a constant speed of 5 to 7 knots and have a working marine radio with channels 16 and 72.

2. The parade will make two laps. It begins at Metropolitan Park, travels along the Northbank past The Jacksonville Landing and circles to the Southbank. The route continues along the Southbank, under the Main Street Bridge, past the Navy Memorial statue and down to the Duval County School Board Building.

3. Vessels will be disqualified if they do not make **TWO COMPLETE LAPS** along the parade route. **_Absolutely no exceptions._**

4. Skippers should resist the temptation to overload their boats and should exercise control over their passengers to avoid injuries or casualties.

5. Portable generators should be kept above deck so fumes are discharged overboard.

6. Electrical circuits should be fused, and care taken not to overload extension cords.

7. NO open flames aboard the vessel.

8. Cords and connections must be suitable for atmospheric conditions and protected from water.

9. The Light Parade is limited to **100 vessels** to assure adequate marine safety.

10. Participants not abiding by the rules and regulations will be disqualified and removed from the parade.
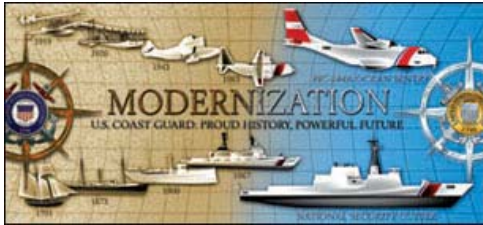
News Release

October 3, 2009

Contact: Anthony Turner
http://www.news.auxpa.org

Wearing a lifejacket can make the difference between being rescued or being recovered.

WASHINGTON - It is not unusual for the Coast Guard and other rescuers to search for a person who ended up in the water unexpectedly. All too often the search and rescue evolves into a search and recovery because the person was not wearing a lifejacket.

It is not uncommon for boaters and/or their passengers to unexpectedly find themselves in the water without a lifejacket. Some survive and unfortunately some do not. Not wearing a lifejacket while boating, including, canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle-boarding is like playing "Russian Roulette."

The chances of a non-swimmer surviving a fall overboard if not wearing a lifejacket are remote if not rescued quickly. "Not to wear a lifejacket whether you are a swimmer or not is to take an unnecessary risk, you never know when you might end up in the water", said Anthony Turner a spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

There many excuses for not wearing a lifejacket, such as "they are uncomfortable" or "too expensive." U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejackets range in price from as low as $15.00 to about $400.00 for the top of the line inflatable, although, even the most expensive lifejacket is of no value if it is not worn.

It is undisputable a lifejacket can and will save a life if properly worn, but what about preventing boating mishaps in the first place. Since most boating mishaps are caused by operator inattention, inexperience, and speeding resulting in collisions, remembering and following a few simple boating rules of the road, such as keeping a sharp lookout for other boat traffic, can help prevent collisions.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions.

For Further information please go to:
http://auxpa.org/weblog/blogs/index.php/2009/10/03/wearing-a-lifejacket-can-make-the-differ

FLOTILLA 14-8
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009 at 1900
FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB
9010 San Jose Blvd

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Nov	03	Tackle & Gun Club – 1930 Flotilla Meeting
	6 – 8th	Sea and Sky Spectacular Jacksonville Beach, FL
	11	Veterans Day Parade
	20	Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB
	27	JAX Landing Tree Lighting Fireworks
	28	JAX Landing Lighted Boat Parade Fireworks
Dec	02	Tackle & Gun Club – 1830 Staff Officers Meeting – 1930 Flotilla Meeting
	20	Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB
	31	JAX Landing New Years Eve Fireworks

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8 IS GREAT !

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