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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 XXXIV No. 8

August 2008

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**From the Flotilla 14-8 Memory Album**



*Cover picture from April 1987 Eight Bells*

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

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|-----|-------|--|
| AUG | 04    | Coast Guard Day – Metro Park   |
|     | 05    | Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club                                  |
|     | 08    | Flotilla Fellowship at FC's Home 1900 (7PM) –Bring your favorite Chinese Dish        |
|     | 09    | VSC Blitz at Knight's Boat Ramp & Marina – Green Cove Springs 0900-1500              |
|     | 12    | Flotilla Staff Officers Meeting – 1900 – Stellar Building                            |
|     | 16    | Flotilla One-day Public Education ABS Course – Stellar Building                      |
|     | 20    | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to VFC & <u>FSO-SR</u> ( <i>this month only</i> ) |
| SEP | 01    | Labor Day Holiday  |
|     | 02    | Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club                                  |
|     | 09    | Flotilla Staff Officers Meeting – 1900 – Stellar Building                            |
|     | 18-22 | Seventh District Fall Conference – Jacksonville                                      |
|     | 19-21 | Southeast United States Boat Show – Prime Osborn Convention Center                   |
|     | 20    | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB                                   |
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## FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER

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Fireworks are a traditional finale to most 4th of July celebrations. Kieran Snow and Bob Funk volunteered to give up part of their holiday to provide patrol support to the public fireworks display in Orange Park. John Russette and Ralph Little traveled to Knight's Boat Ramp and Marina in Clay County during the busy holiday weekend to conduct vessel safety checks and to promote safe boating. John and Ralph roamed the sweltering boat ramps while a Clay County official chose his air conditioned patrol vehicle.

Special thanks go to boat crew instructors Chris Vonderheide and Bob Strong who have been leading weekly training classes since the end of June. On a recent Monday evening, nine members of 14-8 were introduced to VHF communication procedures and the basics of navigation. Encouraged and motivated by the excellent classroom instruction, members have gathered on Friday evenings to practice their skills in chart reading, plotting courses and solving piloting problems.

Our 8th VSC Blitz took place on Sunday, July 13th at the Holiday and Julington Creek Marinas in Mandarin. A VSC Blitz usually includes vessel safety checks, recruiting, public education and demonstrations in mobile communication. Thanks go to Kieran Snow, Bob Strong and Charlie Smith who did not wilt in spite the 90 degree plus temperatures.

Our next flotilla meeting on August 5th will feature a presentation by Al Ricker, FSO-AN. Al has gained some interesting insights from Chuck Farmer, SO-AN 14 and will share them with us.

Rusty Gardner, FSO-VE, has organized a day long VSC Blitz to be at Knight's Boat Ramp and Marina to observe National Marina Day on August 9th, as requested by David Green, SO-VE 14.

On Friday evening, August 8th, members are invited to the FC's home to enjoy the fellowship of the Olympic Games. Members are asked to bring their favorite Chinese dish (either home made or take out.) The festivities start at 7 pm.

Jack Holler, Flotilla Commander

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE VFC

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There are a few issues that should not even happen to us as volunteers. Prime among those are lack of respect for contributing whatever we can to the Auxiliary's causes. In that regard, I am most pleased with my association with the efforts put forth by 14-8's Staff Officers and members, and I'm sure that it is Jack's sentiment as well.

An organization such as the Auxiliary can be subject to statistical comparisons which, in turn, can give rise to primal urges to generate competition and higher expectations. In other venues, such as sports and the workplace, I don't have a problem with those values. All flotillas have a full plate of functions to pursue and I imagine, due to chance and the sum of individual capabilities, each unit has things they do better than others.

Just taking Vessel Safety Checks as an example, AUXDATA currently lists us as having 70+ VSCs in 2008. I'm not going to quote numbers, to avoid creating a challenge, but that compares favorably with the other flotillas - less a couple of folks who have the circumstances to be outstanding. You know what they say about statistics I'm sure, but in AUXDATA's case, it doesn't list all of our Vessel Examiners, nor does it accurately list totals. Some of that is the system, some fail to report and who knows what else. And I'm sure the same goes for other flotillas. Nevertheless, I have a sense that our real total is in the 80-90 range, and I find that a reasonable effort at this stage. I prefer to use statistics as general indicators of activity, not as rationale to whip the galley rowers harder - especially when they're doing what they can.

