

14-8

Eight Bells

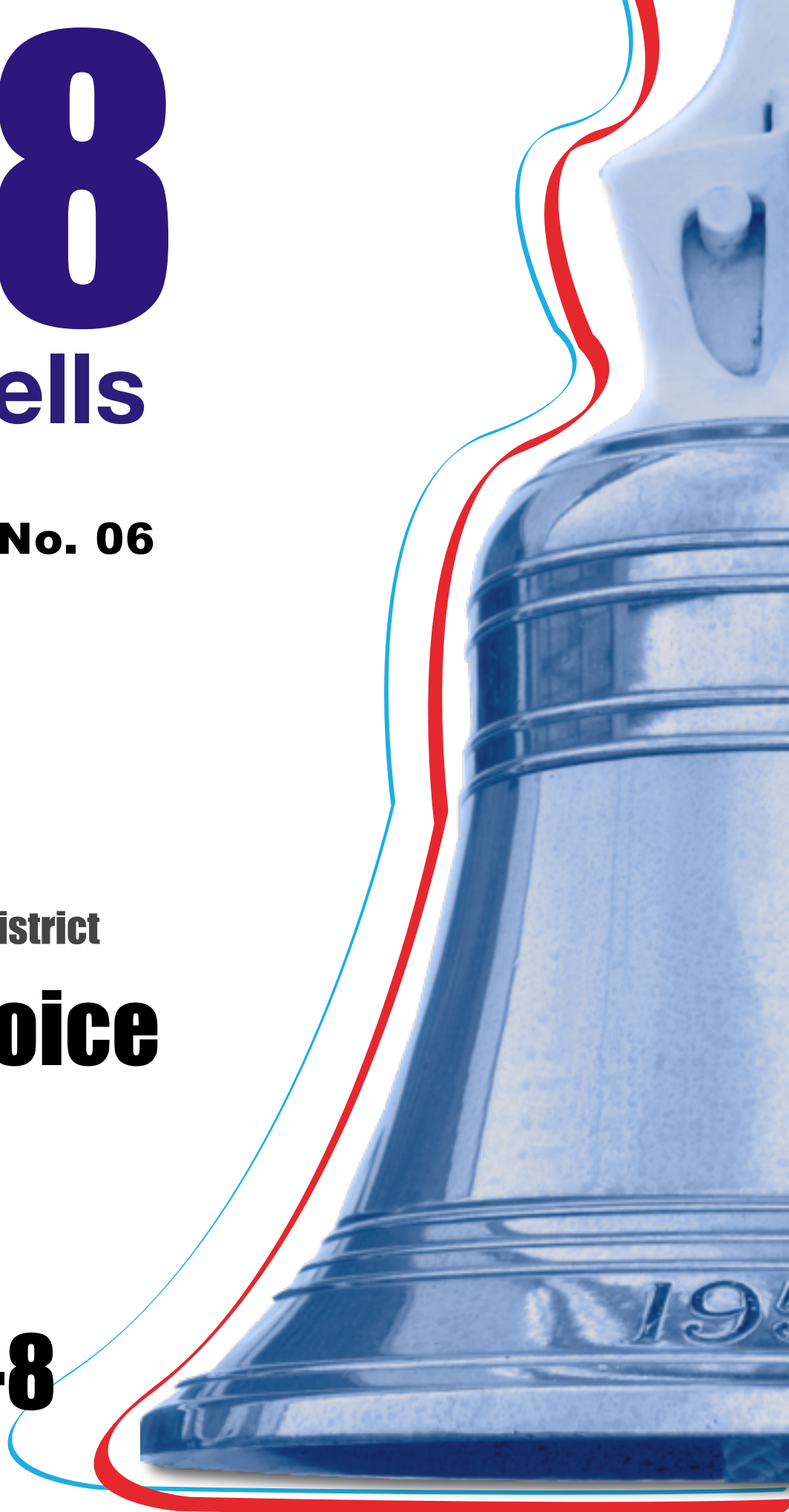
June 2014

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Seventh Coast Guard District

Monthly Voice of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8

Jacksonville, Florida





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June 3rd, Come Celebrate Some Significant Milestones in Flotilla 14-8's History

We have special plans for our June 3rd meeting. We will be celebrating some significant milestones in our flotilla's history. As our flotilla marks its 45th year of service to Jacksonville. We have two individuals who have also reached significant and notable terms of service.

