

14-8

Eight Bells

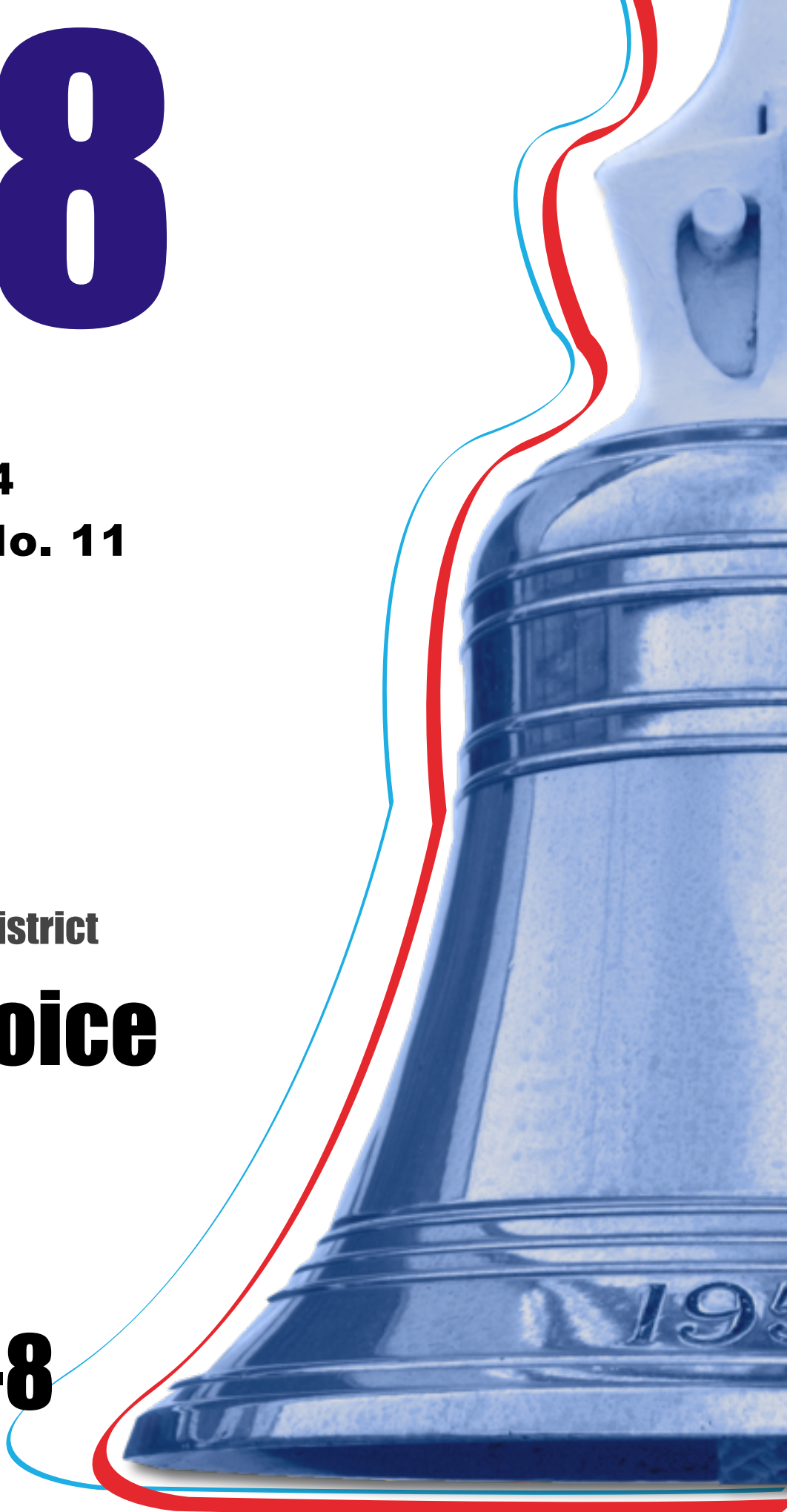
November 2014

Volume XL | No. 11

Seventh Coast Guard District

Monthly Voice of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8

Jacksonville, Florida



**FLOTILLA
COMMANDER**

PBurns@SafeBoatingJax.com

Paul B. Burns

**FLOTILLA VICE
COMMANDER**

dec23265n@gmail.com

John K. Hadley

**PUBLICATIONS
OFFICER**

148publications@gmail.com

Chrystal Wickline

**Our Award Winning
Website**

www.SafeBoatingJax.com

Flotilla Commander	Paul Burns
Flotilla Vice Commander	John Hadley
Secretary of Records	Tom Edwards
Finance	Bob Strong
Operations	Whatley Law
Marine Safety	Rusty Gardner
Member Training	John Hadley
Program Visitation	David Fay
Public Education	Bob Strong
Navigational Services	Cris Vonderheide
Vessel Examination	Whatley Law
Communications Services	Paul Burns
Diversity	Paul Tynda
Information Services	Marion Linda
Human Resources	Becky Habermas
Public Affairs	Vacant
Publications	Chrystal Wickline
Materials	Paul Thomas
Historian	Carolyn Strong

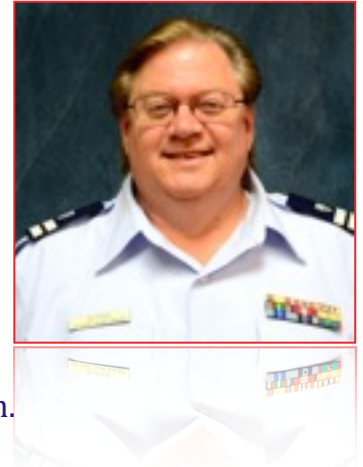
Paul Burns, FC	4
Flotilla Commander	4
Bob Strong, FSO-PE	6
Public Education	6
Becky Habermas, FSO-HR	7
Human Resources	7
Marion Linda, FSO-IS.....	8
Information Systems	8
Paul Burns, FSO-CS	9
Communication Services	9
Who Do You Call?	11
2014 CALENDAR DETAILS.....	12
Flotilla 14-8 Meetings	12
Events & Activities	12
Special Boating Dates	12
Education Event.....	13
October Flotilla Meeting	13
October Flotilla Meeting, cont'd	14
New Members	15
Blue Angels' Picket Line Patrol	15
Blue Angels & Patrol.....	16

Paul Burns, FC

Flotilla Commander

Elections

Elections for our next Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander will be held at the November 4th meeting. Please make every effort to attend, we need everybody present to make sure we can perform the election.



Member Training Accomplishments, Boat Crew

