

# 14-8

## Eight Bells

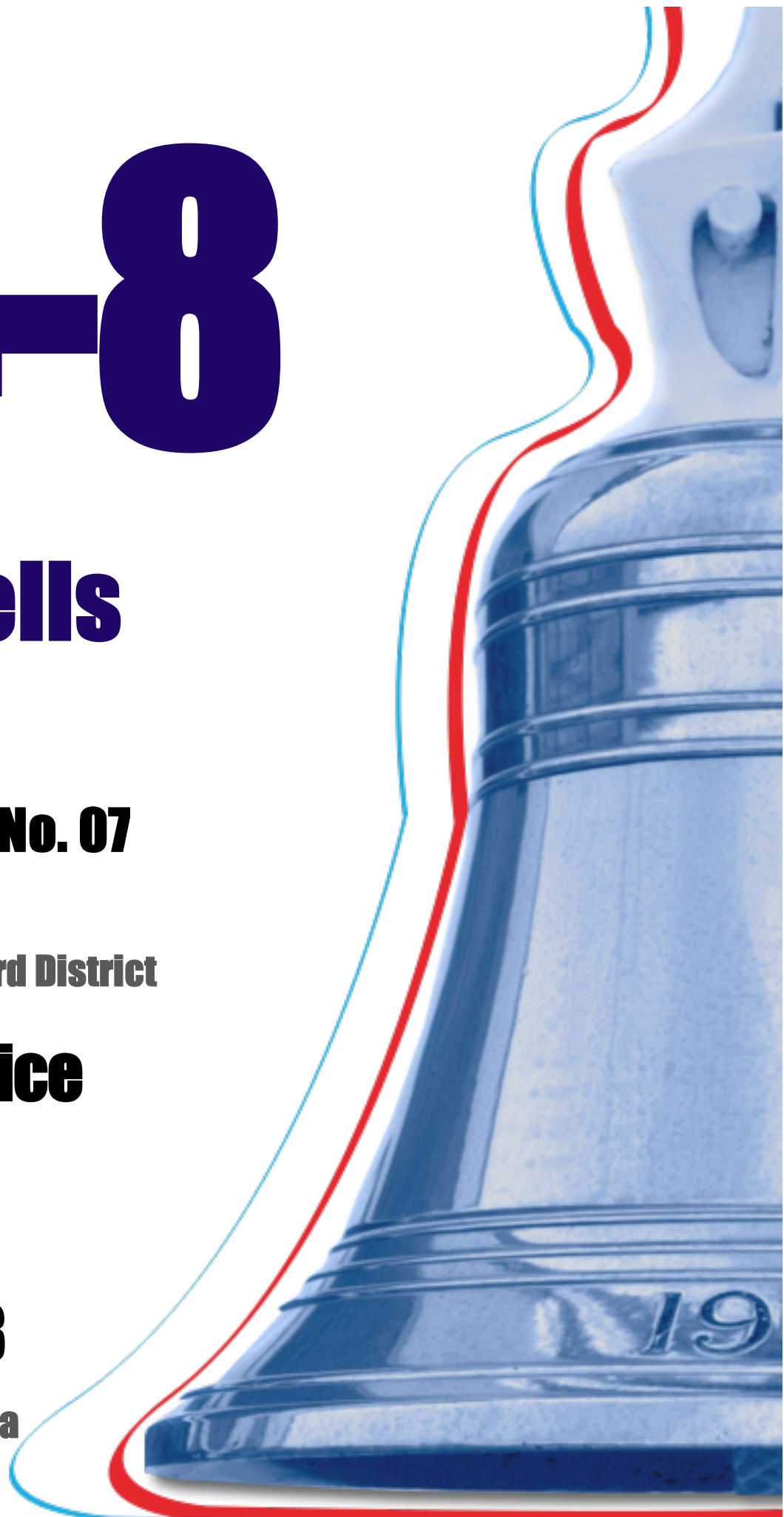
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**Monthly Voice  
Of USCG  
Auxiliary  
Flotilla 14-8**

