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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 XXXVIII No. 3

March 2012

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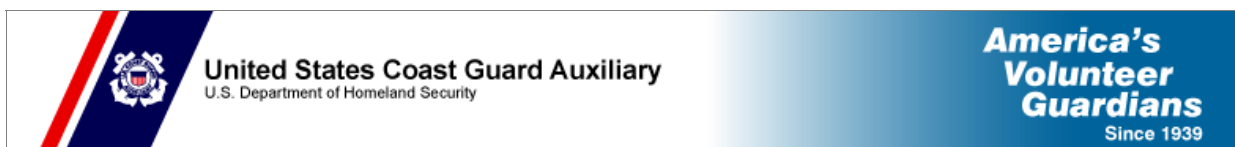
**“A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS”**



This is where the two kids from Middleburg High School died in Black Creek last year. A good picture with a good message behind it.

Contributed by Rusty Gardner

*Photographer unknown*



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

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## FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Tom Hayden, Division Commander occasionally awards an Auxiliary "coin" to someone he deems worthy in terms of good deeds/contributions to the Auxiliary. For various and sundry reasons baffling to me and I'm sure to others as well, I usually don't receive things like this. However, I recently had the opportunity to study one of these coins and found it to have some interesting features. It is thick and heavy feeling, about the size of an old silver dollar. On one side a painting or mural depicts a scene from the perspective of being on the water. In the foreground--as if you are on a boat--there is a striped throw ring. Across the water in the near distance is a pristine land with a beach, palm trees, and a light house. The sky and water are Carolina blue.

A huge sun and one cumulus cloud shaped like Martha's Vineyard hang in the sky. This place could be a Jimmy Buffett fantasy, St Simons Island, GA (keep this a secret), or paradise. Although the painting on the coin is no Rembrandt, it brings to mind the best of days you can experience on a boat. The other side of the coin has these three words: "Honor"; "Respect"; "Devotion to Duty".

This coin sums up a lot of what we are about in the Auxiliary. Boating is a big part of it, maybe the biggest. Whether through operations, public education or vessel examiners teaching recreational boaters, boating is a key reason for the Auxiliary. And then the words on the other side--these could be instructions for living life--doing the right thing, saying what you mean, meaning what you say, carrying through on pledges and promises, and respecting others. Couldn't have said it better myself.

*"Semper Paratus"*

*Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander*

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## FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS



### **HUMAN RESOURCES – REBECCA HABERMAS**

With tax season upon us, I thought this might be a good time to review tax allowable deductions for Auxiliarists. "Federal income tax regulations allow deductions for certain non-reimbursed expenses. No deduction is allowed for a contribution of services or for expenses reimbursed by the Auxiliary; however, out - of- pocket expenses incurred in the performance of Auxiliary activities may be deductible as a charitable contribution. To help determine if expenses are deductible, always keep accurate records of non-reimbursed expenses. Expenditures for meals and lodging are only allowed if the Auxiliarist is away from home overnight. Auxiliarists may also deduct the cost and upkeep of uniforms that are required to be purchased in order to perform authorized activities. Since Auxiliarists are prohibited from wearing portions of their uniform as civilian clothing, the cost and upkeep including insignia, should also qualify for a deduction. Non-reimbursed expenditures for gas, oil, etc. for operation of an automobile may be deductible. However, a pro-rata portion of general repair, maintenance, depreciation and insurance expenses is not. If actual expenses are not deducted, you may use the current "cent-per-mile" rate to determine your contribution." For more information on tax allowable expenses please consult the Auxiliary Manual (COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)) and/or a tax professional.

*Becky Habermas, FSO-HR*

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### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL**



While the 7029 form is used by all Auxiliarists, probably the second most widely used Auxiliary form is the 7030. This form is used for missions relating to Operations, Public Affairs, Publications, Web Maintenance, Public Education, Member Training Instructor, Watchstanding, Navigation, Administrative Support and others. This form should be submitted to the FSO-IS as missions are completed.

*IS Report continued on page 3...*

*IS Report continued...*

- There are instructions for completing the 7030 form on the PDF version. It is best to print the instructions from the PDF version for referencing. You can then use the E-form to submit your report
- On the 7030 E-form, you will need to enter the e-mail address for the FSO-IS in order to submit it electronically. Currently, it is mekoehl@gmail.com
- Print a copy for your records before submitting

A reminder about on-line testing:

- When taking courses on-line, ALWAYS print a copy of the Confirmation of Completion for your records and to submit to the FSO-IS, if required
- Courses offered through the National Testing Center (NTC) will automatically be inserted into your training record in AUXDATA by NTC
- Courses offered through FEMA (IS/ICS Courses) are not automatically inserted into your training record and confirmation must be submitted to the FSO-IS for entry in AUXDATA

We have been experiencing some difficulties with the electronic submissions on the 7030 form. If you have submitted a 7030 within the past two weeks and have not received a confirmation from me, please try again or email a copy to me.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you need assistance with any form.