Member Training has been at the height of our focus over the past couple of months, especially in the areas of new member training and the development of a boat crew program which we plan on reviving our flotilla's Operations program. We now have two operational boats, as many as nine members in the Crew Training pipeline, one Coxswain coming out of REYR status, and other members with both Advanced Coast Guard Operational Support training and Coxswain Training. I think we are currently laying the ground work for successful year on the water in 2015. Recognition and thanks go to John Hadley FSO-MT, and Whatley Law FSO-OP for spearheading this effort.

Who will be leading the Auxiliary in 2015

At our November flotilla meeting we will be choosing who will lead our flotilla for 2015. Up the line, National, District, and Division officers have already been chosen.

- National Commodore: Mark Simoni, from Saginaw Michigan
- District Commodore: Robert Weskerna, Former District Chief Of Staff
- Division Commander: Vic Aquino, from Flotilla 14-7 in St Augustine

In our own flotilla, many of you will be asked by the new flotilla commander to serve as a staff officer. Please accept his offer with pride and commitment to a successful new year.

New Member Recruitment

James Billberry has just received his member number and I have recently mailed the membership package for Nate Manella. This makes eight new members for our flotilla this year. Truly an accomplishment for Becky Habermas, our FSO-HR. But also a challenge for the rest of us to guide and mentor these new members

Changing Meeting Date?

At our November Meeting we will be discussing and voting on changing our monthly meeting day. The current leader in the discussion is the 2nd Tuesday of the Month. As a matter of fact, there has

been very little request for another competing date. Please make your opinions known on this subject. Send me an email, and please show up November 4th.

Change of Watch 2015 and December Holiday Dinner

It is time to discuss some upcoming event plans. In December we would like to celebrate a holiday fellowship dinner and in January our Flotilla Change of Watch. We would like your input and ideas so we can plan these special events.



