
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVI No. 7

July 2010

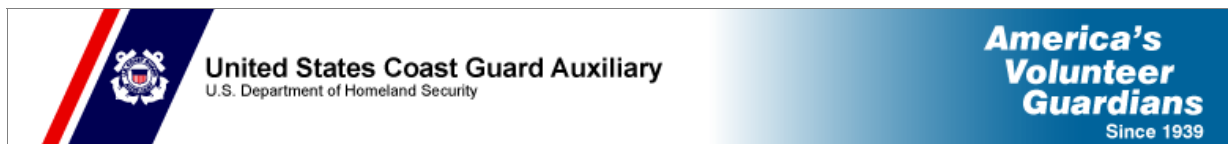
FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

jblomgren1408@bellsouth.net Jeffrey A. Blomgren
(vacant – new VFC to be elected at July meeting)
cgstrong@comcast.net Carolyn G. Strong

Flags Fly Over the Coast Guard Auxiliary Memorial Wall



Flags flying in the morning breeze as members of the USCG Auxiliary dedicated a new Memorial to members of Division 14 who have crossed over the bar (see more on pages 7 & 8)



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



“In calm seas all ships have a good Captain.”

I don't remember when I first read that quote but I feel it was written for Flotilla Commanders as much as for ship captains. The difficulties of leadership are apparent to anyone who has been in a leadership role. There is a great article in the NAVIGATOR this issue that talks about leadership and I think it should be required reading for all Auxiliarists. I've mentioned before that the Auxiliary is made up of leaders. We have among us members who have served in the military, have managed corporations, are lawyers, doctors, business owners, educators, and many have held staff positions in civilian life. What makes us unique is that with all those accomplishments we are willing to undergo the challenges of becoming servants to the mission and a willingness to serve at the local level as well by taking a role in the management process. There's a great book called *Servant Leadership* that outlines the criteria for great leaders. It is great reading when we think we may be at the apex of our careers and know everything and have done everything. There's always more to learn and to do.

We face challenges every day, whether it's financial, family, vocation or social. How we respond to those challenges makes or breaks the organization. Through all the difficulties we face, the job must still be done. How well it's done is up to us. At this mid-year point in 2010, I would like to thank you for your support to me as your Flotilla Commander for the past 18 months. Let's get this job done and do it well.

Don't forget the fact that Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 will be in our meeting on July 6 to discuss the importance of the form 7029. There's a really good article in the NAVIGATOR about the 7029 too.

Jeff Blomgren, FC 14-8

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – RALPH LITTLE



An article featuring Whit Vick, FSO-OP should run in the July edition of the Mandarin Newsline. In addition to the feature that hopefully will help prospective members get acquainted with us, the article will also pitch the Boating Safety and Vessel Safety Check programs. Top Ingram has also been attempting to get our Public Education program notice in the Times-Union Outdoor Calendar that comes out on Sundays. With Carolyn Strong's permission, we'd like to feature her work with Publications and History in next month's article.

Ralph Little, FSO-PA

HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



All CGAUX personnel are read the new member prologue prior to raising their right hand and taking the pledge. The following is a partial quote from that prologue:

"The satisfaction you derive from Auxiliary membership will be in proportion to your level of participation in the organization's activities. The success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will depend upon the extent or your participation and upon the quality of the leaders that you, the member, select".

This reminder is especially important as it pertains to the next flotilla meeting scheduled for 6 July. The election of a new VFC is required due to the resignation of Neill Thaggard from all of his duties for personal reasons. Neill also served as FSO-IS and a volunteer is urgently required for this important position. Other volunteer positions available include FSO-PA, FSO-MS, FSO-SR, FSO-CM and FSO-CS.

Following the regular meeting pizza will be served to all attendees. I encourage all flotilla members to come, cast your vote for VFC, volunteer for one of the FSO positions and enjoy some pizza.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS, FSO-CS



As the first named tropical event threatens US, it's a good time to review where to go for weather information. The "Jacksonville Weather" page on the flotilla 14-8's website can lead you to several useful weather information sources.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

JaxWeather.net offers North Jacksonville Weather Info

RiverCityWeather.net covers the Southside with a weather station located in Mandarin.

Live Animated Radar is available.