On 19 April 1969 USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 10-8 was chartered at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club, Jacksonville, Florida. In 1971 the USCG reorganized and Flotilla 10-8 became Flotilla 14-8. I wish that I had time to list all the members who have contributed so much time and effort to make Jacksonville's boating public safer and better educated, but this month we would like to honor two members who contributed significantly to our flotilla and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Two men who have left an in-erasable footprint on our community.

Bob Strong celebrates 50 years of service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary

On June 24th, 1964, Bob Strong joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Washington, D.C.. He joined Flotilla 14-8 in March of 1978 after moving to Jacksonville. Bob was elected Flotilla Commander 5 times serving in 1982, 1990, 1991, 1998, 1999.

A majority of Bob's half century Auxiliary career has been dedicated to Flotilla Leadership, Vessel Examination and Public Education.

Please make an effort to attend our meeting on June 3rd to personally congratulate Bob and thank him for his contribution to our flotilla and the Auxiliary.





PNACO Bill Edgerton

Past National Commodore, Bill Edgerton Celebrates 35 years of Service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

COMO Bill joined the Auxiliary and Flotilla 14-8 on March 2, 1979. Since then, the members of flotilla 14-8 have gotten a truly unique perspective on how the Auxiliary operates on all levels as Bill Edgerton and Past National Vice Commodore Joe Norman, ascended through the elected ranks to the Auxiliary's highest offices.

Flotilla Commander 1985-1986

Division Vice Captain 1989-1990

Division Captain 1991-1992

District Rear Commodore - North 1993-1994

District Vice Commodore 1995-96

District Commodore 1997-1998

National Vice Commodore - Atlantic 1999 - 2000

National Vice Commodore 2001-2002

National Commodore 2003-2004

I know that you will want to come meet Bill and share his accomplishments.

Paul Burns, FC

Flotilla Commander

June 2014 Eight Bells Report Part 2

A "Milestone" is defined as a significant event in the development of something or someone. Certainly the accomplishments of our members create milestones in the development of our flotilla and should be recognized when they occur. It's quite an honor for me to be Flotilla Commander when members of our flotilla achieve service awards of 20 years or more. Last year I was able to present two 25 year awards to members of flotilla 14-8. Now I get to present 35 year and 50 year awards to members who have had significant influence on my own development and milestones in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I hope that we have many more such celebrations in our future.

National Safe Boating Week is behind us now and our membership was out in full force. We had 17 students in our PE Class led by Bob Strong. Eric and Marion Linda participated in the Water Safety Fair at the Jacksonville Zoo with a display and PA booth. Whatley Law rallied the Vessel Examiners to the local boat ramps, John Hadley arranged for a big pre-NSBW event at Epping Forest Yacht Club, and we managed to have two fellowship dinners to both prepare for the events and celebrate our accomplishments after.

Flotilla 14-8's display at the Jacksonville Zoo During National Safe Boating Week was a popular event. Photos of the event are later in this newsletter in the events section.

The Safe Boating Class during National Safe Boating Week included 17 students and two Auxiliary member candidates.

Remember the boating season is only getting started. Be visible and set an example for safe boating.



Pictures from the May 17th *About Boating Safely* class, submitted by Paul Burns.

John Hadley, VFC

Flotilla Vice Commander

Keeping It Timely

Our flotilla meeting this month was great and our May meeting was really good. A number of little things came out when we all spoke about our roles to our guests. I am sure, when each of us were done they all had an idea a lot has to mesh so the machinery works well. Nowhere is that more apparent than in three departments which, we all tend to take less seriously than we should. Those three departments are Publications, Human Resources, and Information Services.

There is an old saying, "When you want something done on time, give it to a busy person." Nowhere do I see this more than in the work our women are doing: Chrystal Wickline, Publications Officer, Becky Habermas in Human Resources, and lately Marion Linda in Information Services.

