
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVIII No. 12

December 2012

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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C. Whitley Vick
Kevin R. Koehl
Carolyn G. Strong

New Leaders elected for 2013: Paul Burns and John Hadley



Left to right: Whit Vick, FC; Kevin Koehl, VFC; Bill Sekeres, DCDR 14 (elect);
Paul Burns, FC (elect) and John Hadley, VFC (elect)

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FROM WHIT VICK - YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Pass Down Log

At the VA, I have the privilege of working with a retired Navy Master Chief who has some of the traits of a border collie, one of them being that he is happiest when working. He is also one of the most motivated and organized humans I have known. He keeps a so-called "pass down log"--a personalized written record of his job description. He tells me he puts things in here he wished he had known sooner. The idea is to "pass down" this knowledge, hopefully making things easier for his replacement. Although I am quite dim compared to his intensity, this gave me the idea to try and come up with something similar for Paul Burns, our new flotilla commander elect and to any others contemplating the position of flotilla commander. These are not deep insights. Some are not original. These simply represent some lessons learned over the past two years.

1. Take it easy. Don't bite off more than you can chew. As much as possible, don't allow others to do this either. It's great to be enthusiastic, but burn out can become a real issue.
2. FSOs: Very important. Choose right, the flotilla benefits, and your job will be much easier. Choose wrong and the opposite occurs.
3. At the flotilla leadership courses you can pick up good tips, some of the best being anecdotes and pearls from those who have been there. Some may be born leaders--I was not, so the courses helped.
4. Take your work seriously, yourself not so much.
5. Say what you mean. Mean what you say.
6. The title "Flotilla Commander" is a misnomer. Although it may be fun to pretend that you--yes, you!--are a "commander", in reality you do not command anything or anyone. The simple truth is you are a volunteer elected to manage other volunteers. Your task is to further the goals of the Auxiliary, outlined broadly in the Auxiliary's four cornerstones, using individuals in your flotilla who choose to participate. Your role is to organize, to delegate to the best-suited individuals the various flotilla jobs, to form a consensus when there are differences of opinion. Also to cheerlead, cajole, encourage, prod, and praise.
7. Praise in public--criticize in private.
8. Leadership by walking around: Get to know your members. Listen to the scuttlebutt in your flotilla and at division meetings. This has the potential to cut off little problems before they become big problems.
9. Leadership by e-mail: Check it often. Answer it promptly.
10. You will make decisions not all will agree on. Get over it. Respect others' point of view. Be willing to negotiate or to change your mind when there is a better idea and where it serves the flotilla best. However, as FC, you must occasionally be willing to pull the trigger based on your best judgment, even if not all agree.

FC report continued on next page...

FC report continued...

11. As much as possible, avoid making enemies. We are doing this job on our free time as volunteers. Enemies should not be part of the equation.
12. Get used to the fact that a lot of the flotilla's work is done by a relatively small number of people. This may be an inevitable fact of life in a totally volunteer organization. I know some members are not able to participate due to their job or other particular life situation. Others, for no apparent reason, choose not to participate. Just be grateful for those willing to participate.
13. Assume that any important documents you give out or mail out will be lost--keep copies of these. Learned this the hard way and should have known better.
14. A calendar given to flotilla commanders by the District 7 Commodore details what you should be doing as far as deadlines, month by month. I never can remember these, but usually get reminded by checking this calendar, a note from division, or by Bob Strong.
15. Go to division meetings. Your flotilla needs representation and you get to network by meeting other FCs and division officers.
16. When in doubt, don't hesitate to call on seasoned flotilla members, which in our flotilla mainly consist of the Strongs. They are always willing to help. Although Bob may not always be right, more often than not he is, and he never lacks conviction. Carolyn, on the other hand, is usually right.
17. Plan for succession of elected and appointed officers. No one can stay at a job forever. Although this is an important and worthy goal, it is definitely easier said than done.
18. Be optimistic--you can choose the attitude you have and convey it to others.
19. Have fun--life is too short not to.

Good luck to Paul Burns, our 2013 Flotilla Commander-elect, and John Hadley, our Vice Flotilla Commander-elect.

