
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XLI No. 2

March 2015

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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Whatley Law
Charles Trippe
Paul Burns



Whatley Law, FC and Charles Trippe VFC are sworn in as Elected Officers for 2015

**Don't Forget our Meeting Tuesday, March 10th
Beginning with Fellowship at 7:00pm**

FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Congress passed a bill on March 5th, fully funding the Department of Homeland Security Thru September. All Auxiliary Activities may be resumed as normal.

It appears that we will have an exciting year with two operational facilities and potentially new boat crew members and bringing Chris V back on board as our Coxswain and FSO for member training.

I have had the great opportunity to qualify as the first JDO, Junior Duty Officer watch stander at Station. This has been a great treat for me standing watch for the Gold side.

I would encourage anyone who has an interest in working for the Active Duty as a JDO watch stander to check in with me for more details.

I look forward to a great year for 14-8 and thank you all for your support especially Paul Burns and Charlie Trippe who are mentoring and working closely with me.

Thank you both.

Whatley Law, *FC(e) 14-8 2015*

IMMEDIATE PAST FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT



We are going to be hearing a lot about member training this year. Those of you who joined our flotilla in 2014 have the rest of this year to complete the 10 member Auxiliary Mandated Training modules available online. Please don't wait until the last minute to get started on this online training. Each module takes usually less than an hour to complete. If you need help to get started, Whatley and I will be more than happy to assist you.

All Auxiliary members need to complete these training courses by the end of 2016. All of these online courses are required of all Coast Guard personnel. They are designed to protect us and keep us by being properly informed when faced with issues, that as prudent individuals, we wouldn't think that we would face in a volunteer organization. In reality the world that we live in can throw us highly unexpected situations and we need to understand how these are to be dealt with in the event that they confront us. The courses include:

IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS)
IS-100b Introduction to Incident Command System ICS-100,
Influenza Training,
Ethics 1 - Personal Gifts,
Civil Rights Awareness
Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the Coast Guard,
Sexual Harassment Prevention
Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information,
Security Fundamentals,
Sexual Assault Prevention/Response

The link to this training is on the left side menu of SafeBoatingJax.com look for "Aux Learning and Testing"

Paul Burns, IPFC 14-8 2015

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICER'S REPORTS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



I am here to help you with your online training and testing issues and questions. Whether it is difficulty logging in and getting a password, or finding the correct link to the testing webpage, or what to do if something is working right on my computer.

Please let me know what I can do for you.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS 2015

MEMBER TRAINING – Cris Vonderheide



We are continuing our boat crew class every week and as of last night we have sign offs completed for a significant portion of the requirements for two of the boat crew class members.

We are ramping up class and looking forward to getting on the water doing some boat training.

Mandatory training is a high focus for members, newer members will need to complete the training by December 2015.

We are considering scheduling a class for some of the mandatory training at the Flotilla meetings.

Submitted by Whatley Law, FC.

*Cris Vonderheide FSO-MT 2015
cris.von@att.net*

MATERIALS - Paul Thomas



If anyone is interested in doing RBS visits please call or email me so I can provide you with brochures you will need to do the visits. If anyone is interested in participating in the RBS program, I can be your mentor for your first two visits. Anyone in the boat crew class that needs equipment, please contact me. I have a number of uniform items and will bring them to the next meeting.

*Paul Thomas FSO-MA 2015
ptcaux1@att.net*

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARION LINDA



REYR/REWK

At the end of 2014 (and at the end of every year) a member will go REWK (**RE**certification required for failure to attend required **Wo**r**K**shop) or REYR (**RE**certification required for failure to meet **Y**early **R**equirements) if he/she has not met specific requirements.

To become certified in any area, whether it is VE, PV, BOAT CREW, COXSWAIN, etc, takes a lot of time and effort, then to lose the certification due to insufficient hours or lack of a refresher course is unfortunate but it does happen.

Now, how do we get back the certification?

It will be important to know in what year you went REYR or REWK. Even if it was back in 2013, you will still need to ask the FC to submit a D7 help desk ticket with all the backup information from me requesting the member be taken out of REYR or REWK. It does not happen automatically even if the requirements have been met.

And, when on a mission, It is also important to let the Lead person filling out the report know that you are in REYR so your time is entered as ‘Trainee’ not “Non Lead”.

Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on how you look at it) I learned a lot this past winter as we approached the end of 2014. As 1 member was unaware that he or she had been REYR, all the hours for 2014 had been submitted as Non Lead instead of Trainee. It took many, many emails and many, many more hours of changing, submitting, denial, and more changing, submitting, and more denials to the tune of 4 times until we finally got the member out of REYR.

And, please, don't wait until the last week of 2015 to do the mission that keeps you out of REYRS. The FC and I were up into the “wee hours of the morning” racing the clock to correct reports keeping a few members out of REYR. It does not have to be that difficult.

I hope I don't sound like a “task master” but it is better for everyone to get out of REYR or REWK in the most efficient manner

The following is what is needed if you are in REYR status:

IT – must teach 2 hours as Trainee under a qualified IT (or 4 hours as an Aide)

VE – Must do 2 VE's as Trainee under a qualified VE

PV – Must do 2 PV's as Trainee (can do self qualification – only mission that allows Trainee w/o Lead)

Crew Program – needs to do whatever maintenance, course, QE, signoff or missing hours (or combination).

The above information is just what is needed to be removed from REYR status. But remember, you then need to fulfill the requirements for the current year or you will be back in REYR status again.

Marion Linda, FSO-IS 2015

VESSEL EXAMINATION – WHATLEY LAW



We have no significant activity for Vessel Examinations. Planning a big showing at the John T.Lowe boat ramp for NSBW.

Whatley Law, FSO-VE 2015

PUBLICATIONS – PAUL BURNS



It is difficult to get our monthly newsletter published without reports, photos, and information coming from our staff officers and members on a timely basis. With our monthly meeting moved to the second Tuesday of the month, we have a little more time to send our reports to the *Eight Bells*, but our division reporting requirement is still the 15th of the month. Our division leaders need those reports to pass on up the chain of leadership.

Please make sure that I am copied on those reports, and feel free to add additional information to me for our Eight Bells deadline of the 25th of the month.

This newsletter is blank without your input.

Paul Burns, FSO-PB 2015

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



We led Division 14 in total attendance at our Public Education courses in 2014 with 144 students. It's likely not going to happen this year unless we can find a way to advertise our courses. Our January and February course combined yielded only eleven students.

As of March 1, 2015, we have only five students signed up for our About Boating Safely (ABS) course scheduled for Saturday, March 21. We had twenty students complete this same course in March of 2014. All our ABS courses for 2015 have been entered into the Auxiliary's National Course finder program. We need a member with advertising experience to step forward and give us a hand now!

The Spring Boat Show this year at Metro Park will be held on April 10, 11 & 12th. We need members from our flotilla to volunteer to work in the Auxiliary Booth at this show. The ODU is the uniform of choice to stand watch

Bob Strong, FSO-PE 2015



Mandarin News

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

While You Were Away

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

Since most of you haven't been boating lately, a change is underway for the most important piece of safety gear on your boat. As of October 2014, the Coast Guard began a process that will lead to new life jackets. The first step removed future requirements for the Type coding, i.e., Type I through V that has previously guided selection. Why? Well boating safety organizations agreed that the system confused boaters and was out of sync with other countries. Most importantly, common rules between us and Canada are viewed as necessary.

There is no change in the currently available jackets, since industry standards are under revision and jackets are in the design stage. Until new jackets appear, regulations remain in effect and you should continue to follow established rules for carrying and use. The Coast Guard historically used type codes to identify the level of performance of an approved life jacket. Types I, II, and III refer to wearable life jackets in decreasing order of performance; Type IV refers to throwable life jackets; and Type V refers to any special use device, such as a deck suit.

Type codes will continue to be used in training classes pending the arrival of new floatation devices. As a short review:

- At least one properly sized life jacket for each person aboard
- Children under 6 in Florida are required to wear a properly fitted jacket when underway unless below decks or in an enclosed cabin (offshore, Federal rules require wear under 13)
- Participants in certain water sports must wear a life jacket (in Florida, water skiing and personal watercraft operation – but not inflatable jackets)
- Life jackets must be readily accessible, within reach, not in original packaging, Coast Guard-approved and in serviceable condition
- Boats 16' or longer (not canoes or kayaks) must carry a throwable device that is immediately available
- An inflatable life jacket must be worn and properly armed with an unused gas cylinder and are authorized for use by a person at least 16 years old

BoatUS Foundation and other groups have a life jacket design contest until April 15 that seeks anything from hand-drawn theoretical designs to full working prototypes. Judging will consider wearability, reliability, cost and innovation. For more on that contest, go to www.BoatUS.org/design.

