
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXIV No. 4

April 2008



*Neely Inlow, Jack Holler, Charlie Smith, Rusty Gardner & Chrystal Wickline
Vessel Safety Check Blitz at West Marine, Orange Park on Saturday, March 15th*

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- APR 01** Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club (no foolin’)
08 Flotilla Staff Meeting - 1900
12 Vessel Safety Check Blitz – Goodby’s Creek & FT&GC 0900 - 1500
19 About Boating Safely (ABS) Program at Stellar Headquarters - 0730
18-20 Jacksonville International Boat Show – Metropolitan Park
20 Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
25 [Flotilla Fellowship – The Blue Crab, 3057 Julington Creek Rd - 1900](#)
26 Division Board Meeting - 0900 & General Meeting – 1030 – Stellar Bldg
- MAY 02-04** Sail Jacksonville – Downtown Riverfront
06 Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
10 Vessel Safety Checks – NAS Jax; Orange Park; Green Cove Springs
13 Flotilla Staff Meeting – 1900
20 Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
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FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



While the media made the public aware of the beginning of Daylight Savings Time on March 9th, Flotilla 14-8 had already given new meaning to the adage “Spring Ahead” by holding its first session of this year’s ABS programs on Saturday, March 1st. All participants passed the exam, but Thane Taylor of 14-8 achieved a perfect score. This is the first time in three years that a student received a grade of 100%. At the end of the day Thane earned his Florida State Boating ID Card and became a Basic Qualified (BQ) member. A special thanks to Neely Inlow our new PE officer and to instructors Bruce Ennis, Jeff Blomgren and Bob Strong.

At the Division Board Meeting held on March 8th Bob Funk, DCP reported on his meeting with CAPT Thomas of Sector Jacksonville. CAPT Thomas’s priorities for the Auxiliary are: Recreational Boating Safety, Permitted Marine Events and Harbor Operations. Funk outlined opportunities for Auxiliarists to become Marine Domain Awareness Watchstanders and a Sector Joint Watchstanders. There will also be Tactical Training with HITRON. Qualifications will be discussed at the April flotilla meeting.

The turnout for the 14-8 March flotilla staff meeting was outstanding with 14 of the 16 staff officers attending. The staff discussed a training course for new boat crew candidates and a campaign for increasing facilities. The training course will be held in late spring. April’s flotilla meeting will address how to offer a vessel as a facility. Top Ingram, Coxswain will discuss requirements and share his personal journeys as a facility owner.

Flotilla 14-8’s newly qualified Vessel Examiners (VEs) were able to achieve their supervised Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at West Marine in Orange Park where 14-8 held a VSC blitz. On hand were Flotilla Staff Officers-PA, PE, CM and PS giving information about their activities in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Tom Sorensen’s Mobile Communications Van drew a lot of interest.

The first Fellowship activity of the year will be held on Friday, April 25th at The Blue Crab, 3057 Julington Creek Road at 1900 (7pm). See their location and menu at www.BlueCrabCrabhouse.com.

Jack Holler, Flotilla Commander

A MESSAGE FROM THE VFC



It seems this Vice thing is working. The Flotilla Commander certainly earns his money setting agendas and plans, and I get to stand in (the Vice part) for him often enough to prove the worth of having a Vice. The stand-ins at division-level meetings also work to keep me informed about division issues impacting 14-8.

On the other hand, it seems to work out that I have contact with multiple Flotilla Staff Officers between meetings and that serves to keep me informed of their functions - enabling our overall objectives. This month I've helped Public Affairs (PA) distribute Public Education (PE) program posters, visited the PE's first Boating Safely program, and worked the Program Visitor/Vessel Exam event at West Marine where I got some good pictures and Communications (CM) gave me a good tour of our Mobile radio facility.

Both the FC and myself agree that the West Marine Vessel Safety Check activity was truly a multi-purpose event, presenting PA and Personnel Services opportunities as well as contributing to CM, PE and Member Training.

Ralph Little, Flotilla Vice Commander

STAFF REPORTS

INFORMATION SERVICES (IS):

I have found time to continue on my quest to complete the Annual Membership Letter project. I was disturbed to see only 27 of our members responded to the original request to confirm the correctness of your personal information in AUXDATA [official Auxiliary Management Information System]. That leaves 24 individuals outstanding, to whom I have sent "Second Request" emails. Under Coast Guard policy we need 100% accountability, not 50%. Please check your email to see if you are one of those who are delinquent in responding and if you are, please do so.