Semper paratus

Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander

FROM KEVIN KOEHL - YOUR FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER



Congratulations to Paul Burns and John Hadley who were elected FC and VFC for our flotilla in 2013. Paul and John bring an exceptional level of knowledge and commitment to the Auxiliary and will make vital contributions to our flotilla in these roles. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your VFC this year.

Kevin Koehl, VFC

FLOTILLA 14-8 STAFF OFFICERS

Paul Burns - Communications Services (FSO-CS)
Robert Strong – Finance (FSO-FN)
Marlene Koehl - Information Systems (FSO-IS)
Robert Flaige – Materials (FSO-MA)
Kyle George – Marine Safety (FSO-MS)
John Hadley – Member Training (FSO-MT)
Cris Vonderheide – Navigation Systems (FSO-NS)

Kevin Koehl – Public Affairs (FSO-PA)
Carolyn Strong – Publications (FSO-PB)
Robert Strong – Public Education (FSO-PE)
Rebecca Habermas – Human Resources (FSO-HR)
Marlene Koehl – Program Visitor (FSO-PV)
Charles Smith – Vessel Examination (FSO-VE)
Whit Vick – Operations (FSO-OP)

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - RESPONSE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



John Hadley passed his crew qualifying audit and is now officially a crew member. This increased our flotilla's number of qualified crew by 33%. Congratulations, John. Also, thanks very much to Ted Schneider, Dave Boyle, and Steve Parsons from Flotilla 14-7 for helping John achieve this goal.

Otherwise, operations for our flotilla has mainly consisted of training by the Boat Crew Academy, organized by Don Mooers and Jesse Stevens. Whatley and George Law and Tom Edwards are attending to begin the process of crew certification. Kevin Koehl is attending the coxswain training offered.

All this bodes well for the future of our operations program.

Tom Hayden, Division Commander is working out details for Auxiliary facilities maintaining an on the water security zone for NAS JAX on weekends. 14-8 should play a role in this, depending on boat and crew availability.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - PREVENTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



We will have one last About Boating Safety (ABS) course on December 1, 2012 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club. We have six new members and four nonmembers interested in attending.

Our ABS course scheduled for Saturday, November 10 was cancelled due to lack of interest. The special private course at the Deerwood Country Club for ten students ages 11 to 16 was also cancelled because the women trying to set it up stopped communicating with me.

I am currently working on scheduling our Public Education Courses for 2013.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



Thank you to Kevin Koehl and Whatley Law for assisting me on 10 November at Sailors Exchange (formerly Pier 17) grand opening and flea market. It was a beautiful day for the event which maintained a steady flow of customers.

PV report continued on next page...

PV report continued...

We set up a boating safety information table which gave us an opportunity to talk with and provide the public with Federal Requirements and other safety literature. This event was the last scheduled partner event for 2012, but we hope to continue developing partner relationships next year to expand on our contact with the boating public to make our waterways safe.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - LOGISTICS

HUMAN RESOURCES – REBECCA HABERMAS



We had three new faces at last month's November meeting, Corey Bridges, Marion Linda and Eric Linda.

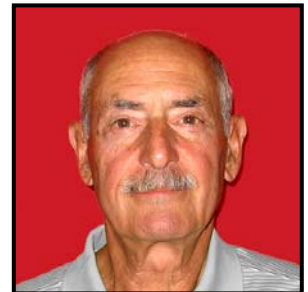
Corey (right) was recently married, (Congratulations Corey) and is on the waiting list for enlistment to the USCG active duty. Unfortunately due to budget cuts, it could be up to 2 years before he is called to go to boot camp. Corey would like to use that time to learn as much as he can about the Auxiliary and active duty Coast Guard as well. He's a college graduate with a background in computers and technology. He works full time in Gainesville but says he still would like to join our flotilla and is willing to make the commute. Corey is interested in becoming Boat Crew certified and also becoming a Radio Watch Stander. He has started the application process and hopes to get his paperwork completed very soon.



Eric and Marion Linda are both retired, formerly from the Boston area and have extensive on the water experience. They also own a 33 foot Sea Ray.

Marion (left) is a Graduate of Framingham University and is a retired Manufacturer's Representative from the New England area. She has computer skills and was an Officer at the Metropolitan Yacht Club. Marion also does volunteer work for the American Cancer Society. She hopes to help in the Auxiliary by getting Boat Crew qualified and learning more about Radio Watch Standing.

