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# EIGHT



# BELLS

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

**Volume XXXVII No. 7 & 8**

**July and August 2011**

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## **July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks over the St. Johns River**



*As viewed from the water near Moose Haven in Orange Park, Florida*

*Photo provided by Whit Vick, FC 14-8*



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

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## FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



The Division 14 quarterly meeting was hosted by Flotilla 14-7 in St Augustine on 18 June 2011. Here are some highlights:

District 7 Conference will be held in Jacksonville 9/22 - 9/25/2011 (Thursday through Sunday).

The new Station Commander at Mayport, BOSN2 Douglas Schubert and his wife, Sam, were introduced. Doug has a strong background in operations. He served on a patrol boat in Iraq which was charged with protecting oil platforms. He has worked with the Auxiliary in the past, and wants to use the Auxiliary as much as possible for helping with non-military surface operations. He says he considers the Active Duty, Reservists, and Auxiliary as one team--in his words: "One team, one fight". He should be a great asset for the Auxiliary in Jacksonville. Doug replaced our good friend and team mate CWO Jim DeVane.

Also introduced was Commander Rush, who recently replaced Pat Schreiber. Auxlo Grant Johnson was also in attendance. Bob Weskerna, District Captain came down from Charleston. Bob brought up an excellent piece written by David Patrick in the 14-7 newsletter. In this, Dave reminds us that in the Auxiliary we should remember to enjoy what we are doing--to have fun.

It was announced that Bob Funk received the Auxiliary Meritorious Service medal. This prestigious award was given for Bob's many contributions to the Auxiliary, most notably in operations and his role in establishing and maintaining the Welaka Detachment. These efforts in Welaka are continuous and ongoing.

Mark Henricks, SO-PA, in his verbal report to the general meeting, praised Kevin Koehl, 14-8, for his outstanding job as FSO-PA. I wholeheartedly concur, and also want to mention the excellent work Kevin did in organizing and coordinating our flotilla's National Safe Boating Week activities.

In preparing for the division meeting, I wrote down some of our flotilla's activities over the past three months since the last division meeting. Here is my summary of these activities. I will not mention names as I might inadvertently leave someone out:

- Presentation and distribution of boating safety packages to Jacksonville Marine Dealers Association.
- Establishment of new website, SafeBoatingJax.com.
- Made video of the Coast Guard's new 45 foot Rescue Boat - Medium at Mayport.
- Provided coxswains for permitted marine event, a rowing regatta on Ortega River.
- Supported 14-2 at Jacksonville Outdoor Boat Show at Metro Park.
- Provided Auxiliary information booth at NAS JAX safety fair.
- Our 3 coxswains participated in Operations Excellence training and qualification for the Welaka detachment.
- On 5/21, the kickoff of National Safe Boating Week with Auxiliary information booths at two West Marine stores and at Academy Sports store, where the Coast Guard 25 foot rescue boat and two active duty Coast Guard personnel participated.
- A. Quinton White, Jr., PhD, a renowned marine biologist at Jacksonville University, gave our flotilla a most interesting talk on manatees in our area.
- One of our members gave a talk on boating safety to 300 Airmen at NAS JAX.
- A total of three ABS classes and four separate VSC days were provided.
- One of our members trained as a watchstander for Station Mayport.
- A crew class was given for four trainees.

- Every month, a beautifully rendered flotilla newsletter and an article for the Mandarin newsletter were published.

Reading this list reminds me I am serving with capable, energetic, dedicated people. Thank you for your great service.

