
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVII No. 2

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FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

cwvick@comcast.net
bombdude1@att.com
cgstrong@comcast.net

C. Whitley Vick
Michael S. Morgan
Carolyn G. Strong

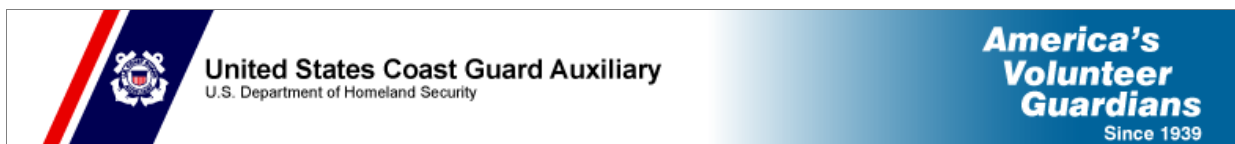
A New Day and a New Year for Flotilla 14-8

See photos from our Change of Watch inside this edition



Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander shot this picture near Brunswick, Georgia

Photo provided by Whit Vick FC / FSO-OP 14-8



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Thanks to Carolyn Strong for organizing our Change of Watch dinner and program, and to all those who helped with the set up, serving food, and clean up--it was great. The December meeting and the Change of Watch demonstrated to me how a dinner meeting coupled with a business meeting can be an excellent way to combine business with fellowship. We can discuss if we would like to continue this practice (i.e., dinner plus business meeting) occasionally throughout the year in an effort to increase our fellowship time (the "glue that holds the flotilla together"--B. Strong).

Based on e-mail "chatter" I receive (and it's a lot), I am really encouraged by the enthusiasm and energy our FSOs are bringing to their jobs. Our flotilla is a team, but how we move forward is totally dependent on the actions of individual members.

Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Papp, citing the uptick in boating fatalities in 2010, has stressed that the Coast Guard Auxiliary focus on recreational boating safety. Many of our activities are directed towards this end, including public education, vessel exams, program visits, as well as member training. Safe boating week is in May, and Kevin Koehl has agreed to head a flotilla committee to coordinate our flotilla's efforts for this week.

Thanks for all you do.

Whit Vick, FC 14-8

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



First, I would like to say that this is going to be an exciting year for our flotilla. I think we have a great staff in place with a lot of energetic people who have stepped up to take the flotilla to new heights. As your Flotilla Vice Commander, I will do my best to provide the level of service to you as a volunteer that is befitting a Vice Commander. Whit and I have the same goals for our flotilla and if you need anything our doors are always open.

"Semper Paratus"

Mike Morgan, VFC 14-8

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS

MEMBER TRAINING – MIKE MORGAN

The best units of any organization are the ones that are well trained. I hope to be able to incorporate as much training as possible in our flotilla meetings as well as outside the flotilla. Some of the items I would like to be able to accomplish this year are to have everyone Basic Adult CPR and AED qualified, start individuals on paths to their Trident, Boat Crew and Coxswain qualification as well as many other invaluable opportunities that the USCG and the USCG Auxiliary provides. If you have anything that you would like to start to work on please let me know.

Mike Morgan, FSO-MT

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MIKE MORGAN

I would like our flotilla to be more vigilant in capturing your Time and Cost that you incur in your volunteer service to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary has made this as easy as possible by making some of the common forms we use as electronic forms. This is where I guess some of the issues have come in as to why individuals have not submitted their time. The electronic forms are actually quite easy to use, especially the online 7029. When you go to the eForms site, here is the link <http://forms.cgaux.org/email.php>, you will see all the electronic forms. You will also see the link to the Online 7029 form. You will use your Aux Directory name and password to login. Please submit Form 7030, 7038, 7039 and 7046, right after you have performed the duty, to the current FSO of that area and a copy to me. Your online Form 7029 will be submitted by the Sunday at the end of the first week of the next month, reporting on the previous month.

Mike Morgan, FSO-IS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



A major remodel and update of our flotilla website went live on January 1st. This included updates to all staff officer pages. I encourage all staff officers to look over their department web pages to make sure the information is up to date.

Thanks to Marlene Koehl for catching an error on the "Public Home Page" that has been sitting there for at least a year. It shows me that somebody really uses this site. Our website is designed to be the gateway to all of your Coast Guard Auxiliary Internet connections. If I can clarify any information that will make this site more useful to you send me an email. I can easily turn your suggestion into a useful tool for all to use.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



To date I have two applications outstanding for membership. I'm not confident either will be submitted for approval. As usual, I'm enlisting the assistance of current members in referring possible recruits to me who might be interested in volunteering their services.