Eric (right) is a Boston College graduate and is retired from the Raytheon Corporation after 23 years, working in Traffic Control Systems. He enjoys SCUBA diving and is also Rescue Diver Qualified. His interests also include Boat Crew training and in getting Air Observer qualified.



Eric and Marion said they may be interested in joining our flotilla early next year.

Becky Habermas, FSO-HR

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL



Please remember that REYR reports will be run on 31 December and any unreported mission hours should be submitted to me by 15 December in order to avoid going into REYR status. If you have any unresolved IS issues for this year, please contact me at mekoehl@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



Sailors Exchange in Ortega, formerly Pier 17, conducted a grand opening event including a marine flea market on November 10. The Auxiliary was asked to provide an information table. The event was well attended and I took the opportunity to pick a few bargains for my vessel, *TIKA*. Thanks to Marlene Koehl for coordinating Auxiliary participation and along with Whatley Law manning the information table. While this is the last scheduled PA event for 2012, we have already been asked to provide an information table for a Health and Wellness Fair at Alpine Groves Park in Switzerland scheduled on January 19. We will need volunteers to man the table from 7:30-12:00.

Thanks to our members who volunteered their time to support our 2012 PA events.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

PUBLICATIONS – CAROLYN STRONG



Flotilla Staff Officers are reminded to forward their reports to the Publications Officer by the 20th of each month. We are always open to submissions of photographs and articles by our members. This is your newsletter and your input is valued. If you are a new member, submit an article about the training you are receiving and what you have learned from it. If you are beginning crew training, please write about your experiences on the water. I would love to get some "Sea Stories" to publish.

If you have held an appointed office in 2012, I would like to see reports from you for the January issue that include a summary of accomplishments in 2012. If you have accepted a new office for 2013, please write about goals you hope to achieve for that office in the New Year.

Also, if you are inclined toward working with photographs and with Microsoft word or other publication software, please let me know. I would like to start training someone to eventually take on the job of Flotilla Staff Officer – Publications. Thanks to those who submitted photos this month. You make *Eight Bells* a prize winning newsletter.

Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB

FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

Congratulations:



Newly certified crew member John Hadley, received his Boat Crew certificate; a Certificate of Excellence for Radio Watch Standing and his sixth Sustained Service Award, along with thanks and congratulations from Whit Vick, FC at the Nov 8 flotilla meeting.

NOVEMBER 8 FLOTILLA MEETING - CONTINUED



Whit congratulates Kevin Koehl and presents his certificate for completion of the Navigation Rules exam.

Whatley Law received congratulations and his certificate as Vessel Examiner.



Tom Edwards received a warm welcome and his New Member packet from Whit.

Carolyn Strong received a Sustained Service Award.



*Meeting photos
By Carolyn Strong
and Marlene Koehl*

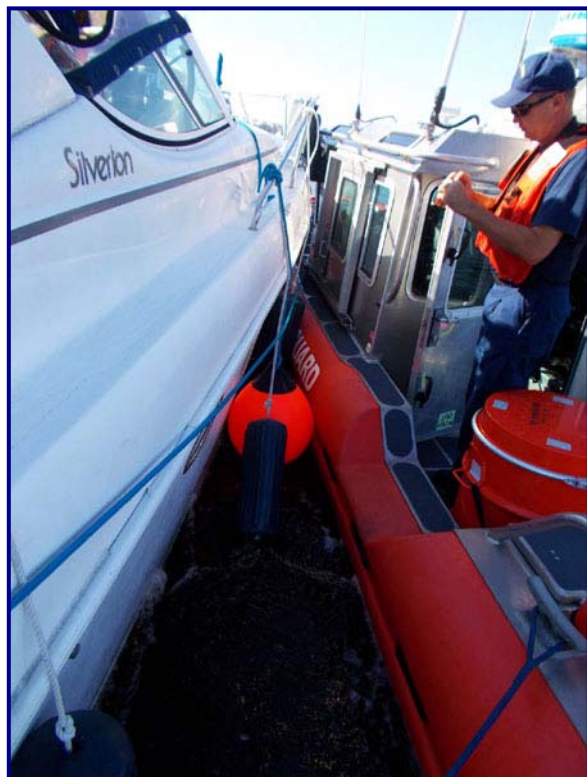
On the Water:

NOVEMBER 3 - COXSWAIN TRAINING PATROL NEAR BLOUNT ISLAND

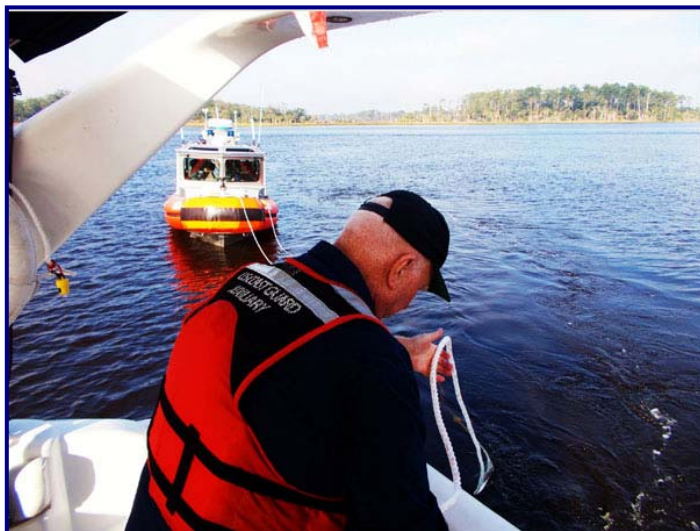
Photos by Chris Bonnevier, Flotilla 14-7



USCG vessel was on hand to help with Towing exercises. Dames Point Bridge in background.



Side-by-side towing (above)



NOVEMBER 3 - COXSWAIN TRAINING PATROL - CONTINUED



Kevin Koehl, our VFC took part in this training so he can become a certified coxswain.

A successful "Mission Accomplished"



A couple of hitch hikers...just came along for the ride.

PA and PV Event

NOVEMBER 10 AT SAILORS EXCHANGE

“It was a beautiful day for the event which maintained a steady flow of customers. We set up a boating safety information table which gave us an opportunity to talk with and provide the public with Federal Requirements and other safety literature.”

Kevin and Marlene Koehl, along with Whatley Law manned the table.



Marlene and Kevin (above)

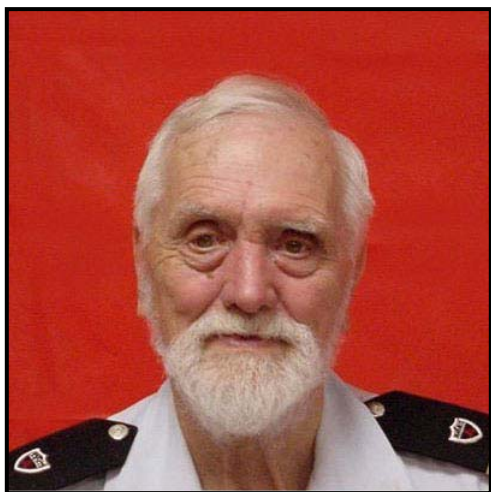


Kevin, Marlene and Whatley (right)

photos submitted by Whatley Law

IN MEMORIAM

RAYMOND R. RAINER



Ray Rainer, age 92, died November 1, 2012 of Alzheimer's disease. Raised in Milwaukee, Ray moved to Jacksonville as a young man where he worked with his father and brother in the construction business. In the Army during WWII, he served in the Pacific including Luzon, the liberation of the Philippines and occupation of Japan and was awarded 2 bronze stars and 4 service ribbons. He was married 46 yrs to Josephine, who died 6 weeks before him. Ray & Josephine were members of many organizations including the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8; Jacksonville Sail and Power Squadron; Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion; Grange; and the Young at Heart group at church. Ray is survived by his sister, Ruth Jackson; brother Russell Rainer

(Sybil); and 11 nieces and nephews, all of Jacksonville. His family received friends on Friday evening, November 9. The Auxiliary Honor Guard stood watch at the funeral home. A funeral mass was celebrated at 11:00 am, Saturday November 10, at St Matthew's Catholic Church, followed by interment with military honors at Riverside Memorial Park.



The Division 14 USCGAUX Honor Guard stood watch as Ray's family and friends gathered.