Paul receiving an award from Bill Sekeres, DCPT at the October 18 division meeting. It was awarded for Flotilla Growth in 2013.

~ Photos by Nan Ellen Fuller. ~

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

Public Education

Our About Boating Safely (ABS) course on 11 October had five students. I will make a note not to schedule a course on Saturday before Columbus Day again. I thought only bankers and postal workers took off that day but that must not be true. Thanks to Bruce Ennis for helping Paul Burns and I teach this course. Also thanks to flotilla members Juan Steward and Crispin Vonderheide for helping set up. Juan stayed most of the day and helped close up at 1700 hours.

Our next ABS course on 8 November at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club will be our last course for 2014. We already have 12 non-member students signed up for this course. Any new members who have not completed a Boating Safety Course in the two years before joining need to complete this course in order to be considered a "Basically Qualified" (BQ) member. Other members may sit through the course at anytime just to refresh one's knowledge of safe boating.

This will be my last course as the Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education. I taught my first basic course for the Auxiliary in 1966. We had 85 students attend a 2 hour class from 1900 to 2100 hours one night a week for 8 weeks in a large Fire Department meeting room located on the second floor of a fire house. It was a great place to teach and meet until you heard the rumble of large overhead garage doors opening on the ground floor. Then you just stopped talking until the fire trucks got beyond hearing range.

I have decided not to retire but just step back and let others handle all the paper work. I like to think of it as a time to just decompress.



Becky Habermas, FSO-HR

Human Resources

We have several new members to introduce this month: Jim Billberry, Nate Manella, and Matt Bohan.

Jim Billberry who is our newest member is a retired Law Enforcement Officer from the Miami Police Department where he worked for almost 40 years. He was also in the Coast Guard Reserve for 11 years where he worked as part of the Coast Guard Investigations Office. His past accomplishments include being a Fire Chief and EMS Director for Jefferson County, and a Deputy Sheriff for the Madison county Police Department. Jim is also a certified commercial helicopter and airplane pilot and was able to lend his skills working as an Emergency Services Helicopter Pilot flying critically ill and injured patients to trauma centers.

His past volunteer experiences include: The U.S. Navy League, The Miami Police Benevolent Association, The Hyde Park Free Accepted Masons, and he also worked as an EMT for the Ashville Volunteer Fire Department

Jim jump started his Auxiliary career by quickly becoming involved in our Flotilla's Boat Crew training program and would like to pursue becoming a Coxswain & Aux Op certified in the near future.

Nate Manella who just recently began the membership process, works as a Call Center and Service Support Operator. His past experience includes working for the Department of Homeland Security as a Border Patrol Agent and he speaks fluent Spanish. Nate is anxious to begin his Auxiliary career and he is already involved in our Boat Crew training program. He would also like to pursue becoming a Coxswain in the near future. Nate's other Auxiliary interests include, learning more about our Vessel Examiner Program and lend his skills wherever they're needed.

Matt Bohan is an active duty member of the United States Navy. His skills include being an electrician and also working as a mechanic. Matt is an avid fisherman and enjoys deep sea diving on his off time. He's also an experienced boater and PWC Operator with extensive on-the-water experience and would very much like to lend his skills to the Auxiliary by getting Boat Crew Qualified and eventually becoming a Coxswain. Matt is also interested in our Vessel Examiner Program and learning more about what the Auxiliary has to offer.

See the new member photos later in this newsletter.



Marion Linda, FSO-IS

Information Systems

There is a wealth of information available through the Coast Guard Auxiliary – sometimes so much, it becomes confusing.

I often get emails forwarded to me from the DSO-IS and additional emails from the SO-IS. Recently, I received an email with multiple Power Point Presentations on how to use and retrieve information from AUXDATA & AUXINFO with a message from this “little guy.”



*Remember
the job ain't
done
'til the
paperwork's
in
AUXDATA*

Completing a mission and not filing a report is almost like my giving you a coffee pot full of coffee, but never giving you a cup – it becomes just a job not finished.

If you're not comfortable with a computer, I can help by showing you how to fill out a form, or fill out the form in your behalf. Most important is to have the form filled out and entered into AUXDATA.