At our last meeting, Chrystal was not there, and I hardly had a word with Becky who was processing a prospective member. Later, Marion Linda modestly remarked that she isn't doing well but is learning more and more. All of our front-line women have followed great staff officers, but believe me, they're putting their stamp on their billets. I want to commend them here for it. The work they are doing is outstanding!

No one who joins this flotilla will ever truly know the work that Becky, Chrystal, and Marion put in, and they can barely take the time to tell us but I know. As a former merchant captain I do indeed know. These are no small jobs. However, I want to say that we can help them in a very simple way.

Let us make sure that we submit our paperwork to them on time.

A very great hallmark of the USCG Auxiliary is its courtesy and teamwork. We can do a lot for our shipmates by ensuring we support them by turning in reports on time, by not sitting on Program Visit reports or Vessel Safety Exams. All this material is, as Paul Burns said, used as a baseline for the next year's allocations of materials as early as June. In holding our reports, we inadvertently contribute to skewed numbers. Let's keep it timely.



John Hadley, FSO-MT

Member Training

After NSBW What?

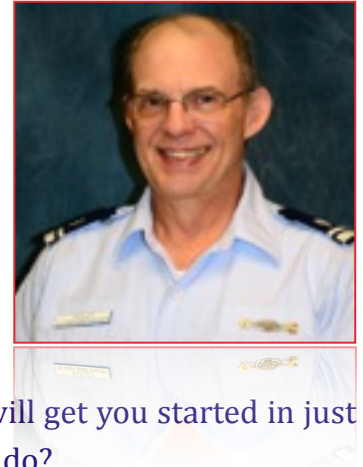
In May we had several events which, bring our USCG training program philosophy out front. As we all know, we have just about the best possible training available. As long as you want it, you can talk to me or to anyone in the our flotilla with two years or more service and get onto a website that will get you started in just about anything you want to learn to do in the Auxiliary. What do you need to do?

Simply put, starting is all you need to do. We have links that allow you to start learning right from our www.Safeboatingjax.com website. These links hook you up with training, weather, and knot-tying. We even have links on how to buy and wear your uniforms! What could be greater than that?

As we all know, the month of May featured National Safe Boating Week (NSBW.) Our Vice Division Commander, Vic Aquino said it best, when he wrote *safe boating is our priority*. This week, of all weeks in the year, is the time when we hit it hardest. Our Vessel Examination Officer can attest to that; almost every week his superior on the Division Staff is asking about what's new, better this year, and what are we doing best? I won't dwell on what is being said back and forth, but we have put a strong emphasis on Member Training and it's bearing fruit. However, your year will go on after the NSBW is past, getting ready for next year.

Ever have a situation you didn't plan? It happened to me. Whit Vick, our immediate Past Flotilla Commander, requested an Operations Specialist exam, Auxiliary Advanced Coastal Navigation (AUX ACN) which, requires the correct chart and the exam is part A and part B. Taking the exam requires ordering it through the District Help Desk. Only the Proctor, Member Training Officer, or Flotilla Commander can order it. We have worked like crazy these past two weeks to make this happen and we are almost successful. Whit passed both parts of the exam. I learned a lot this time, though. A word to the wise, give yourself plenty of time to study this material thoroughly. Before that, be sure you tell me, our AUX OP Proctor, Bob Strong or Paul Burns our FC you want that course. Give me a FIRM test date and stick to it. We can keep the materials only a short time before and after the exam, before it becomes invalid. The point here is we have found out how to do this.

We also want to remind everyone to read my recent email about *Slips, Trips, and Falls*. Too many Auxiliarists are forgetting themselves and their situational awareness on the facilities on which they serve. Sector Jacksonville requires all members read this.



Bob Strong, FSO-PE

Public Education

Our third About Boat Safety (ABS) course this year, held on May 17th, had 19 students. It was a nice size group for our space using the large round tables.

Our fourth ABS course will be on June 21st at The Florida Tackle and Gun Club (FT&GC).

We already have six students signed up for this course. Carolyn and I will be out of town that weekend, so please plan to give Paul Burns some help. Please let me know if you will be available to assist Paul with this course. Thanks!



Whatley Law, FSO-VE

Vessel Exams

Great success at the the John T. Lowe ramp for vessel exams. John Hadley completed five exams but all failed, Kevin Koehl had all five of his pass, and I myself had three pass and four fail.

