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# EIGHT



# BELLS

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

**Volume XLII No. 1**

**January 2016**

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FLOTILLA COMMANDER  
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER  
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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## **FACES OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEW YEAR**



Whatley Law, FC



Paul Thomas - VFC,  
FSO-MA



Paul Burns  
IPFC, SO-CS, FSO-CS,  
FSO-HR, FSO-PB,



Jolene Richardson  
SO-DV, FSO-DV



Bob Strong  
FSO-FN, FSO-PE



Marion Linda  
FSO-IS



Cris Vonderheide  
FSO-MT, FSO-OP



Dan Hess  
FSO-VE



David Howells  
FSO-PA, FSO-PV



Kevin Kalil  
FSO-CM



Flora Randolph  
FSO-SR



Chris McLaughlin  
FSO-NS



Paul Tynda  
FSO-MS

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**FLOTILLA CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016 6:30PM**  
**LOCATION: MEDITERRANIA,**  
**3877 Baymeadows Rd. (Baymeadows Rd & San Jose Blvd)**

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**FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER**



Happy New Year Shipmates.

As we enter 2016 let's all pull our oars together, focusing on boater safety and education, vessel examinations, public affairs and active duty support with fellowship and fun.

My goal for 2016 is great fellowship with you all, fun rewarding work with public events, boat ramps VSC's and boating education classes.

We have all accepted the great responsibility of supporting the Coast Guard mission as uniformed volunteers. Let's do it with enthusiasm and a smile. With that smile let's be sure to get our hours turned in timely, send your Eight Bells articles in to Paul timely and make sure to attend our socials and meetings in 2016.

I want to thank Paul Thomas for taking the leadership role of VFC 2016 as he brings years of leadership and ability to the Flotilla, guiding our Staff Officers through this year.

Reflecting on 2015 it would have not been the great year we had without the Past Flotilla Commanders Committee guiding me the workings of my role in our Flotilla. Thank you Bob Strong, Paul Thomas, Paul Burns, Charles Trippe, Cris Vonderheide, and Dan Hess all for your guidance and leadership.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind you all again that a special thank you to Paul Burns for countless hours of leadership and mentoring that is worth another hand shake from each and everyone of us. Please be sure to thank Paul for 2015 as Paul lead the way for us all in many many ways.

Thank you all for letting me be your Flotilla Commander in 2016 let's all pull in the same direction once again.

"Eight is Great"

*Whatley Law, FC 14-8 2016*

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**FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT**



Flotilla Happy New Year to all and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016 as we serve the Coast Guard and our fellow members. Thank you for electing me as your Flotilla Vice Commander. I look forward to working with all the staff officers and members this year.

A special congratulations goes out to Jolene Richardson who not only has joined our flotilla staff as FSO-Diversity, but she has also been appointed to the Division 14 Staff in the Diversity billet. Truly a great accomplishment.

*Paul Thomas, VFC 14-8 2016*

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## IMMEDIATE PAST FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT

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**What an exciting picture on the front of this newsletter** with 7 members holding new staff officer positions. This is how the Coast Guard Auxiliary evolves and grows with new ideas, and fresh thinking.

The fact that 4 of our new staff officers are new members still waiting on PSI to complete the membership process is a testament of the Auxiliary's commitment to making sure that new members have all the same opportunities as the veteran members. There is virtually nothing that you cannot do in the Auxiliary as soon as you get your member number.

This first month of the year is a perfect time to get some online training done before the boating season kicks in and we get busy. I spent New Years Day doing some online training. I completed 3 courses and exams. It was a breeze!

### **Everybody needs to maintain at least 1 qualification or certification**

- |                             |                               |                           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Program Visitor           | - Vessel Examiner             | - Instructor              |
| - Public Affairs Specialist | - Food Service Specialist     | - Finger Print Technician |
| - ATON Verifier             | - Boat Crewman                | - Coxswain                |
| - PWC Operator              | - Telecommunications Operator | - Interpreter             |
| - First Aid Provider        | - Marine Safety Specialist    |                           |

Then of course, after you get certified, you need to maintain that certification by completing at least the minimum tasks for the year. So what training can you dive into that will benefit both you and the flotilla?

### **- WE NEED PROGRAM VISITORS!** (A better description of the job is "Marine Dealer Visitor" It's



a matter of dropping to a marine retail store, or marina, or boat dealer, or insurance office or any business with boating connections or interestes. The course and test takes a couple of hours at most. Then you need to do 2 supervised vists, then you are a qualified PV. The flotilla needs dramatic improvement in this area. Our numbers in this area last year really stunk. The marine business community needs to see more of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We currently have 3 qualifed PVs. I'm joining as the 4th, we need 5 or 6 more to cover our area.

