



The NOR'EASTER Division-14



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY District 7, Division 14

XXXVI Volume-2

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Div-14 SO Board Meeting & Seminar

Saturday, 16 April 2016 - Fort Caroline Club

4131 Ferber Road, Jacksonville, Florida

09:00hrs Board of Directors Meeting / FCs 10:15hrs General Meeting

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Division Staff

Division Commander	DCDR	Vic Aquino
Vice Commander	VCDR	David Patrick
Immediate Past Commander	IPDCDR	Bill Sekeres
Flotilla Commander 14-1	FC 14-1	Harry Tipper
Flotilla Commander 14-2	FC 14-2	Bill Sekeres
Flotilla Commander 14-4	FC 14-4	Gary Gray
Flotilla Commander 14-5	FC 14-5	Steve Crowder
Flotilla Commander 14-7	FC 14-7	Libby Rattrie
Flotilla Commander 14-8	FC 14-8	Whatley Law
Staff Officer - Communications	SO-CM	Joe Colee
Staff Officer - Communication Services	SO-CS	Paul Burns
Staff Officer - Diversity	SO-DV	Jolene Richardson
Staff Officer - Finance	SO-FN	Klaus Baumann
Staff Officer - Human Resources	SO-HR	Rick Saunders
Staff Officer - Information Services	SO-IS	Bob Cook
Staff Officer - Materials	SO-MA	Stephen Craven
Staff Officer - Marine Safety	SO-MS	Libby Rattrie
Staff Officer - Member Training	SO-MT	Chuck Hayes
Staff Officer - Navigation Systems	SO-NS	Neil Rattrie
Staff Officer - Operations	SO-OP	Bill Sekeres
Staff Officer - Public Affairs	SO-PA	Jon Hunt
Staff Officer - Publications	SO-PB	Mark Ellins
Staff Officer - Public Education	SO-PE	Harry Tipper
Staff Officer - Partner Visitor	SO-PV	Joe Rassa
Staff Officer - Secretary/Records	SO-SR	Bill Hall
Staff Officer - Vessel Examination	SO-VE	Phil Tallon

Division Commander

Vic Aquino



Division 14 Shipmates,

2016 Boating Season

As I write this today, I am well aware that the 2016 boating season is now underway and that our waters will be full of boaters enjoying our great weather. With spring boating starting we, as Auxiliarists, need to be keenly aware of the opportunities and dangers that increased traffic brings. As for the opportunities: increasing boating education, vessel safety checks, public awareness and safety patrols comes to mind. As for dangers: we just have to be mindful of the recent boating accident in the Welaka area on April 1, when an off duty Putnam County Sheriff Deputy lost her life while being in a small vessel, at night and not wearing a PFD. According to the media, Florida lost 73 individuals in 2014 (last year that statistics are available). The majority of those were not wearing a PFD. With our PE, VE, PA missions we can help lessen the loss by emphasizing the importance of the simple act of merely wearing a PFD.

Life Jacket Zone Stencil Project

I want to congratulate Flotillas 14-1 and 14-7 for their efforts in placing stencils in virtually every county boat ramp in Camden County, GA., Nassau and St. Johns Counties, FL. Unfortunately, the other three counties in our AOR have virtually chosen to deny us the opportunity to stencil their ramps.

Mandated Training

As of this date, April 4, **only 139** division members have completed Mandated Training and have it recorded in AUXDATA. With a total membership of 316 members, 177 members (56%) have not completed MT. Please be aware that **not completing MT does have consequences**, among them: Not getting an ID card (initial or renewal); Not advancing to IQ or BQ, even if you have a favorable PSI; No qualification such as boat crew, etc.; No C-Schools; Etc. **If you truly wish to be an active participant in the Auxiliary missions, MT is MUST.**

HUREX 2016 and NSBW

HUREX 2016 will commence on Monday April 18 and end on April 23. You will be notified by phone of the exercise. We hope to use the AIMS - Auxiliary Incident Management System (Everbridge) to contact each member. If AIMS is not used you will be notified by the phone tree established by each flotilla. The call to each member is to verify your phone numbers. Other members with PV and MS responsibilities have duties they will be performing when the "Heavy Weather Plan" is put into place.

NSBW (National Safe Boating Week) occurs on May 21 through May 28. All flotillas have plans for that week. Individuals are needed for the various activities scheduled and I hope that you will step up and assist your flotillas.

Semper Paratus, Vic Aquino, DCDR

**Vice Division
Commander**

David Patrick



Our Immediate Past SO-PA, Robert Schultz was the inspiration for me to make my donation to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Annual Fund Drive. His forwarded email led me to a video that, even though it is two years old, touched me deeply. Watch the video you can find by following this link and then read on - [Ohio boy's gift to soldier.](#)

April is the month dedicated to raising funds for the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) program. As you travel and meet Auxiliarists in your area of responsibility I ask you to remind them of the program and the needs that it serves. Think about your recent Easter and Passover holidays, remind them of how they are richly endowed they are to sit at a table with family and friends and how many of our Coast Guard family do not have the basic means to do the same. Whether it is due to medical or some other unforeseen event, such as a hurricane or tornado or just plain hard times, the CGMA can step in and lend a financial hand at their time of need.