*Continued on page 3...*

...Message from VFC continued from page2

Of equal or greater value, I am secure in personally assessing 14-8 with high marks for individual satisfaction, striking initiative, striving to be involved in the spectrum of Auxiliary tasks, and rewarding fellowship that also serves to bind us together. We also note that our members fill 36 percent of the filled division staff positions and provide a proportion of support to the Active Coast Guard that greatly exceeds the norm. We have a partnership with the Florida Community College of Jacksonville to produce professional-class boating safety DVDs, our Program Visitation effort reaches heretofore untouched dealers and our Marine Safety officer has met her PQS and great strides towards establishing a viable program.

How many other flotillas have a mobile communication facility? I am amazed at the unseen hours of effort that produce one of the finest flotilla websites and newsletters around. And I am greatly appreciative for the efficiency and speed of the numerous functions done by our Secretary, Treasurer, Materials and Information officers. Thanks to them the flotilla's key documents are kept functional or have been completely updated. Personnel Services keeps bringing in the recruits at a pace I haven't previously seen and Public Education's instructors deal well with a difficult year for basic programs.

In some areas we struggle, but we're trying. Our Public Affairs efforts have helped Public Education, recruiting and Vessel Safety Checks, but we could do more media spots. We know why Operations has not been more active and hope to bring on the crew and boats to change that around despite difficult fuel and patrol allocations. Related to Ops, we've made ATON reports and are working with Member Training to add observers. In better fuel times, we'd have other facilities to make comprehensive ATON checks. Through it all, we have even managed to have some measure of help for the future with a couple of FSO assistants and helpers or stand-ins.

See you on the docks, ramps, socials and ewaves.

Ralph Little, Flotilla Vice Commander

## STAFF REPORTS

### **INFORMATION SERVICES (IS):**

Our Vessel Safety Checks have increased to over 75 given, great job on getting in your 7038 forms. Now we need to start filling out form 7029, which accounts for the time you donate to the Auxiliary. Come to a flotilla meeting, put in on the form.... Go to an FSO meeting, put it on the form.... Assist with a VE blitz, put in on the form.... Call or email members, put in on the form..... Attend a division meeting, put it on the form... What time do you report? Getting prepared, dressed, traveling and activity time as well as time to fill out the form. Any time that is not accounted for on another mission. How far back can you go back to submit time? Two years.

You will be amazed on how quickly it adds up. Remember, you can use the electronic form which will calculate your time. Just put in my email address [is0701408@comcast.net](mailto:is0701408@comcast.net) at the bottom of the form and hit submit. I go to monthly flotilla meetings and I know who does not count for their time, EVERYONE. The Coast Guard is allocated funds based on how many hours we submit, so if we are low in our hours, then we are short changing the Coast Guard. We all know "Eight is Great" so let's show the Coast Guard how great we really are.

Fred Cooke, FSO-IS

### **MATERIALS (MA):**

Have ordered all items that were requested for the August 9th Marina Day event, I requested that they be shipped to Rusty Gardner. The order was doubled in some cases to be used also for VSCs and the last 2 boating classes.

Bob Flaige, FSO-MA

### **PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS):**

CHANGE OF MEMBER INFORMATION FORM (ANSC#7028) - This form is used to enter a permanent change of personal information on record with the CGAUX. It is very important that all members be aware of the necessity for completing this form in the event of any changes, i.e., home address, e-mail address, telephone number, etc. It can help to avoid delays in mailings and receiving information from Auxiliary and especially flotilla members and staff officers. Also be sure to inform the FC, VFC, FSO-FN, FSO-SR and FSO-PB.

