

---

# EIGHT



# BELLS

---

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

**Volume XXXIX No. 2**

**February 2013**

FLOTILLA COMMANDER  
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER  
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

[PBurns@SafeBoatingJax.com](mailto:PBurns@SafeBoatingJax.com)  
[john.hadley83@yahoo.com](mailto:john.hadley83@yahoo.com)  
[cgstrong@comcast.net](mailto:cgstrong@comcast.net)

Paul B. Burns  
John K. Hadley  
Carolyn G. Strong

## 14-8 Leaders and Staff Assume Office



**Left to Right: Whatley Law, FSO-VE; Tom Edwards, FSO-SR; Bob Strong, FSO-FN/PE; Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB/Historian; Whit Vick, FSO-OP; Cris Vonderheide, FSO-NS; Becky Habermas, FSO-HR; John Hadley, VFC/FSO-MA/MT; Paul Burns, FC/FSO-CS; Jeff Blomgren, Past FC and Bill Sekeres, DCDR Administered the Oath of Office at The Flotilla 14-8 Change of Watch on January 8, 2013.**

---

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

## FROM PAUL BURNS - YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Everybody should realize that our accomplishments and activities are frequently viewed and recognized outside of our flotilla. I have mentioned before how our newsletter reflects our flotilla in action. I was pleased to receive a compliment this month on one of our FSO's report in the Eight Bells and how this type of reporting and communication influences both older and newer members in a positive way. It's not uncommon for Coast Guard Auxiliary Officers on the division and district level to comment on the activities that they read about in our own newsletter. So, thanks to Becky for

her excellent reporting and thanks to Carolyn for delivering a newsletter that people look forward to reading. To everybody else, I challenge you to do your jobs with pride and excellence and report and document your accomplishments.

January has been a busy month with Change of Watch ceremonies, meetings, and reports. Personally, I'm ready to get down to business and start interacting with the public. By the time you read this the January Boat Show will have come and gone. The Auxiliary will have talked to hundreds of boaters eager to get out on the water and have some fun. Flotilla 14-2 was in charge of a safe boating booth for the show.

Our flotilla's first Public Education class on February 9 looks to be excitingly full of students. We will need some volunteers from our membership to help our instructors out. So if you are interested in becoming an instructor, please talk to Bob Strong about helping with this first class of the season.

After our January Change of Watch somebody asked a very good question, "So what do we do now?" Well, now is the time that we prepare for a busy boating season which will be arriving before we know it.

### **If you are a staff officer, it's time to put your plan for the year together.**

- It's time to make some phone calls, ask some questions, contact your Division Staff Officer. Make some lists of things that you need to do before business picks up.
- It's time to put together a Program Visitor plan so we have the materials in place when people start thinking about boating again.
- It's time to plan some Vessel Examination events. Decide which marinas and boat ramps will be busiest and offer the best opportunities to meet boaters and offer our services.
- It's time to ask new members to come and join your planned activities.
- It's time to think about Safe Boating Week in May. How can we make an impact on the public when we have the advantage of a national campaign and media support?
- It's time to plan some Public Affairs events.
- It's time to contact fellow staff officers and plan some joint events.
- It's time to decide when we can do one of those patrols at NAS Jacksonville.
- It's time to think about what we will do this year at the Air Show which will take place in our own back yard.
- It's time to start your "Auxiliary Calendar" so events and important weekends don't catch you by surprise, and so you know when to file your reports.

### **If you are new to the Auxiliary:**

- It's time to get your uniform parts ordered if you haven't yet.
- It's time to go online and get certified as an Instructor, Program Visitor or Vessel Examiner.
- It's time to contact your assigned mentors and ask "What do I do next" and of course it's time for mentors who have been assigned new members to contact your new member partner and develop a plan to get them into Auxiliary activities.
- It's time to make a list of things that interest you about the Auxiliary and discuss it with others before or after our next meeting.
- It's time for somebody to say "I found a new great place to eat. Let's add it to our Monthly Fellowship Dinner list".
- It's time for somebody to pass on a new article that's about boating or boating safety or the Auxiliary and say "Can we do this?"

### **If you haven't been to an Auxiliary meeting or activity in a while:**

- It's time to drop in and see what we are doing.
- It's time to make a list of "What I want to accomplish with the Auxiliary this year."

