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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 XXXV No. 6

June 2009



The Mayors of both Jacksonville and the Beaches kick-off the National Safe Boating Week Campaign by signing a Proclamation all together in one document, a first for Division 14.

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

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|------|-------|---|
| June | 02    | Flotilla Staff Officers Meeting -1830 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club                       |
|      | 02    | Flotilla Meeting -1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club                                      |
|      | 04    | Detachment Meeting – 1900 – Reynolds Park, Green Cove Springs                           |
|      | 13    | "Fishing with Clay" (Clay Roberts Memorial)   |
|      | 20    | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB  |
|      | 23    | USCG AUX 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary   |
| July | 07    | Flotilla Staff Officers Meeting -1830 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club                       |
|      | 07    | Flotilla Meeting -1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club                                      |
|      | 18    | 40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Flotilla 14-8 at 1800 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club |
|      | 19-26 | JAX Kingfish Tournament @ Sisters Creek Boat Ramp                                       |
|      | 20    | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB  |

## FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



As we approach mid year we can look back on the first half of 2009 and recognize the changes that have taken place. From the swearing in of 7 new members to the possible formation of a detachment it has been a year of change. We are excited about the future. We are forging partnerships with municipalities that can only be advantageous to the boating public their education and their safety. With Rusty Gardner's leadership we have implemented a training process for the new emergency radio system. John Russette has been on point in making things happen for the formation of the detachment. People are coming together to make everything work. I am proud of all my staff and their commitment to the mission. This is one of the best teams of people I have worked with in my years of management experience. Thank you all for your contribution to our continued success.

Jeff Blomgren, Flotilla Commander

## STAFF REPORTS

### COMMUNICATIONS (CM):



Greetings, to all members of the Auxiliary, I hope that all hands are staying safe on the highways, byways and waterways this summer. On Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> I helped out 14-4 with communications for the Palatka Crab Festival and assisted two members with their qualifications.

In my naval career I have witnessed a lot of safety messages designed to inform all hands not to do things in an unsafe manner as others have done in the past. One example was that of a person mixing toilet cleaner, bleach and another chemical in a toilet, sitting down to use the toilet and blowing himself up !!! Yes, this is a true story; however I say this, do not be afraid to tell on yourself if it might help another person.

For example: The other day, I was moving some gear around in the ambulance and was not aware of a bear wire from the solar panel. It arced which caused the wires to ignite and created a mass of smoke in the facility. With only a few seconds to think, I dodged out to battery compartment and yanked the wires from 12 volt battery. I waited until the fumes in the compartment completely subsided!! There was no harm done but I did have to re-arrange some wires.

Remember, the only stupid question is the one that wasn't asked or the story that was not told. Be safe!

Thomas Sorensen FSO-CM

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**FINANCE (FN):**



In accordance with the Standing Rules of Flotilla 14-8, member's dues for 2010 are to be paid by June 30, 2009. Each member will receive a dues statement in the mail. Please make your check payable to **USCG AUX 14-8** for the sum requested and mail to me in the return envelope by 30 June 2009. Failure to pay next year's dues to the Flotilla by 30 June 2009 could result in your disenrollment from the Auxiliary.

If you become a member of the new Flotilla and it is functional prior to 1 January 2010, your paid dues will be transferred to the new flotilla.

Bob Strong, FSO-FN

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**MARINE SAFETY (MS):**



I spoke with Downing Nightingale of Lambs Yacht Center ([lambsyachtcenter.com](http://lambsyachtcenter.com)), which is a “Florida Clean Marina and a Florida Clean Boatyard”. He said that providing fuel is an expensive but necessary part of being a full service facility. Because petroleum products are both an environmental and a safety hazard, they are highly regulated by both the federal and state governments. Nightingale said that the Clean Marina/Boatyard Program (CMBP) does not stop with the requirements; they ask the facilities to continue taking steps to make their facility even more environmentally friendly. The Nightingales are members of the St. Johns River keeper and are dedicated to the health of our river.

