
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXV No. 1

January 2009



USCG 25-foot (8m) Defender –class boat

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

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|------------|-----------|---|
| JAN | 06 | FLOTILLA 14-8 CHANGE OF WATCH – 1800 – THE RUDDER CLUB |
| | 07 | Last Day to Place Your Reservations for the Division Change of Watch |
| | 16 | Division 14 Change of Watch – 1900 - The Ocean Breeze, Mayport Naval Base |
| | 17 | TCT Member Training – Stellar Building – 0900 to 1430 |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB |
| | 24 | Division Board & General Meetings – Stellar Building 0900 to 1430 |
| | 28 | Operation Workshop for QE recertification - Amelia Island Light House
1900 to 2100 |
| | 31 | ICS Member Training – Stellar Building 0900 to 1430 |
| FEB | 03 | Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club *Election of Officers* |
| | 04 | Operation Workshop - Amelia Island Light House 1900 to 2100 |
| | 09 | AUX Weather (AUXWEA) – Starting Monday and Wednesday at the
Amelia Island Lighthouse Cottage 1900 to 2100 (11 classes plus Exam) |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB |
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FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



As volunteers, we have only the satisfaction of knowing that what we volunteer to do means something. We don't have the incentive of pay but we do have the opportunity for praise. We must have the satisfaction of knowing what we do is important and that the time we spend doing it is time well spent. As with any large national organization there are policies and procedures that must be followed, but it's up to those in leadership to find way to simplify the process and make it possible for old and new members to achieve the level of competence and skill to satisfy both the mission and the member. The following items are included in our mission statement for 2009. Join us in our quest for the best.

Thank you, Jack Holler for laying the groundwork, growing our membership and teaching us about having fun. And thank you for your willingness to continue to work on the fellowship team as chairman for 2009. We are looking forward to the events you will plan for 2009.

It Is Our Mission To:

1. Unclog the passage and allow the flotilla to function to the best of its ability.
2. To simplify the processes of membership and eliminate roadblocks to progress.
3. Train membership in ways to assist the active Coast Guard with their mission.
4. Increase and retain members by giving them the skills to be of assistance in accomplishing the over-all mission.
5. Make every meeting and function count by valuing the time and efforts of the membership.
6. Reward good work.
7. Provide constant encouragement and reinforcement while mentoring each other in areas of weakness and utilizing strengths.
8. Treat each other with dignity and respect at all times

Jeff Blomgren, Flotilla Commander

STAFF REPORTS

MEMBER TRAINING (MT):

A new year and a fresh start with many changes to our flotilla bring opportunities for all members to rethink, recharge, and reinvest themselves in the Auxiliary. Think about how you can participate, contribute, and support the Coast Guard this year. January is going to be a busy month:

- Consider attending the Division Change of Watch on Friday, January 16, you will enjoy a fine dinner as well as meet members of the active duty, or Gold side of the Coast Guard, and see our Division's Honor Guard make their presentation.
- Then, the 8- hour Team Coordination Training (TCT) on January 17 (Stellar Building at 0900) – required for Operations members, however, if you are pursuing Coxswain, or Boat Crew, you need to meet this requirement before the Qualification Examination (QE) –take advantage of this while it is available.
- Division 14 General Meeting on January 24 – these meetings are open to all members and much useful and interesting information can be gleaned from attending. Plus you'll have an opportunity to meet members from other flotillas, and if you need on-the-water time for boat crew training, many of the Coxswains will be there.
- Incident Command System (ICS) 210 on January 31, required for Coxswains, FC, and VFC.

Claire Bailey, FSO-MT

PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS):

My first year as your personnel services FSO has been educational and more than interesting. During this period 20 individuals responded to various recruiting efforts. Of these, 7 have been issued member numbers, 6 have accepted applications that have not been submitted and 6 flotilla members were dis-enrolled for nonpayment of dues or at their own request.

The really good news is that all of the new members are actively participating in flotilla activities. I've learned that individuals expressing interest in the CGAUX have widely different expectations of what their participation would involve. Usually, a short telephone conversation reveals what we are looking for in recruits and what we are not.

What has surprised me the most is the number of individuals who keep their initial interview appointment, accept an application and do not respond to queries regarding application submission. Maybe it's me. Regardless, I will try to make my first year's experience lead to better results in my second year. With the assistance of fellow flotilla members I have high expectations. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Charles Smith FSO-PS

AIDS TO NAVIGATION (AN):

Flotilla 14-8's Aids to Navigation (ATON) and Aids Verifier (AV) programs had several successes during the 2008 year. For example, we passed on important and timely ATON and AV information to flotilla members via the FSO-AN reports in 14-8's excellent Eight Bells publication. In addition, 14-8 members actively observed and reported Aids discrepancies to the USCG while on patrols. Also, in order to train more Aids Verifier personnel, future Aids Verifier training was discussed and is being considered.