It's time for me to get all those boxes of stuff that Whit gave me, out of my car, go through them and find out how to be a Flotilla Commander

Here's to a great new month in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

*Paul Burns, Flotilla Commander*

## **FLOTILLA 14-8 STAFF OFFICERS**

Paul Burns - Communications Services (FSO-CS)  
Bob Strong – Finance (FSO-FN)  
Rebecca Habermas – Human Resources (FSO-HR)  
Marlene Koehl - Information Systems (FSO-IS)  
John Hadley – 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)  
Bob Strong – Public Education (FSO-PE)  
David Fay – Program Visitor (FSO-PV)  
Whatley Law – Vessel Examination (FSO-VE)  
Whit Vick – Operations (FSO-OP)  
Tom Edwards – Secretary of Records (FSO-SR)

## **Updating Expiring ID Cards**

Those members who have been in the Auxiliary 5 years or longer will eventually have to renew their ID cards. As well, those of us who have been around since the original DHS ID cards were issued will find that our ID cards need to be renewed this year, and possibly very soon. So, **take a look at the expiration date on your card.** If you have been a member more than 5 years, you may soon be contacted about renewing your card (more information to follow).

## FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - RESPONSE

### **OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK**



On 19 January, a patrol was done on our flotilla's lone facility, *Carlie II*. This was to patrol the security zone off NAS Jax. Jesse Stevens, SO-OP 14 graciously filled in at the last minute for our 14-8 crew. Whatley Law and I rounded out the crew. This was a beautiful but windy day with estimated 15-10 knot winds and 1-2 foot seas. The boat did fine, however in our small open boat we did get wet as we slogged northward into the wind and waves. Fortunately for me I was able to maneuver the boat to keep myself in the lee of our two larger crew members most of the time. We ran just to the east of the security zone perimeter from south to north and encountered only one small fishing boat close to the zone, whom we warned about staying out of the zone. Auxiliarist Chuck Hayes, Flotilla 14-2, served as our radio watch at Station Mayport for part of the day. At the end of the patrol, we enjoyed a fine lunch at a riverside eatery where we were able to dock our boat. All in all, a fine day.

After the patrol, I trailered *Carlie II* back to St Simons Island, GA, where the boat is kept in dry storage. I have been in contact with the Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 10-10 in St Simons and Jesse Stevens, our SO-OP who indicate we may do patrols out of St Simons with 14-8 (or 10-10) crew and trainees. This might be a good option until we can get a facility kept permanently in Jacksonville. St Simons is only about 1 hour 15 minutes - 1 hour 30 minutes north of Jacksonville.

We currently have three members in training for crew and one for coxswain. All should be able to qualify this spring or summer if they keep at it.

*Whit Vick, FSO-OP*

## FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - PREVENTION

### **MEMBER TRAINING – JOHN HADLEY**



This month we have already experienced some difficulties with getting members notified of particular training they might need/want. This occurred by the short-lead on the AUXLAM (Auxiliary Leadership and Management) Training/ Part A and B. These courses are not being offered until possibly May-June in our district, but the opportunity to get enrolled opened and slammed shut with dispatch...!

The importance of the courses cannot be overstated, since it gives potential and recently-elected leaders (flotilla and up) the practical tools they need to become effective leaders and to 'tap into' the parallel staffing system and the Leadership and Management apparatus, which we all learned about as new members. The failure to get this course publicized in time was corroborated by my discussions with other members of the division staff this past weekend. I intend to take this matter up with my superior on the district staff. I hope that we can address this to the satisfaction of our members this year.

*MT Report continued on page 5...*

*MT Report continued...*

Additionally, the recent accession of the AUXOP specialty course in weather (AUXWEA) was supposed to start the 15th. I passed the word via email to many of our members, and on the appointed day found that failure to be on-line on time was fatal. If you weren't there, too bad. This is not a critical thing, I just felt that it would have been an additional venue to enable our members more instruction. There is another way to accomplish this, in the division, so no milk spilled.

Finally, we have all received - or all should have received - notification of the new AUXLMS required courses. These will simplify the annual training in sexual harassment, and other trainings the gold-side already experiences. I will send to all members, the original email which I received from the gold-side, as well as the same document which I will pass around as a hand out at the February meeting, and we will have a flip chart presentation of that at the same time, to clarify the new policy. I conclude this report with the observation that as I get into these duties, I find that more and more material is coming to light which will come to me in my new position on the division staff as the member training officer. I intend to use this position to get some of the inside info and lead times which I hope to place in front of you. Unless we specifically plan class-time for some training, almost all of the common-use material will have to be accomplished by you, the Auxiliary Member. It is my duty to ensure you have the facts to access what you want and need to be informed.