Please don't forget to file those COB reports.

Ralph Little and I completed day two at the John T. Lowe boat ramp with every available boat trailer parking slot full and cars and boats circling for a parking spot. I had one pass, three failed, and only two refusals. Ralph had one pass and two fails.

It was a great weekend at John T. Lowe and we're making an impact for Florida boating safety!



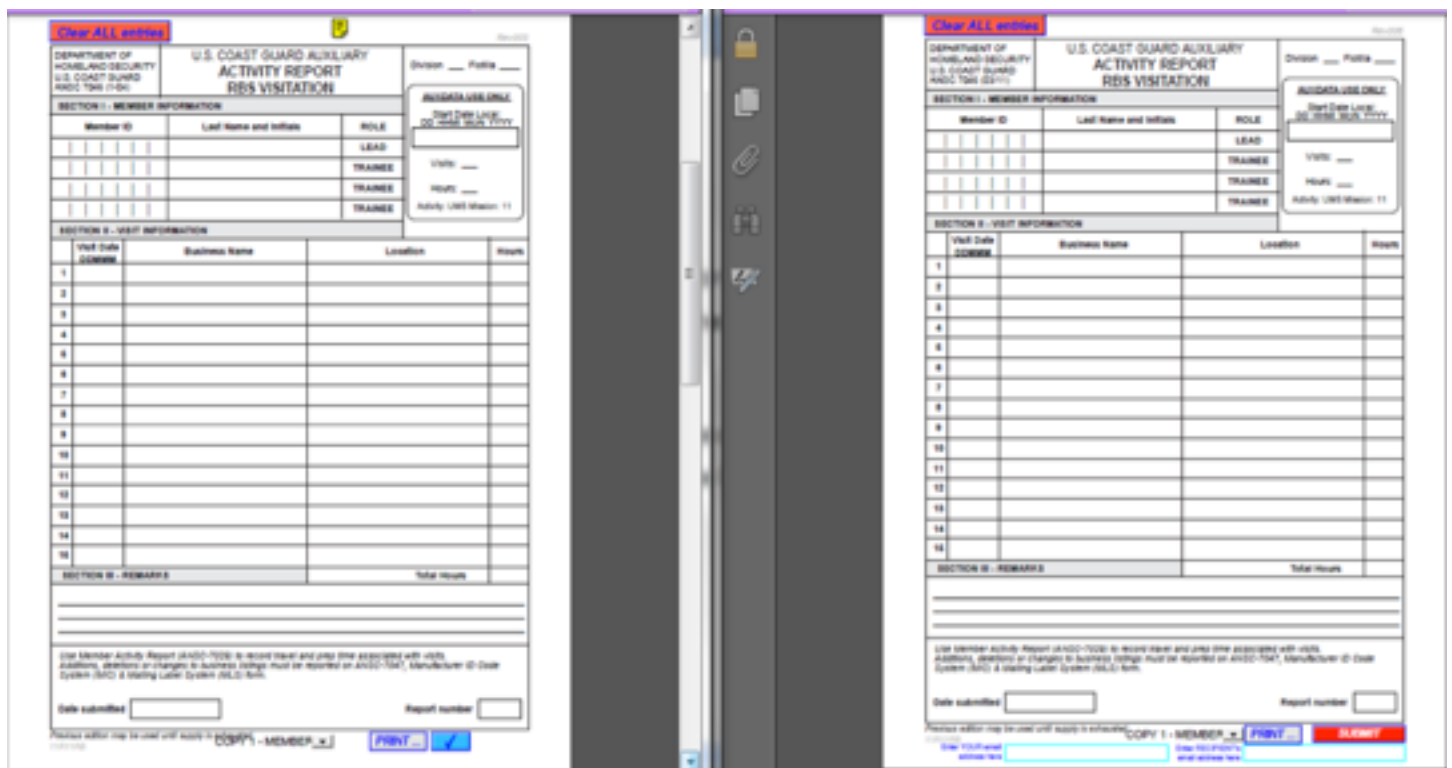
Marion Linda, FSO-IS

Information Systems

Without looking at a calendar or an outdoor thermometer, you can tell summer and boating weather are quickly approaching. This past month was humming with activity and I was busy entering many reports. Thank you everyone for submitting your hours.