Charlie Smith, FSO-PS

### **COMMUNICATIONS (CM):**

- ♦ All June and July flotilla and FSO CM meetings were attended. Items discussed: improving communications for patrols and unit as a whole.
- ♦ Auxiliary Ops as watchstander and Vessel Safety Checks support in June and July with Mobile Radio Facility. Also assigned Radio Guard for QE check.
- ♦ During QE, directly talked to other flotilla members about concerns of radio communications acquiring information and contacts.
- ♦ Contact made with AUX member Andy Seamen concerning new facility.
- ♦ Mobile facility antenna upgrade success at QE check.
- ♦ Individual to be recognized for exemplary performance: Rusty Gardner for his work to promote rescue 21 at events, working at VSC enthusiastically and sending boaters my way to discuss radio importance.

In addition, I must stress Hurricane preparedness especially since Tropical Storm Dolly entered the Gulf. I want to remind all hands to check supplies and police your areas at home, yard, etc.

Thomas Sorensen FSO-CM

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### **MARINE SAFETY (MS):**

The following information was passed down from Marc Lang SO-MS 14:

Evaporative Fuel Canister - The EPA, in seeking to reduce pollution, wants new boats to have an evaporative fuel canister in the vent lines of gasoline-powered boat fuel tanks by 2012. This change would require a major redesign of the fuel system.

Invasive Species - Mitten Crabs, native to the North China Sea, have been found in U. S. waters. These mud crabs have bristles on their claws that make them look like they are wearing furry mittens. They host lung flukes that affect humans, create burrows that cause severe shoreline erosion, clog intake valves, and compete with native species. Mitten crabs are of major concern in areas like the Chesapeake Bay, which have large fishery operations. Keep your eyes peeled. If you see them, Contact the SERC (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center) at 443-482-2222 or SERCMittenCrab@si.edu. Photos and other info can be found at [www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine\\_invasions](http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine_invasions).

Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD) - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) has been ticketing "Houseboats" for MSD violations. A houseboat under Florida law is a vessel not normally used for transportation or one that sits in port more than 21 days out of 30 days. Houseboats must have a Type III MSD. Boat owners with a disabled engine are still considered houseboats and must have a type III MSD. If they have a Type I or Type II or nothing at all, they are illegal!

Protection of Environment (Burials at Sea) - All burials conducted in ocean waters must be reported within 30 days to the EPA regional administrator. All remains must be buried at least three nautical miles from land. Cremated remains may be buried without regard to depth. Uncremated remains must be affixed to weights so that they sink rapidly and permanently to the bottom and may be buried only in water greater than 100 fathoms deep (300 fathoms in specified areas including between Cape Canaveral and St. Augustine).

Merrill Varn, FSO-MS

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### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS (PA):**

- ♦ We have successfully had an article in the Mandarin Newslines every month this year.
- ♦ We've had an article discussing America's Water Watch program and how it is similar to the well known and successful Neighborhood Watch program that asks community members to report suspicious activities to local law enforcement agencies.
- ♦ We've had a recruiting article specifically for the USCG Auxiliary and most recently an article encouraging boaters to wear life jackets. Statistically, ninety percent of boaters who drown were not wearing their life jackets.

In all of these articles, I have given the readers information about our flotilla and who to call. I have not heard if anyone has joined, attended a Boating Safety course or had a Vessel Safety Check due to the articles. Does anyone know?

Debbie Inlow, FSO-PA

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**PUBLIC EDUCATION (PE):**

Our next one day, 8 hour "America's Boating Safety Program" will be on Saturday, 16 August. This program provides training for beginning and experienced power boaters and operators of Personal Water Craft. Contact Neely Inlow if you can lend a hand.

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**PROGRAM VISITOR / VESSEL EXAMINER (PV/VE):**

On August 9th we will be celebrating National Marina Day at Knights Boat Ramp and Marina. (Black Creek and Hwy 17) This will be one of our larger events this year. The event will be from 9:00am-3:00pm. As well as Vessel Checks, we also are planning on the following activities:

- ◆ VHF Communication Basics Demonstration
- ◆ DSC/VHF Emergency Procedures Information
- ◆ Flares Demonstrations
- ◆ Life Jackets Display
- ◆ Free Boating Literature

We will have a signup sheet at the next flotilla meeting. Please make plans to participate in this event.