Josephine and Ray both received Auxiliary Membership Service Awards and Certificates of Retirement from the Auxiliary in January 2007 after 35 Years of Dedicated Service to Flotilla 14-8. They joined our flotilla in November 1971. Ray served as our FSO-MA for more than 25 years.

Flotilla News

Flotilla Holiday Dinner

Thursday December 20th
6:30pm

Please RSVP no later than December 12th

Vito's Italian Restaurant

3825 Baymeadows Rd
(at Intersection of San Jose Blvd)



An Authentic Sicilian-Italian, Family run business

This is Paul Burns' Favorite Restaurant

"I've been eating here twice a month for over 10 years.

I highly recommend.....everything on the menu. I've had it all!"...Paul

From reasonably priced pizza, calzones, and pastas to
gourmet chicken, veal and seafood dishes

Visit: <http://www.vitosjax.com/>

Please make a special effort to bring your spouse and
celebrate the holiday with Flotilla 14-8 at Vito's

We need to send a head count for reservation by December 12th.

Please RSVP to Carolyn Strong, cgstrong@comcast.net

Or call 904-721-7828

The Flotilla 14-8 Change of Watch will take place on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club with fellowship starting at 6:30 and dinner at 7.

Reserve the date...mark your calendar NOW. Invite your spouse and friends.

Mandarin Newsline – November Edition



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

Action Oriented

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

After a string of articles focused on aspects of boating safety and other single issues, it's time to reacquaint you with what the flotilla has been up to recently and some coming events. For a group of forty-some members, I don't see how anyone would not be impressed with how many notable activities occur.

Our Operations team went to the Palatka area in September where they worked on boat crew training with another flotilla. In mid-October, our patrol craft, the *Carlie II*, and boats from other flotillas assisted a rowing race on the Arlington River by maintaining an area safe from motorized boats, warning off quite a few. Also in October, we sent examiners to NAS JAX to assist with their RiverFest 2012 event and conduct Vessel Safety Checks. Another member assisted the Jacksonville Beach flotilla with a security patrol prior to the annual Air Show that featured the USN Blue Angel aerobatics team.

An interesting Guest Speaker season was concluded at October's flotilla meeting with an inspirational presentation from CAPT. Andy Anderson, USN (Ret.). The third Thursday of October found a number of members meeting at *Los Loros* restaurant for an informal monthly get together that rotates throughout the Mandarin area. Our usual strong schedule of public Boating Safety courses was wrapped up in mid-October with students enjoying the benefits of live instruction from experienced boaters. On November 10th we provided the Sailor's Exchange marine store (former Pier 17) with a safety contact and vessel examiner booth.

For the future, our annual Holiday Dinner will be at Vito's Italian Restaurant in December, followed in January with the Change of Watch ceremony to install new leaders. Operations is planning to assist NAS JAX with regular enforcement of their restricted boating zone on the St. Johns River. The flotilla will also have the lead for Auxiliary support to the 2013 Air Show at the NAS.

And there are, of course, the obligatory "maintenance" issues such as electing new leaders, encouraging training, keeping expenditures straight, member awareness and recording time. The business of getting all those tasks and the noted events done is carried out through the collective efforts of volunteers equipped with the training, organization and camaraderie. Read more about what we do and what boating and marine issues we can link you to, at the flotilla's website, www.safeboatingjax.com.



Always remember that people are not suspicious, behavior is!



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

**America's
Volunteer
Guardians**
Since 1939

FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2012

**Fellowship & Refreshments 7 PM - Business Meeting 7:30 PM
Florida Tackle and Gun Club**

*** **

Holiday Dinner December 20

VITO'S Italian Restaurant

3825 Baymeadows Rd

Gather at 6:30, dinner at 7:00 PM

Casual dress - no uniforms required

Make reservations now, Email cgstrong@comcast.net

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

DEC	01	ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
	04	Flotilla Meeting – 1900 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
	07	7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
	15	Division Staff Officers Reports due to division
	15	Final Date for Unreported Mission Hours – to FSO-IS
	20	Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
	20	Holiday Dinner Social – Vitto's Italian Restaurant – 1730
JAN	08	Flotilla Change of Watch Dinner – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
	12	Division 14 Change of Watch Dinner – Embassy Suites

Happy Holidays! See you in the New Year!

8 IS GREAT !

Visit our award winning website at www.SafeBoatingJax.com



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