Remind all that the CGMA can assist any member of our Coast Guard family, be they active duty, reserve, Auxiliarist or civilian employee.

If you did not receive a CGMA packet in the mail, you or your unit can still give at [Coast Guard Mutual Assistance](#). Just go to their website and learn more about the CGMA.

Thank you Bob for sharing the story of that boy from Ohio who has raised over a quarter of a million dollars to date for Snowball Express, a charity dedicated to help children of those lost in combat. It was truly inspirational.

Semper Paratus
David Patrick VCDR

Flotilla Commander Reports

14-1 Amelia Island Harry Tipper, FC

Life around Flotilla 14-1 continues at its typical, Spring-time pace. We have boat crew trainees and current crew and coxswains getting ready for their initial certification Q/Es. Recertification of current boat crew and coxswains will be scheduled for the end of the summer. We just concluded a successful Weekend Navigator class and will be continuing the ABS classes through June. And, we are gearing up for the onslaught of events that are the hallmarks of late spring/early summer including:

Fernandina Beach Shrimp Festival:

- 28 April: Parade - Thursday, April 28 (MSST in St Marys has committed to bring on of its boats & trailer for the parade, schedule permitting), and
- 30 April: Festival - Saturday April 30 (We will be giving tours of the USCG Sawfish an 87' Coastal Patrol Boat)

National Safe Boating Week:

Wild Amelia Festival

Creating a kayak static display as part of the flotilla's exhibit at the Wild Amelia Festival on the Saturday of NSBW. We already participate in this environmentally oriented event held in Fernandina Beach. The proposal would be to expand it to include a static display of properly rigged kayaks (one fishing and one purely recreational) to demonstrate what equipment they should have on-board.

14 May: Scheduled a VSC event at Buccaneer Bait & Tackle Shop (next to Meeting Street boat ramp, St Marys, GA)

16 & 18 May: Youth Boating Safety PE (Emma Love Elementary School, Fernandina Beach, FL)

21 May: Adult Boating Safety PE (Amelia Island Lighthouse, Fernandina Beach, FL)

Scheduled a Kayak/Paddle craft Safety Day at Dee Dee Bartels Boat Ramp in Fernandina Beach on the Saturday of Memorial Weekend (technically the day after NSBW). It would include safety checks and, again, a static display aimed at Kayakers.

28 May: VSC Event (Dee Dee Bartels Boat Ramp, Fernandina Beach, FL)

4 June: VSC Event at the Historic St Marys Fishing Tournament (St. Marys, FL)

11 June: Paddlecraft & Boating Safety Exhibit at National Marina Day festival (Fernandina Beach, FL)

Flotilla Commander Reports

14-1 Amelia Island Harry Tipper, FC

In addition, we have been working with Station Mayport to create an outreach to kayakers in its AOR. One item that we are not able to accomplish on our level is a participatory kayak event (similar to the charity 5K runs) that would be a "fun" day that would feature safety oriented "vendors", demonstrations, etc. As a flotilla, we do not have the resources to put something on that scale together. Also, as Auxiliarists, we are limited in our scope since we cannot do any in-the-water training or demonstrations. There would have to be one or more partners to handle that facet of the event. And, unfortunately, we concluded our local vendors have too narrow a view to be willing to assist. (Perhaps someone like Black River in Jacksonville would be more willing?). Perhaps this is something that could be taken over at the Division level for next year's NSBW events? Station Mayport has agreed to commit PA resources to promote all the above events.

Finally, I want to give a "shout out" to the many members of Flotilla 14-1 and the Camden County Detachment, too numerous to mention here, for receiving the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation for the 2014 Resolute Guardian Exercise and last year's National Safe Boating Week effort. The USCG Auxiliary is not a collection of individuals but a team pulling together toward the common goal of recreational boating safety. The MTC recognizes that team effort. Bravo Zulu!

14-2 Arlington Bill Sekeres, FC

The Arlington flotilla is in the final stages of preparing for the QE for the Boat Crew Academy. With the much appreciated cooperation from the Leadership, coxswains and crew of Fernandina and the Beaches flotillas in arranging patrols with their facilities the end of the long six month weekly training sessions is at hand. As FC I want to personally congratulate the members of the Arlington, Jacksonville and Beaches flotillas who have trained hard. I also want to express my appreciation to Chuck Hayes and Rick Smith for their expertise and dedication in conducting the BCA.

Last month we participated in the Bass masters Fishing tournament in Palatka, as many of our Division members did. Specifically, I want to thank Debra McAlister and Brian Rickert for traveling to the Bass Masters tournament in Palatka to conduct VSCs. Scott Thomas was there as well and was our spearhead and OIC in organizing the trip and seeing through the mechanics of the day. Phil Tallon was there as well in his role as Division Staff Officer, as well as Assistant District Staff Officer for VEs. Our flotilla was well represented in these four members.