Chuck Farmer, SO-AN Division 14, reports that he hopes to conduct a training session for Aids Verifiers before or soon after the end of this year. He also reports that the Aids to Navigation Team [ANT] Jacksonville Beach is in need of an Auxiliarist who is able to work with them on a regular basis, updating the IATONIS database. If interested, Contact Petty Officer Jack Yontz at ANT Jacksonville Beach, 904-241-8401.

I consider being selected to the 2008, FSO-AN 14-8 position a privilege and an honor. I enjoyed the work and I especially enjoyed working with all the 14-8 folks. Please support Crispin Vonderheide as the 2009 FSO-Navigation Safety (NS) for 14-8. I know he will enjoy working with you all and will do an outstanding job.

Al Ricker, FSO-AN 2008

COMMUNICATIONS (CM):

Merry Christmas / Happy New Year to all! Things are busy here! First I want to thank members who were tremendously helpful in donating materials for refurbishing the mobile radio facility. I would personally like to thank Keiran and Sandra Snow for their undying support and Kieran's personal professional help. All that is left to do is refurbish lights bulbs and apply decals, etc

Congratulations to the 2009 14-8 staff, I am looking forward to the continued support throughout the new year.

Thomas Sorensen, FSO-CM

MARINE SAFETY (MS):

After a year of waiting, Florida Department of Environmental Protection notified me that a Jacksonville area marina was prepared to seek Clean Marina designation. It was the members at Epping Forest Yacht Club who encouraged dock master Steve Nichols to pursue green status. Maia McGuire, the Florida Sea Grant Extension agent for our northeast Florida said this sort of peer pressure is often what triggers action. By contrast, of Sadler Point Marina, EFYC's mentor said it was his close alliance with the St. Johns River keeper that drove him to seek status for the marina he manages.

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A number of marinas in our service area including Doctors Lake, Huckins Yacht Corp, Julington Creek, Lakeshore Dry Storage, The Marina at Ortega Landing, Mulberry Cove- NAS, Sadler Point, St. John's Yacht Center, and now Epping Forest Yacht Club have already qualified for "Clean Marina" status. Sheena Chin, the new program coordinator for northeast Florida, says that we can be of invaluable service by finding out why the remaining marinas have elected not to qualify.

In essence, the program has a core 100 point requirement and a huge list of potential options from which to choose an additional 240 points. The requirements are straight forward. The facility must be prepared for a fuel spill, have a written site specific hurricane plan, be current on their National Pollution Discharge System and Storm water Permits (including required sampling and recordkeeping), dispose of waste properly, and follow manufacturer's instructions for landscape chemicals. The options basically amount to appropriate signage and boater education (again an opportunity for us to be of service). Clean Marina also encourages installation of pump out stations (there are large federal grants to assist with installation), adequate shore side bathrooms/showers and separate disposal of oil, batteries, soiled rags, mercury lamps, bilge switches, spent flares, fish waste etc.

If the facility offers fueling, engine repair or painting there are more onerous requirements (more on that next month). Similarly regulated storage tanks have some additional requirements. The program is non-regulatory but works closely with the regulatory branch of FL-DEP. They are receptive to legal and constructive alternatives (again more on that next month).

Merrill Varn, FSO-MS

VESSEL EXAMINER (VE):

2008 has now come and gone and the time has come to make plans for the coming year. There are few items you may want to put on your calendar for 2009:

2009 Boating Events

February

6-8, 2009- First Coast Boat Show

The Jacksonville Marine Association conducts two boat shows annually. Boat-A-Rama (February 8, 9 and 10, 2008) <http://www.thejacksonvilleboatshow.com/>

April

5th Annual Blessing of the Fleet - Bring the whole family to experience the Parade of Boats blessed for the upcoming navigational season. 2pm, North bank Riverfront. Call 904-630-3690

17th thru 19th Jacksonville International Boat Show

18th and 19th Metropolitan Park and Marina <http://www.jaxboatshow.com/>

25th And 26th Captains Club Marine Flea Market Beach Marine <http://www.captainsclub.org/flea%202005.cfm>

May

17th thru 23rd National Safe Boating Week <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

June

5th thru 8th Jacksonville Power Boat Poker Run <http://www.flpowerboat.com/new/index.cfm>

July

20-25, 2009 Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament - The AT&T Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament, held each year in July at Sisters Creek Park on the ICW, is the largest kingfish tournament in the country. In addition to the two-day general tournament, this spectacular event also includes a Junior Angler Tournament presented by Carolina Skiff & Winn-Dixie Stores, Kid Zone, Food Festival, live entertainment, and much, much more.