*Whit Vick, FC*

FC report update 7/20/2011:

Division 14 will hold a social event called a "dining in" 8/26/2011 at Embassy Suites on Baymeadows Rd near I-95. Anyone can attend but RSVP is necessary by 8/12. Cost is \$31/person. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

*Whit Vick, FC 14-8*

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## FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work in making the National Safe Boating Week events a huge success. I would like to specifically point out Kevin & Marlene Koehl, John Hadley, Bob Strong and Rusty Gardner for their work with the National Safe Boating Week events. I would also like to congratulate Kevin Koehl for his completion of the Aux-12 C-School Public Affairs Course. We have a great momentum of energy and I want to thank everyone for your support to our flotilla and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

I would also like to remind everyone that although we are a volunteer organization, the use of your Chain of Leadership is **HIGHLY** recommended. The Chain of Leadership is as follows: Auxiliarist to FSO-(specific position) to Flotilla Vice Commander to Flotilla Commander. You can also reference the following link:

<http://www.uscg.mil/Auxiliary/administration/policy/col.asp>

I would also like to remind everyone on the proper wear and appearance of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform, please reference the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Uniform Guide and Auxiliary manual COMDTINST M16790.1F Dated 18 May 2004 Chp 10.

“Semper Paratus”

“Always Ready”

*Mike Morgan, VFC 14-8*

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## IMMEDIATE PAST FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



I would like to take this opportunity to tell you all how much I enjoyed the meeting of 14-8 on 6 July.

The reports were exciting and it was really fun to hear of all the things that are taking place and the people who are really taking hold of responsibility and producing such good results. The DVD presentation was really fun to watch too. Good job Kevin.

**Well done 14-8!**

*Jeff Blomgren, IPFC 14-8*

## FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

### COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES – PAUL BURNS

#### **More about Computer Safety:**



Since I had so much interest in my recent article on computer backups, I'd like to expand on what types of computer backups you should consider and what software that I use myself to do them.

There are two types of backup that you want to do to keep your computer safe, "The System Image Backup" and the "File Backup". I have my backups saved to a USB external hard drive that will fit in the palm of my hand and it cost me about \$80.00.

The "System Image" makes a complete backup of your entire computer hard drive and puts into one large file. (you cannot see the individual files, just the large image file) The file will be as large as the entire used contents of your hard drive. When you restore a System Image, the program erases everything that is currently on your hard drive and replaces it with the contents as it was on the day that the back up was done. You want to make sure that your computer is virus free and running well when the system image is created. I usually do this type of backup myself every 3 to 6 months and I keep the oldest and the newest backup, just in case the newest backup has a problem I always have the original to go back to. The advantage of this type of backup is all of your computer's installed software is included therefore you should only need to re-install software that was installed since the most recent backup.

Windows 7 has an excellent System Image backup program built right in. For Windows Vista and Windows XP, a very good System Image package is Norton "Ghost" but it costs a little money, so for a free program that I have used successfully and easily I recommend "Easeus-Todo Backup". You can read about and download this program for free at the following address:

[http://download.cnet.com/EASEUS-Todo-Backup-Free/3000-2242\\_4-10964460.html?tag=mncol;1](http://download.cnet.com/EASEUS-Todo-Backup-Free/3000-2242_4-10964460.html?tag=mncol;1)

Every night, I do a "File Backup" aka "Document Backup". (Depending on how often your files change you can do every night, every week, every month.) This type of backup makes a copy of personal documents, pictures, internet favorites, Outlook PST file and such. It copies them to the backup drive. These files are exact copies of the original files and can be immediately used without special software to "restore" the files. I find this type of backup very useful when I make some significant mistake in a file then end up saving the mistake. I then have yesterday's copy that I can go back to and start over. As well with this type of backup I will never lose more than one day of work if something were to cause me to lose all the files on my computer.

The free program that I really like for my daily backup is "Karen's Replicator". I set it up then forget about it. It works automatically every night.

[http://download.cnet.com/Karens-Replicator/3000-2242\\_4-50127.html?tag=mncol;2](http://download.cnet.com/Karens-Replicator/3000-2242_4-50127.html?tag=mncol;2)

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*Paul Burns, FSO-CS*

## **HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH**



Recruiting remains at a slow pace despite overview from the National level. Our flotilla currently has five applications outstanding and indications are that three will not be submitted, at least not in the near future. Our one new recruit, Rebecca Habermas, is proving to be an energetic and active member and a welcome addition to our flotilla.

Two reminders to all members:

(1) June was dues month for the Flotilla 14-8. Forward annual dues to Bob Strong, FSO-FN in the envelope provided ASAP.