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS*

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**MATERIALS – BOB FLAIGE**



Recall of the Mustang inflatable PFD Models MD 2010 and MD 2012:

Any member in possession of either of these two PFDs needs to forward them to me in order that they may be returned to the distributor for replacement. The PFDs requiring recall are missing a label with the letters M.I.T. on the bladder just above the CO2 cartridge. The MD2010 was the model issued to our flotilla.

Email ([searay27@bellsouth.net](mailto:searay27@bellsouth.net)) or call (262-0335) me so I can arrange to pick them up for return.

*Bob Flaige, FSO-MA*

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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL**



The 2012 winter season has been mild and with the improving economy there have already been signs of a stronger interest in boating. The Jacksonville Boat Show was held in late January. Flotilla 14-2 took the lead and reported stronger attendance and boat sales at the show. Sea Tow provided a 100 free children's PFDs, which the Auxiliary assisted in fitting.

West Marine held a Cruising Information weekend event on February 10 and 11. I took the lead on setting up the safety display for 14-8 and Mark Henricks from 14-2 assisted in working the display on Friday. Charlie Smith, John Hadley and Becky Habermas manned the display on Saturday. Approximately 20 people stopped at the display each day to pick up information on boating safety equipment requirements, classes, and information on joining team Coast Guard.

Ralph Little published an article in the *Mandarin Newsline* on boating accident statistics (see article on page 7). I published an online article on boating classes in the community pages of *First Coast News* in the St. Augustine, Mandarin, Orange Park, Green Cove Springs and Julington Creek editions. I also published the February ABS courses in the *Florida Times-Union Outdoor Calendar*. Thanks again to Mark, Charlie, John, Becky, and Ralph for their contributions to public affairs in February.

*Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*

## **FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION**

### **MEMBER TRAINING – JOHN HADLEY**



This month has seen a lot of preparation and laying of groundwork for a great year in Member Training. We (the flotilla) are beginning to get the sense that not only can we start to build support, but we can also take care of some items in an efficient way which will need yearly attention.

February saw an active flotilla meeting during which John Fields, Division 14 Member Training Staff Officer and David Cawton, FC 14-4 attended to give support and an instructed update to all present in two (2) major programs: AUXOP and Boat Force crew.

Mike Owsley attended, during which period he delivered a powerpoint presentation about the Welaka detachment. This was not just an effort to recruit, though he did make comments somewhat to that effect. More importantly he gave a description of this mission to its intended effect, its logistical hurdles, the requirements for training and the level of expected performance.

This was a well-produced and extremely well-delivered talk.

\* \* \*

Looking ahead to March, the flotilla meeting will be marked by a TCT 2012 Refresher, required for all Cox- and Crew-qualified personnel who intend to retain their Operations credentials. I will deliver the training, which is intended to last not longer than 30-40 minutes. Any and all who have some curiosity about this training may use it as a springboard to take the 8-Hour TCT course, which is required every five years.

I remain busily engaged in looking for training materials which will answer the needs of this flotilla.

Our plans for April will feature Jeff Blomgren's giving a short hands-on refresher in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

*John Hadley FSO-MT*

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### **NAVIGATIONAL SERVICES – CRIS VONDERHEIDE**



#### **Manatees Sighted in the River**

Due to unseasonable warm water temps, many manatees have remained in the St. Johns River over the winter. Mariners should be aware that concentrations of manatees have been observed near the Northside Generating Station, Ortega River, and the WWTP#2 outfall. The outfall is located off of the north shore of the St. Johns River adjacent to its confluence with Drummond Creek between the Broward and Trout Rivers.

Mariners are advised to keep a sharp lookout for manatees particularly during docking and undocking operations. Sighting information should be shared with other commercial mariners operating in the area.

Regards,  
James McLaughlin, Executive Director  
Jacksonville Marine Transport Exchange

*Cris Vonderheide, FSO-NS*

**PROGRAM VISITATION – MARLENE KOEHL**



Four Program Visitors (PVs) from 14-8 and one PV from 14-2 participated in our first partner event of 2012 by staffing an information and display table at the West Marine Store in St. Johns Town Center on 10 & 11 February. In addition to offering boating safety materials and tips, the Auxiliary provided safety class schedules and information regarding free vessel safety checks.

I would like to thank Kevin Koehl for organizing a very successful Auxiliary presence and working the entire first day of the event. Thanks to John Hadley for the initial contact and for working the entire second day. I would also thank Charles Smith and

Rebecca Habermas for their support on the second day of the event.

