
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XLI No. 4

May 2015

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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Whatley Law
Charles Trippe
Paul Burns

National Safe Boating Week **Saturday, May 16, - 22nd**



We need all available members to help bring Safe Boating Awareness to all corners of our community's boating environment.

May 16th
Vessel Examinations - Goodby's Creek Boat Ramp 9:45am to 2:45pm
Boating Safety Booth - Jacksonville Zoo
<http://www.FirstCoastSafeBoating.com/>

FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



8 bells and all is well shipmates. May is shaping up nicely for our National Safe Boating Week plans on May 16th at the John T Lowe boat ramp and the PA event at the Jacksonville Zoo on the same day.

Last Tuesday I was invited to "Taco Tuesday" aboard the cutter Diamondback, by Lt Schwartz, the commanding officer. I can report to you that the Diamondback may have the best Chef in Jacksonville and the men and ladies of the Diamondback eat very well aboard ship.

I am reminded that everyone needs to log their hours, it helps the Coast Guard with funding needs for both the Auxiliary and Active duty.

I had the honor of serving on the Auxiliary Memorial Wall committee with David Patrick, Vic Aquino and Bill Sekeres. A privilege and honor I'll shall not soon to forget.

While having the opportunity to serve on this committee, I met new active duty shipmates at the ATON station who are professional, caring and supportive of the Auxiliary mission. I look forward to supporting this mission in the future and urge any of you to offer your skills to the Auxiliary Memorial Mission.

We continue to see new folks coming to the Flotilla meetings, please reach out and offer assistance.

Whatley Law, *FC 14-8 2015*

IMMEDIATE PAST FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT



National Safe Boating Week is extraordinarily important to the Auxiliary. It is the one week out of the year that we attempt flood the media, boat ramps and classrooms with our message of "Safe Boating".

I suggest that we dedicate our boating safety efforts this month to the tragedy of 9 year old Tate Ricks of Palatka, who drowned last month after the wake of a larger boat knocked him overboard. Tate was not wearing a life jacket.

Our safe boating message failed to connect and prevent this accident. Our message, through our boating safety classes, vessel examinations, public affairs appearances, would have taught that most boating fatalities occur on small boats. The risk of accident and death are greater. **WEAR A LIFE JACKET.** A life jacket would have likely saved Tate's life, had he been wearing one.

Our safe boating class instructors teach boaters that the wake of their boat can be a instrument of destruction, injury and even death. **SLOW DOWN WHEN PASSING SMALL BOATS.**

I have been reading calls for stricter laws regarding the age requirements for mandatory life jacket usage in Florida, as it is in other neighboring states. I support that.

The Auxiliary's core activities with the public highlight the very elements that caused this unnecessary loss of life. Our job is to do everything that we can to spread the message of safe boating. It doesn't happen at a monthly flotilla meeting. It happens on the street, on our waterways, at the boat ramps the marinas, and in our classrooms.

The Auxiliary's activities will save lives this month. **BE A PART OF IT!**

Paul Burns, *IPFC 14-8 2015*

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



This month's social activity is a night out at the Jacksonville Sun's Baseball Grounds, downtown Jacksonville (by the stadium)

For 19.95, you get a seat at the game, and an hour long pre-game buffet picnic dinner. It's also "dollar-beer night". It is all in the spirit of family fun and fellowship.

Contact Whatley Law if you plan to attend.

Charles Trippe, VFC 14-8 2015

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICER'S REPORTS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



As Division Staff Officer - CS, I have been working on a new website that will benefit Division 14 in attracting the local boating public to our Boating Classes, VE events, Public Affairs Events and hopefully recruit some new members.

<http://www.FirstCoastSafeBoating.com/>

A team effort with CS officers from Flotillas 14-2, 14-7, 14-8, and thankfully worked into the division budget for the next three years by a donated grant, we have all the tools in place to increase our exposure to the Auxiliary's boating safety missions. The purpose of this website is to attract North Florida residents seeking boating safety information to one central division website, then direct them to their local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla's activities via their websites and calendars.

Currently, the website is focused on National Safe Boating Week. In the future the site will highlight safe boating articles along with the division public calendar of events.