In April 14-02 will again lead the effort for the SE Boat Show at Metro Park the week-end of the 15th – 17th. If any member of another flotilla wants to help at the PA booth please contact me for an open time that the booth will be needing help. Also, acceptable Uniform(s) of the Day for the boat show will be either Troops or ODU's. Of course whatever uniform is worn it must be a correct uniform. I'd like to add here that the default presentation for the ODU blouse sleeves is that the sleeves are rolled-up. In other words: Not pulled down.

Flotilla Commander Reports—continued

14-2 Arlington Bill Sekeres, FC

As we have done for the past several years we will once again be joined by the Jacksonville Sail and Power Squadron at Jim King Park and boat ramp at Sister's Creek. Organizational partners and activities include:

- Static Display of 25 RBS from CG Station Mayport.
- 45' RBM on station.
- Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Dept. fireboat on station.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife on station.
- Flare Demonstrations.
- Safety Booth.
- VSC

14-4 Jacksonville Beach Gary Gray, FC

Flotilla 14-4 is off to a great start this year. New members who have recently joined are really stepping up to assist with the mission.

We are currently planning for a QE mission in April and hope to requalify several crew and coxswains as well as new crew and coxswain candidates. We were recently informed by the QE coordinator that we may have to schedule an additional mission to take care of all the candidates. Several training missions have been scheduled and are planned.

Operationally we continue to meet the requests of Station Mayport, especially in providing coverage for permitted marine events such as rowing regattas.

Public Education has conducted successful classes every month this year as we strive to take public education classes into the community in convenient venues within our AOR.

Marine Safety has gathered a crew that are preparing to go into the public schools to present programs to students about the impact of pollution on the environment and how they, as young people, can help to be more mindful of pollution and marine safety.

Our Program Visitor crew has developed an excellent rapport with their contacts, in the business community, who welcome their visits and feel very much a part of the mission as they offer literature to the public to promote safe boating. This crew has already achieved 30% of their goal for the year.

Vessel exams are offered on a regular basis with scheduled visits to local boat ramps on selected weekends. Our FSO-PV and FSO-VE are also actively involved with our VFC in planning for Safe Boating Week. This team is also supported by our Marine Safety crew.

Flotilla Commander Reports—continued

14-4 Jacksonville Beach Gary Gray, FC

We plan to set up booths at three boat ramps: Mayport Boat Ramp, Palm Cove Marina and Beach Marine. A team will be in place at each location consisting of at least two VE's and one PV. In addition to offering vessel examinations, the PVs will be offering safe boating brochures. Additionally, each location will be staffed with one or more Marine Safety personnel who will concentrate on providing information on America's Waterway Watch.

I am excited and pleased to be a part of such a great crew and what they are doing to promote safe boating in our community.

14-5 Green Cove Steve Crowder, FC

On 13 March Flotilla 14-5 members participated in the "Bass Masters" Vessel Safety Check Blitz.

We conducted our second Florida Safe Boating Class with 06 participants as well as participated in the St. John's River Celebration "Clean-Up" at Knights boat ramp.

National Safe Boating Week rough plan: Pending availability of Certified VEs, Flotilla 14-05 will deploy several two-person teams of Vessel Examiners to conduct Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) at two Clay County public Launch ramps on each of the opening Saturday and Sunday of National Safe Boating Week (May 21st & 22nd), and at the Palatka Boat Ramp (in conjunction with the Blue Crab Festival) the following weekend. A display of USCG Aux materials, brochures and pamphlets will be set up at each site.

Flotilla Commander Reports—continued

14-7 Saint Augustine Libby Rattrie, FC

It has been a busy quarter for 14-7 with all our programs & missions getting up to speed for 2016. The PE program has conducted 2 RBS classes & one class on How to Read a Nautical Chart. More Mandatory Training classes were held to get more Flotilla members to complete their required MT. An AV PQS class was also held which will supply the Flotilla with more qualified ATON Verifiers. Our PVs have been busy getting the required marina information for the 2016 Heavy Weather Plan for Sector along with regular PV visits. Mike Marcon has really been out there doing his & Joe Rassa's contact lists. EOC representatives have also been confirmed. The 14-7 VE program is going strong with the warmer weather. Besides regularly schedule VEs at the Vilano & Lighthouse Ramps, Becky & Peter Kaurup are concentrating on Paddle Crafts & already have done an impressive number of VSCs. 14-7 was invited to participate in a PA event held by the Ancient City Gamefish Association at the Conch House marina concentrating on boating safety for young people.

Our missions, including Operations & Marine Safety & Environmental Protection have also been busy. We have a new Coxswain in training, Mark Ellins. Our facilities did a joint training session with the Active Duty. Safety Zone patrols were provided for the Blessing of the Fleet & St. Augustine Youth Regatta. Pollution Responders Libby & Neil Rattrie have responded to 2 Sector call outs, one to a discharge located between the Conch House marina & the Lighthouse boat ramp. The other response was for a sunken houseboat in the St. Johns River.



Peter Kaurup removes invasive aquatic plants & trash from the waterways around the Crescent Lake area.