(2) ANSC #7028 is the Change of Member Information form. Check AUXINFO and ensure the information listed is current. If not, print and forward a copy of the form with the change to Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS to have the change posted. This information is vital as our flotilla has been tasked to complete a calling tree and the contact information in AUXINFO is the basis for notifying flotilla members of emergency situations. Correct contact information could save lives and possibly limit damage to personal property.

*Charlie Smith, FSO-HR*

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## **INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL**



In June, Individual Training Status Reports were emailed to all active flotilla members to assist them in managing their certifications. Additional emails were sent to members approaching 5 years in REYR status in Vessel Examiner certification and those members in IQ status who need to provide evidence that they have completed a boating class in order to move to BQ status. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about your status in any area. And, contact Mike Morgan, FSO-MT regarding re-qualifying for any certification in REYR status.

FSOs-IS always encourage members to submit mission reports in order to better track Auxiliary missions and volunteer hours. In July, two Reports from AuxInfo were sent out to members. The first was an Activity Report for all flotillas in Division 14. The second was an Activity Report for Flotilla 14-8. As of 11 July, AUXDATA indicates that 14-8 has 45 active members on our roster. Of that, 21 members have reported hours for 2011, which includes the following: 1 member reporting over 900 hours, 4 members reporting between 150 – 400 hours, 4 members reporting between 50-100 hours, 6 members reporting between 10 – 50 hours and 6 members reporting less than 10 hours. Please begin/continue submitting your mission reports and 7029s. And, track our progress in AuxInfo at <http://www.cgaux7.org/auxinfo/Division14.htm>. Also, remember to send me a copy of your certificate of completion for any FEMA IS course you take. Unlike the online courses offered through the National Training Center, FEMA courses are not automatically inserted into AUXDATA. You can check AuxInfo to see if you have been credited with a FEMA Course by selecting “Training” – your name – “Currency Maintenance Tasks”. As always, please feel free to contact me with any IS questions.

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS*

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## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL**



In late May, I attended the AUX12 C-School for Public Affairs in Portsmouth, VA. The course required completion of follow-up assignments to pass the course. Those assignments have been completed and I have successfully completed AUX12. There are 3 levels additional levels of Public Affairs qualifications. The next level I can qualify is Public Affairs Specialist 1, which I am planning to pursue. With my new PA training and a new Nikon camera in hand I have started to document our flotilla activities for potential articles and flotilla presentations. I spent Memorial Weekend Sunday with Bob Funk and Mike Owsley on their patrol on Lake George. I shot video and took photos of the patrol and the large boating raft-up at Silver Glen Springs. I made a short presentation at our July meeting. I was also invited to shoot photos of the Auxiliary Color Guard at the recent Battle of Midway Memorial Event at World Golf Village. This event is the largest Battle of Midway Memorial in the US and 16 survivors of the battle were present. This was a special event for the Auxiliary Color Guard. For the first time the Auxiliary Color Guard was included with every branch of active military participating in the presentation. With National Safe Boating Week behind us, it will soon be time to begin planning for our display at the Air Show and NAS

JAX in November. Thanks again to Ralph Little for the excellent articles he continues to contribute and contained in this month's *Eight Bells*. See page 11 of this edition.

*Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*

## **FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION**

### **MEMBER TRAINING – MIKE MORGAN**



I would like to talk about some of the other training opportunities available to you as an Auxiliarist. In addition to becoming a Vessel Examiner, Program Visitor, Boat Crew and Coxswain, you can become an Air Observer, Personal Watercraft Operator qualified; earn your Trident Device as well as the AuxOp Device. There are numerous other qualifications you can earn while you are an active Coast Guard Auxiliarist. Many things the Coast Guard does you can do as an Auxiliarist. For FEMA courses that you need (IS 100.b, 200.b, 700.a, 800.b) you can access here: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslst.asp>.

Please contact me for any of your Training needs

*Mike Morgan, FSO-MT*

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



We had 21 students signed up for our course on 21 May, 15 students attended.

