
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVII No. 9

September 2011

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

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Carolyn G. Strong

Irene waves to us as she heads North



“Hurricane Irene GOES LARGE”- 26 August 2011

Photo courtesy of www.nasa.gov

FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



With fall approaching, I encourage you to think about what role you might like to play in the flotilla in 2012. What interests you, what might challenge you, maybe get you out of your comfort zone to reach a goal or new level of personal achievement and service? Where can your talents be put to work for our common goals of promoting boating safety, aiding the Coast Guard, and helping to administer our flotilla? What would you like to learn with the many learning opportunities available to us as Auxiliaries?

In the Auxiliary, I believe we can "get" as much as we "give". We "get" not monetary rewards, but benefit in terms of personal development, satisfaction of doing something worthwhile, and friendships. But this all starts with giving -- of our time and talents.

Some upcoming events for our flotilla include District conference 22-25 September 2011; NAS Jax Blue Angels air show in November; Flotilla 14-8 elections in November.

Thanks to all for your service and friendship.

Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



This month I'm asking for a volunteer that I can mentor as my replacement for the position of FSO-HR. It must be understood that the final appointment of all FSOs rests with the Flotilla Commander but I would like to train someone in my current duties before our newly elected FC makes a selection for that position.

The training will be conducted over the next three months and will include all aspects of my duties to include reports, initial interviews and application processing and submission. All manuals, recruiting literature and materials will be furnished. The training schedule will be flexible but will include interviewing potential flotilla recruits.

I encourage each FSO to mentor another member in their duties. I also encourage each flotilla member to make their interest known to the current FSO in each position. Previous experience isn't necessary, just an increased commitment and participation in flotilla activities are the only requirements.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL



In order to keep an accurate data base, please remember to complete form 7028 (or contact me) with any changes to your contact information, including phone, address and email. I would like to thank those members who consistently submit reports for entry into AUXDATA and encourage everyone to take a few minutes each month to submit a 7029. The electronic forms are manageable and I am available to help with any questions you might encounter. Forms are accessible from our Member website, under Flotilla Officer Webpages, FSO-IS. Thanks to Paul Burns for creating these quick links. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding Information Systems. And, remember to track your/our progress in AuxInfo at: <http://cgaux7.org/auxinfo/Division14.htm>

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS



Jacksonville Weather Information

Today I've been watching the track of Hurricane Irene and I'm relieved to see that its track is continually being shifted to the East. Hopefully by the time that you read this Irene will have safely passed us by. The end of August through the middle of September is always the most active period for tropical weather, and I wanted to remind everybody of the tools that we have on our website, SafeBoatingJax.com to keep us apprised of the weather conditions so we may make plans for our families and property as tropical weather approaches.

The weather page on SafeBoatingJax.com includes links to Current Conditions, Local Forecasts, the National Hurricane Center, Tide Information, Live Radar, Live Camera Views around the area and more.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

Jacksonville Weather Information and Useful Weather Links

JaxWeather.net - Jacksonville, FL - 32205 Local Weather
DATE: August 22 2011 18:15
Current Temperature: 92.5°F
Currently Extremely Hot
Record High this date: 96.8 °F
Record Low this date: 73.4 °F

Sunrise 06:57
Sunset 20:02
Max Wind Gust: 11.0 mph
Avg Wind 0.0 mph

0 Lightning Strikes Today
Humidity 56 %
Dew Point 74.5°F
Barometer: 29.823 .in and Steady

Feels Like 100.6
Moonrise: 00:31
Moonset: 14:45

Rain Today 0.00 in. Total Rain MTD: 2.48 in.
Last Rain 3 days ago Total Rain YTD: 26.01 in.