The following are our priority areas for promising applicants, not excluding applicants who express interest in other programs, i.e., instructor duties.

1. Boaters who want to be qualified as crew/coxswain.
2. Those interested in radio communications and watchstanding.
3. Those interested in writing, photography, editing and publishing a newsletter.
4. Those interested in web page construction and operation, or interested in data base input and management.
5. Those interested in recruiting or organizing new member orientation.

I promise to develop and follow up in a timely manner all leads forwarded to me.

Kyle George has volunteered to let me mentor him in my FSO-HR responsibilities. In my absence, intentional or otherwise, Kyle will be the flotilla FSO-HR contact until another is appointed by the FC. Kyle is already the uniform requirements expert and all questions concerning uniform wear can be referred to him for resolution.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



Some dates for our One-Day ABS courses for 2011 have changed again. The current dates for 2011 are: February 19, March 5, April 9, April 30, May 21, June 25, July 23, August 13, August 27 and October 15. Please mark your calendars accordingly and advise me of any conflicts ASAP. We may add a course on Saturday November 11 if we are successful in running a booth at the U.S. Navy's celebration of 100 years of Naval Aviation on November 5 & 6 at NAS Jacksonville.

According to AUXinfo we currently have eight instructors. John Hadley just completed all the qualifications for instructor and his name should be added to this list in the near future. If you think you were incorrectly dropped from this list please contact our Information Systems officer to find out what you need to do to be reinstated.

According to new rules adopted by the Auxiliary last year we now need TWO instructors teaching each lesson. The first instructor leads the class while the second instructor follows every word the first instructor utters. If the first instructor makes an error the second instructor must immediately stop the lesson and correct the first instructor's error. Sorry, I don't know the details but we are stuck with it. We must do the very best job possible. What it means to me is we must now have three instructors capable of teaching the current subject at any one time. The third instructor will act as a back-up if something happens to either of the two active instructors.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



As the new FSO-PA for 14-8 I have a lot to learn about Public Affairs. Ralph Little has graciously offered to continue to write articles for the Mandarin Newline and I am including his January article in this month's *Eight Bells* (see page 6). The Flotilla 14-8 website calendar has been updated to reflect the Jacksonville area public boating events for 2011. If there are additional Jacksonville boating events you are aware of, please email me at kevinkoehl@gmail.com. Division 14 has asked 14-8 to take the leadership role in planning a booth at the Jacksonville Air Show this year in November. Our nation is celebrating 100 years of Naval Aviation and as a result, the Air Show will be held at NAS Jacksonville instead of Jacksonville Beach. This will be an opportunity for the Auxiliary to be part of an exciting Coast Guard exhibit.

Also, our flotilla will take an active role promoting and participating in National Safe Boating Week from May 21-27. Whit has chartered a team to begin planning our flotilla activities for this National event. The planning team will be looking to engage the entire flotilla in planning and participating in National Safe Boating week events. As FSO-PA, I will work closely with the Division SO-PA to identify opportunities for us to support other Jacksonville boating events, including upcoming boat shows, and identify opportunities for our flotilla members to participate. Finally, as a result of Top Ingram's efforts, The Jacksonville Offshore Fishing Club published our 2011 "About Boating Safely" course calendar on their website www.jaxfish.com. If you have other ideas on how we can communicate our class schedule to our area of responsibility, please contact me.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



I am looking forward to the opportunity of representing Flotilla 14-8 as FSO-PV. Being relatively new to the Auxiliary and to the area, I welcome ideas and suggestions from all members. We have a good list of RBS-PV partners started. Our goals are to insure that each partner is being visited on a regular basis to distribute current information and to expand our presence in local business locations in order to promote boating safety awareness even more in the future. We currently have only a few qualified Program Visitors actively supporting the program. I would ask all members to consider taking the on-line RBS-PV course and becoming qualified as a Program Visitor. It is an enjoyable way to share one's love of boating and the importance of boating safety with others in the community. I will be working closely with the FSO-PA in getting our message out to the public. If you are a qualified PV and have not received an email from me, please contact me at mekoehl@gmail.com.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

VESSEL EXAMINER – JOHN HADLEY



Even though this year is already coming into February, Vessel Examinations is gearing up. National Safe Boating Week is the week of 21 May, and Flotilla 14-8 needs to qualify more Vessel Examiners. There are many more plans and ideas being suggested. All of them will be tested in one way or another.