**Jacksonville, Florida**



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# Paul Burns, FC

## Flotilla Commander

### Coast Guard Auxiliary's 75th Birthday

In a communication to each auxiliarist this month, Admiral Paul F. Zuknuft, Commandant of the Coast Guard writes, "This year, Auxiliarists delivered over 4.2 million hours of operational and administrative manpower to Coast Guard missions. Auxiliary instructors spent over 96,000 hours teaching boating safety classes, and its vessel examiners performed over 130,000 recreational and fishing vessel safety checks. Auxiliary operators performed more than 66,000 hours of SAR mission support saving over 470 lives and assisting 13,000 members of the boating public. Much to the credit of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the number of boating safety-related deaths in the U.S. reached a historic low for a second consecutive year." Our efforts and volunteer time do make a difference.



### Barbeque and Picnic Scheduled

Tom Allan, Captain of the Port, USCG, Sector Jacksonville has graciously offered to "throw a party" for the members of the flotillas in Division 14. The BBQ will be held Saturday, August 2nd at the St Augustine Lighthouse. This is guaranteed to be great afternoon of fun and good food. Keep an eye on your email for updates as activities and times are being firmed up.

Remember as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July approaches, our waterway will be full of *Once-A-Year* boaters. This means inexperienced skippers and inadequately equipped boats. Do you part to make sure everybody has a safe and fun weekend.

### Staff Officer's Workshops July 19th

Flotilla Staff Officers should try to make a point of attending the July 19<sup>th</sup> Division meeting at the St. Augustine Airport Conference Center. We are planning on group workshops with your Division Staff Officer. This was successful and useful the last time that we held these workshops were held.

# Bob Strong, FSO-PE

## Public Education

Our fourth About Boating Safety (ABS) course this year was held on June 21, 2014 and we had 19 students, five father and son combinations and one mother and son.

Our fifth ABS course will be held July 12, 2014 at The Florida Tackle and Gun Club (FT&GC).

We already have six students signed up for this course. Please let me know if you will be available to teach or assist.



## June's 14-8 Flotilla Meeting

### Celebration of Bob Strong's 50 years of service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary

June's flotilla meeting was a special event celebrating Bob Strong's 50 years of service. Thank you Bob for your dedicated service! See more photos of the celebration and June's flotilla meeting in the *Events* section.



Bob cuts his cake, to be enjoyed by all



Bob's Cake

# Marion Linda, FSO-IS

## Information Systems

As one gets older, one not only enjoys many senior citizen discounts but also gets enjoys many of life's experiences. Over the last 50 years, I have been active in many organizations and the one common thread I found in every organization is the need for good communication.

When an auxiliary member starts on a track for a new qualification, they need to take an exam, do training missions, and eventually request the Flotilla Commander (FC) to submit a ticket for certification. It is the responsibility of the Information Systems Officer (FSO-IS), however to supply the FC with the date of the exam and the dates and/or hours of the training missions. Therefore, it is important to notify not only the FC but also the Member Training Officer (FSO-MT) and the FSO-IS when this adventure begins.

As the FSO-IS, it is important for me to know when a member has passed a qualifying exam. Although AUXDATA & AUXINFO have a wealth of information, there is no report I can run to give me information on an individual. If I know a member has passed an exam, I will keep track of the training missions as I enter them into AUXDATA. If I am unaware a member passed a qualifying exam and I didn't keep track of the training missions, I have to manually go back through all the mission reports to find the dates of the training sessions. Many times three or four months pass from the time of the exam to the time of the training sessions. For example, if a member takes a qualifying exam as a Vessel Examiner (VE) in January and then does the five training missions in May, and I didn't know about the member training to be a VE, I have to go back through every mission (as many as 50 or 60) I entered into AUXDATA from January to May looking for the five training missions.

So, it will be to everyone's advantage to notify me as soon as they pass a qualifying exam; this way I can get the necessary information for certification to the FC quicker. As a result, you will be certified much faster.



# Bob Strong, FSO-FN

## Finance

Dues notices were mailed to all members who are not planning to retire or resign. Three members sent their checks in the return mail, thank you! However, a few letters have been returned as no longer at the address on file and the forwarding time has expired. Please go online to complete ANSC form 7028 to change membership information if you have moved and have a change of address.