The only way the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary knows what we are doing as a flotilla (and whether or not we are a worthwhile flotilla) is by the information entered and tracked in AUXDATA.

My iPad & I try to attend the monthly flotilla meetings. Please join me before or after the meeting for instructions on filling out forms and/or how to retrieve information from AUXINFO. All members have access to AUXINFO.

Some of the missions are submitted in many segments. I just recently found out that if 1 part of a mission is not reported, there is no credit for any of the mission, even the parts submitted.

So remember, all paperwork has to be submitted and entered into AUXDATA before a mission is considered complete.



Paul Burns, FSO-CS

Communication Services

All Your Personal Computer Files Are Being Held For Ransom! Pay Me \$1,500 or your will never see them again.



In a nutshell, this a message that an acquaintance of mine got a few hours ago. It caused me to scrap my previously written report and write about this instead.

Yesterday, a very good friend of mine, Anne, opened an email from Federal Express. The email said that the attachment to the email had information about lost Federal Express package. Even though Anne was not expecting a package from Federal Express, and even though, Anne had never gotten an unsolicited email from Federal Express before, she opened the email and opened the attachment and she was lured into launching a malicious cyber attack on her computer.

The result was, all of Anne's most precious computer files are now gone. Photographs, bank records, letters, songs that she has written, her tax returns, a musical production that she has worked on for several weeks, all gone unless she pays the \$1,000 ransom to the criminals who sent her the infected email.

The research that I have done to help her has told me that there are two ways to get her files back.

1. Pay The Ransom (but beware we would be dealing with anonymous criminals. They are more likely to disappear with your money than to return your property) or
2. Restore your lost files from a "Backup" which you have stored on another computer or flash drive or some remote file storage location which is not connected to your computer at the time that the infection occurs.

Alarmingly, it appears if your computer is even connected to a "Cloud" backup source at the time of the infection, those files will be stolen as well. If you are interested in learning the details of this particular Ransom Attack, here is an article on the specifics of this malicious software called "CryptoWall: <http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/virus-removal/cryptowall-ransomware-information>

In Anne's case, we can re-install her computer's operating system and programs, then restore backed-up personal files from about 6 weeks ago, when she purchased her brand new computer. She's pretty lucky, she only lost 6 weeks of her work. Now ask yourself the question. What if I lost all my computer files right now!

So, how do we avoid this problem?

1. Never open email and especially attachments to email from anybody that you are not expecting communication from. Not Federal Express, Not your Bank, Not your Cable TV Company, Not PayPal, and emails from somebody that you know, that don't seem to make much sense. Scrutinize such emails carefully before opening.
2. A copy of all of your personal computer files needs to be stored to a device that is only connected to your computer during the backup process, then disconnected. This device, could be another computer, a flash drive, a portable hard drive, or on a CD or DVD.

Here is my personal backup strategy.

- For my business, the last thing that I do before I leave the office, is back up my business files to a flash drive. I put the drive in my pocket and take it home with me. If I return to work the next day to find the building burned to the ground. I still have all my records in my pocket.
- For my personal computer, I no longer do an automatic backup. If the computer were to be infected with something bad, I could lose my backup files. So, instead, I start a backup every Saturday night before going to bed (as long as I know that the computer is running properly) If disaster were to strike during the week, I have only lost a few days of work at the most.
- Your personal backup strategy should be based on the impact of losing all of your personal or business files without notice.

So, I guess that your file backup strategy should be based on how much you are willing to lose and how much you are willing to pay to get your computer files back.

Who Do You Call?

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8



So you're on the water and you or another boat has a problem. Assuming you can't correct the issue, who you call depends on whether it is an emergency or the boat is just disabled and not in danger. Attracting attention depends on how you've prepared.

Immediate help can be attracted with the use of horns, whistles and Visual Distress devices like flares, smoke, lights, or mirrors. It will help if you acted on your research or the advice of a Vessel Safety Examiner and stocked up on day and night signaling devices – no matter what your boat's size and cruising location.