### **- WE NEED VESSEL EXAMINERS!** This is a pretty cool job. You get to look over boats of all sizes and configurations. We also need "Commercial Vessel Examiners".



Jacksonville is crawling with hundreds of commercial vessels from 15ft pond maintenance skiffs to 1000 ft freighters. We currently have 8 qualified VEs, we need 8 more. Think about how many boats there are in Jacksonville, and how many boat ramps, and marinas that can provide us with boats to examine.

**- The Instructor Program** not only teaches the public, but you can teach courses to members as well. The Instructor Program requires at least 2.5 hours of instruction to the public to qualify. Bob Strong and I can help prepare you for that role.



*Paul Burns, IPFC 14-8 2016*



## FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICER'S REPORTS

### COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



First of all, I have rearranged the menu on the left side of our flotilla's website, SafeBoatingJax.com. Links are separated by "Public Information Links" and "Member Links". I hope that this helps.

Personally, I am making a commitment this year to more accurate reporting of my Auxiliary time. One of the problems that I had in the past was not putting my time in the correct categories, and not using the form 7030 to report mission hours that are appropriate for that form.

What I have done for myself and I encourage for you is to more or less ignore that date column on the 7029 form and put together a template that you can use each month that shows your typical activities at the beginning of the month, then you can change the appropriate hours on those activity lines as the month progresses. At the end of the month, you hit the "Submit" button, and your report is done.

I have a sample form below:

ITEM	DATE ← →	MISSION DESCRIPTION (42 CHARACTERS MAXIMUM)	NON-REIMB.		HOURS PER MISSION CATEGORY				
			MILES	EXPENSE	99A	99B	99C	99D	99E
1		Meeting Preparation 99A			1				
2		Meeting Attendance 99A	5		1				
3		Email Communications 99A			1				
4		Mentoring 99D							1
5		Admin Activities 99A			1				
6		PE Class Prep 99B				1			
7		Member Training 99D						1	
8		Flotilla Change of Watch 99A					1		
9		Marine Safety (Anything to do with MS) 99C							
10		Aids to Navigation 99B				1			
11		Vessel Examination Prep and travel 99B				1			
12		Public Affairs Prep and Travel 99B				1			
13		Online Training and Testing 99D						1	
14		Staff Officer Attending Meetings 99A			1				
15		Non Staff Officer Attending Meetings 99E							1
16		FSO Reporting 99A			1				
17		Phone Communications 99A			1				
18		Marine Patrols, Operations Prep 99B				1			
19		ATON Prep and Research 99B				1			
20		Program Visitor Prep and Travel 99B				1			
21									
22		TRANSFER HOURS APPROPRIATE FORM							
23		Member Training Seminar (By Lead 7030)							
24		PE In-Class Hours (Reported by Lead 7030)							
25		Marine Dealer / Partner Visit (7046 form)							
26		Vessel Exam (Form 7038)							
27		Public Affairs Website 10D (7030)							
28		Public Affairs Newsletter 10L (Form 7030)							
29									

For the next month, you can "Copy" the previous month's form, clear the hour entries and begin to record the new month's hours.

☐ 28 FEB 13
 ☐ 17 FEB 13

SUBMITTED
 SUBMITTED

NEW
 OPEN
 COPY
 DELETE

Paul Burns, FSO-CS 2016

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARION LINDA**



Happy New Year!

I just want to thank everyone who “caught up” and submitted their reports by the end of the year. The year end “panic” was avoided and everything moved along smoothly.

If any member, new or old, would like a lesson on submitting electronic reports or using AUXINFO, I am happy to set aside time before or after a flotilla meeting. Just let me know. And since I have not made the following request this year, please don't forget to send me your reports.

*Marion Linda, FSO-IS 2016*

### **VESSEL EXAMINATION –DAN HESS**



The new 2016 VE decals are in and I will distribute them (10 each) to the vessel examiners at the next meeting. I will be planning VE “blitzes” quarterly. The first one will be in February and the second one in May for safe boating week. Then one during the summertime and a final one in the fall.

We will be doing these VEs at multiple locations. The dates are still to be determined. Vessel examiners should also plan to do individual VE's on their own during the year. However, please make sure that before you go out, that you contact either myself or the FC so I or he can officially “assign you to duty” for liability purposes. This is very important! See you soon at dock side.

*Dan Hess, FSO-VE 2016*

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS - DAVID HOWELS**



#### **THE FINEST HOURS DISNEY DIGITAL 3D MOVIE**

You don't want to miss this new Disney movie hitting the streets January 29th. This film covers the 1952 beyond the call of duty rescue by Coastguardsmen of two tanker crews forty miles away from each other simultaneously. A motor-lifeboat crew of four from Station Chatham in Massachusetts takes on 70ft waves and hurricane force winds to rescue 33 sailors in their tiny lifeboat. Based on a 2009 book this movie is long overdue.