Flotilla Commander Reports—continued

14-7 Saint Augustine Libby Rattrie, FC

We have had amazing guest speakers at our Flotilla meetings: Joe Colee, SO-CM gave a very interesting talk on Radio Watch standing, AMTC James Rattrie talked about HITRON & Eric Hellstrom, Marine Rescue division of SJC Fire Rescue, spoke about Marine Rescue. 14-7 has also started to have monthly fellowship evenings! The first one has held at Beaches on Vilano Beach & then at the Red Frog & McToad Grill.

Our NSBW plans are well underway. We have been “penciled in” for a USCG Cutter to come to St. Augustine City Marina for Saturday May 21st. We are hoping to be able to give tours of the Cutter to the public. Public Affairs will have a booth at the marina & VEs will be done for marina patrons, along with VSCs being done at Vilano & Lighthouse boat ramps. A PE program for 2nd grade students at R.B. Hunt Elementary School will be given on the subject of Marine Safety.

Lastly, 14-7 completed the “Life jacket Zone” stenciling for the St. Johns County Park Ramps. **Bravo Zulu** to Bill Candeletti, FSO-VE who completed the project! Assisting one the first ramp was Libby Rattrie, FC and Henry Seiden, VFC,.

14-8 Jacksonville Whatley Law, FC

14-8 is off to a great start in 2016.

During the first quarter of 2016, 14-8 has made great strides having positioned the best people in staff officer positions as well as our veteran staff officers returning to serve in their respective leadership capacities.

BOATER EDUCATION:

Bob Strong FSO -PE

Boater education leads our focus for support to the Coast Guard. Under the leadership of Bob Strong, Paul Burns, Dan Hess, Chris Vonderheide and Paul Thomas 14-8 holds monthly boating safety classes at the club where 14-8 meets.

VESSEL EXAMINATION:

Dan Hess FSO - VE

Vessel Examination events are led by our veteran member Dan Hess who has plans and events scheduled for Epping Forest Yacht club , the John T Lowe Boat Ramp, the Mandarin Boat Ramp and Doctors Lake / Lake Shore Drive boat ramp . The NSBW will include these boat ramps and marina by the 14-8 team of vessel examiners.

Flotilla Commander Reports—continued

14-8 Whatley Law, FC

LIVE FLARE Demonstration:

We are also holding a live flare demonstration at Epping Forest Yacht Club with Bill Sekeres of 14-2 in May along with a PA event.

Ralph Little, a 14-8 member writes boating safety news for the Mandarin news and published the following for the Flotilla recently.

Flare Alternative or Augmentation?

Distress signals are a feature of boating safety that boaters frequently fail. Having the correct devices may represent your last chance for rescue. Auxiliary Vessel Examiners (VE) were recently notified about the SIRIUS SOS C-1001 electronic distress light. It has officially been accepted as a nighttime visual distress signal and includes a daytime distress flag, giving the package a combined day/night signal capability. In the interests of boating safety, we pass this information to boaters with our own concerns. The big news here is of a flare alternative that is easy to use, operates for 60 hours vs. 30 seconds for an aerial flare and doesn't have to be replaced every 3-4 years. The device itself is a mushroom shaped, orange flashlight body with a 360° lens. It is waterproof and floats if you have to abandon ship. It operates as a repetitive SOS signal and is a very bright LED so do not look at it. The light has a 10 nm range, but preferable use would have it mounted as high as possible on your boat.

You will have to test it periodically and replace its three C cell batteries. VEs will check that it is operable. At \$100, the price is a bit stiff. Flare packages are \$30-140 and need replacement every 42 months. Lit flares last for short periods and rely on someone seeing them and being able to find your boat after the flare is out. The SOS light will maintain its signal providing a beacon for rescue. Our VEs and instructors have concerns about the package and believe it is more useful to augment other measures. A blinking light is not a generally recognizable signal, especially to observers on the St. Johns River. There is a general lack of education in Morse Code, confirmed by surveys of our safety class students. At sea, it would have more meaning to professional mariners. The light will not be of much use in daylight, even with the flag. While a flag technically satisfies the safety requirement, I would like something more proactive in daytime, like smoke flares. While brief, aerial flares do attract attention and perhaps can augment the SIRIUS. EPIRBs are the best ocean alternative, but are pricey.

Kevin Kalil

FSO communications

Kevin attended the Amature Radio Operators convention in Orlando and has determined that the Auxiliary participates with an information booth at the convention. Kevin is looking into the watch standing and Auxiliary radio support structure.

Flotilla Commander Reports—continued

14-8 Whatley Law, FC

David Howells

FSO Public Affairs

14-8 has plans for a PA booth at Epping Forest Yacht Club and at the Jacksonville zoo during the zoo's family weekend event.

Paul Burns

FSO Human Resources

14-8 has had several new prospects come to our Flotilla meetings and we hope to have these prospects become members and support the efforts of 14-8 in our focus areas of boating safety, education and vessel examinations.

Staff Officer Reports

CM – Joe Colee

Communications (SO-CM) will be participating in nightly HF net the first week of April to support auxiliary deployment exercise in Jamaica.

The Division VHF net will be held in mid-April, date and time to be announced.

DV - Jolene Richardson

Attempted contact has been made with all of the FSOs for Diversity. I've heard back from Libby Rattrie (14-7), who is holding the billet as a collateral duty as the FC. Two Flotillas do not have specific Diversity officers and are being held by the FCs (14-5 and 14-7). Other FCs should expect a call soon.