We have been in contact with several other partners who would like our participation in upcoming marina events. I will be coordinating with the FSO-VE as plans are confirmed. This month, as of 20 February, our PVs have conducted 21 partner contacts. Special recognition goes to John Hadley for leading the team in number of visits made. As always, I appreciate all the program visitors for their dedication, time and effort in promoting safe boating within our communities.

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV*

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**PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



I just discovered that all but one of our advertising outlets has our next course listed as March 10, 2012 and not March 3, 2012, as I have been telling everyone. My original date was March 10, but I changed it late in December 2011 to March 3 when I learned the Captain's Club had given March 10 to Flotilla 14-4 with no alternative. Paul used my original date, March 10 to publicize our course on line and I never caught the error. We don't have any students for March 3, so by default our next course will be on March 10. I apologize for this error.

On a positive note I received the following email from one of the students in our last course. He lives in Palm Coast and attended our course only because it fit his schedule.

"Bob, Just wanted to send you a short note to thank you for leading the ABS course in Jacksonville recently. The course was informative, well-structured and very enjoyable for me. Additionally, I wanted you to know that I received my Boating Safety Education I.D. Card, ABS course completion card and certificate. These were all received within a week of my completion of the course (it is rare to see such efficiency these days). Hope our paths cross again someday and again, thank you for allowing me to attend such a wonderful course".

It's the reward that makes what we do worthwhile. I sent him information to contact the Palm Coast Flotilla 4-1

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE*

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**VESSEL EXAMINER – CHARLES SMITH**



Daylight saving time begins on March 11 and to celebrate I'm asking that at least three Vessel Examiners (VEs) assist me in performing Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) at the Eagle Harbor boat ramp. Following a proposal by our VFC two VEs will work each vessel, one working the clipboard checklist while the other performs the exam. Duties will be alternated between the team members for each vessel examined. Exams will begin at 1100 and terminated at 1300. Prior experience suggests that this procedure expedites the exam and cuts exam time to approximately 20 minutes per vessel.

A request for permission to conduct VSCs has been requested from Hooters on San Jose and at NAS JAX for the month of April. Both have fishing tournaments scheduled and when I receive approval I'll pass dates and times to all examiners.

There is no requirement for examiners to forward a completed VSC form ANSC7012 to me for record keeping. ANSC7038 activity report must be submitted to FSO-IS for entry into AUXDATA. It is useful to keep the checklist copy for contacting boat owners next year to ascertain if they would like a new decal for insurance purposes. Also, it is a good backup in AUXDATA if a conflict regarding exams conducted develops.

*Charlie Smith, FSO-VE 2012*

## FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

### OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



On the water operations on our flotilla's lone 16 foot facility remain in hibernation mode for winter. The facility is currently at St Simons Island, GA. It will be brought back to Florida for patrols hopefully within the next month. There is the prospect that at least one and possibly two additional boats may become facilities in our flotilla for this boating season. If this happens, it would greatly increase our ability to provide on the water training and support for the Coast Guard.

There are several members who have expressed interest in operations but have not yet made the plunge to get crew qualified. I see these as potential excellent crew and/or coxswains. I encourage you to pursue this, and you can experience what I have found to be one of the most interesting, fun, challenging, and rewarding aspects of being in the Auxiliary. Any of the current crew or coxswains in our flotilla (we currently have three) can help you with this process.

*Whit Vick, FSO-OP*

### **\*\*\* FLOTILLA 14-8 PARTNER EVENT AT WEST MARINE \*\*\***



West Marine held a “Cruising Information” weekend event in February. Kevin Koehl took the lead on setting up the safety display for 14-8 and Mark Henricks from 14-2 assisted in working the display on Friday. Charlie Smith, John Hadley and Becky Habermas manned the display on Saturday.

**Our first partner event of 2012: staffing an information and display table at the West Marine Store in St. Johns Town Center on 10 & 11 February.**

*Photos by Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*



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## Mandarin Newsline – February Edition

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### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

#### Reflections

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

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My apology if the following upsets someone. These raw 2011 boating fatality reports and the editorial for each speak clearer than any prose I might concoct.

Hillsborough County, Nov 15: *High risk vessel, lone male, no life preserver.*

Witnesses observed the victim fishing in Lake Wimauma in a small aluminum Jon boat. Witnesses later observed the victim's vessel partially submerged. Search operations recovered the victim.

Manatee County, Nov 23: *Perhaps too much speed or failure to read the chart.*

Victim struck by propeller after being ejected from his vessel after it struck a sand bar.