The image to the left is a Public Affairs Tool, and a true product of modern technology. The image can be scanned using any modern smart cell phone or tablet. Scanning the image will direct you to our FirstCoastSafeBoating.com website. This "QR Code" icon can be included on business cards, newspaper articles, posters, websites, and any printed media. My own cell phone has successfully scanned this image at a size of .4" square. It is a visual/electronic link to our new website. We should include this website and this QR image appropriately in all of our publications and Facebook pages when possible.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS 2015

MEMBER TRAINING – Cris Vonderheide



Boat Crew Training continues .

Please support the Mandated Auxiliary Training which is easily accessed from our flotilla website. One hour a month with these programs will accomplish have your requirement fulfilled by the end of the year!

Cris Vonderheide FSO-MT 2015

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARION LINDA



As I start to write my report for 8 Bells each month, I sit in front of the blank page on my computer and I think, and I think, and I think. Because I am trying to come up with something new to write since my message does not change.

“The mission is not completed until the report is turned in”

Not everyone needs to fill in all the forms for they may not be a VE or a PV, but every auxiliary member needs to turn in a 7029. Why should everyone be turning in a 7029 mission report.....because even if you only make a phone call to another member, or read an Auxiliary email, you are using your personal time for the benefit of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and

that time needs to be reported on a form 7029. So if you study for a test, read a publication, talk on the phone, send an email, dress for a meeting, prepare for a meeting, go to a meeting, order a uniform, etc., all this time should be reported on a 7029. Even the time it takes to fill out a 7029 should be reported on a 7029. Then sent to me the FSO-IS via email.

When I receive your report, I will send you back an email that states I have received the report and entered it into AUXDATA. I cannot stress enough how important it is to receive this confirmation from me. I recently had 2 members ask the question “why were they not showing more hours in AUXINFO.” Or “why were they not showing more VE’s in AUXINFO.

On the 7029, my email address is on the form. All you have to do is “submit” and the report is emailed directly to me. On all other reports, (7030, 7038, 7046, etc.), you have to “type in” my email address. With a little investigation with one member, we found that the email address was wrong by 1 letter – just enough that I never received the reports. So please, make sure you get a confirmation from me. If not, send an email to me to check on the reports.

Just as I was finishing up this report, I received the April report from Sue Hastings, DSO-IS. I find her reports very enlightening and thought I would include below one paragraph from her report.

“Email Forms Submission: I had reports that several people are not being able to submit the 7030/7038/7046 forms via email. This has been a persistent problem that keeps reappearing from time to time.” And her report continues but the point I am trying to make is there can be a few reasons why I do not receive a report. PLEASE, be sure to get an email from me confirming that I have received your report and entered it into AUXDATA.

So now my new message is: Do the mission - fill in the report - get a confirmation.

Marion Linda, FSO-IS 2015

OPERATIONS – WHATLEY LAW



There were no patrols completed in April. We hope to schedule one for May and June.

Whatley Law, FSO-OP 2015

VESSEL EXAMINATION – WHATLEY LAW



VE activity has been down this year compared to last year as a result of John Hadley's significant numbers last year.

Let's work on making May a great month for vessel examinations.

All Vessel Examiners please let me know soon if you can make the VE blitz at the John T Lowe boat ramp Saturday or Sunday and the following weekend.

We have lots of decals and forms available. Please let me know what you need. I would like to go from 9:45am to 2:45pm and I could use 2-3 examiners in the morning from 9:45-12:30 and 2-3 examiners from 12:30-2:45, less than 2 hour shifts.

For those folks who are not vessel examiners, we can use your help, and you can see how the VE job is done. Please come out.

Dress is Vessel Examiner polo and ODU pants or shorts and brown or black boat shoes or the ODU uniform. As I am aware that not everyone has the same uniform it's more important to provide the service to boaters.

We can work in teams helping each other complete the VE and keeping the boaters moving.

Please let me know what you can do. This is the week of highest level of boating safety.

Whatley Law, FSO-VE 2015

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



So far this year, we had avoided having to give up a Saturday ABS course. But this month we hit a stone wall. We had to give up our course originally scheduled for May 16 because the Florida Tackle and Gun Club (FT&GC) had scheduled too many other activities for that weekend. Our course was rescheduled for May 9. We obtained the club's approval and even received advertising in their monthly newsletter. All was great until the first weekend in May when an old long time leader of the club suddenly passed away. His family asked permission to hold a reception in the main hall of the club on May 9. This time, we cancelled

our May course.