*David Howells, FSO-PA 2016*

### **MATERIALS – PAUL THOMAS**



It's the start of a new year and I have received request for several items, some I have on hand and the others will be ordered.

*Paul Thomas, FSO-MA 2016*

## MARINE SAFETY – PAUL TYNDA



Libby Rattrie, SO-MS 14 has said in an email that she is planning on starting the Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder PQS in February and needs to know if any flotilla members are interested. Email Libby Rattrie at pb-rattrie@att.net if you are interested.

Here is a brief outline of the required training to be a an Assistant Pollution Responder

### Sector Training Guide

#### Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder

#### Performance Qualification Standard

#### Qualification Code: AUX-ED

This booklet is one section of your personal 'on the job training' (OJT) manual. It is your OJT guide to qualification as a Pollution Responder. It is your responsibility to document completed unit training items.

Verifying Officers shall be experienced and qualified personnel who have demonstrated the ability to evaluate, instruct, and observe other personnel in the performance task criteria. Verifying Officers must be certified in the competencies for which they are to verify and must be command designated. Verifying Officers must enter their title, name, and initials in the Record of Verifying Officers section before making entries in your workbook.

A Verifying Officer shall observe your successful performance of each task and document such with date and initials in the appropriate space provided in this booklet. It may be necessary to perform a task several times. The Verifying Officer will not give credit for any task that is not performed satisfactory.

Auxiliarists do not have law enforcement authority. They cannot independently exercise COTP, OCMI, FMSC or FOSC authority and may become personally liable for actions they take outside of prescribed directives. Do not allow an Auxiliarist to be placed in a position that will compromise the limitations on the member's authority.

Certain tasks may require participation in an actual incident response, but the unit's response activity may preclude you from accomplishing these tasks. Therefore, with the approval of the Command and Verifying Officer, you may utilize exercises and/or training as a means of accomplishing the requisite participation in order to fulfill the task requirements.

When you have completed all of the items required for this qualification, your command will issue a Letter of Qualification. You must forward a copy of your Letter of Designation to your DIRAUX for entry into AUXDATA.

Should any item be waived the qualification is considered local and will not be entered into AUXDATA and may not be used toward qualification for the Marine Safety (Trident) device.

The Program Managers for this PQS are Commandant (CG-533, CG-545 and CG-542) and Auxiliary National Prevention Department.

*Paul Tynda, FSO-MS 2016*

## **HUMAN RESOURCES – PAUL BURNS**



Membership paperwork seemed to slow down during the month of December. We are still waiting on Zach Kelly's member number to show up.

We are off to a good start with members transferring to our flotilla.

We welcome **Ernest Aviles**, who comes to our flotilla from Gainesville. Ernest is a US Marine with a security background. He is currently taking Criminal Justice Courses at UF and plans to graduate this Summer. His Auxiliary experience includes Public

Affairs and Materials and he has a goal to qualify as a PWC Operator in our Operations program. We hope to meet Ernest soon at one of our monthly meetings.

I was excited at our December meeting to meet **Chris Landry** and his wife Tomeka. Chris has submitted transfer papers to our flotilla and should be on our member roster any day now. Chris works as a volunteer at the Coast Guard Recruiting Office and he plans to help us with our flotilla's HR program.



Chris Landry

Our current membership count is at 42 + 2 in process. I have a couple of new inquiries to follow up on. Hopefully we will see them at our next flotilla meeting.

*Paul Burns, FSO-HR 2016*

## **PUBLICATIONS – PAUL BURNS**



I would like to thank the contributors to this month's newsletter. David Howells, Paul Tynda, Chris Landry, Zachary Kelly and Ralph Little. All submitted very valuable articles with makes this publication more than just a list of reports.

Our newsletter tells the story of what we do with our valuable volunteer time to our boating community. Just like reporting your time on a 7029 and 7030 forms, taking a picture or two and writing a paragraph documents your activities and records it in our flotilla's historical record.

Take a picture of an interesting boat that you examined.

Take a picture of your frequent PV partners Coast Guard Auxiliary brochure display.

And of course any time that you are engaging the public, a picture tells the story.

Your activities, pictures and articles are also useful for publication in our local newspapers, and Auxiliary publications on the Division, District and National levels.

An archive of our past newsletters going back through 2008 are available on our website, SafeBoatingJax.com . <http://www.safeboatingjax.com/pages/14-8Publications.htm> . I encourage many of you who have joined our flotilla in the past couple of years to look back and see what we have done in the past. Hopefully it may spark some ideas for your future projects.

The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 31st.