We had 16 students signed up for our course on 23 July, 12 students attended. Paul Burns, John Hadley and Charles Smith did a great job teaching it. And for the third course in a row one student responded to our questionnaire with “this course should be mandatory for all boat owners.” This is what we have been trying to tell boaters for years.

Our next course is 13 August at the Stellar building. Paul Burns and I will be teaching that course, however I am asking all members who are PE instructors and those who would like to become PE instructor to audit this course in order to enhance their knowledge of the subject. I will need help teaching our last two courses this year as Paul will be out of town on August 27 and again on October 15. Please step up and volunteer to help.

Thanks.

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE*

### **PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL**



Spring 2011 offered the RBS-Visitor Program many opportunities to coordinate with our Partners and participate in their customer events. We conducted Vessel Safety Checks, offered safety demonstrations and provided safe boating literature to the boating public. Now, in the past several weeks, our Program Visitors have been concentrating on site visits. As of 14 July, we have conducted 59 partner visits to distribute and replenish materials. Nineteen of those were done in June and ten were done in July. John Hadley signed on an additional partner in June and is in contact with two prospective partners. To date we have added four new partners to our list of contacts. As more members become qualified, I hope to increase not only the number of visits being done, but also the number of locations on our list. I encourage members to become qualified or re-qualified as Program Visitors. It is a great way to meet interesting people who are happy to promote boating safety in our area. Please contact Mike Morgan, FSO-MT and me to get the process started.

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV*

## VESSEL EXAMINER – JOHN HADLEY



July activities have reached a steady level and we are approaching the point where visits and education will require some activity by Vessel Examiners (VEs).

On a good note, we have nearly exhausted the supply of Vessel Decals. An order for additional 7012s, 7012a's and decals has been placed and we expect delivery in time for the second burst of marina and boat ramp seasonal activity.

We always hope to see flotilla members – some of the newly-qualified need to contact me at [John.Hadley83@yahoo.com](mailto:John.Hadley83@yahoo.com) to establish notes on their schedules.

Upcoming events will include:

- River Fest on Saturday 27 August at Mulberry Cove Marina (NAS-JAX), 0800 – 1600. Minimum manning will be 3 – 4 members. I have emailed many of the qualified VEs concerning this event and will be earnestly soliciting responses not later than 07 August.
- The Assistant Manager of Julington Creek Marina is engaged in planning for their event. Details will be published for all VEs as they are finalized.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Hadley, FSO-VE*

## **FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE**

### OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



The boat crew class had its last session in May. I was able to attend several classes which were excellent. We now need to concentrate on finishing things, i.e., getting the trainees checked off with mentors in preparation for a qualifying exam.

Currently, the only facility readily available in our flotilla is Bob Funk's. Bob has indicated his willingness to take trainees out on patrols.

With the many wildfires in our area, my thought is that we need to limit time outdoors during periods of smoke. Breathing problems such as asthma and bronchitis could be exacerbated with exposure to the smoke, and long term effects of smoke exposure are unknown.

Welaka operations are now ongoing every weekend.

OP Update 7/20/2011:

Kevin Koehl attended an Operations Excellence qualifying audit this month. He got to see firsthand what the Qualifying Examiners are looking for when evaluating a crew/coxswain team. Major components of the audit are: towing, man overboard, plotting and running a course and a night time search and rescue exercise--all done within time limits which are stricter than for normal coxswain and crew qualifications. This is why it's called "Operations Excellence". Communications and "team coordination" amongst the team are stressed. Just by being there and watching, much can be learned, and Kevin tells me it was a great experience. Book learning is good and necessary, but experience on the water is crucial.

I often hear that Auxiliary crew and coxswain qualifying requirements are difficult, and this scares some off. There is a lot to learn or possibly unlearn if you come in with boating habits not in line with Coast Guard standards. However, it is definitely achievable by anyone who has the persistence, motivation, physical ability, and drive to see it through. Think of it as a step by step process in which you are learning, improving and challenging yourself. Once you master this, you have accomplished something that will make you a more knowledgeable and safer boater, and open up what I think is the most satisfying and fun part of being in the Auxiliary. Talk to Cris Vonderheide, Bob Funk, or me if you are interested and we will help guide you through.