A new wrinkle: National Safe Boating Week deserves coordinated planning and preparation. To that end, a flotilla committee has been named to address some of these issues, so we can carry our end of the log.

As your new FSO-VE, I am indebted to our new FC, Whit Vick and to the members of Flotilla 14-8 for giving me this opportunity to serve. I have 'worked on the water,' in several capacities in another life. I look forward to applying that experience and training to this post. Thanks to everyone in the flotilla who has made themselves available to assist me in getting qualified in one way or another, and who still are.

John Hadley, FSO-VE

MARINE SAFETY – KYLE GEORGE



To all 14-8 members, I hope everyone had a Happy New Year and I wish you all the best in 2011. This will be my first FSO report for the new year and I wish all the staff officers good luck.

I will start off with a safety alert for life jackets. Type 1 Life Jackets made by Kent Sporting Goods need to have the Chest Strap checked! Several jackets were assembled at the factory with the strap threaded through the fixed "D" ring. If this happens, then the strap could snag and prevent the wearer from getting the jacket around their body.

Completely unwrap the primary strap to ensure it is free and capable of being adjusted. If it is not, then the snap hook needs to be removed from the strap, the strap pulled out of the "D" ring and the snap hook reattached to the strap. I had not heard of this company before but realized I had two PWC vests made by them that had this issue and needed to be corrected.

Also, LIFE JACKET SERVICEABLE CONDITION: Ref: 33CFR175.23

Just counting life jackets is not enough. They must be in good condition.

The manual states they must be in serviceable condition. What does that mean?

- They must have attached to them a USCG approved label with an approval number.
- The metal or plastic hardware used to secure it must not be broken, deformed or weakened by corrosion.
- The webbing or straps must not be ripped or become separated from an attachment point. There must be no rotted or deteriorated structural components, no rips, tears, or open seams, no buoyant material that has become hard, waterlogged, soaked or missing.
- If an inflatable type, it must be armed with an operable inflation device and status indicators showing operable, chambers that hold air, the oral inflation tube not broken, the manual lanyard accessible and not broken or missing.

Please check for these when completing vessel exams as they could very well save a life. I would like to congratulate all new and returning officers and wish everyone the best of luck for the New Year. Also, thanks to everyone who made the Change of Watch such a huge success.

Kyle J George, FSO-MS

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



Operations have been quiet for the month of January. No patrols can be run if water temperature is below 50 degrees F unless a waiver is granted by Station. Mustang suits have to be carried aboard on all patrols this winter and wearing them is up to the discretion of Station Officer of the day.

A planning session was held in Welaka on 1/15/11, with Bob Funk and Mike Owsley and crew and coxswains in attendance. Beginning this spring, all Welaka crew must be Operations Excellence qualified, including running night Search and Rescue (SAR) patterns.

Flotilla 14-4 is starting up its "Boat Crew Academy" beginning in late January and running through May, 2011. This is classroom teaching and there have been opportunities for on the water training as well. It is given every Monday starting at 1900 at Queens Harbor, hosted by Don Mooers of 14-4. This is open to all and if anyone is interested in attending, please contact me and I will put you in contact with Don Mooers.

A coxswain training class is ongoing, meeting once to twice a month, taught by the local qualifying examiners, Bob Funk and Mike Owsley. Cris Vonderheide and I have been attending this.

Hopefully, we can get in a patrol on my boat in February.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP



Our article for the January edition of the Mandarin Newslines talks about protecting lives on the water.

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

Learn to Protect Lives on the Water

On January 3, 2011, at 4:21 p.m., a 34 foot boat had just finished fueling at the Delray Harbor Club Marina and fuel had spilled into the water. Dock attendants were in the process of a cleanup and the Dockmaster had advised the vessel's captain to not start the engines. Two people were on the vessel's bridge and one person was below deck when an explosion occurred. The two people on the bridge received second degree burns, the victim who was below deck died as a result of the explosion. So starts the boating fatality count for the New Year.

Other than being a human choice for measurement, the calendar year has little to do with the relentless loss of life in boating accidents. In Florida, boats aren't generally in storage over the winter and anytime they are being used, there is the potential for misfortune. 2010 was not kind, resulting in 78 boating fatalities – 10 higher than 2009. Just to highlight what the Coast Guard means by "high risk" craft, the final boating death for 2010 occurred with the drowning of a fisherman who fell out of a 16 foot canoe. Had he worn a life vest full time in such a small craft, he may only have gotten wet.