If you change any personal information during the year, please remember to notify Chrystal Wickline, FSO-SR kikigirl@mac.com and myself, is0701408@comcast.net. Both of us will process the change and pass it on to others so all records can be changed. It is extremely important to have all this information verified by 1 June, the beginning of Hurricane season, so when the calling tree is activated by Bob Funk, DCP, we can get in contact with each and every member. Remember we need 100% accountability. Once this project is completed, I will begin the next one on my list, which will be "Emergency Contact" and "Patriot Readiness" information.

Please remember to refer to the National website to make sure you are using the latest forms. I mentioned at the February meeting when I gave the "2008 Forms Presentation", the 7030 mission form has been revised three times since the beginning of the year.

If you take any online exams for IT, VE, PV or ICS, please forward the results to me so that I can process and get you the ribbons and certificates from DIRAUX – Miami.

Fred Cooke, FSO-IS

MATERIALS (MA):

Reminder for those in possession of USCG owned equipment: I need your inventory. Call or email me for a form if you do not have one. I will fax or mail a blank to you.

Bob Flaige, FSO-MA

MEMBER TRAINING (MT) & PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS):

As the flotilla strives to ensure that new members are encouraged, motivated, and find their membership in the Auxiliary to be a rewarding and fulfilling experience, the flotilla FSO-Personnel Services and FSO-Member Training will work together in supporting each other to ensure that we do the best job possible in meeting the training and education needs of new and current members. We believe this partnership will enhance the flotilla's structure and strengthen everyone's participation.

The description of the FSO-PS includes, in part, the following responsibilities:

- ◆ Exercise staff responsibility and supervision over all matters pertaining to the flotilla recruitment and retention program.
- ◆ Immediately coordinate with FSO-MT to ensure new members receive and complete the New Member Course.
- ◆ Develop and implement programs and activities designed to retain members.

We hope this partnership insures the success of these goals.

Our telephone and e-mail addresses are maintained in the flotilla members contact list. Do not hesitate to contact either of us to learn more about flotilla possibilities, requirements and policies.

In addition, one member who has passed the VE exam is completing the required 5 vessel examinations. Seven members are currently taking the Administrative Procedures Course (APC).

Claire Bailey, FSO-MT Charlie Smith, FSO-PS

AIDS TO NAVIGATION (AN):

I look forward as 14-8's new Aids to Navigation staff officer (FSO AN) to working with fellow Auxiliarists in tracking Aids to Navigation issues. The ATON training held at the Stellar cafeteria last year provided the Auxiliary staff with some guidelines and priorities.

The ATON training implied that one of the Auxiliary's primary functions is to use the instructions in the P/ATON KIT to inspect and to report on all Private AIDs in 14-8's Area of Responsibility (AOR) using the Aids to Navigation form report ANSC 7054. The Coast Guard does not normally inspect private Aids but depends on the Auxiliary for the 7054 reports. Chuck Farmer, the Division 14 ATON staff officer (SO-AN 14) has provided each flotilla in Division 14 a list of private AIDs in their respective AOR (14-8 has approximately 24 private AIDs to report on).

Secondly, even though the Coast Guard routinely inspects the non Private AIDs, it encourages all ATON qualified Auxiliarists to report all AIDs discrepancies to the Coast Guard using the P/ATON KIT and form 7054. In addition, Auxiliary folks should use the Bridge Discrepancy Kit and the Chart updating kit to report Bridge AIDs discrepancies such as extinguished lights and Chart updating. In addition, 14-8 should establish patrol procedures and conduct ATON patrols after each major storm..

I will make copies of the three kits and forms for anyone who needs them. Hopefully, we can schedule more ATON training in the near future.

Al Ricker, FSO-AN

COMMUNICATIONS (CM):

Greetings to all members of Flotilla 14-8 and Division 14, I want to thank Jack Holler, the Flotilla Commander and Jesse Stevens, Vice Captain of the division for appointing me to the communications position for the flotilla and the division. Since joining the Auxiliary I have met nothing but dedicated people who are valuable assets to a fine organization. A recent special division meeting showed me even more talent at our reach and helped me understand my goals as SO/FSO-CM. Being a retired aviation machinist mate first class and joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary is like a whole different ball of wax! I was recruited by Mr. Charlie Smith, our new FSO-Personnel Services and he was very professional. The object was for me to be used as relay for Auxiliary boats that are out of reach of marine VHF.

What are my goals for communication for the division and the flotilla?