*Whit Vick, FSO-OP*

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

**FLOTILLA MEETING 7 JUNE 2011**



John Hadley received his Instructor's Certificate with congratulations from Whit Vick and Mike Morgan

John was one of the Instructors to teach our recent ABS class at the Stellar Building on 23 July 2011.

*Meeting Photo by Carolyn Strong*

The new Auxiliary Flag now flies along with the U. S. and Florida State flags on the refurbished flag pole at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club.



The Florida Tackle & Gun Club is one of the oldest clubs in the State of Florida, established in 1944. USCGAUX Flotilla 14-8 has met there since its formation in 1969.

**New Flag to Fly at Florida Tackle & Gun Club**



**Buz Palmer, retired Charter member of 14-8 receives the new Coast Guard Auxiliary flag presented by Cris Vonderheide at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club June board meeting.**

**The flag will be flown on the FT&GC grounds where it can be seen from the water of Goodby's Creek and from San Jose Blvd.**

From Buz Palmer:

I just wanted to let you folks know that the Florida Tackle and Gun Club Flag Pole committee, of which I am chairman, has overhauled the club flag pole with new hardware, halyards, paint, etc. She is well lit at night and we have received numerous comments on how well she looks when boaters enter Goodby's Creek at night time.

We thank you for the donation of the USCGAUX flag. We fly her proudly! It is too bad Flotilla 14-8 doesn't have a pennant to fly also.

Anything I can do to help 14-8 and your relationship with the FT&GC, please let me know.

Regards,

Buz Palmer, USCGAUX Retired

*Photos contributed by Buz Palmer*

**FLOTILLA MEETING 5 JULY 2011**



Charlie Smith received his 5 Year Auxiliary Service Award from Mike Morgan, VFC and Whit Vick, FC



James Caudel received his Certification as Vessel Examiner



Ben Kraus received his 5 Year Auxiliary Service Award from Whit Vick, FC. Welcome back Ben!



Becky Habermas also received her Certification as Vessel Examiner



John Hadley received his Certification as a Program Visitor.



Paul Tynda, Whit Vick, Jeff Blomgren, Charlie Smith, Paul Burns and Bob Strong each received a Coast Guard Unit Commendation Ribbon.

*Meeting photos by Bob Strong*



James Elrod was sworn in as a new member at the July flotilla meeting.

### 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PATROL 2011



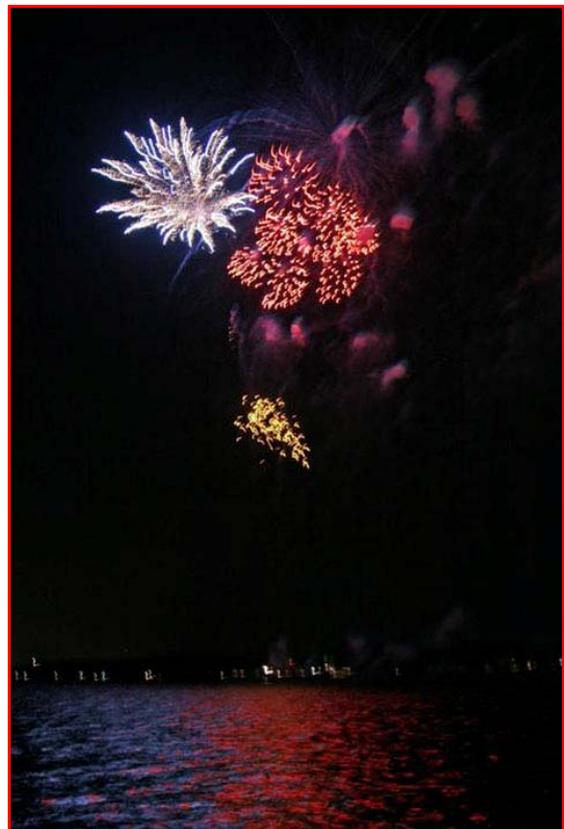
Rear: Bob Funk and Dave Hensel

Front: Bob's wife Kathy and granddaughter Gabrielle

*Photos by Whit Vick, FC/FSO-OP*



**FIREWORKS OVER THE  
ST JOHNS RIVER 4 JULY 2011**



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## Mandarin Newsline – July Edition

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### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

## A Dark and Stormy Night

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

From our flotilla history we commemorate an event 31 years past.