*John Hadley, FSO-MT*

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



I am currently working on scheduling our Public Education Courses for 2013. Please let me know if you plan to become an instructor in 2013. I have decided to set up an instructor training day in February. If you wish to make your qualifying presentations to become an instructor before a select group of flotilla instructors, instead of before a class, please let me know.

Our first About Boating Safety (ABS) course will be held on Saturday February 9 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club. Our second course will be on March 9 and our third on April 6. Please let me know if you will be available to assist with any of these courses.

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE*

## **FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - LOGISTICS**

### **COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS**



#### **Disable "Java" On Your Computer, but Understand What Java Is**

The Department of Homeland Security, along with numerous security experts, has recommended that whenever possible, that individuals and businesses especially, should disable Java from running in their Internet browsers. But these warnings have led to quite a lot of not mass confusion.

Java is a computer programming language used for "Good" computer operations. It is used heavily in website programming.

The problem with Java is, its programmers who work for a company called "Oracle", have been unable to keep it safe from bad, virus and malicious software programmers who use it to break into unsuspecting computer user's computers and taking control of the computer from a remote location. "Hacking" is a real short term for what I just described) Java's lack of security makes it an excellent hacking tool.

*CS Report continued on page 6...*



*CS Report continued...*

However, not all Java is bad which makes it even more confusing. The Java that we suggest that you disable runs in your Internet Browser. (Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Safari, etc.) It is called a "Plug In" and it is easy to turn off. Most likely, if you have not specifically turned it off, it's running when you go online.

What experts suggest that you do is, disable the Java plug-in and see if your Internet works the way that you want it to. The chances are, you will never know that it's not working. You won't miss it. I have not found any Coast Guard Auxiliary applications that have not worked for me with Java turned off. As a matter of fact I have yet to want to reactivate Java on my own computers.

If you do miss it, re-enable it and make sure that you always have the most recent Java version and updates downloaded directly from "Oracle". I would also suggest doing a Google search "Secure Java for Business" and read up on some of the articles on the subject.

#### **Here is how to disable Java in Internet Explorer**

1. Open your Internet Explorer
2. On one of the bars at the top, find the "Tools" menu.
3. Find the item in the Tools called "Manage Add-ons", open that.
4. Scroll through the list and find "Java(tm) Plug-In SSV Helper" and any others with similar names. The "Status" Column will tell you if it is Enabled or Disabled.
5. If it is Enabled, then right click on the Java item and choose "Disable"
6. Close your browser, then re-open the tools and double check the Java says "Disabled" next to it.

Finally, I always insist that you keep a working and updated anti virus program on your computer. **Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE)** is my recommendation. It takes the place of your "Norton" or "McAfee" so if you use **MSE**, remove the others. It is free from Microsoft, it works automatically after it is installed, and it really stops infections before they start doing bad things to your computer.

*Paul Burns, FSO-CS*

---

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



Annual Member Letters for 2012 were emailed in January after the final REYR reports were run. If you did not receive this email with the attachment or if you have any questions regarding your 2012 status, please let me know. With the start of a new year, this would be a good time to make the commitment to regularly report your volunteer hours. Auxiliary reporting forms can be found by going to the following link <http://forms.cgaux.org/email.php>.

Remember that 7029 reports are due monthly. Most other reports should be submitted as missions are completed. Please contact me at [mekoehl@gmail.com](mailto:mekoehl@gmail.com) if you have questions or need help getting started with any form.

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS*

---

#### **MATERIALS – JOHN HADLEY**



The new years' work in materials is just a continuation from the ending of last year. We have several new members eager to start their work in their training to become crew and coxswain members. This places a little excitement on me, but fortunately, I made some great friends last year in some of the other flotillas and this past weekend I was able to get some agreement for searches to locate more of the right-sized equipment. *MA Report continued on page 7...*

MA Report continued...

Not to overlook the obvious - turnover from our recently resigned friend Bob Flaige - I need to say that a highly professional bit of work has been done. Bob still has a couple of things to wind up, and I want to say here that I am greatly indebted to him for that. I do not have all of the files and materials yet, but this will be done by Tuesday, January 22 as of this writing.

The next two items on my agenda as materials officer, is the annual material accounting, and the solicitation for the newly-minted flotilla staff officers of the published materials they will need as they embark on their duties. I look forward to helping in this matter, and want to remind everyone to notify me either in person, on the telephone, or by email of their needs.