*Paul Burns, FSO-PB 2016*



## **The Coast Guard Recruiting Office Delivers Christmas Gifts for Veterans**

On Dec. 18 the USCG Recruiting office and took a trip to the Gainesville VA hospital to visit with our nations Veterans hospitalized there. Around Thanksgiving, Tomeka Landry had a wonderful idea to put up an Angel tree for our Veterans, after talking to Capt. Dixon we were given permission to put up a tree in the galley at SECTOR. With the help of Coast Guard members, command and numerous business in Jacksonville we were able to bring gifts and care packages for over 200 Veterans. It was more than I can put into words. I can say this I was wonderful to visit with each individual.



*Article and Photos by Chris Landry flotilla 14-2 Seventh District,*



## Zachary Kelly Visits the Coast Guard Academy



Flotilla 14-8's newest member applicant, Zachary Kelly, aspires to attend the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut after he graduates from high school in 2017.

This past November, Zach had an opportunity to spend some time at the Academy getting to know what it is like to be a cadet.

In this visit, Zach had an opportunity to join other high school students and their families for a day of exploration and fellowship. The program includes information about cadet life, academic, military, and athletic programs. Cadet-led campus tours provide insight into the Coast Guard Academy experience first-hand. Students who attend have the opportunity to dine in the cadet wardroom for lunch, attend a class of their choice, and meet one-on-one with cadets. Participants in this program depart with a thorough understanding of the admissions process and are well prepared to decide whether or not to apply.

Zachary said that the trip was an exciting and eye opening experience.

Congratulations Zach!



Photos by Zachary Kelly Flotilla 14-8 Seventh District



### **Mandarin News**

Cornerstones and Community Support

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

Your flotilla in Mandarin works to support the local community and the Jacksonville metropolitan area. That support is guided by our four cornerstones of Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, Member Services and Fellowship. Our most obvious roles include teaching boating safety, performing waterborne security and safety patrols, offering

free recreational boat safety exams, supplying boating safety information, assisting local environmental efforts and being St. Johns River advocates.

Member Services and Fellowship are what we do to maintain the flotilla and its morale. One of the major community impacts a flotilla has is economic and a by-product of its public and membership activities. Our annual cycle begins anew each year. We are a uniformed arm of the Coast Guard, but are volunteers and our leadership is elected by the members and not assigned. This year, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, flotilla elections will provide our new or reelected leadership. Subsequently, we have a Change of Watch ceremony in January when we meet over dinner, install leaders, award noteworthy and humorous achievements and reminisce. This ceremony is held at a local facility, usually a restaurant, and infuses revenue into that business. Last year's ceremony was held at the Florida Gun & Tackle Club. Past events were held at the Ramada Inn and Santioni's among others.

Throughout the year we meet monthly for a fellowship get-together, picking a different eating place, mostly in the Mandarin area. Some 2015 sites included St. Mary's Seafood and the Mediterranea Restaurant on Baymeadows Road. Besides patronizing restaurants, our economic impact extends to office supply purchases for the unit as well as for education classes, public affairs events and the needs of our vessel examiners. Our patrol craft are fueled and maintained locally as well. Ongoing and through the next few months, our crew training will work on many topics including towing, boat handling and navigation. Of course, individual members buy uniform parts at local bases and commercial businesses and utilize dry cleaners. Members also purchase computer and office supplies and fuel to attend various events. We haven't added it up, but the unit cycle involves a considerable economic impact on the local area.

As members of the Coast Guard Team we also may have members integrated into daily support of a flight unit at Cecil Field or at Station Mayport. Not the least of the flotilla's impacts is to foster one of Mandarin's and Jacksonville's most active group of responsible citizens dedicated to the local community.

Contact us through our website, <http://www.SafeBoatingJacksonville.com> for membership, vessel exams, classes or any reason.

# Don't Forget our Change Of Watch Thursday, January 14th, Fellowship - 6:30pm

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

JAN 9	PE Class Canceled
JAN 12	No Flotilla Meeting, Member Training and Coaching - 1900
JAN 14	Flotilla Change of Watch, Medeterrania 1830
JAN 16	Division Change of Watch, Allegro, Flemming Island
JAN 23	Division Meeting, St Augustine Airport Conference Center
JAN 31	<i>Eight Bells</i> Newsletter Deadline for Staff Reports, Pictures, and Articles
FEB 9	Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club
FEB 13	About Boating Safely, PE Class 730, Florida Tackle and Gun Club
FEB 13	Member Training 830 to 1200, Florida Tackle and Gun Club
FEB 28	<i>Eight Bells</i> Newsletter Deadline for Staff Reports, Pictures, and Articles

## Celebrity Coast Guard / Coast Guard Reserve / Coast Guard Auxiliary



Was he a Coxswain or Just "The Skipper" ?

Alan Hale Jr. who's acting career spanned the decades of the 1930s thru the 1980s, and who is most remembered for his roll as "The Skipper" on the 1960s series "Gilligan's Island", was a member of the United States Coast Guard 1942-1945.

## 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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