[Click this link to go to JaxWeather.net](http://JaxWeather.net)

Local Forecasts

93 F

[Basic Jacksonville Weather](#)
[Detailed Jacksonville Weather](#)
[Jacksonville Marine Forecast](#)

Local Tide Information

[Mayport Tide Table](#)
[Downtown Jacksonville Tide](#)
[Interactive Local Tide Map](#)
[Other Local Tides](#)

Tropical Weather

[NHC Hurricane Update](#)

StormPulse
Hurricane Tracking & Imagery

7-DAY FORECAST

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
20% E 8	30% E 12	60% 15-30	60% 20-50	20% 15-30	10% W 15	20% W 12
93	89	87	83	92	97	96
74	73	75	76	74	70	70

[First Coast News Weather](#)

[Jacksonville Live Radar](#)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



In August, we launched our Facebook page, *U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Jacksonville, Fl.* The page gets daily updates with links to news stories of concern to area boaters, upcoming Jacksonville area boating safety classes, information on flotilla activities, and Coast Guard District 7 news stories. All Jacksonville area flotillas and the public are welcome to post updates, photos, videos, and comments to the page. The page can be found by searching by our page name or using the web address:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Coast-Guard-Auxiliary-Jacksonville-Florida/224783667550888?v=wall>.

We have had hundreds of views of the page in the couple weeks of being up. Our short term goal is to get 25 Facebook members to “like” our page which will allow us to get a shorter web link name. Also when you “like” our Facebook page, it means our page postings will automatically show up on your Facebook page, which helps spread the awareness of our page to your friends. If you are on Facebook, please “like” our page and help spread awareness of our new Facebook page.

The Auxiliary will plan to have a static display at the NAS JAX air show in November. Flotilla 14-8 has the lead and I will be leading the planning efforts. I recently talked with Navy and Coast Guard officials and at this point we are planning on a creating an exhibit with Coast Guard recruiters sharing our booth. The show will have a “Military only” practice day on Friday, November 4, and public Airshow days on November 5 and 6. The Navy has asked us to participate with an exhibit all three days. If the Coast Guard provides a static aircraft display at the show, we will locate our display at that location. With 3 days participation, we will be reaching out to all the area flotillas to help staff our display. If you have interest in participating, send me an email at kevinkoehl@gmail.com. Hundreds of thousands of visitors will be attending the show. We will have a tremendous opportunity to communicate what the Coast Guard Auxiliary does, provide boating safety information, and recruit potential new members.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



We had nine students signed up for our About Boating Safely (ABS) course on 13 August. One family of 3 cancelled at the last minute and 1 student was a no-show. We had 5 very interested students complete this course. One student scored 100% correct on the final examination. Paul Burns, John Hadley and Bruce Ennis did a great job helping to teach it.

During the Navigation chapter 3, I used the example of forming the bow of a vessel with my hands and arms and asking what lights the students should see depending on which way I turned. At the time, I thought I was not connecting with the students and dropped it. However, in the student evaluation, two stated I should have gotten all the students on their feet to participate, rather than just assuming they could visualize which light they would be seeing. They went on to say they needed some lights or colored cards to hold for the others to see. This got me thinking that we need some training aids. Is anyone interested in building any? For example, I do have a partially completed wooden stick model of a 42' Chris Craft boat that needs to be finished. The hull frame is complete and it measures 48" in length. It could be completed with lights and all and used in our course. Do we have any model boat builders in the flotilla?

We had 3 students attend and complete our course on 27 August. Bruce Ennis and John Hadley did a great job helping teach this course.

Our next and final ABS course for 2011 is on 15 October at the Stellar building. Paul Burns will be out of town. If you had ever planned to step up and help with our PE program now is your chance. I need another instructor and at least one or more aides to help.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

MARINE SAFETY – KYLE GEORGE



Hurricane and emergency preparedness list and kit all homes should have ready... stay safe and prepared. **“Chance favors the prepared mind”**.

- Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days —non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices —foods for infants or the elderly —snack foods —non-electric can opener —cooking tools / fuel —paper plates / plastic utensils
- Blankets / Pillows, etc.
- Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs
- Special Items - for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes
- Flashlight / Batteries
- Radio - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- Telephones - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- Keys
- Toys, Books and Games
- Important documents - in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag —insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet care items —proper identification / immunization records / medications / ample supply of food and water / a carrier or cage / muzzle and leash

For all my gun owners please have any documentation of ownership and eligibility for your state. Do not ever leave guns or ammunition where children or other "incompetent" people can get to them. This is a felony in most states.

