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# EIGHT



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

**Volume XXXVIII No. 4**

**April 2012**

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## **ADM Papp's Visit to Northeast Florida**



The COMDT of the U. S. Coast Guard, ADM Robert Papp, Jr. was Guest of Honor and Speaker at the joint Navy League/Propeller Club Dinner on 15 March at Naval Station Mayport. In photo are members of the Division 14 Honor Guard: Sekeres, Hensel, Montgomery and Green with ADM Papp (center) and U.S. Congressman Ander Crenshaw, R-FL (right).

*Photo contributed by Don Mooers, 14-4 / CG-NL Liaison*

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## FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Our "R & R" (recruitment and retention) committee recently polled Flotilla 14-8 members to gather information about how we as a flotilla might be able to attract new members and also retain and engage current members. We have about 40 members but less than half regularly attend flotilla meetings or participate in Auxiliary activities. Although this action was local, the issue is National--many flotillas face the same recruitment and retention challenges we are encountering. Marlene Koehl agreed to chair the committee, and other members were Becky Habermas, John Hadley, Paul Tynda, and Kevin Koehl. They held several meetings to collate and interpret data and brainstorm for ideas amongst themselves. Marlene then printed up and also presented the results and recommendations of the committee. One recommendation was that the Flotilla Commander appoint committees to implement specific plans for the major issues identified. Instead of forming more committees (I wasn't sure if we had enough people to do this), I asked a "point person" to head up each area identified by the committee. This person has the option of getting others to help as they see fit. These appointees were mostly natural fits, as these individuals already held FSO positions closely aligned with the specific recommendation to be addressed. Here are the appointees and the specific "issue" or goal identified by the committee:

- Mentoring: Becky Habermas and Marlene Koehl in consultation with Kevin Koehl, VFC  
Goal: to assess a new recruit's interests and assign a specific mentor judged the best fit.
- Training and outside speakers at meetings: John Hadley  
Goal: to have training or outside speaker at each meeting.
- Field trips: Kevin Koehl  
Goal: to arrange group visits to local sites of interest.
- Fellowship: Carolyn Strong  
Goal: to organize social events for our flotilla possibly together with other flotillas.
- Caller: Bob Strong  
Goal: call members prior to meetings, advertise the training or speaker at the meeting.
- General: FC, VFC  
Goal: keep business part of meeting as brief as possible. Track progress of the above.

Although the outcome of all this is unknown, I believe these are reasonable and achievable goals. I am optimistic this will enhance the Auxiliary experience for all of us and should help advance our major Auxiliary goals of improving recreational boating safety, aiding the Coast Guard, educating our members, and forming friendships. I greatly appreciate the excellent work of this committee.

*Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander*

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## FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



Northeast Florida continues to have a mild winter. Marlene Koehl and I staffed a safety booth at a NAS JAX safety stand down at NAS JAX on March 2. Thanks to Ralph for his contribution of his article in the Mandarin Newslite this month. Participation in our Boating Safety Classes and VSCs has been light in March.

*Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*

## FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

### MEMBER TRAINING – JOHN HADLEY

The following activities have been completed for the period of 20FEB-20MAR:



- 1 Member is preparing to take the IS-250 online course.
  - 1 Member is preparing for online proctored AUX WEA course
  - 1 Member is preparing for online proctored AUXCOMS course
  - 1 Member is preparing to complete online NAV RULES 95 course,
  - 2 Members have attended the Flotilla Leader Training course SUN 11MAR12 in St. Augustine,
  - 1 Member is preparing to take the online Fingerprint course,
  - 1 Member is performing continuing break-in Communications Watch training at USCG Station Mayport,
  - 1 Member is studying and gathering materials to take the online IMSEP course.
- 06MAR2012: 2012 Team Coordination Training was given to four (4) flotilla Members.

Other than the active members, numbering about 20-25, attempts to get roster membership to respond to emails, requesting suggestions for training topics at flotilla meetings, has been unsuccessful. Guest speakers have resulted in larger attendance, about 60-70 per cent of the time. Getting a “buy-in” approach from these ‘silent’ members has not been working. When a marquee-name guest speaker appears, attendance is guaranteed to increase.

Asking experienced Members has often helped. My experience in getting this to increase for training purposes, will probably involve a gradual and relentless approach, to wit: as with long neglected PV sites, a reliable presence will begin to attract attention.

Another suggestion will be to consider combined flotilla meetings for the purpose of attracting a more famous/high-ranking speaker. This need not be confined to USCG AUX speakers, but might also include HITRON members, USN COs (for example) who have benefited from AUX presence, etc.