All flotillas have been asked to schedule both the following diversity presentations for the year and asked to work with their Member Training SO & FSOs to do this. The presentations can be found at these links - "[Understanding Diversity](#)" and "[12 Handouts for Diversity Toolkit](#)". They were given the following link from Bill Giers as a possibility to show before doing annual diversity training - [Preamble Diversity Video](#).

Everyone was asked to provide their town of residence, contact info, name of significant other (in the event they answer the phone I will know their name) and if possible a head shot.

I am standing by, and looking forward, to hearing about our flotillas' April diversity events.

District 7 hosted several electronic conferences in March for SO-HR, FSO-HR and FC Officers. Several on our staff were able to participate in these sessions to learn more about national recruiting programs.

Staff Officer Reports - continued

HR— Rick Saunders

Below is National E-Responder System summary for March 2016. Division 14 currently has 16 prospective members from this program. Two prospective members are in the application process and one new member was accepted from the e-responder program.

Flotilla #	March
14-1	1
14-2	3
14-4	2
14-5	2
14-7	5
14-8	3
	16

While the National E-Responder system is a great resource for getting new members, we all need to keep the recruiting of new members in the forefront of our minds. Whether it is with a work associate, a neighbor or a social acquaintance we the existing members of the Auxiliary are the best source of new members. Whenever you are teaching a public education class, doing a vessel safety check or anytime you are interacting with the boating public please remember to keep the recruiting of new members as one of your core activities.

MS - Libby Rattrie

The **Response** mission of Marine Safety has seen some action this last quarter. Libby & Neil Rattrie responded to a Sector Jacksonville Response Department pollution call-out. The NRC was contacted concerning discharge branching from the Conch House Resort Marina to the Lighthouse Boat Ramp. No source of the discharge was determined & sheen resolved itself, so Sector Pollution Response Team did not have to attend. A report was sent to Sector Jacksonville Response Department. Libby & Neil Rattrie also responded to a Sector Jacksonville Pollution Callout for a sunken houseboat in the St. Johns River with diesel discharging into the river. A report was sent to Sector Pollution Response Department.



Staff Officer Reports - Continued

MS - Libby Rattrie

Libby Rattrie of 14-7 & Robert Miller of 14-4 conducted Land-based Pollution HARPATs for the AOR of 14-4 along with 2 Pollution Responder PQS students Walter Lavender of 14-1 & John Hadley of 14-4. Land-based Pollution HARPATs were also conducted Land-based Pollution HARPATs for the AOR of 14-7 by Libby Rattrie along with Pollution Responder PQS student Herb Rothermel from 070-04-04. A SAR mission was conducted when a vessel without power and two adult passengers onboard asked for help. OPFAC Rapture of 14-4 towed the vessel from the ICW at Beaches Bridge into Beach Marina on February 20th during MOM patrol.

Under the **Prevention** mission Libby Rattrie, Henry Seiden & Bill Candeletti of 14-7 attended the CG Industry Day in St. Augustine for Small Passenger Vessel operators in the St. Augustine area.

Also 14-4 distributed new AWW posters to Morningstar Marina, Beach Marine, Palm Cove Marina, and Palm Valley Outdoors. Marc Lang of 14-2 supplied up to date information on Prevention Department issues.

Waterways Management was addressed by 14-7 by operating Safety Zone Patrols for the St. Augustine Blessing of the Fleet & the St. Augustine Youth Sailing Regatta.

14-4 is working on the CG **Sea Partners** program. Robert Miller, John Hadley & Erica Baker are in the process of starting a Sea Partners educational program in the elementary schools in their AOR. Libby Rattrie of 14-7 attended the Sea Turtle training program at Whitney Lab in order to participate in the 2016 Sea Turtle nesting season patrols.



Staff Officer Reports - Continued

MS - Libby Rattrie

Peter Kaurup of 14-7 has undertaken **Environmental Protection missions**, by removing waterborne trash from our waterways. Libby & Neil Rattrie of 14-7 conduct regular beach cleanups. Also John Hadley has been involved in a beach cleanup.

Marine Safety Education is also being addressed in Division 14. Walter Lavender of 14-1, John Hadley of 14-4 & Herb Rothermel of 070-04-04 are pursuing the Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder PQS being taught by Libby Rattrie. Andy Koenig of 14-4 successfully completed the Auxiliary Marine Safety Administration & Management PQS. John Hadley of 14-4 has begun the Auxiliary Prevention Outreach Specialist PQS. Paul Burns of 14-8 successfully completed Good Mate and Paul Tynda, FSO-MS of 14-8, outlined the Trident program at the Flotilla meeting with several members interested in the Marine Safety program. A HAZWOPER 8 hour Operational class was held at Sector. Division 14's new HAZWOPER instructors, Robert Miller & Walter Lavender, helped teach the course. Libby & Neil Rattrie attended to fulfill their yearly update requirement for Pollution Response.