Kyle George, FSO-MS

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



Congratulations to Paul Tynda for completing his requirements in RBS-VP this month. Paul is the 6th member of our team of certified Program Visitors. John Hadley, FSO-VE and a Program Visitor, was coordinating an event for 27 August, with one of our Partners, Mulberry Cove Marina NAS JAX but had to be cancelled due to the expected hurricane. In addition to offering vessel safety examinations, we were to provide a boating safety information table. This would have been the second event held at Mulberry Cove this year. We are anticipating participation in another customer appreciation event at the Marina at Julington Creek later in the year. For the month, and as of 20 August, our

Program Visitors have completed 34 partner visits and added one additional Partner to our list. The team is doing a great job promoting boating safety in our area. Thank you for all you do.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

VESSEL EXAMINER – JOHN HADLEY



River Fest on Saturday 27 August at Mulberry Cove Marina (NAS-JAX) was cancelled due to the approaching hurricane.

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.

John Hadley, FSO-VE

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

NAVIGATIONAL SERVICES – CRIS VONDERHEIDE



On Saturday, 20 August, 2011, Whit Vick and I with the assistance of Kevin Koehl, completed the required annual survey and photos of all the Private Aids-to-Navigation (PATONS) in Goodbys Creek (aka GOODBYS LAKE), finding all the AIDS were watching properly and also documenting one (#9) that was not on the previous list. We sent corrections that the aids were, in fact, buoys and not daybeacons as listed.

Cris Vonderheide, FSO/NS

Here is an online article featuring our recent patrol in Goodby's creek:

<http://orangepark.firstcoastnews.com/news/sports-recreation/59291-coast-guard-auxiliary-works-keep-boaters-safe-st-johns-river>

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



I did a patrol in Welaka on 17 July 2011 with Steve Parsons from St Augustine flotilla--we went from Welaka to Crescent City on Crescent Lake, about a 2 hour one way trip. Beautiful scenery along Murphy and Dunn Creeks and made a new friend in Steve Parsons.

Patrols scheduled on my small boat, *Carlie II* on 20 August and in Welaka 21 August 2011 were carried out as planned. See Cris Vonderheide's report and the article referenced at the end of his report.

Kevin Koehl is progressing through required check-offs and tasks for crew.

I still believe Operations provides some of the most fun, rewarding, and challenging aspects of being in the Auxiliary.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

***** FLOTILLA DINNER SOCIAL WITH FLOTILLA 14-2 *****

We are planning an evening of fellowship with members of Flotilla 14-2 at the MUDVILLE GRILLE (intersection of Atlantic and Beach Blvds) on Tuesday September 27, 2011. Guest speakers will be Tom and Gerry Clare from Flotilla 14-1. They will speak and show pictures about their Great Circle Boat Trip in 2007. Visit their web site at <http://www.tomclare.com/> click on 2007 trip and/or enjoy reading about all their trips since 2007.

1800-1900: Cocktail Hour; Dinner 1900-2000, Order your own meal from the menu at a price you can afford.

2000: The Clares' presentation; 2030: A brief history of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Jacksonville

Continue fellowship til we all go home.

Please confirm your plan to attend and the number in your party before our September 6, flotilla meeting.

Thanks, Bob Strong

721-1346

635-4624

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

FLOTILLA MEETING 2 AUGUST 2011



Buce Ennis and Joe Norman, two long-time members of our flotilla



Paul Tynda was sworn in as our new FSO-SR



Jack Holler, past Flotilla Commander of 14-8 and visitor Scott Thomas, past Flotilla Commander of 14-2



Whit Vick received a Sustained Service Award presented by Mike Morgan, VFC



Whit Vick, FC congratulates Paul Burns and presents a 20 Year Auxiliary Membership Service Award



Top Ingram, who has retired from the Auxiliary, received a 15 Year Auxiliary Membership Service Award along with a Retirement Certificate from Whit Vick, FC



Marlene Koehl with our latest retiree, Top Ingram

All present at the August flotilla meeting enjoyed a cake celebrating Top's retirement