At the present time, my Division Member Training leader, John H. Fields has provided timely, useful, successful and optimistic leadership. My flotilla leadership, particularly Whit Vick, FC has been unfailing encouraging, respectful, and empowering. We face an uphill battle with the use of member training in attracting, preparing, and involving our flotilla and new members.

*John Hadley FSO-MT*

### PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



The long anticipated ABS course at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club, for club members and their friends, was held on Saturday March 24, 2012. We had four students, including three adults and one member's fifteen year old grandson. All three adults had over thirty years of boating experience and all scored very high with one at 100%. Even the fifteen year old grandson had been boating for ten years and scored in the 90s.

At the end of each course, we ask our students to complete an evaluation form for our information. The results from this course were not much different than from all the courses we have taught in recent years.

*PE Report continued on page 4...*

Results of Course Evaluation March 24 at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club:

- 1) The course was GREAT.
- 2) The instructors were very knowledgeable and the practical boating stories were very interesting and informative.
- 3) The course should include less time talking about PWCs and more time on Navigation.
- 4) Course should include more student participation.
- 5) The lunch break should be longer than 30 minutes.
- 6) More time should be spent on knots.
- 7) This course is much better than the one I took on line.
- 8) The course is too long.

Who was it that said something to the effect that "You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all the people all the time"?

Paul Burns will be working out of town for the next four months so we need another instructor with boating experience to help teach the courses scheduled for April 14, May 12, June 23 & July 14. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE*

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**VESSEL EXAMINER – CHARLES SMITH**



Two Vessel Safety Check (VSC) events are planned this month. The first is scheduled for Saturday, 14 April at Mulberry Cove Marina at NAS JAX. The second is at Hooters on San Jose on Saturday, 21 April. Both events coincide with or precede fishing tournaments. Hours for both events and transportation arrangements to NAS JAX will be sent to all Vessel Examinations.

The St. Patrick's Day festivities at Julington Creek were cancelled without my being notified. Ralph Little and I were available for the scheduled four hour time period. We used the team concept and each VSC came very close to the twenty minute criteria. John Hadley arrived as we were leaving and elected not to remain as he had worked another location earlier.

On Sunday, 25 March Kevin and Marlene Koehl and I conducted exams at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club. It was a productive effort despite the high winds throughout our tour. The "team" concept again proved worthwhile and I recommend it to all examiners.

*Charlie Smith, FSO-VE*

**FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE**

**OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK**



No March operational on the water activity due to crew and boat unavailability. However, things are looking up--as I write this, my facility, *Carlie II*, is on its trailer at St Simons Island and ready to be brought to Jacksonville. We currently have a patrol scheduled for the "Blessing of the Fleet" on 01 April and another on 05May for a rowing regatta. Maybe not as exciting as the Blue Angels, but a good start for this year.

Also as I write, the Koehl's are in a leisurely transit from Stuart FL to Jacksonville on their new (to them) boat--a Camano 31, like the Clare's used on their great loop circumnavigation. I have been receiving float plans via email and get to track their progress. Mostly this is factual data about where and when, MMSI numbers, etc, but in one communication, Kevin, who is not an overly emotional man (presumably his corporate background), livened things up a bit with this comment: "I think I love this boat". This is good--real good, and bodes well for operations if the Koehls decide to offer this vessel as a facility.

*Whit Vick, FSO-OP*

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**\*\*\* KEVIN & MARLENE KOEHL'S NEW BOAT *TIKA* \*\*\***

The Koehls just returned home from their cruise up the Intracoastal Waterway from Stuart, Florida on *TIKA*. To read all about their 10-day voyage, you may read their blog at <http://voyagesoftika.blogspot.com/>



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**FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM**

**Flotilla Meeting 06 March 2012:**



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**Marlene Koehl receives congratulations from Whit Vick, FC, upon receiving the Auxiliary Sustained Service Award and the Auxiliary Performance Award for VSC/RBSVP.**

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**Whit congratulates Paul Tynda who received a certificate for passing the fingerprinting exam.**

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**John Hadley receives Whit's congratulations for receiving his third Sustained Service Award.**

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*Photos contributed by Whit Vick, FC*

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## Division 14 Meeting at Queen's Harbor 24 March 2012



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**CWO Doug Schubert, C.O. USCG Group Mayport (center) talks with members before the general meeting begins. Others in the photo: Chuck Hayes, FC 14-2 and Scott Debrauwere, FC 14-1 (both standing); Bill Sekeres VCDR14; Claire Bailey SR and Bob Weskerna, DCAPT-N (all seated).**

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**Bob Strong, SO-PE; John Hadley, SO-MA and Kevin Koehl, SO-PA – all are members of Flotilla 14-8**

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*Photos by Whit Vick, FC 14-8*

## Vessel Safety Check Event at Florida Tackle & Gun Club 25 March 2012



Garrett Barket, pictured here with his daughter and Kevin Koehl, attended the ABS class Saturday at the Tackle & Gun Club and decided to have a VSC Sunday. He was awarded a decal. Actually all five done on Sunday were in great shape and were awarded decals.