NS - Neil Rattrie

I have been informed by the DSO-NS that the Aids to Navigation Policy (3531.1) has been rescinded by COMO Wekerna and CDR Seward for the time being.

What does that mean?

No Aids Verifier will go into REYR or REWK for not completing the annual currency requirements. Annual currency, at this time, is no longer required, but D7 and the DSO would like for all active AV and AV-PQS persons to continue sending in 7054s and 7055s to their SO-NS which will then forwarded on to their ADSO-NS. There is no minimum or maximum requirement. There are no workshop requirements either. They are looking at a recognition program for those that submit documentation or participate in some way.

The DSO and D7 still want workshops to continue to encourage new participants in the NS program.

Division wide Aids Verifiers Class was offered on Feb 27th at St Augustine Airport Conference Center. Several members from other flotillas attended including 14-01, 14-07 & 14-08. Several aids and bridges in our AOR have been reported by aids verifiers with the ANT Jacksonville and the Bridge Administration in Miami being notified.

Several patrols have been completed with aids and bridges being reported. Crew members and coxswains are encouraged to send discrepant aids information in to the NS office at ns-rattrie@att.net.

Staff Officer Reports - Continued

OPS - Bill Sekeres

In the April flotilla newsletter I referenced our flotilla mission statement in which it states in part- "Flotilla 14 -2 shall create a well-trained and motivated membership with the purpose of providing safe boating education and awareness to the public. In addition, it is our purpose to act as a direct support and force-multiplier for the United States Coast Guard missions." Fernandina and St. Augustine provide some great examples of how Auxiliarists offer great support to both the public and the Coast Guard.

Note that the Rescue and Survival Systems (R&SS) manual is now available on the FedEx site and the cost is \$5.42.

Fernandina, 14-01

The following is a summary of a patrol that indicates what our members unexpectedly encounter, and often do, when they leave the dock for a normal "Maritime Observation and Crew Training" patrol.

"Yesterday, we were returning to the Amelia Island Yacht Basin (AIYB) when we came upon two men in a disabled dinghy in the vicinity of the Fernandina Marina. They had left their sailboat and were heading for the Marina when they experienced motor failure. They were unable to restart their motor and were trying to paddle to the Marina. Unfortunately, there was a strong wind blowing against them and a strong outgoing current taking them rapidly to the North. They requested that we assist in getting them to the Marina and we agreed. We took them aboard The Pip and put their dinghy in a side tow. I contacted the ODO at Station Mayport and he concurred with our actions.

We left the men and their dinghy at the Marina and returned to the AIYB.

By the way, the wind and tides yesterday made for the worst conditions I've ever seen."

Arlington, 14-02

14-02 is finishing the Boat Crew Academy with members from three flotillas expecting to take the QE this month.

Staff Officer Reports - Continued

OPS - Bill Sekeres

St Augustine, 14-07

A two boat night ATON patrol was conducted February 23rd when all federal aids and bridges were verified. Additionally, on March 12th a training patrol involving training with a Station boat (AD & Reserves) and Vanish 3 in St. Augustine waters. We practiced a number of towing evolutions, mainly heaving lines throws and stern tows, and the Aux facility brought the AD vessel alongside for a side tow. Photos are attached to this report. After training, we went in search of Marker 60 (a very important turning mark just inside the SA Inlet) which was found to be off station between Marker 8 & 6. This discrepancy was phoned into Station and followed up with a 7054 ATON reporting form.

14-7 supported St Augustine Race Week by providing a safety zone facility to monitor spectator boats for the Youth Regatta on April 2 & 3.

Also, we conducted an Operations Workshop on Thursday March 24 to accomplish:

- 1.) Present the 2016 Operations Workshop power point,
- 2.) Conduct TCT-1,
- 3.) Explain R&SS procedures and conduct a 6 month PPE inspection.

All Division members were welcome.



Staff Officer Reports - Continued

PA - Jon Hunt

The first quarter has been full of activities. The release of the movie "The Finest Hours" in January provided the Coast Guard and Auxiliary a unique opportunity to show case the Coast Guard, and indirectly, the Auxiliary. Despite short notice, the Division was able to set up Public Affairs tables at local movie theaters and educate the general public about both the active duty, the auxiliary and recreational boating safety simultaneously. Many thanks to those who assisted in planning and coordinating the events and to those who manned the tables!

Individual Flotilla's have been busy in various activities including holding boating safety classes, stenciling boat ramps with "Life Jacket Zone" signs, assisting the gold side with recruiting events, and in setting up a Public Affairs booth at the Jacksonville Boat Show. Plans are being made to also have a Public Affairs booth at the Metro Park Boat Show in April. All Flotilla's are making preparations for their various events during National Safe Boating Week next month.

FSO-PA Henry Seiden of 14-7, is awaiting orders to attend Aux 12, Introduction to Public Affairs C school at USCG Air Station Clearwater on April 15th through 17th. It is an intensive course covering all facets of Public Affairs including photography and how to prepare media releases. It is invaluable training for anyone interested in becoming a Public Affairs officer. There are two other Aux 12 classes scheduled this year. They are open to all Auxiliarists with an interest in Public Affairs.