PATON PATROL ON GOODBY'S CREEK 20 AUGUST 2011



Cris Vonderheide and Kevin Koehl prepare to board Whit Vick's facility, *Carlie II*



Cris & Whit on patrol aboard *Carlie II*

Meeting photos by Kevin Koehl and Bob Strong

WELAKA PATROL 21 AUGUST 2011



Victor Aquino, FC 14-7 with Lt. Rob Taylor from USCG Sector Jax were part of the Welaka patrol on the St. Johns River Sunday, 21 August

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*Patrol Photos by Whit Vick, and Kevin Koehl*

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## Mandarin Newsline – July Edition

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### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update **The Jacksonville Flotilla's Origins and Purpose**

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

The Mandarin-based flotilla has a colorful history and it has spawned other Jacksonville-area flotillas, including the newest in Green Cove Springs. This month, I'll share the flotilla's origins and purpose as compiled by our Historian, Carolyn Strong and other long-time members.

Boating always has been one of America's favorite pastimes. Due to several events in the early years of the 20th century, the number of recreational boaters skyrocketed. At present, the Jacksonville area harbors over 40,000 registered recreational boats.

Congress passed legislation in 1939 which established the Coast Guard Reserve, a volunteer civilian component, to promote boating safety and facilitate the operations of the Coast Guard. Groups of boat owners were organized into flotillas and these into divisions within Coast Guard Districts around the country. In February 1941, a military Reserve was created and the civilian volunteer organization was renamed the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. During World War II recruits flooded into Auxiliary flotillas in a burst of patriotic fervor. As their ranks grew, thousands of active duty Coast Guard personnel were freed up for service overseas. We know that by 1942 there was an active Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla in the Jacksonville area.

However, it was in 1969, that ten members of the Florida Tackle and Gun Club on San Jose Blvd decided to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary and form their own flotilla in Jacksonville, becoming chartered on 19 April 1969. Northeast Florida is currently divided into seven flotillas, covering the area from St. Mary's Georgia to Palatka, Florida. Two of these meet in Jacksonville and one at the Beaches.

Walter 'Andy' Anderson was the first Flotilla Commander. Andy was the boating editor for the Times Union newspaper and the leader of this chartering group of members. Membership rose and was near 60 Auxiliarists by 2010 when some members transferred to form the Green Cove Springs unit.

Besides our regular duties, members have participated in national events, including the G-8 Conference in May 2004 and the Super Bowl in February 2005. Thus far in 2011, one member attended a U.S. Coast Guard school and another was chosen for disaster service in tornado-stricken areas of Alabama partially due to his Auxiliary training.

We invite you to learn how to become a member, take a boating safety course or schedule a free vessel safety check by going to our Flotilla website at [SafeBoatingJax.com](http://SafeBoatingJax.com).

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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

A new set of videos produced by the National PA Video Team's Roxane Firmin in conjunction with NACON 2011 are available at:

<http://vimeo.com/28294054>

Videos include a promo for NACON 2012 in San Antonio, TX; response, Diversity, New young member interview, International Affairs, and D5.



## **COMMANDANT'S COAST GUARD DAY MESSAGE -019/11**

From: Papp, Robert ADM  
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 4:00 PM  
Subject: Commandant's Coast Guard Day Message

Shipmates,

On August 4th we celebrate the 221st birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Our Service started as a vision of Alexander Hamilton who wrote, "a few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might, at a small expense, be made useful sentinels of the laws." In 1790, President George Washington brought Hamilton's vision to life when he signed an act of the First Congress creating the Revenue Cutter Service.

Through our pride, professionalism and heroism we have carried Hamilton's design forward, all the while taking on increased responsibilities. We have broad authorities that allow us to serve the United States in ways that no other agency can do: we protect those on the sea, we protect America from threats delivered by sea, and we protect the sea itself.

Every day I am sustained by the enthusiasm, excitement and pride of being a member of our Service. For 221 years we have worked together to overcome challenges that often seem insurmountable. Sometimes the challenge is to return from a mission safely. Other times, it is to rescue and return survivors back to safety. The tenth anniversary of 9/11 next month is one of many reminders of why we must remain vigilant and stand a taut watch to ensure the safety, security and stewardship of our Nation and its waters.

