
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXV No. 4

April 2009



District Commander Jessie Stevens, DCDR14 administers the oath of office
Charles Trippe is sworn in as Flotilla 14-8's new Vice-Commander

FLOTILLA COMMANDER	Jblomgren1408@bellsouth.net	Jeff A. Blomgren
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER	cmtrippe@mppkj.com	Charles Trippe
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	hara701@yahoo.com	Sarah Tamargo

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| April | 05 | Blessing of The Fleet – North River Front Park – Arrive by 1330, starts 1400 |
| | 07 | Flotilla Meeting -1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB |
| | 25 | Division 14 Meeting – Stellar Headquarters – Time 0900 to 1200 |
| | | POSTPONED 40TH Birthday Celebration - More Information to Follow |
| May | 02 | Flotilla 14- 8 Public Education Program – Stellar Headquarters |
| | 07 | Flotilla Meeting -1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club |
| | 16 | VSC Blitz Goodby's Creek, Knights' Ramp & Marina, Wayne B Stephens |
| | 16-22 | Safe Boating Week |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB |
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FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Boy Scouts of America and Coast Guard Auxiliary

Attached is the Memoranda of Agreement that was signed in February of this year by Nicholas Kerigan, National Commodore for the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and Robert Mazzuca Chief Scout Executive. As a former Boy Scout and proud grandfather of a scout, I am glad to see that the Coast Guard Auxiliary has established this partnership

. **“...promoting citizenship training and character development.”**

The entire quote below states how we can help to shape the future of young boys and perhaps build the Coast Guard Auxiliary of the future. For those of you who look at our membership and wonder how we can interest young people in our efforts, this may be one way.

The Auxiliary and BSA share similar concerns and responsibilities for educating members in a wide variety of boating and nautical subjects and promoting citizenship training and character development. This agreement will encourage communication among the agencies and to share information and training.

Specific activities to be conducted under this MOA will be defined on a case-by-case basis by the BSA and the Auxiliary. Each Party may collaborate in the conduct of a broad range of domestic projects that support recreational boating safety and promoting citizenship training and character development, including but not limited to Public Education Programs, Water Safety Educational Outreach, Facilities Resource Support, and Volunteer support

1. A representative from each Party at the headquarters level may regularly provide each other updates through written correspondence, coordination meetings and other mechanisms on program activities, training, development and related work pertaining to cooperative activities pursued under this MOA.
2. Any BSA local office/agency may establish local, volunteer agreements with the local Auxiliary to support training and to promote recreational boating and water safety.
3. Nothing in this MOA shall be construed to require the BSA to use the Auxiliary or for the BSA to be responsible for conducting Auxiliary programs.

The entire MOA can be downloaded on the Auxiliary website boating department under partnerships.

Jeff Blomgren, Flotilla Commander

FROM THE FLOTILLA VICE-COMMANDER



I look forward to serving as Vice Flotilla Commander of 14-8 for 2009. Per the Auxiliary Manual, Chapter 4, Section F.11, the duties of the Vice Flotilla Commander are to assist the Flotilla Commander as follows:

- * Function as the Flotilla's Chief of Staff.
 - * Carry out authorized programs according to existing policies and with an acceptable quality standard.
 - * Offer advice and help, as needed.
 - * Visit other Auxiliary units to maintain liaison, as needed.
 - * Supervise Flotilla Staff Officer activities.
- * Review and act on reports submitted by Flotilla Staff Officers.
 - * Vote as the acting Flotilla Commander when substituting for the Flotilla Commander at meetings or functions, or where the Flotilla Commander is prohibited from voting by virtue of having another position.

Charles Trippe, Flotilla Vice -Commander

STAFF REPORTS

PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS):



Recruit Michael Gollubske and Patrick Richmond have both accepted an application for membership. Recruit David Gallisath has now submitted his application.

I would like all flotilla members to encourage young adults, age 17 or older, to join the CGAUX. Advise parents of the value of their child gaining increased boating knowledge while providing service to their nation. The Auxiliary can build character by promoting and fostering personnel traits such as initiative and responsibility. Those thinking of applying to a military academy should be advised that the USCG Academy does not require a congressional appointment. Upon application some 300 of the best

and the brightest are selected each year based on a nationwide competition. These young people are our future eventually becoming tomorrow's leaders both in the CGAUX and the world at large.

Charles Smith FSO-PS

OPERATIONS (OP):



14-8 operational status remains limited but behind the scenes work is taking place to improve on this. Bob Funk did several patrols on his boat in March. Charles Taylor is working on getting his facility back to active status. The papers for my own boat, to be used as a facility are still being processed.

Several 14-8 members have done patrols with Flotilla 14-4. On 3/15 I did a patrol on the ICW with John and Judy Davis from 14-4, who are wonderful people willing to give of their time and knowledge. They are truly examples of volunteers for the Coast Guard Auxiliary at its very best.

An operations meeting will be held at Mayport 4/11. Five members of 14-8 have indicated they will attend.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

PROGRAM VISITOR (PV):



First, Charlie Smith passed his RBS-PV examination, completed his required trainee visits and agreed to begin visiting several existing program "Partners." Second, PV training classes start Wednesday evening (March 11th) and hopefully will produce several new and active Program Visitors.

Third, last Friday, March 6th, Tom Sorensen and I did a program visit to the Green Cove Springs area visiting Holland Marine, Reynolds Park Yacht Center and Morgan Marine Services. We performed Vessel Safety Checks to a couple of "homemade" steel hulled work boats. While they may have passed the USCGA Vessel Safety Check

list (no sticker awarded), the question we all have is.... WILL IT FLOAT? Stay tuned for future developments (or sinkings).