Also included are:
5 Day Forecast,
Local Tide Info,
Local Forecasts,
The Weather Channel,

Live Camera Views of
The Buckman Bridge,
Downtown
Jacksonville, and
Jacksonville Beach.

<http://a0701408.uscgaux.info/pages/14-8Weather.htm>

StormPulse.com

And

The National Hurricane Center links give up to date info on active storms including current conditions and predicted arrival times and strength.

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



To be honest, the Monday evening PE program has not had the major impact on the boating world I had originally hoped for. The major obstacle seems to be how to inform the public.

Every time Ralph or Top is able to get our story printed in a newspaper, I receive an inrush of calls. After that almost no calls are received until the next printing. We need a better and more consistent way to inform the boating public.

Since 15 February 2010, 40 participants have attended our six Monday evening ABS programs. Only 23 of the 40 attendees have taken and passed the examination. Seven more should challenge the examination within the next three weeks. That leaves 10 attendees in various stages of completion. Calling and reminding these participants to finish has become a full time occupation. The only consolation is in knowing these boaters have been exposed to some degree of education, something they may not have had were it not for our Monday evening PE program.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

FINANCE – BOB STRONG

Please mail your dues today in the self-addressed envelope I sent you with the original notice. Failure to pay your dues on or before 30 June 2010 may result in your being disenrolled from the Auxiliary. Thanks,

Bob Strong, FSO-FN

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



Operations has been resuscitated this June with the reinstatement of facility and crew into the patrol order management system (POMS). This was after several months of being on life support, having been banished from POMS due to a mysterious computer-human malfunction.

On 6/19/10, a patrol was done on the *Carlie* with Cris Vonderheide, trainee from 14-5 Dan Quinn, and myself. We were able to practice some of the required crew elements, including entering coordinates into the boat's GPS, which is an art form unto itself.

On 6/20/10, an introductory session at the newly established Coast Guard detachment at Welaka was conducted by Bob Funk. Those who attended got to inspect the 18 foot boat given by the Coast Guard to be used in Welaka. Patrols will be run by crew from multiple flotillas and divisions. A room in the combination town hall/police station/fire station at Welaka has been established for the detachment as well as a berth at the city marina for docking the boat on weekends. Some of us convened after the meeting for lunch at a little eatery run by a gentlemen from Poland who claims to have been rescued by the Coast Guard as he was clinging for his life to a buoy---so he has quite an affinity for the Coast Guard and would love for all of us to eat in his restaurant. His wife (reportedly a former go go dancer from New York) was nice too. Interesting place.

Come join us on the water.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

BOATS & OIL SPILLS

I wanted to let you know of an article we just published that explains what needs to be done if your boat comes in contact with oil from the spill. Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions.

<http://www.floridabywater.com/a-boaters-blog/1615-boats-and-the-oil-spills>

Thanks,
Rusty Gardner
Florida By Water 904-866-6389
www.floridabywater.com

19 JUNE 2010 – ON PATROL



Cris Vonderheide, Whit Vick and trainee Dan Quinn aboard *Carlie*
Photo contributed by Whit Vick, FSO-OP 14-8

20 JUNE 2010 – WELAKA, FLORIDA



The 18 foot Coast Guard Boat to be used by TEAM WELAKA, ready for inspection
Photo contributed by Dave Boyle, FSO-OP 14-7

PROGRAM VISITOR / VESSEL EXAMINER – MIKE MORGAN



Well here it is the end of June and we are in the middle of the year. We have had a pretty exciting last couple of months for Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and Recreational Boating Program Visits (RBPV). In May we had approximately 19 VSCs, 13 of which came from the Florida Yacht Club. I would like to say “Thank you” to Charlie Smith, Cris Vonderheide, and Ralph Little for your participation. The Yacht Club membership was very grateful and so excited about us conducting the VSCs that they asked us back. This also led to some possible Boating Safety classes to be conducted by Bob Strong for the membership.

I also conducted four Vessel Safety Checks at the Ortega Landing Yacht Club in early June which led to several others wanting the VSC. I feel the word is getting out about the importance of Boating Safety, with regards to both the vessel and the classroom. I would also like to thank Top Ingram for his continued efforts and support to the RBPV program.