At present, three of the six Flotilla's in the Division do not have an FSO-PA assigned. Public Affairs is an important function for every Flotilla. If you are interested in becoming as FSO-PA, please see your Flotilla Commander.

Staff Officer Reports - Continued

PE—Harry Tipper

From the lack of information flowing to me, it would seem that our Division's Public Education (PE) efforts are limited to only a couple of flotillas; however, I know that that is not true. On the other hand, I do know that attendance, which had leveled off, is declining once again. The only suggestion that I can offer is to work harder with your Public Affairs (PA) brethren to promote your flotilla's PE offering through non-traditional media, particularly social media. And, you might want to see if some of your students are willing to give an "on camera" testimonial that you can upload to your flotilla's website.

Social media may play an important role in any efforts to reach out to paddle craft boaters. I cannot emphasize enough that his market segment often does not consider itself to be a boater, hence without a need to abide by safe boating courtesies. I again urge you to partner with your Flotilla's FSO-VEs and PVs, to engage the paddle craft owners about attending a boating safety class. Some will welcome it; some will not. Yet, we need to keep trying.

Earlier, I solicited your thoughts about the announcement from National about the joint Auxiliary and Boat/US release of an on-line navigation course. It does seem that most flotillas abandoned offering The Weekend Navigator classes as well as other "advanced" classes all together. Although, as I mentioned last month, I have raised the question "up the line" about National's vision for the future of classroom based, advanced PE courses such as the Weekend Navigator, it should not deter you from offering any of the Auxiliary's "advanced" PE classes. You may want to consider combining your PE and MT in the boat crew arena since, for example, the 8-session Advanced Coastal Navigator PE course bears a striking resemblance to the AUXNAV AUXOP course. Just a thought.

In the meantime, I am encouraging you to think "outside the box," an overused cliché, to offer more PE events to different audiences, and in unlikely venues. Plus, don't forget Youth PE events. They are our future boaters. Let's make it safe out there!

Staff Officer Reports - Continued

VE - Phil Tallon

With the arrival of Spring and the Summer Boating Season about to start, most Division 14 Flotillas have already "sprung ahead" with early Vessel Safety Check Events completed or planned through and after National Safe Boating Week 21 -27 May. This has resulted from the enthusiastic and conscientious response of both new and older experienced FSO-VEs, who are taking their responsibilities seriously (as opposed to "passionately" by some critics), to effectively carry out this most important direct boater life-saving program.

The importance of this was dramatically demonstrated by the recent recovery of an off-duty Putnam County Police Officer's body from the St. Johns River near Welaka 2 April, after she was ejected from a small 14' open OB motor boat that hit an unlighted, reflectorized day marker at night. She was probably not wearing a bright colored (orange) PFD with reflectorized tape and an attached whistle and/or light, as is required for us whenever on patrol under orders. These items could have enabled a companion to save her even if unconscious.

Through VSCs conducted before such persons go out on the water, particularly at times of low visibility, dangerous weather conditions, or overcrowding on a small boat, we can save such boater's lives by advising them about the above type and use of PFDs with attachments even if not required by law. Perhaps the time has come to change some of our boating laws? The same goes for a bright light to see reflectorized channel markers and persons in the water at night and reflecting tape on type 4 PFDs with floating poly line attached. VEs, particularly those with a lot of on the water boating experience, can make a big difference with advice for such potential life threatening situations for which the only existing VSC PFD use requirement is that they be "readily available." Type 4 Throwables, on the other hand, must be "immediately available."

1st Quarter Summary of Achievements

14-04, under new FSO-VE Kevin Holbrooks, has already completed Team VSC Blitzes at Mayport and Beach ramps, with others planned there and for Palm Cove Marina, Beach Marine, and Morning Star Marina next to the large Mayport Ramp. -AUXINFO a/o 3 April already shows 27 VSCs by 5 VEs including Don Mooers who completed over 300 last year and is currently fighting the return of previously treated cancer (only 04 % of 840 decals used/passed).

14-07, under Bill Candeletti, last year's AFSO-VE SO, conducted VSC Blitzes at the Vilano and Light House ramps and a schedule of others for future months including NSBW, with 247 VSCs by 9 VEs a/o 3 April, including 226 (201 Paddle Craft) by Becky and Peter Kaurup (39 % of 660 decals already used/passed).

14-08, under new FSO-VE Dan Hess, conducted VSC Blitz events at John T. Lowe and Mandarin Park ramps and Epping Forest Yacht and County Club, with 38 VSCs by 6 VEs a/o 3 April (19% of 110 decals used/passed)

Staff Officer Reports - Continued

VE - Phil Tallon

Other flotillas have not reported any blitz events, although some participated in the 13 March Palatka Bass masters Fishing Tournament coordinated by Charles Truthan and other members of his Lake County Flotilla 3 in Division 4, at which I worked with them as ADSO-VE D7N and SO-VE. Particularly noteworthy for our Division was participation and assistance from Green Cove Springs 14-05 FSO-VE Chuck Whipple and its Palatka Detachment members Kathy Fisk and Wayne Beard who already has completed 43 VSCS (14-05 with 54 VSCs at 39% of 90 decals used/passed a/o 3 April).