This 20-0 vessel in previously certified by a licensed marine inspector now under goes a courtesy (non-decal) Vessel Safety Check at the request of its owner in Green Cove Springs.



John Russette, FSO-PV

INFORMATION SERVICES (FSO-IS):



AUXDATA information shows we are missing Emergency Contact Information for **51 %** of our members. If you are one of those on my list, then please go to your email and fill out the requested information and return to me. I am hoping to have **100 %** accountability by month end.

This information was required by the Coast Guard when they added the Auxiliary to the accountability of personnel when a disaster event is eminent. Look for a new general technology newsletter during the middle of the month, for those of you that are not tech savvy.

Next months activity will be working on getting our members registered for the E-Directory. There is a fabulous member report that will be released soon to members that will use the E-Directory logon to gain access to.

So what has the general membership been doing for the first quarter of 2009? *Answer- Not much by what I am seeing in the Monthly activity reports.* Please go to the flotilla website and down in the Member Section then Manual and Forms you will find EMAIL FORMS. In there you will find a form 7029 – Member Activity Log. This is where you fill out any activity that you participated in; flotilla meeting, flotilla outing, calling members, emailing members or perspective members. Anything and everything gets reported except those items that get report on a mission– even prep time and travel. So let’s get them into me, just put my email address [is0701408@comcast.net] in the Enter RECIPIENT’s email address here area.

Fred Cooke, FSO-IS

UNIFORM CHANGES:

The following items are included in the ALCOAST 074-09, dated 03FEB2009 referencing uniform decisions.

Approved:

- Change naming nomenclature from Tropical Blue *Long* uniform to Tropical Blue uniform.
- Change naming nomenclature from Service Dress Blue *Bravo* uniform to Service Dress Blue Uniform.
- Support the coast guard auxiliary program by authorizing the AUXOP device made in an embroidered style.

Disapproved:

- De-authorize female combination covers.
- Wearing two qualification insignia on the operational dress uniform.
- Wearing of the U.S. flag on the operational dress uniform.
- Designing a cuffed short-sleeved ODU shirt as an optional item.
- Wearing mix and/or match untucked and tucked operational dress uniform items at the same time.

FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

Vessel Safety Checks at West Marine on Blanding Blvd
Conducted by Rusty Gardner, John Russett and Chrystal Wickline



BLANCHE NORMAN FLOTILLA 14-8

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of our retired member and friend Blanche Norman. She passed away March 18, 2009 after a brief illness.

Many of us remember Blanche and her husband, COMO Joe Norman, as once being among the most active members of our flotilla. Blanche joined the Auxiliary as a member of 14-8 in 1980 and held the offices of Division Staff Officer - Member Resources (Personnel Services) and Flotilla Staff Officer - Finance. She remained active until her retirement from the Auxiliary in 2004.



Blanch and Joe Norman in June 2008

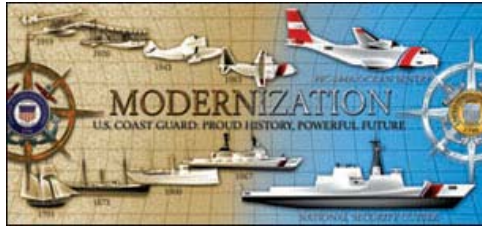


Blanche Norman receiving her retirement certificate from Fred Cooke, FC.



Crossing The Bar
by Alfred Lord Tennyson.
Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' f rom out our bourne of Time and Space
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.





U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 27, 2009

Vessel Safety Checks Not Affected By Recession – They Are Still Free

Contact: Anthony Turner, Public Affairs Officer

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

LOS ANGELES - As the weather around the country gets warmer and with the increase in daylight hours more and more recreational boaters are getting out on the water. Before hitting the water, the Coast Guard Auxiliary urges boaters to make sure they have the required safety equipment and that it is in working order by taking advantage of a free Vessel Safety Check.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has been conducting free Vessel Safety Checks since 1947. Unaffected by recession or inflation they were free then and still free today.

Vessel Safety Checks are conducted by qualified members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and are the best way of learning about problems that might be a violation of state or federal laws and provide the boating public with additional safety tips that could possibly mitigate or eliminate preventable danger on the water. To find a Vessel Examiner go to www.safetyseal.org. Vessel Safety Checks can be conducted on any type of watercraft from boats, personal watercraft, to kayaks.

Life jackets, fire extinguishers, and distress signals are just some of the items that are required by federal regulations. The Coast Guard also suggests boaters equip their vessels with a marine VHF radio, GPS device, and 406 MHz EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon).

Aside from being prepared for an emergency, another advantage of getting the free Vessel Safety Check from the Coast Guard Auxiliary is that there aren't any penalties associated with not passing. Those who do pass will be able to display this year's Vessel Safety Check decal on their boat.

Now is also a great time to take advantage of one of the many boating safety courses offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and become acquainted or reacquainted with basic boating skills, seamanship and the most current rules and regulations that may also save a live or prevent an accident.

For more information about boating safety visit the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division website at: www.uscgboating.org/. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions.





United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
America's Volunteer Lifesaverssm

25th Annual Blessing of the FLEET
Northbank Riverfront Park, Downtown Riverfront
Presented by The City of Jacksonville & the Captain's Club
On Sunday, April 5, 2009
Captains are to arrive downtown by 1330
Blessing at 1400
Tune in on VHF channels 16 and 72
To register, visit
www.makeascenedowntown.com

FLOTILLA 14-8
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday 7th April 2009 at 1930
FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB
9010 San Jose Blvd



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.

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.