At 7 pm, July 6, 1980, a Hobie Cat was knocked down just north of the Buckman Bridge on the St. Johns River by wind gusting to 50 mph preceding a rapidly moving thunderstorm. The wind and waves carried the downed sailboat under the bridge. Helmsman, John Duncan, had the sheet tied to his wrist and stayed with the boat. Mrs. Bobbie Lee Johnson, an avid sailor who could not swim, lost hold of the boat when under the bridge, but was able to grab a piling and held on by keeping her back to the wind and waves. She was not wearing a life preserver.

The Hobie drifted south into the breakwater at Club Continental in Orange Park. Duncan immediately reported the missing woman to the Rudder Club at 7:30. The Rudder Club manager called the Coast Guard Auxiliary facility *Dolphin*, which she had heard on Channel 16. The *Dolphin* was assisting a disabled sailboat northeast of the bridge which the crew immediately anchored and then proceeded to start a parallel search line south of the bridge. The wind was 30 to 40 knots from the north, the seas were running 3 to 4 feet and the *Dolphin* was a 21' Inboard/Outboard cuddy-cabin cruiser.

Using spotlights, the crew located the exhausted woman at 9 pm still clinging to the bridge pier just over a nautical mile from the western shore and 25 feet in from the bridge's south edge. At that point the bridge is too low for the *Dolphin* to safely pass under. Although the storm had passed, Bobbie Lee was afraid to turn loose of the pier. Auxiliarist Howard (Buz) Palmer, wearing a life jacket, tied a line and a ring buoy to himself, jumped into the river and swam to her. Palmer finally convinced her to take hold of the ring buoy. Skipper Field and Crewman Earl Turpin pulled the pair back to the boat, and then turned off the engine. While the *Dolphin* drifted, Field climbed onto the swim platform and pulled Bobbie Lee aboard while Turpin held him to the boat. Together, the men lifted the exhausted woman into the boat where Turpin wrapped her in a blanket.

The *Dolphin* took the woman to the Rudder Club and a waiting rescue squad at 10 pm. Without the *Dolphin* and its three competent and daring Auxiliarists, this woman would most certainly have lost her life on this dark and stormy night. To honor her dedication to sailing, the Rudder Club awards the Bobbie Lee Johnson Trophy to the first all female crew to finish their annual Mug Race. The remaining *Dolphin* crewman, Mr. Palmer recently retired after 40 years of Auxiliary service, but is still active in the Florida Tackle & Gun Club.

Dedicated volunteers gave Bobbie Lee the edge she needed. Clearly, she would firmly advise any boater, swimmer or not, to wear a life preserver.

### **Three brave members of Flotilla 14-8 received a Special Commendation Award from the U. S. Coast Guard for the rescue highlighted in this story**

*Left to right: Earl Turpin, Pete Field and Buz  
Palmer received the award in 1980,  
presented by Bob Norman, DCP 14.*

*Photo from Flotilla14-8 Archives*





## FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

Tuesday 2 August at 1930

At Florida Tackle & Gun Club

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- AUG 02 Flotilla Meeting - 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 13 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- 19-21 Gone Fishin' Tournament & Marine Expo – Beach Marine
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- 24-28 National Conference 2011 – Charlotte, North Carolina
- 27 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- SEP 05 Labor Day
- 06 Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 17 Division Meeting – Stellar Building
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- 22-25 District Conference – Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront

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U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
National Conference  
2011



HOSTED BY THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION, INC.



August 24-28, 2011 | Charlotte, North Carolina

<http://cgauxa.org/nacon/index.html>

## 8 IS GREAT !



Visit our award winning website at [www.SafeBoatingJax.com](http://www.SafeBoatingJax.com)

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