I will present a short talk at the flotilla meeting, to clarify which materials I can - and cannot - provide, and why.

*John Hadley, FSO-MA*

---

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL**



Leslie Grabeman from Nocatee in Ponte Vedra is holding a safety fair on February 16, from 1000 to 1400 and has requested an Information table from the Auxiliary. Marlene and I are out of town and can't assist, but we need two volunteers to staff the table. Nocatee is located about 3 miles west of the Palm Valley Bridge on CR210. What is involved is taking a table and literature down to the event and manning the table for 4 hours. I know this is a drive for many of you, but if you are available and willing, it is an opportunity to make a favorable impression on a rapidly growing area that is really on the borderline of several flotillas. Drop me an email or call me at 904-923-6645 if you are available.

NOTE: ODUs are to be worn for this event. Please respond ASAP.

*Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*

---

### **PUBLICATIONS – CAROLYN STRONG**



Flotilla Staff Officers are reminded to forward their reports to the Publications Officer by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. You should remember to copy (CC) John Hadley, VFC on your reports as well. If you are new to your staff office, you can access past issues of *Eight Bells* for ideas on how to write your reports.

You can access the newsletter archive from our website's home page, [www.SafeBoatingJax.com](http://www.SafeBoatingJax.com) from the left column menu under "Coast Guard Auxiliary Publications" then look for "Eight-Bells".

*Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB*



**Whatley Law  
on Crew  
Training  
Patrol with  
Jesse Stevens,  
SO-OP, aboard  
Whit Vick's  
Carlie II**

*Photos by W Vick*



# FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

## January 8 Change of Watch Dinner



**CWO2 Doug Schubert and Sam Schubert**



**Paul and Carol Burns**



**Debra Braddock, Rear Commodore Epping Forest Yacht Club and Don Braddock**



**Rusty Gardner and Chrystal Wickline**



**Jeff and Karol Blomgren**





**Iris and Don Rodely**



**Charles White and Ralph Little**



**Carol and Charles Taylor**



**Becky Habermas and George Law**



**Charles White and Becky Habermas  
With Daniel Rosado**



**Tom Edwards and Whatley Law**

# Congratulations!



**Whatley Law and Tom Edwards each received  
Certificates of Completion for TCT Training**



**George Law, Whatley Law and Tom Edwards  
All Received their Membership ID Cards**



**John Hadley received an Auxiliary Sustained  
Service Award for another 750 hours of service**



# Change of Watch

**John Hadley, VFC and Paul Burns, FC  
Took the Oath of Office,  
Administered by Bill Sekeres, DCDR 14**



**Carol Burns helped Paul with his FC Shoulder Boards while Beverly Hadley helped John with his VFC Shoulder Boards**



**Whit Vick, IPFC turned over the flotilla gavel to Paul and Paul presented a Past FC Plaque to Whit**





**Whit and Paul exchanged gifts,  
The Past FC Burgee and FC Pennant**

**Becky Habermas received the  
coveted Andy Anderson Award from  
the Awards Chairman Bob Strong,  
for her outstanding year of service to  
Flotilla 14-8.**



**Bob Strong presented the new  
Pete Field Award plaque to Cris  
Vonderheide for his hours spent  
in On-the-Water Operations  
last year.**



## Special Guests



**Bill Sekeres, DCDR 14 provided an update on Auxiliary and Division News**



**CWO2 Doug Schubert, CO Station Mayport Updated us on news from the Coast Guard and the Station and Sector.**

*Photos by Carolyn Strong*

---

## Flotilla "Night Out"!



Please join us for Fun, Fellowship and Good Food

Thursday, February 21

Gather at 6:30 PM

10131 San Jose Blvd

---

---

## Mandarin Newsline – November Edition

---



### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update Change and Serve

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

---

By regulation, chance and events the flotilla changes steadily in good ways. Of course, we're interested in those changes, but they aren't just for us since we are volunteers here to serve the interest of public water safety. I hope you'll read along to get insight on who we are and what we can do for you this year, perhaps so using our services or joining us will become a consideration.

With our version of term limits, the leader can only be reelected once, although they can return through election after a year break. Our new chief was formally sworn in at our annual Change of Watch ceremony and dinner at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club in early January. Paul Burns is an experienced Auxiliary officer and has made our website, <http://www.safeboatingjax.com/>, twice the best amongst hundreds of flotillas. Paul is also an avid boater and major source of computer savvy. Goals he has adopted for 2013 include increases to overall activities and social events and adding to our patrol craft.

