
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVII No. 11

November 2011

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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

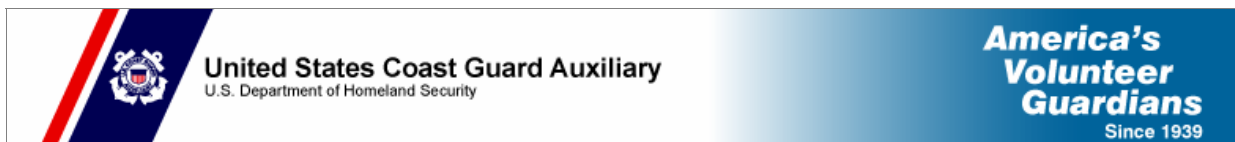
C. Whitley Vick
Michael S. Morgan
Carolyn G. Strong

A Beautiful Day to be on the River



The First Coast Head Race was held on Saturday, October 15 on the St. Johns and Arlington Rivers.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Koehl – see more on page 7



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Several events this past month have reminded me of the dedication and commitment of some of our members.

An ABS class was taught on 10/15/11. Nine students attended. As the staff officer for public education for years, Bob Strong organizes these classes and it is his job to get instructors to commit a day of work, contact and set the schedule for the students, arrange the building/classroom, and be there to teach the class. For any number of reasons, it proved difficult to get instructors that day. John Hadley, our staff officer for vessel exams, is an instructor, but had a day of vessel exams at a local marina also scheduled that same day. Without fanfare or prodding, Marlene Koehl stepped up and volunteered to lead the vessel exams at the marina, so John was freed up to help teach the ABS class with Bob. Both events went off without a hitch. Also remember that many of our students for ABS classes are finding out about this class from our website, www.safeboatingjax.com, created by our staff officer for communication services, Paul Burns, or on our new Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CGAUXJacksonville, set up by Kevin Koehl. Bob Strong tells me a 9 year old took the class and scored a 95! He has been home schooled and his father scored a 100.

We had a dinner/social with Flotilla 14-2 on 9/27/11. In addition to the fellowship, we were treated to a talk by Tom and Jerry Clare on their experiences doing the great loop by boat. We also heard a talk by Derek Lloyd on the history of Flotilla 14-2, which was formed out of our flotilla 14-8, and a slide show by Carolyn Strong on the history of Flotillas 14-8 & 14-2. At our October flotilla meeting, we had a presentation by the St Johns Riverkeeper, Neil Armingeon, who talked about the St Johns River and the Riverkeeper's efforts to protect and preserve this resource. These events were organized by Carolyn and Bob Strong. Becky Habermas and Marlene and Kevin Koehl provided a lavish array of food and refreshments for the meeting.

Our public affairs officer, Kevin Koehl, is organizing the Auxiliary presence at the upcoming NAS Jax air show. A number of hurdles have been encountered, but Kevin has remained undaunted and we will have an Auxiliary presence alongside the active duty Coast Guard

These are some examples of what can be accomplished by a few dedicated people. No one person can do all these things. But it does take one person at a time making the decision to step up and do the things we as Auxiliarists think worthwhile--supporting boating safety, educating the public and our members, aiding the Coast Guard, making friends. That's what I'm talking about.

Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander

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Note: Our flotilla election for next year's Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander will be at the November 1, 2011 flotilla meeting at 1930 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club. **We need a quorum to have the election, so please make every effort to attend.**

Tom Hayden, Division Commander - 14, is scheduled to be at the meeting to conduct the election.

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



I am back from New York and looking forward to our next flotilla meeting. In January I typically make major revisions to the flotilla website. This makes it a good time for the flotilla membership to send comments on how I can make our flotilla website more useful to the members.

Are there links on other Auxiliary websites that you frequently use? Do you frequently have trouble finding information on our website or other Auxiliary websites? All Staff Officers have a home page on SafeBoatingJax.com. I can easily add information to your home page that would make your job easier via the World Wide Web. Send me an email with your comments.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

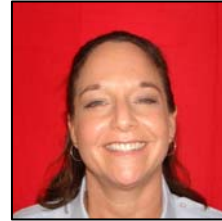
HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



Robin M. Herriff has been issued her CGAUX membership number. Robin is the writer/producer of Rusty Gardner's Coast Guard videos and a welcome addition to our flotilla. She also has expressed a desire to commence boat crew training.

Robin M Herriff
Spouse: James

She is also involved in the Girl Scouts, PTA and children's activities.



During the VSC blitz conducted at Julington Creek on 15 OCT five individuals expressed an interest in joining the CGAUX. I will be following up on these leads and keep you advised.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL



Individual Training reports went out on 07 October. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding your report or status. I received the following information from IS and would like to pass it on to our members.

Paperwork—that dreaded, yet needed part of all organizations. Some things you should know:

- eForms arrive to your IS officer immediately and allow faster data entry. They are especially effective if you have Adobe Acrobat Professional or another program which allows you to save your form instead of just entering and printing with the free Acrobat Reader.
- The 7028 is used for changes in member information. Any change in status, address, phone, or email address needs to be reported as soon as possible so that the line of communication remains open.
- The 7030 is used for missions. Pull-down selections allow you to enter the mission type. A complete list of missions and instructions follows the form. Do not use this form for transportation to the mission or for preparation time—those items go on a 7029.
- The 7029 is the mainstay of hours reporting. This form is used to enter most hours except those on missions. Attendance at flotilla meetings, preparation time, and transportation to and from all activities go on the 7029. It is best to enter the data as soon after the event as possible—it is very easy to omit an entry if you wait a week or so. This form is submitted monthly. You can enter and save the form online. Go to <http://webforms.cgaux.org/forms/7029/> login, create a new or open an existing file, and fill it out online. Remember to SAVE after each session.

Many Auxiliary Members are not overly concerned about getting credit for the many hours they spend on Auxiliary events—they volunteer their time because they enjoy the activities. However, these hours are very important to your flotilla, division and district—and most importantly—to the U.S. Coast Guard. Many of the awards given at all levels are based on missions accomplished and hours donated. Perhaps most importantly, part of the USCG budget depends on the reported hours of Auxiliary Members. The more hours we report, the larger their budget—and therefore—the more funds they have for the fuel and equipment we get from them. The goal of the Auxiliary is to assist the USCG. Filling out these reports is of major financial importance to the USCG. These reports also can indicate where they must exert more effort (ATON reports, for example).

These three forms (reports) should be submitted in a timely manner. Members need a specific number of hours to remain current (instructor, crew, etc.) each year. If the 7030 is delayed or forgotten, that member may lose his/her accreditation in that field.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



October has been a preparation month for the NAS JAX Air show on Nov 4 (practice-military only), 5 and 6. Our display space has been confirmed to be with the Coast Guard Aircraft on display on the west side of the Customs hangar. We will have two canopies, one occupied by Coast Guard recruiters and one by the Auxiliary. I have invited all Jacksonville area flotillas to participate and to date, 14-2 Arlington, 14-7 St. Augustine, and 14-5 Green Cove Springs have committed to help 14-8 man the booth. Uniform will be ODU. We had Coastie reserved for the show, but it appears we will not be able to host him due to the need for some badly needed R & R before returning to service. Coastie is now in the capable hands of the Brunswick, Georgia flotilla and we hope that after some time for rejuvenation, we are able to have Coastie join us for a future event. 2011 is the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation and it will prove to be an exciting event. The Coast Guard will participate with aircraft for display, a SAR demonstration by Air Station Savannah and recruiters from the San Jose office. Coast Guard boats will be on display as well as on the water with Auxiliary facilities to provide a security zone for the Blue Angels' flight path. The 2011 NAS JAX Air Show is free to the public and parking is also free. GO NAVY!

I am pleased to announce our Coast Guard Auxiliary, Jacksonville Facebook page is up to 28 followers. You can now find our Facebook page at a new, simpler address: www.facebook.com/CGAUXJacksonville. The Facebook page gets updated daily and features information about Jacksonville area flotilla activities as well as news stories from the Coast Guard, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the local community.

Thanks to Ralph Little for his contributing article to the Mandarin Newsline (see page 8).

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

MARINE SAFETY – KYLE GEORGE



America's Waterway Watch is a public outreach program encouraging participants to simply report suspicious activity to the Coast Guard and/or other law enforcement agencies. Unlike some *Neighborhood Watch* programs, for example, you are not formally joining an organization -- there are no meetings, membership cards or membership requirements -- and you do not become an agent of the Coast Guard or any other law enforcement agency.

If you are a tow boat operator, a recreational boater, a marina operator, or otherwise live, work or engage in recreational activity around America's waterways, the United States Coast Guard wants your help in keeping these areas safe and secure. You can do this by participating in its *America's Waterway Watch* (AWW) program, a nationwide initiative similar to the well known and successful *Neighborhood Watch* program that asks community members to report suspicious activities to local law enforcement agencies.

As a person who spends time on or near the water, you already know what is normal and what is not, and you are well suited to notice suspicious activities --- activities possibly indicating threats to our nation's homeland security. As a participant in America's Waterway Watch, we urge you to adopt a heightened sense of awareness toward unusual events or individuals you may encounter in or around ports, docks, marinas, riversides, beaches, or waterfront communities.

To report suspicious activity please call 1-877-24watch, 1-877-249-2824

For more information, see: <http://www.cgaux.org/aww.php>

Kyle George, FSO-MS

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



Our last scheduled ABS course for 2011 was held on October 15 at the Stellar building. Paul Burns is still out of town so John Hadley and I taught the course. We had eight adults and one nine year old boy in the class. Would you believe the nine year old boy scored 95 on the examination? He scored higher than three of the adults. This is the third nine year old to pass this examination. The first nine year old boy passed about eight years ago. Someone told me he graduated from High School at age 15. Two years ago a nine year old girl passed the examination. I don't know where she is in school, I need to find out.

In all the courses, I take time to talk about some of the fatal accidents that happened this year and last and what might a boater do to prevent the same thing from happening to them. This past month, I asked through channels, if the State could begin sending us information on accidents that didn't result in a death.

Several months ago we added this picture to one of our presentations. I can't recall where it came from but once you see it you will probably never forget it. The picture is of the burned interior of a small open boat. The Outboard engine is still mounted on the transom, apparently unaffected by the fire. The most spectacular item in this picture is a portable gas tank sitting in the middle of the open boat, also not burned by the fire. Most students can't believe that the burning of gasoline fumes caused this fire. One or two students moved closer to the screen to get a better look at the picture. The fumes collected inside the boat when the operator filled the portable gas tank while it sat in the bottom of the boat. The fumes were then ignited by some action of the operator. The flash fire could not cause the tank to explode because it was nearly or perhaps completely full and the fumes that had collected in the bottom of the open boat burned off so fast the fire didn't have time to even ignite paint on the tank which was being cooled by the liquid fuel inside. I don't know if anyone was in the boat at the time this accident happened. That is why I have asked the State for information and picture, if possible, on all accidents.



I have now begun planning ABS courses for 2012. If you are a qualified instructor or would like to become an instructor, please let me know what Saturdays next year you are available to help teach.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



On 15 October, Flotilla 14-8 participated in our last scheduled Program Partner event for this year by providing an information table and vessel safety examinations at The Marina at Julington Creek's *Customer Appreciation Day*. Although the weather was beautiful, the turnout was lower than the spring event. However, we were able to conduct a couple of vessel exams and provide an Auxiliary presence within the community. I would like to thank Vessel Examiners Charles Smith, Jack Holler, Rebecca Habermas and James Caudle for donating their time and joining me at this event.

Our Program Visitors (PVs) continue to support area partners by supplying them with materials and information regarding boating safety. As of 20 October, we made 24 visits to Program Partners this month. And, we submitted two additional locations to be added to the Master Partner List. A useful tool for our Partners and one that you may be interested in, as well, is the boating safety alerts sent out on a regular basis by *RBS-News*. *RBS-News* is a boating safety alert service that provides boating safety tips, best practice ideas, and important announcements about boating safety. This announcement-only mailing list is hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Go to the following link for more information and to sign up for these alerts: http://bdept.cgaux.org/mailman/listinfo/rbs-news_bdept.cgaux.org.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

VESSEL EXAMINER – JOHN HADLEY



Since my last report, summer Vessel Examinations have tailed off considerably. Jack Holler and Rusty Gardner have recently added four and fourteen exams, respectively. These exams date to the spring and early summer and are late additions. We are happy to have all reports, no matter how late they are submitted. Thanks, gentlemen!

Flotilla 14-8 totals for the year now stand at about 74 vessel examinations.

The remaining event for this year’s Vessel Safety Check events is a mini-blitz to be held on Saturday 29 October from 0800 until 1400 hours at both the Florida Tackle & Gun Club/Goodby’s Creek Landing complex and the Julington Marina-Mandarin Park Landing. All examiners are encouraged to attend. We still have a few members who need help on their qualifications. Examiners with valid certifications who are willing to donate their time are encouraged to help out.

John Hadley, FSO-VE

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK

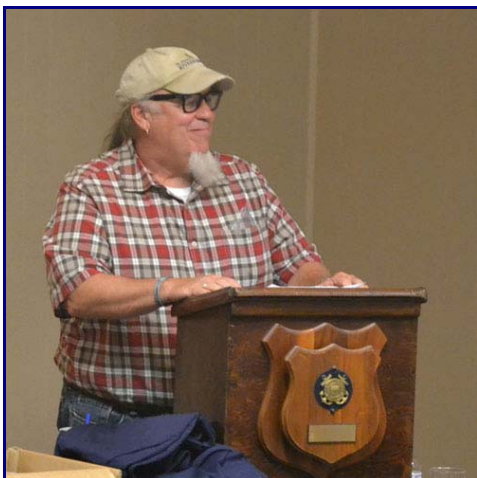


The big news in Operations is that on October 1, 2011, in Welaka, Kevin Koehl qualified as Crew, and Cris Vonderheide qualified as a “Coxswain with Operations Excellence”. These are both major accomplishments and reward the hard work and commitment of these two. Bravo Zulu!

Our 16 foot Boston Whaler Dauntless, *Carlie II*, facility remains in service. Our new crewmember, Kevin Koehl, and I did a patrol on *Carlie II* on 10/15/11 at the Arlington River rowing regatta. We joined Marc Lang's highly modified 17 foot Boston Whaler Montauk, *Sentry*, in establishing a no wake zone for the rowers. Marc Lang and John Davis, both of Flotilla 14-4, constructed mounts for safety lights with PVC pipes for my boat, *Carlie II*. Marc is somewhat of a genius in figuring out ways to rig a boat, which you can see in its full flower on his boat. Thanks to Marc and John of 14-4 for their help.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

***** FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM *****
FLOTILLA MEETING 4 OCTOBER 2011



**Special Guest Speaker, Neil Armingeon,
The St. Johns Riverkeeper**



**Cris Vonderheide received recognition from Whit
Vick on achieving Operations Excellence.**

Photos by Kevin Koehl & Carolyn Strong

**15 OCTOBER 2011 PATROL
FLOTILLAS 14-4 & 14-8**



Whit's *Carlie II* gets ready for the patrol. Marc Lang (onboard) and John Davis, both members of 14-4, constructed mounts for safety lights with PVC pipes. Kevin Koehl (14-8) and Richard Trollope (14-4) stand by, ready to start the patrol.



Marc Lang's facility *SENTRY* with Marc as crew and Richard Trollope as coxswain. Both men are members of the Beaches Flotilla 14-4.



Kevin Koehl, crewmember onboard *Carlie II*

Photos by Kevin Koehl & Whit Vick



Marc Lang onboard *SENTRY*

Auxiliary Crews Protect the HEAD RACE

The First Coast Head Race was held on Saturday, October 15 on the St. Johns and Arlington Rivers. The rowing race was part of a year long preparation for competition next spring. The race featured both collegiate level and high school level rowing teams. JU and UCF men's teams, the JU women's team as well as approximately 15 area high school teams participated. The 3.1 mile course started near the Matthews Bridge near the Arlington Marina, continued along Exchange Island, into the Arlington River, under the Cesery Bridge ending just before Atlantic Boulevard.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary patrols were positioned at each end of Exchange Island, protecting the course from boats, unaware of the race, from entering the area and creating dangerous wakes. Whit Vick and Kevin Koehl provided coxswain and crew from 14-8, along with Richard Trollope, coxswain and Marc Lang, crew from Jacksonville Beach 14-4.



Mandarin Newslines – November Edition



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

Becoming Crew

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

The experience of new crewman Kevin Koehl in his words:

“A recent Saturday night was not typical for me. With a red flashlight, St. Johns River nautical chart, and a stopwatch, I was aboard a Coast Guard Auxiliary boat, running at 12 knots in the dark down the river calling out “compass bearings” and “time to the next course change” as we sped down a curvy section near Welaka. I felt an adrenalin rush as we made our first turn right on schedule near the lighted marker designating my first course change. At that point I knew the speed, time and compass bearings calculated earlier for the final night navigation test were correct. After settling in the middle of Little Lake George, the Coxswain asked me for the latitude and longitude target for the end of the course. Coxswain Dave Boyle from St. Augustine told me to look at the GPS which showed we were on target. Behind us the Examiner, Mike Owsley, evaluated and took note of my results as part of a larger test. Successful execution of the exercise completed a day of testing for Coast Guard Auxiliary Crew qualification and completion of a personal goal for which I joined the Auxiliary - to learn more about boating and take part in Auxiliary marine patrols.

“The crew qualification process started 8 months earlier with classroom courses. Although a recreational boater for 30 years, crew training means learning the U.S. Coast Guard way. Training is based on the Crew Seamanship Manual and the skills are the same as for active Coast Guard, but with performance standards adjusted to the older Auxiliary volunteer. Classroom skills include navigation, first aid, boat safety, radio communications, and line handling. After classroom training, skills are put to the test and knowledge is expanded as “on the water” training begins. New skills like rescue, boat handling, anchoring, and towing are mastered. Course completion is determined by each individual’s pace. Boat Crew qualification is challenging, but can be mastered by anyone with the passion. There are many great mentors in the Auxiliary to help you along the way.”

If you see a Coast Guard Auxiliary Marine Patrol, be assured they are a highly trained, dedicated crew of volunteers with a passion for keeping recreational boating fun and SAFE. Contact Charles Smith at 904-541-1660 for information about joining us.

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.





U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville

4200 Ocean Street
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2416
Phone: (904) 564-7511
Fax: (904) 564-7519

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 35-11

September 22, 2011

FLORIDA EAST COAST (FEC) RAILWAY BRIDGE REPAIRS

The FEC Railway bridge spanning the St. Johns River at mile 24.9 in Jacksonville, FL, will undergo repairs November 1st thru 30th of 2011. **All mariners are being advised that throughout the maintenance period the bridge will be in the closed position during daylight hours with the exception of Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as well as opening from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily.** Mariners should contact the bridge dispatcher at (904) 538-8800 or the FEC bridge tender/tug on-scene on VHF-FM channel 16 for additional information and use caution when passing through this portion of the St. Johns River.

Facilitating commerce and access to the waterways is chief among my Captain of the Port responsibilities. Orchestrating safe navigation through mile 24.9 and the FEC Railway bridge-span is necessary to facilitate the safe refurbishment of the bridge.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Jacksonville, Chief, Waterways Management Division, LCDR Robert Butts (904) 564-7563.

C. A. BLOMME
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Jacksonville, FL



FloridaByWater.com



If you suspect a wildlife or boating law violation, report it to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Reward Program: 888-404-FWCC (3922). Cell phone users can reach us at *FWC or #FWC, depending on your service provider.

[Report Violations to the Wildlife Alert Program](http://myfwc.com/WildlifeAlert)
<http://myfwc.com/WildlifeAlert>



FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

**Tuesday 1 November 2011 at 1930
Florida Tackle and Gun Club**

FLOTILLA ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2012

We need a quorum to conduct the election, so please make every effort to attend.

Refreshments will be served

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- NOV 01 Flotilla Meeting – Elections - 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 04-06 NAS Jax Air Show – CGAUX Exhibit open Friday through Sunday
- 11 Veterans’ Day
- 12 Memorial Wall Ceremony – CG ATON Station, Jax Beach - 1000
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- DEC 06 Flotilla Change of Watch Dinner – 1830 Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 15 Eight Bells Early Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- 17 Division Meetings – Bridge 0900, General 1000
- 25 Christmas Day

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2011 NAS Jax Air Show November 4 – 6

Friday, 4 November is a practice day for the Blue Angels attended only by the Military. Saturday and Sunday are the public air show days. The Auxiliary will staff the canopy exhibit all three days.

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8 IS GREAT !



Visit our award winning website at 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.