- ◆ First I want to inform you all that you may contact me on matters of radio communications and GPS DSC. My e-mail is kb9grx@gmail.com.
- ◆ As the FSO-CM I feel I must preach safety in the aspect of radio antennas in severe weather and or when moving your boat near power lines, on the trailer or off.
- ◆ Florida has a trend in February, March and in the fall with warm air mixed with cold/cool air. Once in February and twice this march I experienced 70 mph winds and severe weather. We even had a tornado which caused a tree to uproot and crash into a power pole 2 weeks ago.
- ◆ Next: hurricane preparedness. As a survivor of hurricane Hugo I have profound respect for these events. Start now, have a plan. Generators, food, meds, pets, etc. are things to think about. I served as radio operator in some shelters in Clay County... not comfortable at all. There are county websites you can go to beforehand to find out limitation of the evacuation shelters.

The communications vehicle has made a few appearances and I am finding more ideas to improve its mission and yes I found one thing I don't have yet - radar. Yes, weather radar.

I want to thank Rusty Gardner, FSO-VE for helping with the test of the GPS in the communications vehicle. Next month I will write about "Mother Jugs and Speed" aka "Old Number 13" communications vehicle (or RV?).

Respectfully, Thomas Sorensen, FSO-CM

MARINE SAFETY (MS):

Trident Program

Coast Guard Auxiliary members completing the Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) requirements of the Trident Program are the core team of specialists in marine safety and environmental protection. More information on this program is available at <http://auxmdept.org/Trident%20Program%20Info.htm>.

After passing the applicable PQS, you can be assigned to work in one or more of numerous specialties: Assistant Contingency Preparedness Specialist, Port State Control Boarding Team Assistant, Assistant Container Inspector, Assistant Pollution Investigator, Assistant Harbor Safety Officer, Assistant Pollution Response Specialist, Assistant Facilities Inspector, Assistant License and Document Evaluator Assistant License and Document Examiner, and Assistant Liferaft Inspector. To be awarded the right to wear the Trident "Marine Safety Device" on the Auxiliary uniform, Auxiliarists must qualify in at least four of the above specialties, have at least four years service in "M" (Marine Safety) Missions with at least 96 hours documented in AUXDATA in each calendar year, and complete the prerequisite educational courses (Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, Initial Indoctrination to Marine Safety, Good Mate, and ICS 100).

Marc Lang, SO-MS 14 says that in our geographical area, harbor patrols are the "big thing". Jacksonville and Fernandina are both secure areas; however, Green Cove Springs is accessible. Flotilla 14-8 used to do drive-by patrols of this area and their eyes and ears were appreciated by the USCG; however, the patrols are no longer being done. The USCG favors land patrols over water patrols because no facilities are required. Basically, they get the information free. The USCG Auxiliary is in the process of writing a Land Patrol Guide; anyone with experience in this area would be welcome to help re-develop the program. Flotilla 14-9 maintains recycle bins for fishing line at boat ramps. Several other flotillas help Sector Jacksonville with administrative work by assisting with fingerprinting and other paperwork.

Marc said that he and several others are actively involved as facilities and liferaft inspectors on commercial fishing vessels. This requires some intensive training and lots of climbing ladders and squeezing in fish holds. There are also opportunities to walk the commercial docks to hand out safety information and schedule vessel exams. In the Tampa Bay Area, there are active pollution response teams.

As you can see, there are all sorts of opportunities to assist the USCG "M" Department with their important work. Most of the study texts for the courses required to help Sector Jacksonville with MS work are available on-line and the tests are online and, for the most part, open book. These courses include: "ICS 100", "Introduction to Marine Safety", and "Goodmate." I am trying to negotiate a library of these texts for our flotilla. "Initial Indoctrination to Marine Safety" requires a proctored exam. Please get in touch with Merrill Varn if you are interested in pursuing any of the Trident Program qualifications. Ed Weiss, USCG Sector Jacksonville/Prevention, is willing to show potential Trident Program participants around his area if we'd like to arrange a "tour", again let me know.

Merrill Varn, FSO-MS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Another article was submitted to the Mandarin Newline, written by Rusty Garner discussing the USCG's new communications system called Rescue 21. He discusses this new technology and how it works in layman terms. Hopefully, this will peak the Jacksonville area boaters interest, not only in safe boating issues but maybe in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. If you haven't read the article, please do as it is very interesting and informative. (Editor's note: read Rusty's article on page 5 of this newsletter).

Debbie Inlow, FSO-PA

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Flotilla 14-8 completed the first Boating Safely program with nine graduates. Our very own Thane Taylor made a score of 100% on the test. What else did we expect? Congratulations Thane. Our next public education safe boating program will be at the Stellar Building on April 19th. It's an all day course from 0730am to about 1700 (5:00pm). Come one, come all and lets all be safe on the fun filled waters which make our area such a wonderful place to live.