Lake County, Nov 27: *Excessive speed for the limited view and space.*

Two Personal Watercraft operated on Lake Joanna. One PWC entered a small cove while the other was exiting. The operators saw each other and attempted evasive maneuvers. Both turned in the same direction and they collided. All four subjects were ejected. A sole victim resurfaced and suffered an apparent head injury. All wore life preservers.

Collier County, Nov 28: *High risk vessel and no life preserver.*

The victim was paddling a kayak in a pond behind his home. At some point, the victim fell out of the vessel and drowned.

Broward County, Nov 28: *Probably a failure to observe the route.*

A 25 foot vessel with two males was traveling southbound in the Intracoastal Waterway when it struck a seawall. The sole victim was trapped in the bow of the hull.

Brevard County, Nov 28: *Possible natural cause and failure of a lone operator to have a motor cut off lanyard.*

A vessel was found running in a tight starboard circle with no one on board. There were no signs of injury on the victim and all required safety equipment was on board.

Union County, Dec 10: *Probable failure to wear life preservers.*

A man and his elderly mother went to Lake Palestine at 8 am for a Saturday of fishing. The two were reported overdue at 11:35 pm. The vessel was found at 1 am Sunday. Fishing lines were still in the water. At 7:30 am the female's body was found but the male had not been located.

Collier County, Dec 15: *Failure to observe the route, probably excessive speed.*

While cruising up on a plane in a canal, the victim struck his head against a bridge which crossed the canal.

Nine accidental deaths while pleasure boating in 31 days. Boating fatalities are rarely inevitable.

The flotilla's safety course is doing well but we have the time for more boaters to test our instructors. Call Bob Strong at 904-721-1346 for specifics.

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## PATROL, PROTECT, PRESERVE

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As you may know, a few months back Florida By Water purchased the Boat Florida Network. Since that time, we have redesigned the interface and added new features. I would like to personally invite you to join the "Boat Northeast Florida" site. The more users we have, the better we can serve the boating community. I think you will agree this is a great resource for Northeast Florida.

Once you create an account, you will be able to add calendar events, chat with other boaters and upload photos and videos as well participate in forums and discussions. We also have limited advertising space available just in case you know anyone who might be interested. Please visit <http://www.boatnortheast.com/> to join.

We look forward to helping meet all of your Northeast Florida boating needs.

**Rusty Gardner**

**Florida By Water**

904-866-6389

<http://www.floridabywater.com/>



WASHINGTON - The 2012 National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) campaign is scheduled to take place from May 19-25. While this may seem like a long way away, savvy Coast Guard Auxiliary units will start the planning process now to ensure a fun and well-thought out campaign is in place to effectively reach their local boating community.

Our recent CGAUX public affairs survey showed only 58.1% of respondents believe that NSBW is a focal point for their flotilla each year and state that their unit does a good job of promoting recreational boating safety

(RBS) for this event. Where does your unit rate?

To learn more about National Safe Boating Week, visit <http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/> To learn more about Coast Guard Auxiliary RBS programs, visit <http://bdept.cgaux.org/wp/>

Christopher Todd

Deputy Director | Government & Public Affairs

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

**\*\*\* IN MEMORIAM \*\*\***



Russell O'Neal Alderman, of Jacksonville, died on Feb. 10, 2012 in the surroundings of love, prayer, and his family. He was born in Avon Park, FL on August 9, 1932. He was a 1950 graduate of Leon High School in Tallahassee and received both his Bachelor and Master of Science in Education from Florida State University, and his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova University. His 7 years of honorable service in the U.S. Marine Corps included 14 months of combat duty in the Korean Conflict. His career as an educator began in Panama City, FL as a teacher and principal in local elementary schools. He served as an educational consultant with Harper-Row Publishers before joining the Duval Public School System, serving in various staff capacities for 25 years, most notably as Director of Title I and Staff Development.

**Along with his many major accomplishments, he served as Flotilla Commander of Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8 of the USCG Auxiliary in 1978 and 1979.** Services were held Thursday, February 16 at Murray Hill Baptist Church followed by interment in the new Jacksonville National Cemetery.





## FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

Tuesday 6 March 2012

Fellowship & Refreshments 1900, Meeting at 1930  
Florida Tackle and Gun Club

TCT Refresher by John Hadley, FSO-MT

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- MAR 06 Flotilla Meeting – 1900 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 07 February 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 10 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 11 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 15 Division Staff Officers' Reports due to VCDR 14
- 17 River City Regatta
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- 24 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 24 Division Meeting – Queen's Harbor
- APR 01 Blessing of the Fleet – Jacksonville Landing
- 03 Flotilla Meeting – 1900 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 07 March 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 14 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 15 Division Staff Officers' Reports due to VCDR 14
- 19 Safety Fair at NAS JAX
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB

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## 8 IS GREAT !



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

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