Florida statute requires that fuel facilities have a petroleum spill recovery plan, train their personnel in its procedures and the use of on-site equipment and provide annual revision of the plan and retraining of the personnel. The plan includes information such as the facility name, address, phone numbers, type, amount and location of fuel stored, type and location of recovery equipment, third party clean-up designee and contact information, notification requirements.

**The CMBP goes a step further by awarding optional points for:**

1. Inclusion of spill plan in the panic file
2. Informing harbormaster and fire department of spill plan
3. Providing instructional signs for customers in case attendant is not on duty at time of spill

**In addition, CMBP asks members to be proactive by working toward providing:**

1. signs/pamphlets discussing impacts of fuel spills and ways to avoid them
2. Automatic shut-off valves for fuel hoses
3. Containment berms for fuel equipment
4. Skids for use by PWC's during fueling, and
5. Impervious trays for filling small fuel containers

**And by selling or perhaps even providing:**

6. air/fuel separators for overflow systems
7. Absorbent material for use in bilges of boats with inboard engines, and
8. Absorbent pads for use in case of fuel spills.

CMBP awards optional points to facilities that promote accurate measurement of fuel/oil mixture by boaters using two-cycle outboards.

Containment and recycling of used or stale petroleum products is highly regulated by the state and federal government. Laws require that all products are stored separately with secondary containment. Facilities must recycle all petroleum products and maintain appropriate records.

Fuel and oil filters must also be drained over appropriate containers and then recycled. Contaminated bilge water must be handled as waste oil.

**CMBP awards optional points to facilities, which go the extra mile by:**

1. Encouraging boaters to check for contamination of bilge water by petroleum products
2. Providing for purchase/use oil/water separators to filter contaminated water
3. Providing for purchase/use absorbent pads for boaters to remove oil/fuel from contaminated bilge water
4. Discouraging use of chemical (soaps) or mechanical (wet vacs) emulsifiers for bilge water because it will clog the filters of the oil/water separators.

In summary, for facilities that do not provide fuel, CMBP is a relatively straight-forward program. Full service facilities that are already in compliance with regulations will also have little trouble achieving the highly regarded status of Clean Marina. It is not appropriate for the facilities aiming for minimal compliance or those with repeated infractions.

Postscript: The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has set aside funding for the Florida Clean Vessel Act Grant Program administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Sustainable Initiatives. The monies provide 75% matching funds for any project that prevents sewage discharge from boats into public waters. Eligible activities include equipment purchase, installation, and repair, signage, pamphlets and boater education. Construction of floating restrooms and sewage hauling barges is included; however, construction of on-shore restrooms is not. CMBP are given priority for funding. For more information visit their website at: [www.dep.state.fl.us/clean\\_marina/cva](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/clean_marina/cva).

Merrill Varn, FSO-MS

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**MEMBER TRAINING (MT):**



On Saturday, June 13 at 0900, the first of the four advanced training sessions at Station Mayport will take place. If you have not yet indicated your attendance, it is not too late to do so – just e-mail or call me at 291-4888 as seating and the food service need to be taken into consideration. Please make every effort to take advantage of this training, open to all members, but will be especially important if you have any desire to be certified as boat crew or coxswain. The active duty is conducting this training at the Auxiliary’s request and it is important that we show them our support. Having had a few experiences at being trained by the active CG, I can assure you that it will be well worth your time and effort. Reminders of the subsequent training in the coming months will be in future editions of the Eight Bells.

Claire Bailey, FSO-MT

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**PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS):**



The following personnel actions have been completed or are in progress. Initial contact made or interview scheduled for: Peter Sorensen (Tom's brother), Susan Blount, Robert Johnson, and Mark Tingen.

Frederick Tomazinis has submitted his application for processing and Arthur Tenney has been contacted and is submitting his application for transfer to our flotilla.