He will be joined by an experienced staff of 12, plus three new members from among those joining us this past year. Partially by design and part good fortune, new staff can count on advice from the experience of former holders of their position to guide them. We added a total of 10 new members in 2012. Besides seeking staff positions, some new members have joined others in training as boat crew.

Events we'll participate in will include Boat Shows and the Jax NAS Air Show in 2013. Our patrol craft will assist with many events including fireworks, regattas, environmental observations and port security missions. We'll have crew working out of Welaka and you'll see us frequently at West Marine stores, at the Mandarin and Goodby's Creek ramps and at marinas throughout our area, especially Julington Creek, Mandarin Holiday and North Florida Yachts. If you call our vessel examiners you can even see us wherever your boat is moored or parked. We'll have safety events with Mulberry Cove Marina at NAS, as well as conduct our role in NAS' security zone. If you take advantage of the benefits of our live safety instruction, you may be with us on February 9th at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club. Later classes will be in a new location on Philips Highway near University Blvd. You can check our website for more class information or call Bob Strong at 904-721-1346. We hope you make our services a Resolution you keep this year.

---

# Meet our Division 14 Officers and Staff



**Bill Sekeres, Division Commander (DCDR)**

Bill is a Past Flotilla Commander of Arlington Flotilla 14-2 and Immediate Past Division Vice Commander 14



**Victor Aquino, Division Vice Commander (VCDR)**

Vic is a Past Commander of St Augustine Flotilla 14-7



**Tom Hayden,  
Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCR)**

Tom is a Past Commander of Amelia Island Flotilla 14-1

---

## Division 14 Staff Officers – 2013

John Russette, Communications (SO-CM)  
Paul Burns, Communication Services (SO-CS)  
Joe Blanchard, Finance (SO-FN)  
David Hensel, Human Resources (SO-HR)  
Robert Cook, Information Services (SO-IS)  
Steve Craven, Materials (SO-MA)  
Libbie Rattrie, Marine Safety (SO-MS)  
John Hadley, Member Training (SO-MT)  
Neil Rattrie, Navigation Services (SO-NS)  
Jesse Stevens, Operations (SO-OP)

Robert Schultz, Public Affairs (SO-PA)  
Kirk Altman, Publications (SO-PB)  
Bob Strong, Public Education (SO-PE)  
Chuck Hayes, Program Visitation (SO-PV)  
Phil Tallon, Vessel Examination (SO-VE)  
Vacant – Secretary/Records (SO-SR)  
Annette Schultz – Diversity (DSO-DV)  
Bill Sekeres – Director of Honor Guard,  
Uniform and Flag Advisor



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

**America's  
Volunteer  
Guardians**  
Since 1939

## **FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday 5 February 2013**

**1900 - Fellowship & Refreshments    1930 - Meeting**

**Florida Tackle and Gun Club**

**9010 San Jose Blvd**

## **FLOTILLA "NIGHT OUT"**

**Thursday 21 February 2013**

**1830 – Social Hour and Dinner**

**The Red Elephant Pizza and Grill**

**10131 San Jose Blvd**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

<b>FEB</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Flotilla Meeting – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club – 1900</b>
	<b>07</b>	<b>7029 Reports due to FSO-IS</b>
	<b>09</b>	<b>ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club</b>
	<b>16</b>	<b>Nocatee Health and Safety Fair – 1000 to 1400</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC &amp; FSO-PB</b>
<b>MAR</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Flotilla "Night Out" – Red Elephant – 1830</b>
	<b>05</b>	<b>Flotilla Meeting – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club – 1900</b>
	<b>07</b>	<b>7029 Reports due to FSO-IS</b>
	<b>09</b>	<b>ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC &amp; FSO-PB</b>
	<b>21</b>	<b>Flotilla "Night Out" – Location TBD</b>

## **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:** The Privacy Act of 1974 protects names, addresses, telephone/fax numbers and e-mail addresses of Flotilla 14-8 members which may appear in this or other USCGAUX publications. As a matter of policy, information described above is not made available to the general public or outside groups without that member's expressed and/or written consent. When such information appears, its privacy shall be safeguarded and the information will be clearly labeled. Publication of this information by the general public and/or outside groups is prohibited by the Privacy Act.