Our next ABS course will be held at the FT&GC on June 20, 2015. We already have eight students pre-registered.

We need help getting the word out to the public about these courses. If anyone has any ties to advertising we sure could use your help.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE 2015

PUBLICATIONS – PAUL BURNS



Staff Officer reports and submissions for the *Eight Bells* are due no later than the last Sunday of the month. Earlier of course is better. Please submit all material for next month's newsletter no later than May 31st.

If you have no report then simply send the message "No Report"

Paul Burns, FSO-PB 2015

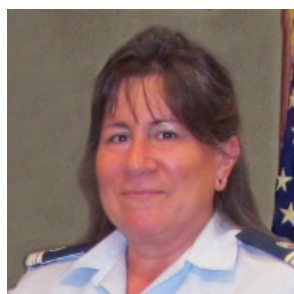
MATERIALS - Paul Thomas



No Report This Month.

*Paul Thomas FSO-MA 2015
ptcgaux1@att.net*

HUMAN RESOURCES – BECKY HABERMAS



No Report This Month

Becky Habermas, FSO-HR 2015

Pictures from the April Flotilla Social Dinner at Mediterrania

VCDR David Patrick (seated next to Bob Strong) joined us for Dinner this past month



The April Division Meeting was hosted by Flotilla 14-8



Charles Trippe is Sworn In As FSO-DV



Memorial Wall Ceremony May 2, 2015



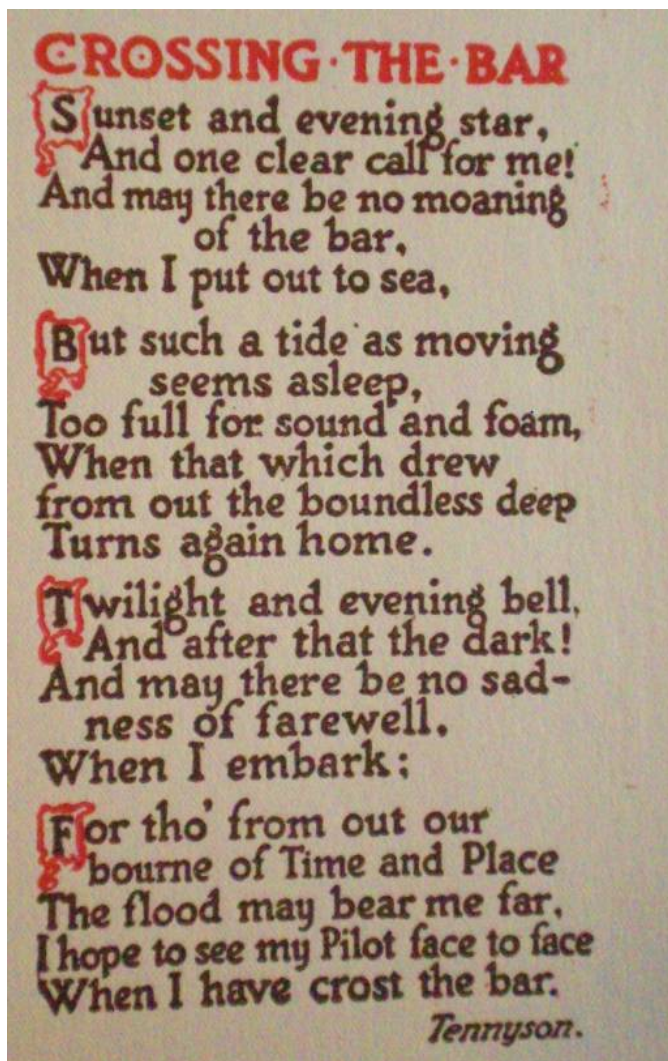
Cris Vonderheide, Whatley Law



Bob Strong, Paul Thomas



Memorial Wall Ceremony May 2, 2015



Jacksonville Beaches Honor Guard



Photo By Paul Burns

Capt. Tom Allen USCG



Photo By Paul Burns



Photo By Paul Burns

Join your Coast Guard Family & Friends at the Jacksonville Suns v Pensacola Blue Wahoos



Thursday, May 14 First Pitch 7:05 pm
Party begins at 6:00 pm Details below
Sign up with your Flotilla/Unit contact