As we celebrate Coast Guard Day I encourage the entire Coast Guard Family - active, reserve, civilian, retired, auxiliary and contractors - to take a moment and honor those who served before us to make the U.S. Coast Guard the premier maritime service it is today.

We are Coast Guardsmen. We work as a crew. We serve as a family.

This is our way. This is who we are. This is what we do.

Happy Birthday-Semper Paratus,

Admiral Bob Papp



**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
District Seven, Division Fourteen**

## **Invitation to Division Dining-In**

**09 September**

**Embassy Suites Hotel  
9300 Baymeadows Road  
Jacksonville**

**One eighth mile east of I-95, or approx two miles west of 9A**

**President of the Mess- Tom Hayden, DCDR  
Mr. Vice- David Hensel, 14-5  
VIP- Captain Andy Blomme**

**Cocktails 1830**

**Officer's Call 1900**

**Dinner**

**Tossed Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings**

**Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter**

**Buffet**

**Sliced Sirloin Au Jus**

**Grilled Herb Salmon**

**Roasted Red Skin Potatoes**

**Vegetable Medley**

**Coffee, Hot Herbal Tea, Decaffeinated Coffee, Iced Tea**

**Dessert- Strawberry Shortcake**

**Wine for Toasting will be provided by the USCG Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division 14**

**Cost is \$31.00 per person.**

**RSVP no later than 05 SRP** to Bill Sekeres at [wrsCGaux@gmail.com](mailto:wrsCGaux@gmail.com) with confirmation of number of attendees in your party.

**Mark remittance** payable to USCG Auxiliary, DIV 14

**Send to Mark Tingen**

1198 Sandpiper Lane E.

Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-4383

Custom of this time honored gathering of the troops requires the President of the Mess to assess \$1.00 fines for faux pas committed by the attendees with no consideration given to how far in the past such egregious offenses occurred. It is suggested that attendees bring plenty of dollar bills.

**The uniform for the evening will be Tropical Blue Long,  
Appropriate civilian attire**



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

**America's  
Volunteer  
Guardians**  
Since 1939

## **FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING**

**Tuesday 6 September at 1930**

**At Florida Tackle & Gun Club**

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- |            |              |                                                                                       |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SEP</b> | <b>05</b>    | <b>Labor Day</b>                                                                      |
|            | <b>06</b>    | <b>Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club</b>                        |
|            | <b>09</b>    | <b>Division Dining-In – 1830 – Embassy Suites Hotel, 9300 Baymeadows Rd</b>           |
|            | <b>20</b>    | <b>Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO</b>               |
|            | <b>22-25</b> | <b>District Conference – Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront</b>                     |
|            | <b>25</b>    | <b>Division Meeting - Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront – Sunday AM</b>            |
|            | <b>27</b>    | <b>Flotilla 14-2 &amp; 14-8 Dinner Social – Mudville Grille, Atlantic &amp; Beach</b> |
| <br>       |              |                                                                                       |
| <b>OCT</b> | <b>03</b>    | <b>Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club</b>                        |
|            | <b>15</b>    | <b>ABS Class – last one for 2011 – 0730 – Stellar Building</b>                        |
|            | <b>20</b>    | <b>Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO</b>               |

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### **\*\*\* FLOTILLA DINNER SOCIAL WITH FLOTILLA 14-2 \*\*\***

**27 September at MUDVILLE GRILLE**

**Atlantic Blvd at Beach Blvd (Southside)**

**Cocktail Hour 1800 – 1900, Dinner 1900 – 2000**

**Program: 2000 – 2030: Guest Speakers Tom and Gerry Clare, Members of Flotilla 14-1**  
**will give a picture presentation on their Great Circle Boat Trip**  
**2030: A brief history of the USCG Auxiliary in Jacksonville**

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## **8 IS GREAT !**



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

*EIGHT BELLS is published at no expense to the government. Cost of its publication is borne by the dues paying members of Flotilla 14-8 of the 7th District U.S. Coast Guard.*

**PRIVACY ACT:** Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of

1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization.