
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVII No. 12

December 2011

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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

The Blue Angels at the NAS Jacksonville Air Show



The Navy's Blue Angels saluting the Centennial of Naval Aviation in the skies above the St. Johns River

Photo courtesy of Kevin Koehl – see more photos and story on pages 6, 7 & 8



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Thank you for your support and confidence in re-electing me your Flotilla Commander for 2012. I will continue my best efforts to lead our flotilla in our common goals of promoting recreational boating safety, assisting the Coast Guard, training our members, and providing an atmosphere conducive to recruitment and retention of members. The last of these is key to our viability as a flotilla, and our Recruitment and Retention Committee was recently formed to address this issue.

As I think about the past year, I saw many individuals step up and do some very good work. I saw examples of selfless and unselfish actions. I saw teamwork and flexibility. I saw some friendships beginning and some being strengthened. Not all was perfect, but I know we have a core of good, talented, and motivated people in our flotilla, and knowing this makes me optimistic for the future.

I encourage you to think about your role in the Auxiliary, why you volunteer to do this, what you would like to accomplish in the next year... *And, don't forget to have fun.*

Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



It is with sadness that this will be my last submission as the VFC for Flotilla 14-8. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Flotilla Vice Commander for the last 18 months. This flotilla has a long and distinguished history and the people that have served and are serving in this flotilla are the ones that have made it what it is today. 14-8 continues to set the example and for that, I am glad to be a part of it. I will miss serving the men and women of 14-8.

On another note, although this is a volunteer organization we are still part of a highly visible military organization and must conduct ourselves accordingly. There are regulations and guidelines to go by and we must understand to be a part of an organization is to go by those guidelines. We must never forget when people look at us they don't see an Auxiliarist, they see the Coast Guard.

As a final note, our new Flotilla Staff will serve us well this New Year and I will look for great things to come. Keep your feet firmly planted on the deck, keep your hand out of the cleats and I will see everyone on the high seas.

"Semper Paratus"

Mike Morgan, Outgoing VFC

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



This is my last month serving as your flotilla Human Resources Officer. I feel it's time for new approaches and ideas and I'm sure my replacement has an adequate supply of both. I will continue to serve as a HR mentor if requested and as a temporary replacement as requested.

It has been my pleasure to meet a wide variety of potential applicants and to have recruited many of the personnel now serving as Flotilla Staff Officers. I look forward to continuing my participation in whatever capacity requested by the Flotilla Commander.

Lastly I wish to express my gratitude to all who supported my recruiting efforts.

"See you around the flag pole."

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL



As the year is coming to an end, I would like to offer a short summary of IS reporting. Although our Mission hours remain relatively low, we made a great improvement in reporting in 2011 compared to the previous two years. Less than 1,600 hours were reported in both 2009 and 2010 compared to 4,958 hours reported in AuxInfo as of 16 November, 2011. That is more than a 200% increase in reporting! Hours were distributed among 10 Mission Categories including Administrative Support, Marine Patrols, Operational Support, Member Training, Recreational Boating Safety (RBS), Search and Rescue, Marine Dealer Visits, Public Affairs, Public Education and Vessel

Safety Checks. A majority of hours were attributed to RBS, which are the hours you report on your 7029 each month. Of our 43 members on the roster, about 1/3 actually submitted a 7029 this year.

There is definite potential for increasing our numbers in 2012 if more members take a few minutes each month to send in a 7029. Please feel free to contact me if you need assistance in getting started. While we all have different reasons for joining the Auxiliary, I imagine one of those may be to make a difference and help others. The time you donate is greatly appreciated and valued by not only the Coast Guard, but also your team within the flotilla. By taking the time to report your hours, it helps the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary obtain much needed funding to continue this public service and it confirms that 14-8 is active and viable within our boating community.

Three of our members had gone into REYR status in 2010 but were recertified in 2011. We are currently processing reports to request recertification of three additional members who had gone into REYR status. Individual Training Status Reports went out twice this year to help you track your certification status and complete any needed requirements to maintain your certifications. Annual Member Letters will be going out after the first of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Jesse Stevens, IPDCDR and Bob Cook, SO-IS, for their guidance this year as I took on the role of FSO-IS. This is an ongoing learning experience for me and I have made a request to attend AUX-10 C School in 2012 to become more proficient in IS. As always, please feel free to contact me with any IS questions or concerns.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS

MEMBER TRAINING – MIKE MORGAN



As your outgoing FSO-MT, it's been my privilege and honor to serve as your training officer. The Auxiliary is a great organization to be a part of and it provides great training opportunities. As an Auxiliarist you can do anything that the Coast Guard does except Law Enforcement. This is a great force multiplier for the Coast Guard to help the many people understand about boating safety as well as providing another set of eyes to Search and Rescue that one lone sailor. We are at a great advantage being in the Auxiliary, we get the opportunity to serve the great people of the United States. Part of that opportunity is being a well trained Auxiliarist and the Auxiliary provides that. I encourage each of

you to become that well trained Auxiliarist and to continue to serve the people of this great nation.

Mike Morgan, FSO-MT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



The NAS JAX Air Show on Nov 4, 5, and 6 was our final planned public event for 2011. Flotilla 14-8 led the development of a combined Coast Guard and Auxiliary display. Our flotilla set up two canopies with Coast Guard recruiting materials, safe boating materials and a Vessel Safety Check display. Coast Guard recruiters from the San Jose office, flotillas from Arlington, St. Augustine, and Green Cove Springs assisted 14-8 in staffing the display. Weather was a major negative factor for the Air Show this year. Friday, the military family and local school day was the best weather day with early rains giving way to sunny skies and stiff cool breezes.

Continued on page 4...

Public Affairs continued... Due to the prediction of high winds late Saturday afternoon continuing through Sunday I decided to end our display on Saturday afternoon to prevent damage to our lightweight canopies. Thanks to all who assisted with the display toughing out cool windy weather both days.

An article featuring the results of our flotilla election was published on the First Coast Community sites in Mandarin, Orange Park, Julington Creek, Green Cove Springs, and St. Augustine (*page 10*). Thanks to Ralph Little for his article published in the Mandarin Newslite (*page 9*).

This was a great first learning year for my public affairs role. I attended Public Affairs C School in May and after completing additional requirements, qualified for Public Affairs Specialist 1 in October. I plan to leverage the learning of this year to provide more effective Public Affairs support in 2012.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



I have begun planning ABS courses for 2012. If you are a qualified instructor or would like to become a qualified Auxiliary instructor, please let me know which Saturdays next year you will be available to teach.

In 2011 our flotilla held ten ABS courses and graduated 78 students. Only four students were under the age of seventeen. The decreasing number of students each year is more than just a little upsetting, as recently as 2005 we were sometimes worried we might not have chairs in the classroom to seat the 35+ students per class. The economy is partially to blame, but I believe our biggest competitor is on-line courses.

Most of our students were couples in the 35 to 50 year old range and most had just bought their first boat. Many of these couples had teenage children at home, who were scheduled to attend our course with the parents, but the parents just couldn't get them up in time to attend. They generally followed up by saying; the child had already taken and passed an on-line course. Those adults who had also taken the on-line course said they learned much more from our classroom course. This comment pumped up my ego, but did nothing towards increasing classroom attendance. We need some new ideas to advertise our course. If you know the answer, please step forward now!

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



Although the boating season is winding down a bit, our Program Visitors (PVs) continue to drop in on our Program Partners and provide them with boating safety information. It is important to maintain a one-on-one interface with our Partners and offer ourselves as a point of contact throughout the year. Now may be a good time to approach some of our marinas with ideas about offering a special event or a Vessel Safety Check day next spring.

As of 21 November, our Program Visitors have made 198 visits this year compared to 90 total visits reported in 2010. Special recognition and thank you goes to John Hadley who has completed 118 of these. 14-8 participated in eight Partner events offering boating safety literature and vessel safety examinations. We also expanded our ability to reach more people in the community by adding 10 new partners who allow us to display boating safety literature in their places of business. This year one of our very active Program Visitors, Top Ingram, retired. Top has been an exemplary representative of the Auxiliary and a role model to many of us. Although we miss his participation, we wish Top and his wife, Anne, the very best. We were fortunate to certify four additional members to our team in 2011, many of whom assumed the locations that Mr. Ingram had been serving and maintained a continuous relationship with our Partners. Thanks to all of you for your support of Recreational Boating Safety-Visitor Program. The Visitor Program is a great way to meet and talk with people in our communities about boating safety. If you are interested in joining our team or would like more information about what we do, please contact your FSO-MT or myself to get started.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



Operations had what is likely to be its "grand finale" for 2011 on Nov 5 and 6, providing on the water support at the NAS Jax Blue Angels Air Show. Cris Vonderheide, Kevin Koehl, and Kyle George participated. We used *Carlie II*, a 16 foot Boston Whaler, which was by about 4 feet the smallest boat on the scene. The conditions were "sporty", with seas and wind proving the boat is tough but definitely not dry. The Blue Angels show was spectacular, at times flying hot and low directly over our boat. We intercepted and redirected many boats about to enter the security exclusion zone. Our friend, Paul Davis, FC for 14-4, was crew on one of the Coast Guard 25 foot boats which paid us a visit.

Working the air show epitomizes some of the great things available to those in operations--aiding the Coast Guard, Navy, and law enforcement, being on a boat, accomplishing the mission safely, being with friends, and seeing a terrific show.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

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

FLOTILLA MEETING 1 NOVEMBER 2011



Ralph Little (center) receives thanks for a job well done from Jeff Blomgren, IPFC and Whit Vick, FC



Kevin Koehl received his Operations Crew Qualification with congratulations from Whit



Whit congratulates Rusty Gardner on receiving a Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation



Whit presents a Second Sustained Service Award to John Hadley

FLOTILLA MEETING 1 NOVEMBER 2011



Whit gave Bob Strong a WOW Training Aids Kit from National, to be used for Public Education



Whit welcomes Robin Herriff, our newest flotilla member, and presents her Membership Certificate after she took the New Member Oath

NAS JAX AIR SHOW



J. Hadley, 14-8; K. Koehl, 14-8; HSC Thompson, USCG; R. Strong, 14-8 and ET1 Bound, USCG

FLOTILLA ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2012



Whit Vick, FC and Kevin Koehl, VFC elect

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS FOR 2012

- Paul Burns, Communications Services
- Bob Strong, Finance
- Rebecca Habermas, Human Resources
- Marlene Koehl, Information Systems
- Bob Flaige, Materials
- Kyle George, Marine Safety
- John Hadley, Member Training
- Cris Vonderheide, Navigation Services
- Whit Vick, Operations
- Kevin Koehl, Public Affairs
- Carolyn Strong, Publications
- Bob Strong, Public Education
- Marlene Koehl, Program Visitation
- Paul Tynda, Secretary of Records
- Charlie Smith, Vessel Examination

Meeting Photos by Kevin Koehl

NAS JAX AIR SHOW 4, 5, 6 NOVEMBER



The Navy's Blue Angels salute the Centennial of Naval Aviation in the skies over the St. Johns River

NAS JAX AIR SHOW

Guardians for the “Angels”

By: Kevin Koehl, Public Affairs Officer, Flotilla 14-8

Most people watching the 2011 NAS Jacksonville Air Show on November 4, 5 and 6 had their eyes on the sky anticipating the performance of the Navy’s precision flight team, the Blue Angels. Team Coast Guard, however, had eyes on the sky and eyes on the water. The Coast Guard leads the “on the water” team of Navy, local law enforcement, and Auxiliary vessels enforcing the security zone on the St. Johns River for the flight path of the Angels as they approached the NAS JAX runway and cheering crowds.



Jacksonville, Florida is a boating community with the St. Johns River, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Intracoastal Waterway. Watching the air show from the water is a boating tradition. For precision flying, the Blue Angels require a flight path approaching the runway free of visual distractions. The Navy asks the Coast Guard to place buoys creating an approximate 2 mile by 2 mile security zone in front of the runway.

During the Friday practice day and the two public show days, private boats are kept out of the zone. While it sounds like a simple task, the security zone restricts boater access to about 20 percent of the width of river on the opposite side the boaters like to anchor and watch the air show. The most direct route to where boaters want to be is of course through the security zone; therefore Team Coast Guard and local law enforcement stay busy rerouting boating traffic around the security zone.

The duty is not without its perks as the border of the security zone is also in the direct flight path for the approach of the Blue Angels’ precision maneuvers. It may be our imagination, but those of us who have worked on the security patrols always feel the Blue Angels show their appreciation by the great views we get as they fly over our patrol vessels.

Team Coast Guard vessels supporting the show included a 25ft Coast Guard boat from Station Mayport and Auxiliary facilities from Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8 and St. Augustine Flotilla 14-7. In addition to supporting the security zone, Team Coast Guard created boating safety displays at the Air Show. Coast Guard recruiters and members from Jacksonville 14-8, Arlington 14-2, St. Augustine 14-7 and Green Cove Springs 14-5 staffed the display.



Tending the Auxiliary Booth: Mark Henricks, 14-2; Becky Habermas, 14-8; Marlene Koehl, 14-8 and Harold Westover, 14-7

NAS JAX AIR SHOW PATROL



Whit Vick & Cris Vonderheide prepare to launch *Carlie II* on November 5



Kyle George on patrol November 5



Whit Vick onboard his boat *Carlie II*



Kevin Koehl on patrol November 6

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*Air Show Photos by Kevin Koehl, Kyle George, Cris Vonderheide & Whit Vick*



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## Mandarin Newsline – December Edition

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### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update Community and Fellowship

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

The last couple of months have been both interesting and rewarding for our members beyond the flotilla's normal services. September brought members and another flotilla together at the Mudville Grill in Arlington to hear the experiences of a boating couple in traversing the Great Loop boat trail. Those present heard and saw the highlights of piloting a boat up the East Coast, through the Erie Canal and Great Lakes and down the Ohio and Mississippi River systems to the Gulf and connecting South Florida canal to the Atlantic.

In October, Neal Armingeon, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, presented us his view on the state of the river and regaled us with good background. Personally, I found it striking that only 14% of the local population interacts with the river. I guess that doesn't count those who stroll beside it or enjoy its sunset views. Also giving us pause was the information that while dredging the river deeper has economic benefits, it will also encourage salinity further inland to the detriment of vegetation.

Later in the month, our website, SafeBoatingJax.com, was the catalyst for a members' assistance to the Haven Hospice of Palatka who brought together a fleet of 18 boats to give rides to 65 children of patients. In addition to a boat, our flotilla member assured all boats were safe for the venture.

With the flotilla's annual election on November 1st, our chief, Whit Vick, was reelected and will be assisted by his new deputy Kevin Koehl. Kevin and wife, Marlene, are enthusiastic newer members active in Public Affairs, Marine Visitor, Information and Vessel Examination duties. Whit and Kevin, as well as Cris Vonderheide and Kyle George provided daily patrols to maintain the security zone off Jacksonville NAS for the November 5-6 Air Show. Meanwhile, braving a stiff breeze and cool temperatures on the flight line, members of various area flotillas staffed an exhibit jointly with the active Coast Guard.

Our Change of Watch and dinner function to renew the leadership will be held on December 6th at our meeting place, the Florida Tackle & Gun Club, on San Jose Blvd. at Goodby's Creek. Anyone with an interest in joining the Auxiliary can contact Charles Smith at 904-541-1660 and he will guide you through membership.

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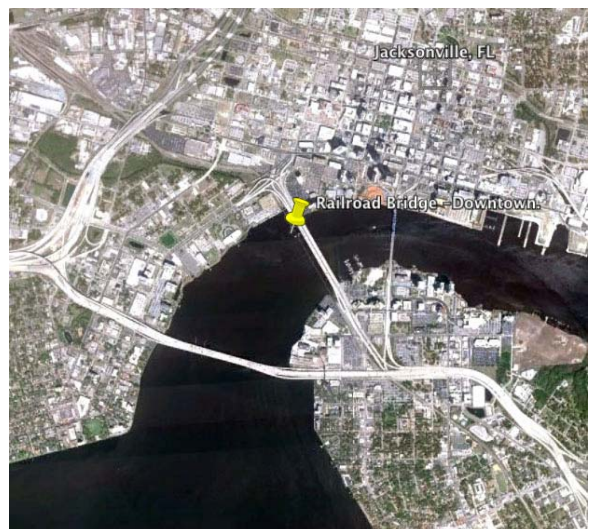
This will be a big deal.....

### FLORIDA – ST JOHNS RIVER – FEC RAILROAD BRIDGE: Bridge Closure.

The bridge owner of the FEC Railroad Bridge across the St Johns River mile 24.9, Jacksonville, Florida has requested permission to close this bridge to navigation from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily Friday through Tuesday starting January 13, 2012 until March 24, 2012. The Coast Guard recognizes that this will place a burden on vessels transiting through this area during these dates and times. After review of this request with the bridge owner it has been determined that this work cannot be safely completed during nighttime operations nor would it be beneficial to reduce the amount of time allocated for this requested closure, doing so, would have the potential of extending this project an additional 4 to 6 months.

**Rusty Gardner**

Florida By Water <http://www.floridabywater.com/>



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## First Coast News

# Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla in Mandarin elects officers for 2012



Submitted by Kevin Koehl, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Jacksonville  
Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011, 6:06pm

MANDARIN, FL – Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8 held annual elections on Tuesday, November 1 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club on San Jose Boulevard. Whit Vick was re-elected to the office of Flotilla Commander and Kevin Koehl was elected to the office of Vice Commander. Their terms begin January 1, 2012.

Vick joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1998 in Georgia and transferred to the Mandarin Flotilla in 2008. Vick also serves as the Operations Officer for the Flotilla. He is qualified as an Auxiliary Coxswain and volunteers his boat as an Auxiliary Facility conducting safety patrols for the Coast Guard on the St. Johns River.

Koehl joined the Auxiliary in 2010 and also serves as Public Affairs Officer for the Flotilla. He is qualified as an Auxiliary Vessel Examiner conducting vessel safety checks for area boaters, an Auxiliary Program Visitor, keeping the area boating community informed of the latest boating safety information and is an Auxiliary boat crew member.

If you would like more information on the Coast Guard Auxiliary go to the website [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org). Information regarding your local Flotilla 14-8 in Mandarin can be found at [www.safeboatingjax.com](http://www.safeboatingjax.com) or the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CGAUXJacksonville](http://www.facebook.com/CGAUXJacksonville).

Established in 1939 by Congress, the United States Coast Auxiliary is the all volunteer, uniformed branch of the U.S. Coast Guard. More than 30,000 men and women, ages 17 and older, volunteer in a variety of missions and locations for the Coast Guard. The combined active duty and Auxiliary personnel constitute "Team Coast Guard". Flotilla 14-8 in Mandarin was established in 1969 by members of the Florida Tackle and Gun Club.

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## NTRAIN

ST. LOUIS -- The Coast Guard Auxiliary national training meeting (N-TRAIN) is scheduled for January 22-29, 2012 at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet hotel. This year's theme will continue the "Dependability, Integrity, Diversity" - watchwords of Auxiliary National Commodore James E. Vass, Jr.

N-TRAIN is held annually near the end of January in St. Louis. The event is hosted by the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc., the non-profit organization focused on providing education, training and other program support to Auxiliary volunteers. N-TRAIN offers a variety of training opportunities for selected district staff officers and national leadership.

"Each year, we invite a select group of Auxiliary personnel to attend N-TRAIN for additional training," said Ernie Davenport, National Meeting Administrator for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. "N-TRAIN provides an excellent forum for advanced training and discussion in targeted program areas."

For additional information on N-TRAIN 2012, please visit:  
<http://cgauxa.org/ntrain.html>

Christopher Todd  
Deputy Director | Government & Public Affairs  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary



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

**Division Change of Watch  
Saturday, 17 December, 2011**

**Embassy Suites  
9300 Baymeadows Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL**

**Social hour - 1800 hours,  
Dinner to follow at 1900 hours.  
\$30.00 per person**

**R.S.V.P. by 10 DEC to:  
W. R. Sekeres at  
[wrscgaux@gmail.com](mailto:wrscgaux@gmail.com)**

**Uniform of the Day:  
Service Dress Blues  
Tropical Blue  
Blue Blazer  
Business Attire**

**Checks made payable to:  
USCG Auxiliary, Division 14**

**Mail checks to:  
Joe Blanchard  
593 Amelia Circle  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034-2450**





## FLOTILLA 14-8 CHANGE OF WATCH

**Tuesday 6 December 2011**

**Fellowship starting at 1830, Dinner at 1900  
Florida Tackle and Gun Club**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- DEC 06 Flotilla Change of Watch Dinner – 1830 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 10 RSVP by today for Division Change of Watch Dinner
- 15 Eight Bells Early Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- 17 Division 14 Change of Watch -1800– Embassy Suites, Baymeadows Rd
- 25 Christmas Day
- JAN 01 New Years Day
- 03 Flotilla Meeting – 1930 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- 21 Division 14 Quarterly Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club

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## DIVISION 14 CHANGE OF WATCH

**Saturday, 17 December 2011**

**Fellowship starting at 1800, Dinner at 1900**

**Embassy Suites Hotel – 9300 Baymeadows Rd.**

**Please RSVP by 10 DEC to: W. R. Sekeres at: [wrsCGaux@gmail.com](mailto:wrsCGaux@gmail.com)**

**Come for the fun and fellowship with your Division 14 Counterparts**

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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.*