# United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

## Protect Your Power

*By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8*

Battery condition is a leading reason for the failure of boats to pass a safety examination. Auxiliary Vessel Examiners are concerned, since the consequences are dire – fire, explosion or a disabled vessel, not to mention a ruined outing. The most problematic issues are uncovered terminals and unsecured batteries. The standard that Vessel Examiners use states that “Batteries must be secured and terminals covered to prevent accidental arcing.” Our standards are based on the Code of Federal Regulations for the Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security, section 183.401-460 on Electrical Systems for Recreational Boating Safety.

While true that section 183.401 appears to exempt outboards, that is of no consequence – examiners are held to the standard and common sense rules that there is no exception. Some smaller outboards have alternative starting power; however, the boat may have a separate battery for powering lights, trolling motors, etc. Also, today’s outboard engines, as well as gas and diesel powered inboard engines all use batteries for starting and power. An uncovered, ungrounded battery terminal is subject to sparking from the touch of a metal object, known as arcing. And arcing does not distinguish between engine types and the battery’s purpose. So at the least, your battery’s positive terminal (ungrounded) requires a cover – usually from a rubber boot, a full battery box or a nonconductive cover. It is recommended you also cover the negative terminal since protection from water-induced corrosion is another valuable objective. A marine surveyor advises that a nut-secured terminal must be a stainless nut with lock washer – no wing nuts, and in this case, best protected by a ventilated box.

Battery movement must be limited so that it is firmly secured and cannot move more than an inch in any direction. I think that is liberal, since you don’t want it to move at all. A moving battery is subject to damage or disconnect, leading to a disabled boat or worse, if unintended repositioning enables arcing. Just placing your battery on the deck or in a compartment doesn’t suffice. Wave action and hull-jarring pounding are the culprits at work while you’re enjoying a run. Remember, a boat on the water is subject to many unstable motions.

Experienced boat operators teach our About Boating Safely course at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club at 9010 San Jose Blvd. Call Bob at 904-721-1346 to reserve a place in the July 12th class or check our website at <http://SafeBoatingJacksonville.com>. When I say “experienced”, I mean it. Bob just celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary year - and is a primary reference for this column.

Experienced boat operators teach our About Boating Safely (ABX) course at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club at 9010 San Jose Blvd. Call Bob at 904-721-1346 to reserve a place in the July 12<sup>th</sup> class or check our website at [SafeBoatingJacksonville.com](http://SafeBoatingJacksonville.com). When I say “experienced”, I mean it. Bob just celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> year in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and is a primary reference for this column.



# 2014 | Calendar Details

## Flotilla 14-8 Meetings

### 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

### August 5, 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

### September 2, 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

### July 12, 2014

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

### ABS Course Dates

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

Were due 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>.

Kingfish Tournament

July 21st -26th

Sea and Sky Spectacular (NAS JAX Airshow)

October 25th-26th

Florida Georgia Weekend

November 1st

Jacksonville Boat Parade

November 29th

# June's 14-8 Flotilla Meeting

## Celebration of Bob Strong's 50 years of service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary

Photos taken and submitted by Carolyn Strong, Historian



All 14-8 members present - both Active and Retired



Bob Strong received a certificate from Flotilla 14-8 for 50 years of Dedicated Service to the Auxiliary



Bob Strong tells about his early years with the Auxiliary and why he has stayed a member for so many years



## June's 14-8 Flotilla Meeting *[cont'd]*

### Our June Meeting was Dedicated to Notable Awards and Service Milestones

Photos taken and submitted by Carolyn Strong, Historian



John Hadley, Bob Strong, COMO Bill Edgerton,  
Paul Burns



COMO Bill Edgerton receiving an Auxiliary  
Membership Service Award for 35 years



Becky Habermas received her first  
Sustained Service Award



Eric Linda received his Vessel Examiner  
certificate



Ens Donald Raby, USCG AUXLO at Sector Jax;  
Bob Strong; David Cawton representing  
Division 14



Charles Taylor received an Auxiliary  
Membership Service Award for 15 years



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