Consider attending a Boating Safely Course held by the Jacksonville Flotilla on the third Saturday of each month through November 2015. Visit our web site <http://SafeBoatingJacksonville.com> for more information.

Celebrating 32 Years of Extraordinary Service To The Coast Guard Auxiliary
The Retirement of Carolyn Strong



Carolyn Strong joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary April 2nd 1982. Since then only a handful of flotilla 14-8 members have had the impact of constantly driving our flotilla forward and keeping our leaders and members on the right track to success as Carolyn Strong.

Carolyn's work as FSO-PB was recognized on a national level with the development of the our newsletter *The Eight Bells*, creating the design and standards that it holds today.

Please take an opportunity, if you get a chance to, to personally thank Carolyn for her outstanding contribution to our flotilla. We will surely miss her input as an active member and will value any contributions that we are honored with since her retirement.



David Howells is sworn in as our newest member.



Paul Burns receives the Auxiliary Letter of Commendation from Immediate Past Division Commander, Bill Sekeres



Tom Edwards receives the Pete Field Award For Outstanding Contribution to Operations



Whatley Law receives the Andy Anderson Award for the most outstanding contribution by a flotilla member in 2014



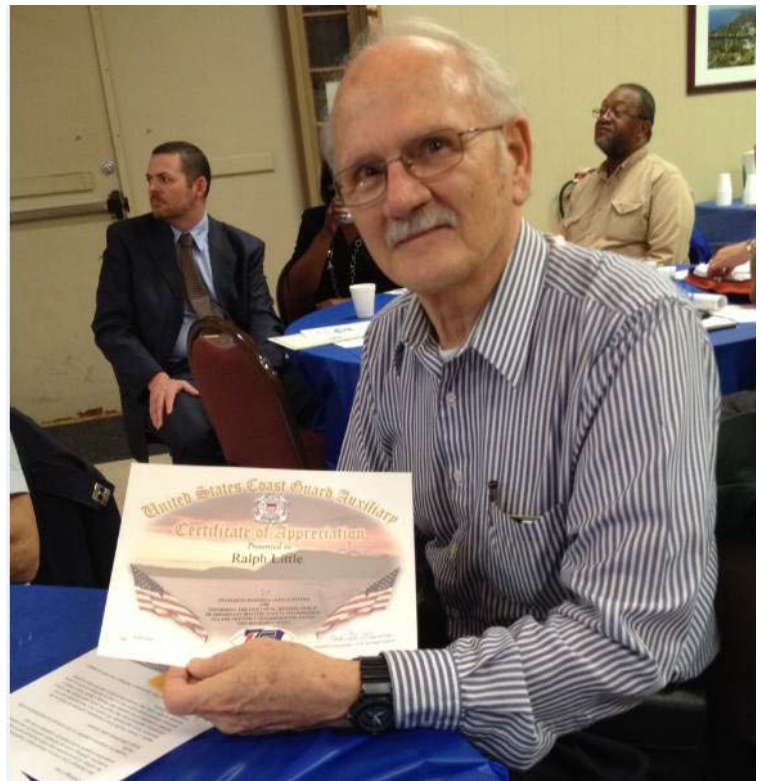
Carolyn Strong receives a plaque to honor her retirement after 32 years of service to flotilla 14-8



Coast Guard Auxiliary Liaison Officer BM1 Aaron Scruggs and Flotilla Commander, Whatley Law



Ralph Little was presented a special 75th anniversary challenge coin in recognition of his contribution to the flotilla through his monthly articles in the Mandarin News about boating safety and our flotilla's activities.





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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- MAR 10 Flotilla Meeting, 1900 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 21 Third ABS Course of 2015 – 0730 – 1700– Florida Tackle and Gun Club
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division

- APR 10 Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club

8 IS GREAT !



Visit our award winning website at
<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: Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to