The next level is an actual call. Boats under 66' aren't required to have a VHF marine radio, but why would you not want at least a portable? In this area, a distress call on VHF Channel 16 is monitored by the US Coast Guard's Sector Jax. Cell phones have 10% the power of VHF, won't connect with rescue craft and will have to connect to the right desk. Cell service is iffy past two miles offshore and the river has dead zones and no service in southern reaches. The Coast Guard isn't linked to 911, but is at 904-564-7511/ 12. For accidents or law enforcement, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission is at 386-758-0525.

If your situation is not deemed an emergency, the Coast Guard will offer your situation to a commercial tow service. If you know you only require fuel or a tow, you can make that happen quicker by having the number of a service handy. If an Auxiliary patrol is aware of your problem and nearby, they can assist with an emergency or tow a boat in distress to the nearest safe location. Otherwise, they stand-by to assure you are safe.

The best emergency link for most users on the St. Johns River or Intracoastal Waterway is a Digital Selective Calling-equipped VHF marine radio interconnected with a Geo Positioning System. Properly set-up and registered, this device automatically contacts rescue authorities and provides your exact location. The Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) is also available in boat-mounts or personal versions. Preferred for offshore use, they work inshore as well and also feature satellite location and short response for grave distress only.

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 final 2014 class on November 8th. Check our website at <http://SafeBoatingJacksonville.com> for safety issues, vessel exams, weather, float plans, and links to VHF/DSC specifics.

2014 | CALENDAR DETAILS

Flotilla 14-8 Meetings

November 4, 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
Election of Flotilla Officers

December 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

November 8, 2014

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

November 20, 2014

Fellowship ▪ Location TBA

December 18, 2014

Holiday Fellowship ▪ Location TBA

Special Boating Dates

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

Florida Georgia WeekendNovember 1st

Jacksonville Boat Parade.....November 29th

Education Event



4 hour TCT Workshop Conducted By Jesse Stevens Attended by 10 members of Flotilla 14-8

Pictured: Jesse Stevens PDCDR, Whatley Law, Nate Manella, Santiago Castrodad, Juan Steward, Roger Davis, Eric Linda, John Hadley, George Law, Marion Linda. Not Pictured, Chris Vonderheide

~ Photo by Paul Burns ~

John Hadley Conducting Boat Crew Training on Reading A Chart

Pictured: Chris Vonderheide, Nate Manella, Marion Linda, Juan Steward, Eric Linda, Santiago Castrodad

~ Photo by Paul Burns ~



October Flotilla Meeting



Victor Aquino, VCDR 14 presented an award to Becky Habermas, FSO-HR for Flotilla Growth in 2013

Paul Burns, FC and Bob Strong, FSO-PE each received an Auxiliary Performance Award for Public Education

~ Photos by Carolyn Strong ~



October Flotilla Meeting, cont'd



Christian McLaughlin takes the Oath of Membership

~ Photo by Carolyn Strong ~

John Hadley, VFC and Paul Burns, FC congratulate our newest member Christian McLaughlin. Welcome to our flotilla, Chris!

~ Photo by Carolyn Strong ~



John Hadley, VFC received a Commodore's Certificate of Excellence for completed Vessel Examinations from the VCDR and also several Auxiliary Performance Awards from Paul Burns, FC.

~ Photo by Carolyn Strong ~



Boat Crew Training after the flotilla meeting led by John Hadley and aided by Cris Vonderheide.

Participants included prospective member Nate Manella, new member Juan Steward, Eric Linda, Marion Linda and Santiago Castrodad.

~ Photo by Carolyn Strong ~



New Members



Jim Billberry

~ Photo by Becky Habermas ~



Matt Bohan

~ Photo by Becky Habermas ~



Nathaniel Manella

~ Photo by Becky Habermas ~

Blue Angels' Picket Line Patrol

George Law, Training to be Crew

~ Photo by Whatley Law ~



Blue Angels & Patrol



**Overhead 14-8 OPFAC Tomcat,
Blue Angels' Fat Albert**

~ Photo by Whatley Law ~

**Tom Edwards OPFAC owner of
Tomcat on picket patrol for the
Blue Angels**

~ Photo by Whatley Law ~



**George law and Chris
Vanderheide**

~ Photo by Whatley Law ~



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 email 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.

Visit our award winning website at www.SafeBoatingJax.com

