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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. 12

December 2008

## Newly Elected Officers of Flotilla 14-8



*Congratulations to Sandra Nelsen-Snow and Jeff Blomgren who were elected at the November meeting of Flotilla 14-8 to serve as Flotilla Vice Commander and Flotilla Commander for 2009.*

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FLOTILLA COMMANDER

[jholler1408@bellsouth.net](mailto:jholler1408@bellsouth.net)

John F. Holler

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER

[rivals2015@earthlink.net](mailto:rivals2015@earthlink.net)

Ralph V. Little

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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Carolyn G. Strong

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

DEC	02	Flotilla Holiday Dinner Meeting - Mandarin Tree Steak House on San Jose Blvd
	09	Flotilla 2009 Staff Officers Meeting – 1900 – The Stellar Building
	20	Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
	25	Merry Christmas!
JAN	01	Happy New Year!
	06	Flotilla 14-8 Change of Watch – The Rudder Club – Details on page 4
	09-11	District 7 Conference – Orlando
	17	Team Coordination Training – The Stellar Building

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## FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER

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Although retailers have been decorating their stores for more than a month, the holiday season is officially upon us. Members of 14-8 will have a number of opportunities to participate in Fellowship activities in the coming weeks.

I hope to see many of you at our Annual Holiday Dinner Meeting at the Tree Steak House on December 2nd.

**Our Flotilla Change of Watch will be held on Tuesday, January 6th at the Rudder Club. It will be catered by Carrie Cox of CeCe's Kitchen. She catered our meal at Navy Jax Yacht Club last January. While the menu has been set, she has not yet provided a cost. I assume that it will be about \$18 per person. Please see details for the COW on page 4 of this Eight Bells.**

The Division COW has been postponed. The original date of January 9th conflicts with the District Conference which will be held in Orlando. Jesse Stevens, Division Commander-Elect, is looking for another date when the Ocean Breeze at Mayport will be available. As I stated at our November meeting, 14-8 will try to reserve at least one table at the Division COW. As details become available we will send them to the membership via e-mail.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Flotilla Staff Officers for their hard work and diligence in carrying out the duties of their office. Thanks go out to all of our members who attended our meetings and shared their talents and experiences. I would not have been able to carry out my responsibilities as FC without the continual support of the membership.

My special thanks goes to Ralph Little, VFC, who was my support and encouragement in good times and in rough seas. Now we can both look forward to some R & R.

Best Wishes for a Healthy & Happy New Year!

Jack Holler, Flotilla Commander

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE VFC

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A hearty thank you to all who voted for a Flotilla Vice Commander this month! Especially hearty to those who voted for me and anticipated my return. Sometimes things happen for a reason and my expectations for the coming year moved me to utilize the tie vote to pass in favor of your fine VFC-elect. I value your votes in my favor more than you can know.

That said, I must set the membership straight on a couple of issues that arose at the election. First, there is no Auxiliary procedure that prevents someone from running for election if they don't intend to run for the next higher office the following year. Similarly, it may be preferable, but there is no procedure or guide that calls for electing new FC/VFCs who can potentially serve two years with newly elected Division leaders. I wouldn't want anyone to not run in the future based on erroneous statements. The only rule limits an FC to two consecutive years. A VFC can be elected repeatedly with no implied requirement.

I'm proud to have served the FC and worked with all the FSOs for the membership. Jack addressed a number of difficult, but necessary issues that pave the way for Jeff and Sandra to focus on achievements. I've seen a lot of administrators, but Jack is near the top in my book for his principles, persistence and attention to member's welfare. He may not say it, but 2008 wasn't a piece of cake, and he made it rewarding.

Ralph Little, Flotilla Vice Commander

## STAFF REPORTS

### PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS):

Time passes so quickly. I have completed my first year as your Flotilla Staff Officer - Personnel Services and our Flotilla Commander-elect has asked me to serve an additional year. I have accepted. I wish to express my gratitude to all those who guided, trained and assisted me over the last year. You and I both know who you are. Special thanks go to Bob and Carolyn Strong for their mentoring and to Rusty Gardner for his recruiting support. I'm looking forward to another year and a continued association with a great flotilla.

Amanda Reese has been assigned member number 1230707. CONGRATULATIONS AMANDA.

The following have completed their initial interview and accepted application packages:

- Daniel Maldonado
- Dale Clemons
- Michael Hagan
- Elliot Torres is scheduled for an initial interview

Charles Smith FSO-PS

### MATERIALS (MA):

I have received a new supply (200) of Federal Requirements & Safety Tips for Recreational Boaters and assorted Waterway Watch materials. Unless they are needed before, I will bring them to the next flotilla meeting.

Plan for ordering materials next year will be one routine order a month to be submitted in the week following each flotilla meeting. Order forms will be available at each meeting. Emergency orders may be called or emailed to my home at 904-262-0335 or [searay27@bellsouth.net](mailto:searay27@bellsouth.net).

Bob Flaige, FSO-MA

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

The 2008 year is quickly coming to a close. Over the past year we have conducted numerous Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) at various locations. As you may remember we have performed VSC blitzes at West Marine, Goobys Creek, Florida Tackle and Gun Club, NAS Jacksonville, Doctors Lake, Big Boy Toys, Ortega Farms, Holiday Marina and Knights Boat Ramp. I would like to take this time to thank each of you for the time and effort you have put into keeping the Florida Waterways safe. This has truly been a GREAT year.

Thanks, Rusty Gardner, FSO-PV/VE

## 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM FLOTILLA MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 2008



*Kieran and Sandra Snow both received Certificates for successfully completing the Administrative Procedures Course, along with congratulations from Jack Holler, Flotilla Commander*



*Charlie Smith, Rusty Gardner and Chrystal Wickline and Jack Holler received ribbons for successful completion of the Seamanship Course.*



## FLOTILLA HOLIDAY DINNER

Tuesday 2 December 2008

**THE TREE STEAK HOUSE**

11362-1 San Jose (at Mandarin Road)

Meet at the bar from 6 PM to 7 PM

Dinner will be served at 7 PM

**Banquet Menu \$37.00 per person (includes tax & gratuity)**

Contact Jack Holler, FC if you wish to attend and have not already done so.

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## FLOTILLA 14-8 CHANGE OF WATCH

Tuesday 6 January 2008

**THE RUDDER CLUB of JACKSONVILLE - 8533 Malaga Avenue**

Members will meet at 6 pm for a cash bar, dinner at 7 pm. Approximate cost: \$ 18 per person.

### MENU

Garden Salad

Baked BBQ Chicken

Pork Chops

Texas Potato Wedges

Shrimp & Rice

Cornbread Muffins & Rolls

Brownies with Almonds

Sweet Tea, Water



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