I encourage each Vessel Examiner to get the word out about boating safety. I’m always open to suggestions to help improve 14-8’s VSC and RBPV programs. As a reminder when you conduct VSCs please promptly fill out an ANSC Form 7038 through the following link <http://forms.cgaux.org/email.html> and send it to Jesse Stevens at stevens61@comcast.net.

Have a Safe and Fun Holiday!!

Mike Morgan FSO-VE/PV

Article In Mandarin Newsline June 2010: THE EYES OF THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

In addition to publicizing the volunteer services of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary some articles introduce readers to your neighbors who perform those services. They are people from all walks of life who offer some of their time to help make boating safer. Of the Auxiliary’s various functions, Operations is the one that sends crew onto the water for multi-mission marine patrols. Locally, these patrols perform safety, rescue, surveillance and environmental activities in support of boaters, commercial interests and government programs. Each patrol has a coxswain in charge of the boat, one or more crew, and a boat supplied by one of the members. A banner identifies the boat as a U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary craft. The crew represents an official U.S. Coast Guard presence in all regards except for military and law enforcement actions and carries the necessary gear for communications and assistance.

Each flotilla appoints an Operations Officer who coordinates patrols and is responsible for most of its marine activity. For the Mandarin-based flotilla, the Operations role is currently assigned to Whit Vick. Whit came to us from Rome, Georgia where he began his Auxiliary association in 1996 on Lake Allatoona, a large impoundment for Atlanta. Raised in Virginia and a boater since he was 8 years old, Whit is married with two sons and is a radiologist at the Jacksonville Veteran’s Administration outpatient clinic. That he gained his occupation through attendance at Emory University, Harvard and Yale hints at the focus, intelligence and awareness he brings to the operations task. Preparatory to this leadership role, Whit became crew qualified in 2005, and a coxswain in 2006. In Whit’s own words, he prefers operations due to his love of boats, opportunities to learn and teach, being on the water, meeting others interested in boating, and being part of an organization that promotes boating safety. Indicative of his commitment to those interests, he also acquired his Masters Captain license in 2003 to drive a Rome city charter boat and works part time for both Towboat US and a dolphin tour company on Jekyll Island, GA.

If you would like to join Whit on the St. Johns River, contact Charles Smith at 904-541-1660 and he will guide you through membership. Since part of that process includes completion of the Auxiliary Boating Safety Training Program, you may first want to check us out and also get your Florida Boater’s ID card. Flotilla 14-8’s program occurs every Monday at 6:30pm at the Stellar building near I-295 at 2900 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257. Cost is \$20 per participant. Call Bob (904-721-1346) for specifics and to register.

With the arrival of hurricane season various Auxiliary functions engage in precautionary preparations. One of those activities involves our Marine Dealer contact officer, Mike Morgan, who distributes safety information available at marinas and dealers and promotes marina hurricane plans. Those businesses can contact Mike at (904-333-0216) or msmorgan221@gmail.com if they want to initiate or need additional assistance.

Ralph Little, Public Affairs, Flotilla 14-8

Honoring the Men and Women of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division 14

A dedication ceremony for the Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 14 Memorial Wall was held at the Coast Guard Jacksonville Beach ANT Station on Saturday, 26 June 2010. The station is located at 1462 4th Avenue, Jacksonville Beach. The wall honors our fellow Auxiliarists, including those from our own flotilla, who have passed over the bar.

The division is accepting contributions to help pay expenses for this lasting memorial. Contact David Green at ggreen1945@gmail.com if you would like to make a tax deductible donation.

Dedication Ceremony for New USCGAUX Division 14 Memorial Wall 26 June 2010



Representatives of the Flotillas: Derek Lloyd, 14-2; Elaine Cornell, 14-4; David Hensel, 14-5; Victor Aquino, 14-7; Jeff Blomgren, 14-8 & Wayne Beard, 14-9 lined up along with David Green, VCDR 14 as the ceremony began



Art Tenney played the National Anthem on the bagpipes



The Division 14 Honor Guard, accompanied by Art Tenney of Flotilla 14-5



CAPT Andy Bloom, of USCG Sector Jacksonville addressed the gathering of Auxiliarists, their families and friends