I would like to write about PDF forms vs. eForms. Although either form is fine, I believe the eForms might be easier for you; I know they are easier for me.

Both types of forms look very similar, see the photos below. The one on the left is a PDF form. The one on the right is an eForm. A quick glance, you see the PDF form on the left does not have a *Submit* button in the lower right hand corner. The eForm on the right does have a *Submit* button in the lower right hand corner. Also, the PDF form has no place to type in an email address. The eForm also asks for your email address and recipients email address. When filling out an eForm, you still print a copy for your files, but after that, just click on *Submit* and you're finished. If you see another screen that asks you a few questions, it is only a reminder screen asking if you have filled in all fields. It's not necessary to fill in all fields for the report to be submitted. Just ignore this screen and click on *ok* or whatever you need to click on to make the screen go away, then proceed with the *Submit* button. In



The image displays two side-by-side versions of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity Report (Form 1047). The left version is a PDF form, and the right version is an eForm. Both forms are titled "U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ACTIVITY REPORT REVISITATION" and include fields for "Department of Homeland Security" and "U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY".

The PDF form (left) includes sections for "SECTION I - MEMBER INFORMATION", "SECTION II - VISIT INFORMATION", and "SECTION III - REMARKS". It features a table for recording visits with columns for "Visit Date", "Business Name", "Location", and "Hours". The eForm (right) is identical in layout but includes a "Submit" button in the bottom right corner, which is missing in the PDF version. Additionally, the eForm has a "Date submitted" field and a "Report number" field at the bottom.

response to your *Submit*, you will receive a receipt for your records; that way, you know the report was sent to me.

As I mentioned, both forms are fine to use, but with the PDF form, after you print your own copy, I assume you are scanning the document back into your computer and then emailing it to me as an attachment. This step can be eliminated with the eForm.

Everyone seems to be submitting the 7029 as an eForm. The other most used forms, #7030, #7038, #7039, #7046 seem to come both ways, about 50/50. It's easy to find the eForms directly from our flotilla website thanks to Paul. If you wish to give it a try, here are the steps.

1. Go to the [Flotilla 14-8 website, www.safeboatingjax.com](http://www.safeboatingjax.com)
2. From the grey bar across the top, click on the *AUX MEMBERS* to get a drop down menu
3. From the drop down menu, click on [*FORMS WAREHOUSE*](#) (4th down from top)
4. On the next screen, the left hand side, click on [*E-Forms*](#) (2nd down from the top)
5. The page that comes up, has all the above mentioned eForms, click on the button to the right of the form you wish to use

The rest should be self explanatory. The form that comes up, should look like the PDF form but can now be submitted electronically. If you wish to use the electronic form but are having trouble, please call or email me and I will be glad to help.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

Finance

I am collecting dues for the year 2015 in June of this year, 2014. Dues notices will be mailed to each member in early June. We need all to **submit** their **payment by June 30, 2014**. Thank You!



Becky Habermas, FSO-HR

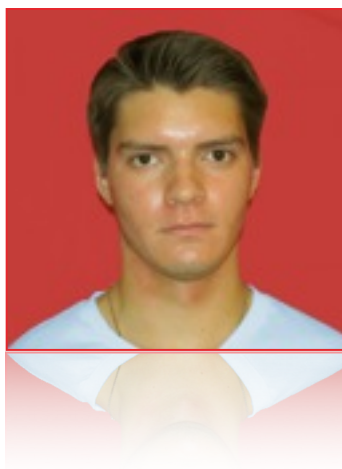
Human Resources

Human Resources has had a rough time over the last year, but I think we finally turned the tide in getting new members vetted and to their prospective flotillas. I'm happy to say, we have three new members to introduce this month. James (photo on far left) and Logan Small (photo in middle) were at the April meeting and have recently submitted their application paperwork for processing; they're a father and son team. James is a retired Information Technology Manager. He has extensive computer skills and is also a volunteer for the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Logan is a high school honor student. His hobbies include football, baseball, and golf. They both enjoy being around the water, fishing, and spending time outdoors. Their main interest in the Auxiliary is to become Vessel Examiners and to pursue Boat Crew certification as well as other Auxiliary opportunities available to them.