One mission of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is education of the boating community to reduce injuries and deaths. Indeed, Florida Law requires boat operators born on or after January 1, 1988 to pass an approved boating safety course and carry the resulting Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card along with a picture ID. In 2011, Flotilla 14-8 will present the one day course, About Boating Safely, on 10 different Saturdays at the Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road in Mandarin. This is a convenient location just off San Jose Blvd. on the north side of I-295. The class will run from 7:30am to 5:00pm with 30 minutes for lunch. Course dates are February 19, March 5, April 9 and 30, May 21, June 25, July 23, August 13 and 27 and October 15. A fee of \$25 is charged for each student and just \$5 more for the second member of a family. All boat operators can take the Auxiliary Boating Safety Program and if you care to join our efforts, its fee is included in our minimal member dues. Call Bob Strong at 904-721-1346 for specifics on where and when courses are offered and to register or to indicate interest in the courses.

If you wish to join the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, contact Charles Smith at 904-541-1660 and he will guide you through membership. With our new officers in place, the flotilla is getting instructors ready to present its safety courses and will also be happy to perform free vessel safety examinations wherever your boat is located in Northeast Florida – on water or land. Email John Hadley at hadley.beverly@yahoo.com to schedule a vessel examiner. It is a perfect time to use the cool weather to have your safety preparations checked, get your gear prepared for the good times ahead and bolster your chances of not becoming a statistic.

*** FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM ***

FLOTILLA CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER 4 JANUARY 2011 AT THE FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB

Our Change of Watch dinner was a great success this year, with the mouth-watering food provided by Bob Evans Restaurant. Rick Stock, the manager was very helpful in the planning of the meal and in providing everything we needed and more. My personal thanks go to John Hadley for all of his work in planning, setting up the room, serving, cleaning up and in seeing that everything was done right. Our crew of members, who set up, decorated, served food and cleaned up the room included Dave Anderson, Marlene and Kevin Koehl, Kyle George, Bob Strong, Cris and Carol Vonderheide, Paul Burns, Charlie and Jackie Smith, Jeff Blomgren and Charlie Amante. Even Whit Vick and Mike Morgan, our new FC and VFC signed up to help but we let them off the hook since they had so many other duties that night. If I have forgotten to mention anyone, I am so sorry. Never have I been involved in a flotilla function that had so many enthusiastic volunteers step up to do the work. The result was a roaring success.

Our honored guests for the evening included three members of the Coast Guard from Station Mayport: BMCS Jason Fealy; BMC Rudy Radakovich and BM3 Ben McCullen, along with our Division Elected Officers, Tom Hayden, Division Commander, Bill Sekeres, Division Vice Commander and Jesse Stevens, Immediate Past Division Commander. We thank them for honoring us with their presence. Another special guest was Erik Blomgren, grandson of Jeff Blomgren, IPFC, who received a special Coast Guard badge at last summer's National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia.

Following are just a few of the pictures of the events of that night. I only wish we could have captured more of the special moments on camera.

Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB



Jeff Blomgren and his grandson Erik show the Coast Guard badge that Erik received at the 2010 Scout Jamboree and the plaque Jeff had created to commemorate the occasion.



Erik and Jeff exchange Awards



Jeff Blomgren, IPFC presented Awards and Commendation Ribbons to several members. Left to Right: Bob Strong – AUX Performance Award for PE; Marlene Koehl – TCT, APC & RBS; Kevin Koehl – TCT & APC; Charles Amante – Welcome letter & Certificate and IDC; John Hadley – TCT, APC, IDC, Good Mate. Congratulations to all.

FLOTILLA CHANGE OF WATCH



Jeff Blomgren gave a Flotilla Commander's Special Award of Appreciation to Jesse Stevens, IPDCDR 14 for all of his help and encouragement during Jeff's tenure as Flotilla Commander 2009 – 2010



Mike Morgan and Whit Vick take the Oath of Office as Flotilla Vice Commander and Flotilla Commander respectively



Jeff gave thanks and Awards of Appreciation to his Staff Officers for the year 2010



Whit receives his new FC shoulder boards from his wife Serena and Tom Hayden, DCDR 14



Tom Hayden, DCDR 14 and Jeff Blomgren, IPFC 14-8 Administer the Oath of Office to the new Flotilla Elected Officers