*Photo by Marlene Koehl*

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

A former member of Flotilla 14-8 has passed away. Jackie O'Brien joined Flotilla 14-8 in 1982. She and Vernon are remembered for their active participation in flotilla activities in the eighties.



Jacqueline Walton O'Brien passed away peacefully March 5, 2012 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Jackie was born Jan. 15, 1930 in Jacksonville as the only child to LD and Madge Walton. She is survived by her loving husband Vernon of 34 years, a daughter and son, 6 step children, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. After graduating from Eastern Air Lines Ground Hostess School in 1966, she served in Jacksonville, Tampa, and Atlanta. She retired in 1982 to enjoy more life experiences with Vernon. Jackie loved flying, boating, camping, dancing and all her wonderful friends. She was a golden member of The Florida Tackle & Gun Club, Florida Aero Club (Jax Chapter), US Coast Guard Auxiliary 14-8, & the Sea Ray Club.

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## Mandarin Newsline – March Edition

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### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

#### Warming Up and the *Eagle*

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

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For 2011, all Auxiliarists in Florida completed 4500 vessel exams, 2000 boating safety classes, and 11,700 hours of marine safety patrols. They also did many other missions as well as 119 search and rescue assists and helped save 22 lives.

For this flotilla's part, and as this mild winter passes, our volunteers are hitting their 2012 stride in pursuit of Auxiliary missions supporting safe boating. Other than writing, I help with Vessel Safety Exams and look forward to Charlie Smith's plan for a series of "blitzes". In April, we'll be at Hooters on San Jose and NAS in support of fishing tournaments. We hope to quickly conduct a thorough safety check at a number of boating locations this year. Typically, we'll appear in two-person teams, a format we find that provides the boater appropriate focus while fitting into their schedule. We will also respond to requests to check your boat wherever it is located. Just tap our website at [www.SafeBoatingJax.com](http://www.SafeBoatingJax.com) in the Public Section.

We'll be getting patrols out this month with our existing patrol craft and perhaps add two more during the season. The crews will be assisting boaters, supplementing security, checking navigation aids and be on the watch for environmental concerns. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, we'll be supporting a Safety Fair at NAS.

Bob Strong and other instructors will present our continuing series of About Boating Safely at Mandarin's Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road, just off San Jose Blvd. April's class is Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup> and another is in May on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The class will run from 7:30am to 5:00pm with 30 minutes for lunch. A fee of \$25 is charged for each student and just \$5 more for the second member of a family. Call Bob at 904-721-1346 to register or find out about similar courses in the Jacksonville area.

You can have a great outing later in the month when from April 26-29, and perhaps until May 3, the Coast Guard training vessel, *CGC Eagle*, will dock at Jacksonville Landing\* and be open for tours. Some of our members will be on hand to lead tours of the ship and support the event.

Anyone with an interest in joining the Auxiliary can contact Becky Habermas via our website in the Public Section under Join and she will guide you through membership.

*\* Editor's note 3/26: Plans are still in the works. The Eagle will be at NS Mayport instead of the Landing. More info to follow.*

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WASHINGTON - The 2012 National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) campaign is scheduled to take place from May 19-25.

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

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## FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

Tuesday 3 April 2012

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

**An Introduction to CPR:**  
**Jeff Blomgren, IPFC will present a short DVD**  
**and demonstration and provide information**  
**to members on how they can become CPR and**  
**First Aid Certified by using online resources**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- 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
- 14 VSC Event – Mulberry Cove Marina – NAS JAX
- 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
- 26-29 USCG Cutter *Eagle* at Naval Station Mayport
- MAY 01 Flotilla Meeting – 1900 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 05-06 Shrimp Festival – Fernandina Beach
- 07 April 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 15 Division Staff Officers' Reports due to VCDR 14
- 12 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 21 VSC Event – Hooters on Goodby's Lake at San Jose Blvd.
- 19-25 National Safe Boating Week – Watch for Special Events TBA
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB

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