**Reggie Hollar, District Captain North
(DCAPT-N)
From USCGAUX District 7**



Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14



**Jesse Stevens, Division Commander and
David Green, Division Vice Commander
salute those whose names are on the
Memorial Wall**



The Division 14 Honor Guard and the Wall



**Carlene Candreia, a retired member of Flotilla
14-8 whose husband Barry, past FC 14-8 and past
Division Captain is Memorialized on the Wall, with
Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 after the ceremony**



**This portion of the Memorial Wall contains names of
members of Division 14 who have crossed over the bar
since the Division was established**

*Photos contributed by Rusty Gardner
and Carolyn Strong*

From a Retired Charter Member of 14-8:

The Florida Tackle & Gun Club is always looking for new members to replace those who have passed. Buz Palmer, a retired charter member of Flotilla 14-8, submitted the following story.

"Hello and thank you for considering a membership in our Florida Tackle & Gun Club!

Our club was formed in 1944 by some hunting & fishing enthusiasts. Today our club has generated into not only a club for hunting & fishing enthusiasts, but a club for all aspects of boating, (with many club & member sponsored boating activities). A club of many social activities, (there is always a party, dinner, holiday celebration, birthday celebration, entertainment function going on)! It is a club that is a meeting place for a number of other groups, such as the Power Boat Club, the Sail Boat Club, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts, and others. These organizations are always looking for new members that share the same interests.

In 1944, when our club was formed, the land the club is situated on was owned by Mr. Rubin of Rubin Road. In the 1970's one of our past presidents, Tommy Morrison, convinced Mr. Rubin to turn the deed of the land over to the membership of our club. This was done so we could borrow funds to expand the club.

At that time there was a \$15,000 mortgage on the property. With deed in hand the board of directors were able to approach a financial institution and borrow \$45,000.00, pay off the existing mortgage, and have \$30,000.00 to build the room where the existing bar is today plus, the swimming pool and the docks. Most of the labor in this effort, except the pool, was accomplished by volunteer members. Obviously, our club has grown even more since those days.

The Florida Tackle & Gun Club is solely owned by its members. The only paid employees are our bartenders. The nine members elected Board of Governors are all volunteers. The vast majority of the upkeep of the club, the many functions, parties, dinners that occur in and around our club are done by volunteer members.

Should you decide to become a member of our club we would hope that you would find a way to spend some time helping your club to continue to function and provide lots of fun for your whole family".

Regards, Buz
BuzPalmer@ATT.net

Message from the Office of ADSO-PB-N District 7:

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your flotilla's newsletter, "Eight Bells", received honorable mention in this year's contest for District 7. WOW, what an accomplishment! Dottie Riley's email listing the winners showed Sarah Tamargo as the editor for your flotilla's newsletter. Since I am new in my position as ADSO-PB-N for District 7, I believe you had been the previous FSO-PB and Sarah has taken over the PB position (for 2009). If I am correct, then both of you are to be congratulated on a job well done. Keep up the good work!

Again, congratulations!
Regards, Sue Carty
FSO-PB 12-1, ADSO-PB-N D7

Sarah, I want to personally thank you for all of your hard work last year as editor of Eight Bells and for maintaining our proud tradition of excellence.

Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB 14-8



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

**America's
Volunteer
Guardians**
Since 1939

FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING ELECTION OF NEW VFC* and PIZZA NIGHT

1930 Tuesday 6 July 2010

FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB

9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

*** We need your participation at this very important meeting.**

***** ****

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- JUN 30** Flotilla dues due to FSO-Finance for calendar year 2011
- JUL 04** Fly the Flag and have a Happy 4th of July!
- 06** Flotilla 14-8 Meeting-Pizza Night – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930
- 17** Division 14 General Meeting – Stellar Building, 0900 – 1200
- 19-24** Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament
- 20** Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- AUG 03** Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930
- 04** Chartering Ceremony for Flotilla 14-5 – Green Cove Springs
(More information to follow)
- 25-29** National Conference (NACON) Scottsdale, AZ
See <http://www.cgauxa.org/nacon/> for information

Each Monday evening – About Boating Safely Program – 1830 – Stellar Building

***** ****

ENJOY A SAFE HOLIDAY AND DON'T FORGET...THIS TUESDAY IS PIZZA NIGHT!



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.

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