Reservations, with check, to your Unit Contact
no later than April 20th

Questions - David Patrick (904) 687-4197

D 14 Honor Guard will be presenting the Colors



SEA BEST PARTY PLAZA ■

The *Sea Best Party Plaza* is the perfect place to hold your next event among friends & co-workers! This covered plaza is nestled down the third base line with 360-degree views of the ballpark. Parties begin 1 hour before first pitch



75 minutes of **All-You-Can-Eat** hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn, soft drinks, a reserved seat and a **FREE SUNS CAP!**

\$19.95 per person

Flotilla or Unit Contact please make checks payable to USCG Auxiliary Div 14

Flotilla or Unit Contact please mail checks to David Patrick by April 29



Mandarin News

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

Near-Shore Storms

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

Forget convention. The new normal is that tropical storms and hurricanes like Ana that form in the Bahamas or due east of Jacksonville warrant a local boat owner's attention. In Ana's case, it was not only close but started in early May, weeks before the official June starting date. The nerve! In 2014, Arthur became a Category 1 hurricane after forming east of Jacksonville on July 3rd. In 2013, 65mph Andrea formed in the Gulf of Mexico, hit Steinhatchee on June 7th and passed over Jacksonville. Other storms twisted and turned offshore and just didn't develop.

The point is that we don't always have two weeks to watch a storm travel from Africa. There is also a chance that meteorological conditions will permit a near-shore formation to cross the Gulf Stream to our east or come in our backdoor from the Gulf. In the case of near-shore storms, we may have a three day notice. That is danger-close to the cutoff times for preparatory events to get your boats protected. The key statistic driving me is that 25% of hurricane fatalities are boaters – many of whom spent too long trying to prepare.



A hurricane "watch" is posted when conditions threaten a specific coast, usually within 36 hours. A hurricane "warning" is posted when sustained winds of 74 mph or higher are expected within 24 hours. At the warning is too late, and at the watch, may be too late, to head for the boat. Near-shore storms will cause precautionary times to compress. Local bridges will close when wind gets to 40 mph.

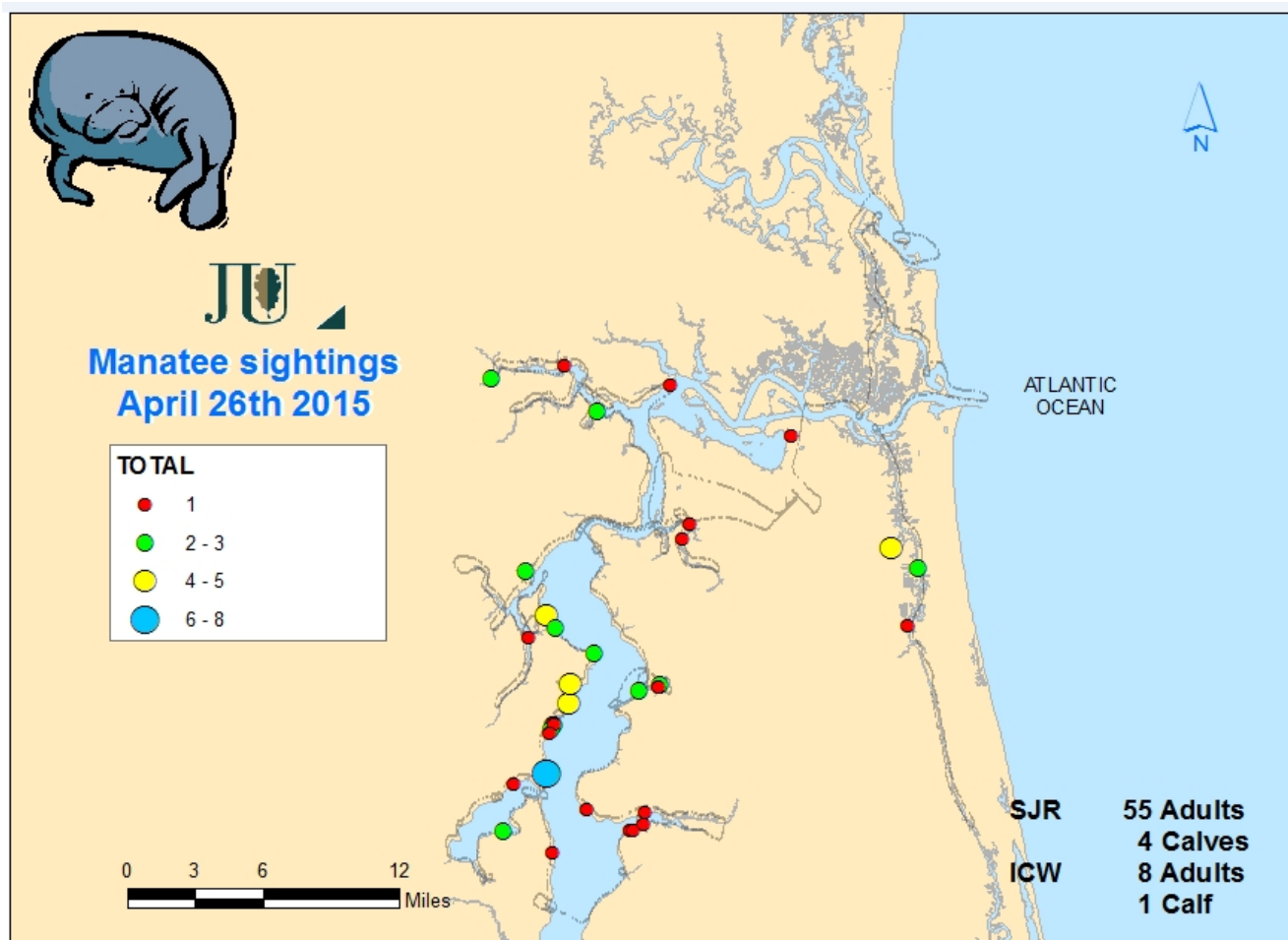
You will be preparing your boat after the family and house are ready. So use hurricane guides to get ready before hand, leaving time to protect the boat depending on its location, which is your key decision. Consider in order - storage out of the storm path, in a closed building, on the ground, in a narrow waterway, or secured to floating docks.