Serena and Whit Vick with Tom Hayden

FLOTILLA CHANGE OF WATCH



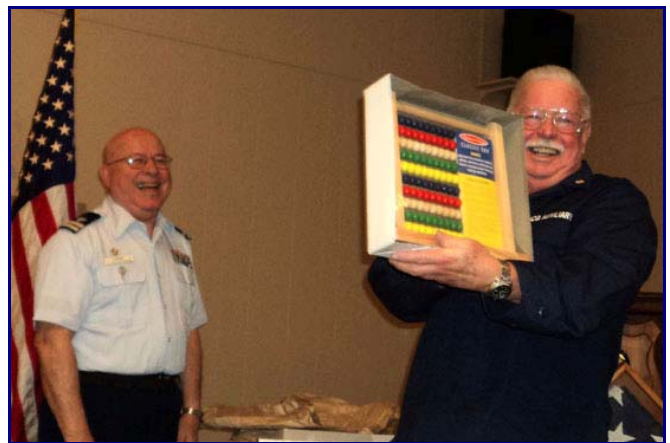
Jeff passes the gavel to Whit



Charlie Smith is the proud recipient of both the notorious Jimmie Anderson Award and the coveted Andy Anderson Award for 2010



Whit presents the Past Flotilla Commander's Plaque to Jeff



Charlie displays the gift that accompanied the Jimmie Anderson Award – an Abacus! (because he "HATES COMPUTERS!")



Awards Chairman Bob Strong talks about the traditions and Awards of Flotilla 14-8



Bob Strong presents the Andy Anderson Award to Charlie Smith for the results of his outstanding efforts in the area of Membership Growth in 2010

Thanks to Jeff Blomgren, Bob Strong & Carolyn Strong for the Change of Watch pictures

Flotilla 14-8 Officers and Staff Sworn in for 2011:



From left: John Hadley, VE; Bob Flaige, MA; Kyle George, MS; Bob Strong, FN & PE; Carolyn Strong, PB; Kevin Koehl, PA; Marlene Koehl, PV; Cris Vonderheide, NS; Charlie Smith, HR; Paul Burns, CS & SR; Mike Morgan, VFC, IS & MT; Whit Vick, FC & Operations

Meet our Auxiliary Leaders for 2011:



Whit Vick, FC and Mike Morgan, VFC Flotilla 14-8

Division 14 Leaders:



Tom Hayden, Division Commander



Bill Sekeres, Division Vice Commander

Meet our Auxiliary Leaders for 2011

Seventh District Leaders:



Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz



Chief of Staff (DCOS) John Tyson

National Leaders:



National Commodore James Vass

Commodore James Vass is currently serving as the Coast Guard Auxiliary National Commodore. He previously served as the Vice National Commodore from 2008-2010. He also served as the National Area Commodore Atlantic Area (West) from 2006 to 2008, as District Commodore, Eighth District Coastal Region 2004 to 2006 and as the District Chief of Staff from 2000 to 2002.

Jim is a qualified instructor, vessel examiner, coxswain and qualification examiner. He has been recognized with the following awards during his association with The Auxiliary: Medal of Operational Merit, Auxiliary Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Sustained Auxiliary Service Award, and the Coast Guard Unit Commendation.



Vice National Commodore Thomas C. Mallison

Commodore Thomas C. Mallison is currently serving as Vice National Commodore. He previously served as Deputy National Commodore - Operations Policy and Atlantic Area West in 2009-2010, as District Commodore, Eighth District Eastern Region in 2007-08, as District Vice Commodore in 2005-06, and as District Rear Commodore West in 2003-04. He served as Department Chief of the National Department of Personnel in 2000-02.

Commodore Mallison joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1990. He has a wide variety of experiences in both elected and staff offices at all levels from flotilla to National. He is active as Boat Crew Coxswain, PATON Verifier, RBS Visitor, Vessel Examiner, Instructor and Qualification Examiner. He is an AUXOP member.



FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 1 February 2011 at 1930

Florida Tackle & Gun Club

9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- FEB 01 Flotilla 14-8 Regular Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 04-06 64th Annual Jacksonville Boat Show at Prime Osborn Convention Center
- 19 First ABS Course of 2011 – 0730 – 1700 – Stellar Building
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- MAR 01 Flotilla 14-8 Regular Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 05 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- 12-13 Florida Sportsman Fishing & Boat Show Morocco Shrine
- 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 19 Division 14 Meetings – Bridge 0900, General 1000 – Stellar Building
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO

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8 IS GREAT !



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

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