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November

6th thru 8th Sea and Sky (Jacksonville Beach)

This action-packed event at the Jacksonville Beaches featured a dynamic over-the-ocean sky show highlighted by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels along with other military and civilian flight teams. Other activities include a street festival with Aviation Alley Autograph Sessions presented by Vystar Credit Union, Kiddy Hawk Kids Area presented in part by Jax4Kids.com, live entertainment, displays, simulators, military apparatus and booths, interactive games and more!

7th thru 8th Florida Sportsman Fishing & Boat Show

When: Sat. and Sun., Nov. 7-8, 2009. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat., 10. a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun Admission: \$8 adults, children 12 and under with parent free. Look for \$3-off coupon in Florida Sportsman Magazine and \$2-off coupon below <http://www.floridasportsman.com/shows/jacksonville/>

28th Jacksonville Light Parade

Thanksgiving weekend wouldn't be complete without the Jacksonville Light Parade. Boats of every shape and size are imaginatively adorned with decorations that captivate senses and stimulate imaginations. Seafarers and landlubbers of all ages are sure to be dazzled by the area's largest lighted boat parade.

2009 Decals

I am told the new 2009 VE Decals are in. I hope to have them in my possession to pass out at the February meeting. If you are in need of decals before that time please let me know.

VE Updates and Training

Workshops for 2009 may be downloaded here <http://safetyseal.net/workshops/> or you can also order a CD from ANSC. The V Department 2009 Workshop CD is ANSC 2001A. The 2009 V Workshops are not mandatory but are encouraged to keep our members up to date in the VE and PV areas.

Rusty Gardner, FSO- VE

OPERATIONS (OP):

My name is Whit Vick and I have been asked to serve as OPS officer for 2009. I will be working with Cris Vonderheide and Claire Bailey to involve our flotilla members in operations in 2009. As general goals, we hope to generate interest in operations, facilitate training of our members, and provide support for the gold side. My hope is that operations, both the logistics of scheduling and actually getting on the water, will be a positive experience for all of us volunteering in this effort.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

PROGRAM VISITOR (PV):

Monday, December 8, 2008, Charlie Smith, Sandra Nelson-Snow and I conducted our 2nd Program Visit to the Green Cove Springs area marinas, and also conducted a "Land Mission" via a physical tour of both the public and private docks at Black Creek, 1472 River Lane and 1063 Bulkhead Road, Green Cove Springs.

Things of particular interest reported to the USCG Marine Safety Office included:

1. The Black Creek Water Sports manager indicated that boaters have reported to her a free floating dock that has broken from its mooring and is a hazard to navigation somewhere north of the Black Creek marina.
2. The Black Creek Water Sports manager requested us to seek assistance to add signage from the water side of the public dock regarding this area as a manatee breeding area. She indicates that there are no signs indicating this area as a manatee protected zone for boaters approaching this area.
3. The manager also requested assistance to add signage regarding no sewage pumping allowed in this area and penalties associated for violations. She indicates that the public pump-out station is often broken and boaters have threatened to not follow sewage treatment practices when this occurs.

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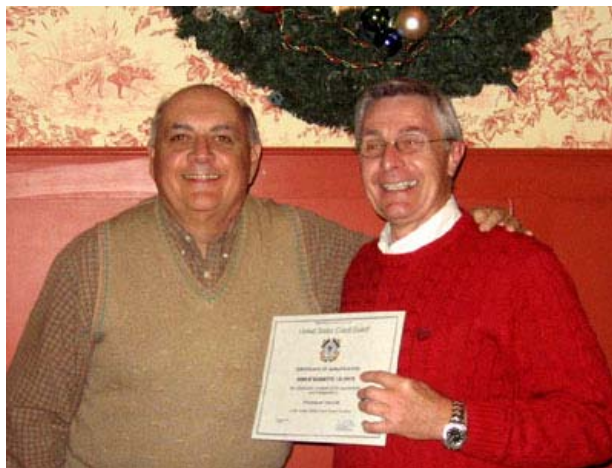
4. Reynolds Park Yacht Center has a listing ship (Arctic Discover, St. John's VI) moored to dock #3, 1063 Bulkhead Road, GCS.
5. Reynolds Park Yacht Center has two long term storage ships located at Dock # 2 undergoing renovations. We observed loose paint cans, an open 55 gallon drum sitting at the dockside. Also, noticed scum slick in the water around both ships and we did not find any portable rest facilities for crews working on the ships. Finally, we were not challenged at the gangway until a workman noticed us taking pictures per USCG regulations.

We took photographs, wrote up a report and sent to the Marine Safety Office. Also, congratulations are in order for Sandra Nelson-Snow for completing her three required trainee visits for qualification as a Program Visitor.