See the Florida Fish & Wildlife site at <http://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/hurricane/> and their referenced BoatUS <http://www.boatus.com/hurricanes/boaterprep.aspx> site for preparation guides, mooring directions and other considerations. If you use a marina, ask about their hurricane plan which may include an evacuation. You can be held liable for damage from an improperly secured boat.

Consider attending a Boating Safely Course held by the Jacksonville Flotilla on the third Saturday of each month June 20 through November 2015. Visit our web site <http://SafeBoatingJacksonville.com> for more information.

From Dr. Pinto at Jacksonville University

"Please be aware that manatees are moving back into the area. Remember to look out for them particularly in the shallow waters close to shore and around docks. Using polarized sun glasses helps to see better into the water and please also report any sightings if you see any to others working in and around our waterways. Map attached and flight courtesy of the USCG AIRAUX."



Manatee sightings maps are the results of aerial surveys conducted by Jacksonville University under an agreement with the USCG AIRAUX. The manatee sightings represent the known minimum number of animals and their location at the time of the flight. The numbers may be higher and the animals change locations frequently. The information is an indication of the number and location of manatees and subject to change daily.

Don't Forget our Meeting Tuesday, May 12th Fellowship - 7:00pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| MAY 12 | Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club |
| MAY 14 | USCG & Aux Night at Jacksonville Suns- Baseball 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Jacksonville Baseball Grounds, Downtown Jacksonville |
| MAY 16 | National Safe Boating Week Begins |
| MAY 16 | Vessel Exams at the John T Lowe Boat Ramp, Goodby's Creek |
| MAY 16 | Public Affairs Booth at The Jacksonville Zoo |
| MAY 21 | We'll skip the scheduled social this month. Try to make the
May 14th Coast Guard Night at the Jacksonville Suns Baseball Game! |
| MAY 31 | Eight Bells Deadline for Staff Reports, Pictures, and Articles |
|
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| JUNE 9 | Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club |
| JUNE 18 | Flotilla Dinner Social - St Mary's Seafood, on Old St Augustine Rd. |
| JUNE 20 | About Boating Safely Public Education Class 7:30am |
| JUNE 28 | Eight Bells Deadline for Staff Reports, Pictures, and Articles |

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.*

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