Neely Inlow, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR / VESSEL EXAMINER:

The West Marine Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) day was a great success. The group completed six Vessel Exams, passed out numerous amounts of material and made great contacts for follow up visits. Kieran Snow and I completed the five required visits to become qualified Vessel Examiners. Chrystal Wickline has one left to fulfill her requirements.

The next event will be on April 12 at the Goodby's Creek Boat Ramp (Mandarin) and The Florida Tackle and Gun Club. I will have sign up sheets at the next flotilla meeting. The event will be from 0900 – 1500

Observations: Recently I have been taking RBS material to various marine locations in the Orange Park area. Customers interested will take the materials gradually over a month. However, I placed a display in the new Super Wal-Mart on Blanding Boulevard a week after it opened. To my surprise, they allowed me to place the material beside the cash register. This location has now become my busiest stop. I have to replace literature at least once a week. It just goes to show that you can place RBS material in many places besides boat dealers and marinas. Keep up the good work.

Rusty Gardner, FSO-PV/VE

RESCUE 21: WHAT IS IT?

By Rusty Gardner, FSO-PV/VE

I was recently invited to attend an interesting and informative presentation on the Rescue 21 initiative at United States Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville. Rescue 21 is a project between the United States Coast Guard and General Dynamics. The goal was to replace the old outdated communications systems with a new state of the art system. Needless to say this technology is very impressive.

There are two basic new features that will increase the response time of search and rescue. First is the positioning technology. This technology allows the Coast Guard to pin point within two degrees where a VHF radio call is made. To oversimplify the process, when the "talk" button is pressed on a radio, the signal is picked up by multiple towers. That data is then sent to the command center in Mayport. A graphical display (computer monitor) shows the intersection of the lines. The intersection is then translated into a position and the vessel in distress can be found (or at least where it was when the call was placed). All calls, and I mean all calls, are recorded and can be played back at any time.

The second new feature is the use of DSC (digital selective calling). DSC is a feature found on most VHF radios today. You will know it is a DSC radio if you see a red distress button on the radio. If you press the Distress button on the radio, a digital signal is sent over channel 70 to the Coast Guard as well as all other boats that have DSC. This signal does not require you to speak over the radio. It will also keep sending the distress signal until it is answered. Once the distress call is answered your radio will automatically switch to channel 16 for voice communications. In the operation center, when a DSC distress call is received, the computer monitor pops up a screen with text that states that you are in distress, and when registered with an MMSI number they know who you are, what your boat looks like and all of your contact information. In order for the DSC feature to work accurately and completely, it will need to be hooked up to a GPS, thus the watchstander also knows your exact location. One other feature worth noting is that a DSC radio digital signal will relay from other DSC radios, meaning that a distress call can literally be relayed for hundreds of miles. Sector Jacksonville has already picked up distress signals as far as 65 miles away. The rescue was a success due to Rescue 21.

The slogan for the Rescue 21 project is, "We take the search out of Search and Rescue."

On a side note: I asked the question, "What happens to a vessel in distress in Green Cove Springs?" (due to the fact that I was pretty sure I could swim to shore before they could get to me from Mayport). The officer said that they rely on local authorities or the Coast Guard Auxiliary to assist them in areas further out. Even while in the command center a distress call came in. The officer deployed Jacksonville Fire and Rescue as well as a Navy chopper.

The point I would like to make is that we Coast Guard Auxiliarists are needed! Boaters in Jacksonville as well as the Coast Guard depend on us to help keep the waterways safe.

14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

FLOTILLA MEETING 4 MARCH 2008



Bryan Chamberlain received his membership certificate and was welcomed by Jack Holler, FC

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VESSEL SAFETY CHECK 15 MARCH 2008



Charles Smith assists members working toward becoming qualified Vessel Examiners



Ralph Little helps perform a Vessel Safety Check with Chrystal Wickline and Kieran Snow



Ralph and Chrystal talk with a boat owner



Tom Sorensen, FSO-CM and his Auxiliary Communications facility

Photos by Rusty Gardner & Bob Strong



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
America's Volunteer Lifesaverssm

FLOTILLA 14-8
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday 01 April 2008 at 1930
FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB
9010 San Jose Blvd

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK BLITZ
Saturday 12 April 2008
0900 - 1500

Goodby's Creek Boat Ramp & the Florida Tackle & Gun Club

“ABOUT BOATING SAFELY” PROGRAM
Saturday 19 April 2008 at Stellar Building
0730 - 1700



8 IS GREAT !

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 the general public or any outside organization.