John Russette, FSO-PV

14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

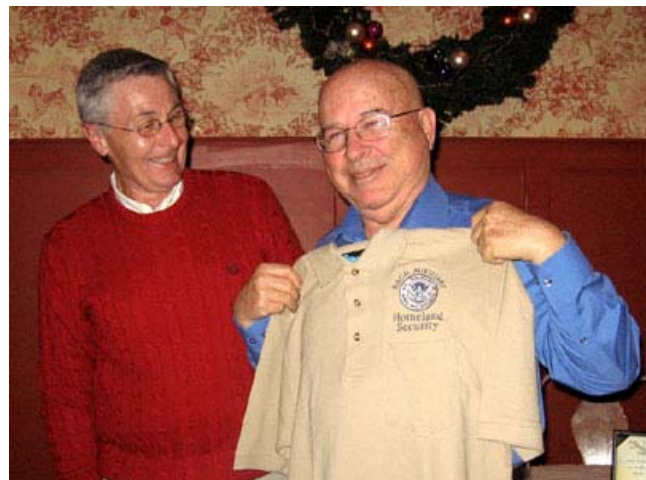
FLOTILLA DINNER MEETING DECEMBER 2008



Jack Holler, FC presents John Russette with Certificate of Qualification for Program Visitor



Jack Holler, FC presents Tom Sorensen with a Certificate of Qualification for Communications



Bob Strong was given the shirt as a thank you for being a mentor to the FC & VFC this year



Lifesaving Holiday Gift Ideas From The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 16, 2008

Contact: Anthony Turner
Public Affairs Officer

562-577-0343

anthony.j.turner@uscg.mil

<http://www.news.auxpa.org/>

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary offer a few last minute holiday gift ideas for the boater in your life - gifts that may save a life.

For a potentially lifesaving gift this year, consider buying and registering a 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. Starting in February 2009, beacons that transmit only an analog signal (121.5 or 243 MHz) will no longer be "heard" by search and rescue satellites. This presents a great gift idea and an opportunity to help your family or friends make the switch to 406.

"A properly registered EPIRB takes the search out of search and rescue," said Sandy Needle, Coast Guard Search and Rescue controller, Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach.

Additionally, the value of a properly fitting life jacket can't be under-estimated. There are a wide variety of life jackets that serve the demands of every on-the-water activity. Whether the gift recipient is an off-shore boater, coastal kayaker or inland canoeist, there's a comfortable, easy-to-wear life jacket to meet their needs.

Other gift suggestions are:

- * Signaling kit (mirror, flares, whistle, lights, and an air horn, preferably with a pump)
- * Nautical charts
- * Submersible, hand-held VHF radio
- * Dry/Wet Suit
- * Neoprene gloves
- * Compass
- * Life raft
- * First aid kit

Some of the most valuable gifts don't cost anything but time, such as scheduling a free vessel safety check with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron. Another option is to sign-up your family or friends for a boating safety course. Course topics include basic boating knowledge, laws, navigational rules and problem solving. For more information on scheduling a free vessel safety check visit www.safetyseal.net.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard. Created by an Act of Congress in 1939, the Auxiliary directly supports the Coast Guard in all missions, except military and direct law enforcement actions.

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FLOTILLA 14-8 CHANGE OF WATCH

Tuesday 6 January 2008

THE RUDDER CLUB of JACKSONVILLE - 8533 Malaga Avenue
Meet at 1800 for cash bar, dinner at 1900. Cost: \$21 per person to Jack Holler

Uniform: Tropical Blue Long or Appropriate Civilian Attire

RSVP To Jack Holler jholler1408@bellsouth.net or 288-7970

Division 14 Change of Watch

Friday 16th January 2009 at 1900

The Ocean Breeze at Mayport Naval Base.

1900 hrs - Social Hour, 2000 hrs - Dinner, 2100 hrs - Change of Watch Ceremony

Uniform: Tropical Blue Long or Appropriate Civilian Attire

Menu

Grilled Marinated Charbroiled Chicken Breast	\$ 13.50
Broiled New York Strip Steak w/ Bermuda Onions	\$ 15.50
Grilled Pork Loin w/ Cabernet Wine Sauce	\$ 12.95
Mahi-Mahi w/ Lemon Herb Sauce	\$ 14.95

All entrees are served with a house salad of fresh garden greens with a selection of dressings, vegetable du jour, appropriate accompaniment, warm dinner rolls and butter, iced tea, coffee. A cash bar will be open throughout the evening. RSVP to 904-591-4493 or Bill Sekeres at wrsekeres@sidhigginbotham.com After deciding on your entree, add an 18% gratuity and send your check to: Debra Inlow, SO-FN 14.



8 IS GREAT !

Visit our award winning website at <http://a0701408.uscgaux.info/>

EIGHT BELLS is published at no expense to the government. Cost of its publication is borne by the dues paying members of Flotilla 14-8 of the 7th District U.S. Coast Guard.

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