Still awaiting Charles report for which I am assisting as ADSO-VE to replace decals provided by 04-03 to VEs from our Division and others.

In addition to the above completed and planned activity, all flotillas should be planning for NSBW VSC Blitz events preferably as part of RBS Team efforts. This includes maintaining contact with me for additional decals needed before and after that event either from the District, upon verification of 50% used or my Division supply before that.

Awards and Goals

In addition to the District Commodore's special annual awards for completing at least 40 VSCs and 100 VSCs that he will award personally, the District Directorate for Prevention (DDP) will be issuing other award certificates during the year for completion of 25 VSCs (Blue), 50 VSCs (Silver), 75 VSCs (Bronze), 100 VSCs (Gold-Century), 30 Paddle Craft VSCs (Blue), and 50 Paddle Craft VSCs (silver).

Division and D7N 2016 Planning Goals still include each VE completing at least 40 VSCs eligible for the DCO special annual award, at least 1 VE in each Flotilla completing 30 Paddle Craft VSCs for that award, at least 1 VE in each flotilla completing 100 VSCs to receive that DCO special award, and each Flotilla completing at least 1 VSC Event in each of 8 months in tandem with the individual VSC awards. While there are no such specific VE/VSC goals in the District's Plans, and this may be beyond the reach of some Flotillas and VEs, it is quite possible that by the end of 2016 at least one flotilla will be able to achieve them all. One flotilla is already on its way to doing so.

Operational Facility Inspections/Offer of Use Policy Compliance

Dave Fuller, Deputy Dir. for Admin. Assistants D7, has requested DSO-VE, through ADSOs-VE, SOs-VE, and FSOs-VE, to assist in assuring that D7 Vessel and PWC Offer of Use and Facility Inspections are properly completed and submitted to avoid them being returned. Since 1 March, 14 were returned due to no verification of the 50 MPH life jacket requirement and improper VE signatures. The DSO-VE was requested to send this to all VEs with attached full copy of the D7 Policy on 1 April. If Division 14 FSO-VEs and VEs have not received or understood this please contact me directly.

Staff Officer Reports - Continued

VE - Phil Tallon

State Small Boating Legislation.

For those VEs and other Auxiliarists who received information and requests to intervene in the process of adopting/passing State of Florida legislation (HB 703 and SB 1454) introduced by R. Workman R-Melbourne (or any other legislation), please contact me for copy of emails by Dave Fuller, me as ADSO-VE, and DDC-P Larry Berman, describing what we can/cannot do as CG AUX members and private citizens w/o any identification or position as Members and/or Federal employees – basically do not get involved as Members w/o official direction, request, and/or authorization.

This Statute, as passed and signed into law, removed dangerous boating practices such as bow riding from careless boat operation violations for which FFWC can stop a boat and issue a related citation. It also created a State decal issued to boat owners successfully passing FFWC boarding/stopping inspection for State requirements that prohibits stopping such boats for future inspections. Point being, that while this is contrary to safe boating practice, it is neither binding nor controlling on Federal Program laws and regulations (such as those for which the CG is responsible). In addition, they are used as references for our voluntary VSC “inspections” and the awarding of annual VSC decals. I will be happy to provide copies of what I have on this.

Upcoming Events

Division Meeting April 16

Place:

Ft Caroline Club
4131 Ferber Road
Jacksonville FL 32277

(This is where 14-2 meets.)

Division Board Of Directors Meeting:
0900 -1015

General Meeting:
1015 -1200

Agenda to follow:

St Augustine Race Week Youth Regatta



Brisk conditions and plenty of chop but a good time was had by all.



Photos by Henry Seiden

St Augustine Race Week Youth Regatta



Highest winds recorded by Dave Patrick were 16 knots, but it felt like there were gusts well over that.



Photos by Tim Fuhrmann

Roving Reporter

When This Boat Crew Realized What They Were Seeing, It Was Almost Too Late To Escape!

We don't really think about it on a daily basis, but the Earth is still changing all the time. It just happens so slowly that we can't really perceive it. But every now and then, things speed up... a lot.



Recently, the crew of the Maiken was enjoying a leisurely sail through the South Pacific when they spotted a strange discoloration on the water.



As they got closer, what they had taken to be a sandbar revealed itself to be something else entirely.

Photos submitted by Jill Ratkovic

Roving Reporter



A huge amount of pumice stone was floating to the surface of the water. It looked like a beach. They decided to get a closer look and redirected their yacht towards it.



The crew decided to sail through it, leaving a break in the stone behind them as they went. They wondered what could have caused this expanse of stone to suddenly appear. The field of pumice was getting even larger as they passed through it. The crew had an uneasy feeling and upped their speed.

Photos submitted by Jill Ratkovic

Roving Reporter



Once they were a safe distance away, they heard a faint rumbling. Looking back they saw water bubbling from the surface. They anchored to watch this tremendous event. Massive plumes of smoke filled the sky.



The stunned crew couldn't believe what they were seeing: It was the actual birth of a new island. They were able to witness such an impossible sight... and also they apparently very narrowly escaped with their lives!

Photos submitted by Jill Ratkovic