ORION is now an RBS partner with the Auxiliary. And in order to show their appreciation and extend thanks to Vessel Examiners who have unselfishly given their time in promoting boating safety, are offering a free VE Kit. Be sure to visit ORION's training video by going to the Auxiliary's SHOP AUXILIARY website <http://www.shopauxiliary.com/> to learn how you can obtain your kit and earn points towards obtaining Omaha Steaks by reporting your performed VSCs.

We suggest VEs keep the following materials on hand:

- ◆ ANSC 3024 - Saved by the Signal
- ◆ ANSC 3025 - Pyrotechnics Distance Guide
- ◆ ANSC 3504 - VSC Announcement Poster

Rusty Gardner, FSO-PV/VE

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**All members are invited to celebrate the start of the Summer Olympics on Friday, August 8th at 7pm. at the home of FC Jack Holler. We will be having a fellowship dinner with a Chinese theme. Please bring a Chinese dish, home-made or take-out. The flotilla will provide soft drinks and water. Members may bring their own refreshments, e.g. wine, beer, etc. Jack lives at 13338 Long Cypress Trail in Mandarin.**

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**14-8 PHOTO ALBUM**  
**FLOTILLA MEETING 1 JULY 2008**



*Jack Holler, FC congratulated John Russette and Charles Trippe after presenting the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon to them*



*Jack congratulated Kieran Snow on becoming A qualified Vessel Examiner*

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## OUR VESSEL EXAMINERS HAVE BEEN BUSY

JUNE 2008 – VARIOUS LOCATIONS



*Kieran Snow talks with a boat owner who is interested in a Vessel Safety Check*



*Chrystal Wickline starts a Vessel Safety Check*



*Kieran completes the VSC*



*Kieran and Rusty follow up the VSC with some boating safety tips for the boat owner*



*Ralph Little performs a VSC on a trailered boat*

*Photos contributed by Rusty Gardner, FSO-VE/PV*



## **A LOOK ASTERN**

By Carolyn Strong, Flotilla Historian

### **Thirty Years ago – PE Report from the August 1978 Eight Bells:**

Public Education: (FSO-PE Frank Brandon) – Our Fall BS&S class will begin Tuesday 12 September at Wolfson at 1930 hrs. The cafeteria is not available because a large “disco” class will be in progress – we’ll let you know the location later. We look forward to the usual high turn-out of our membership, especially at the first class. Instructors are being lined up, and a large class is hoped for. PR folks, here’s your cue.

*Editor’s note: A sign of the times - 1978: The cafeteria wasn’t available because of a large “disco” class!!*

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## **2008 FALL 7th District Conference**

**September 18 – 22**

**Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel  
JACKSONVILLE, FL**

**"PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH LEADERSHIP"** is the theme for FALL DCON. Again **NEW IDEAS** will be offered on the agenda.

"ELECTIONS" - this will be **COMO Allen Brown's** last conference as **COMMODORE**. Plan to attend the Fall Conference to support his last "hoorah" as **D 7 Commodore** and then support the Newly Elected Officers for 2009. It should be an interesting time for all!

Our own **Bob Funk**, Division Captain 14, is running for **D 7 Commodore**. Elections will be held during the **General Business Meeting** on Friday afternoon.

For those wishing to qualify for **Boat Crew**, the shoreside testing is on **Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>**. On the water testing will be on **Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>**. If interested, notify your **Flotilla Commander ASAP**.



*CWO Steve Hanson, USCG – DIRAUX Staff and Carolyn Thomas, D7 Conference Chairperson were present at our July 26 Division Meeting*



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
America's Volunteer Lifesavers<sup>sm</sup>

**FLOTILLA 14-8**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
Tuesday 5 August 2008 at 1930  
**FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB**  
**9010 San Jose Blvd**

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**VESSEL SAFETY CHECK BLITZ**  
Saturday 9 August 2008 0900 - 1500  
**Knight's Boat Ramp & Marina – Green Cove Springs**

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**2008 FALL 7th District Conference**



September 18 – 22  
Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
[http://cgaux7.org/articles\\_conferences.asp](http://cgaux7.org/articles_conferences.asp)



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