Our other member is Juan Steward (photo on far right.) Juan is retired from the United States Marine Corp where he worked as a Nuclear HVAC and Qualified Member of Engine Dept (Q med Mechanic.) During his military service, he was also awarded a *National Defense Service Medal* for Marksmanship. Juan enjoys spending his free time with his grandchildren and volunteering his time to work with children in need. Juan would also like to pursue becoming Boat Crew certified and lend his skills to the Auxiliary wherever he can.

Welcome James, Logan, and Juan to the USCG Auxiliary, we hope you will very quickly become active members of our flotilla.



Whatley Law, FSO-OP

Operations

We recently have re-certified *Tomcat* as an Operational Facility (OPFAC) and have added *Wildcat* as an “OPFAC”; a 22' Twin-V center console. We have tentative AOR patrol plans this summer for two scheduled boating events and NAS patrols.

Photos of the day below were submitted by Tom Edwards.



2014 | Calendar Details

Flotilla 14-8 Meetings

June 3, 2014

7:00 p.m. ▪ Flotilla 14-8 Fellowship ▪ Location: Florida Tackle and Gun Club

7:30 p.m. ▪ Flotilla 14-8 Regular Meeting [Celebrating 45 years!] ▪ Location: Florida Tackle and Gun Club [see invitation toward end of publication]

July 1, 2014

7:00 p.m. ▪ Flotilla 14-8 Fellowship ▪ Location: Florida Tackle and Gun Club

7:30 p.m. ▪ Flotilla 14-8 Regular Meeting ▪ Location: Florida Tackle and Gun Club

Events & Activities

June 21, 2014

7:30 a.m. ▪ ABS Course ▪ Florida Tackle & Gun Club

ABS Course Dates

July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, and November 8.

Other Events & Dates

D-Train 2014: held at the Florida Hotel in Orlando, Florida on September 18-21, 2014; details forthcoming.

Flotilla 14-8 Dues

Submit by June 30, 2014 to Bob Strong

Special Boating Dates

For details on the events including times, links, and locations, you can visit <http://www.floridabywater.com/event>.

National Marina DayJune 14th

Kingfish Tournament.....July 21st -26th

Sea and Sky Spectacular (NAS JAX Airshow) October 25th-26th

Florida Georgia WeekendNovember 1st

Jacksonville Boat Parade.....November 29th

The Jacksonville Zoo Event

National Safe Boating Week

Photos taken and submitted by Eric and Marion Linda

Eric Linda at the Jacksonville Zoo



Marion Linda at the Jacksonville Zoo



Eric & Marion Linda at the Jacksonville Zoo



Eric & Marion Linda with the Lion at the Jacksonville Zoo



Eric & Marion Linda with Mayor Alvin Brown at the Jacksonville Zoo



National Safe Boating Week Blitz

at the John T. Lowe ramp near the Florida Tackle and Gun Club on May 17, 2014

Whatley Law and Kevin Koehl setting up to process a boat

Photo by John Hadley



Whatley Law explaining what's what

Photo by John Hadley



Flotilla Meeting in May

Paul presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a Certificate of Appointment to Tom Edwards for the job of Flotilla Staff Officer - Secretary of Record

Photo by Carolyn Strong



Eric and Marion Linda gave a lively report on "The Coast Guard Auxiliary New Member Indoctrination Course that they recently attended." Photo by Carolyn Strong



A Grand Celebration of Notable Milestones!

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7

Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8

Bob Strong's 50th Year of Service
COMO Bill Edgerton's 35th Year of Service
Flotilla 14-8's 45th Anniversary

You're Invited!

This invitation is for you and your guest

DATE: Tuesday June 3, 2014

PLACE: FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB (Where we got our start in 1969)

TIME: 7:00 p.m. Fellowship & Refreshments
7:30 p.m. Program & Awards

ATTIRE: Tropical Blue *or* Civilian Business Casual

We request that our members please bring a favorite snack, finger food or appetizer to share if you can, but it is not required.





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.

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