Recruiting efforts in the Green Cove Springs area have resulted in several queries but to date no interviews have been conducted.

Charles Smith FSO-PS

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**OPERATIONS (OP):**



The Mayport "Challenge" is slated to take place 6/6/09. This will pit auxiliary teams against gold side teams on the land and by boat for various operations exercises. Although 14-8 has its team in place, anyone in our flotilla is welcome to come and watch the fun and to participate in the land side of the event. There reportedly will be food served. The event begins at 0900 at Station Mayport.

I encourage any interested in operations to take advantage of this boating season to sign onto a patrol to see if you might like this. In addition to our flotilla, others in Division 14 have been willing to take our flotilla members on their patrols

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

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**VESSEL EXAMINER (VE):**



Every now and then, while doing VSC, I am asked a question that I should know the answer to but for whatever reason I have forgotten. Therefore, I am putting together a list of questions and answers that may help out. Please send me any other questions that you may have been ask.

*Q. What is the age of a child that must wear a life jacket?*

A. Children under 6 years of age must wear a life jacket while the boat is underway if it is under 26'

*Q. Can people ride on the bow of the boat? (IE, a big boat with a rail and a sun platform)*

A No vessel shall be operated within Florida in a reckless or negligent manner. Examples of reckless or careless operations include:

- Excessive speed in regulated or congested areas
- Operating in a manner that may cause an accident
- Operating in a swimming area with bathers present
- Towing water skiers where obstructions exist or a fall might cause them to be injured
- **Bow riding or riding on the gunwale or transom where no seating is provided**
- Operation of a personal watercraft which endangers life or property

*Q. What do I do with my old flares?*

A. Disposal, To dispose of expired marine pyrotechnic distress signals, Orion recommends the following method:

- Donate expired flares to local Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron for use in their training classes.
- Ignite hand-held signals flares on land in a safe area, much the same as highway flares would be ignited.
- Contact a local law enforcement or the fire protection agency for their advice on proper visual distress signal disposal.
- Retain flares for back-up use to expand signaling time in the event of an emergency.
- NEVER jettison visual distress signals overboard. NEVER activate marine flares in a non-emergency situation on or near regulated water. **NEVER dispose of flares in household trash.**

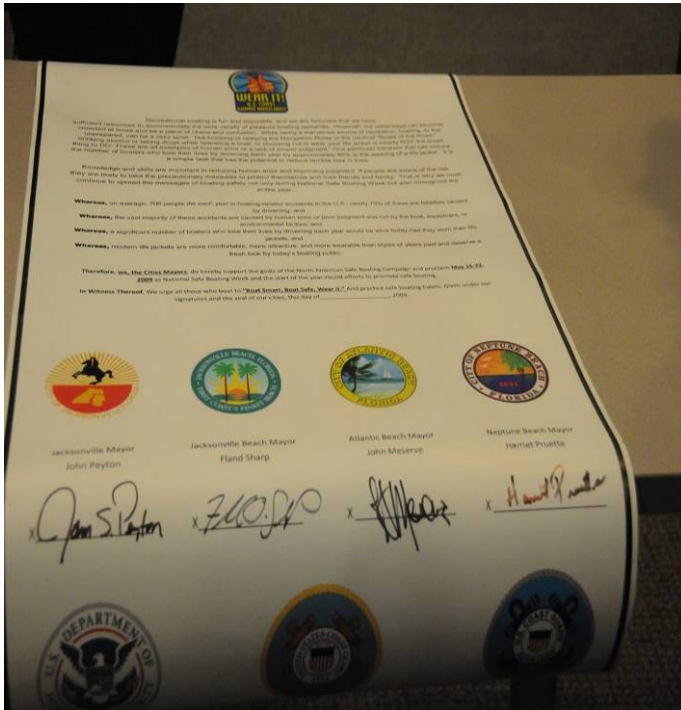
*Q. How old do you have to be to drive a PWC?*

A. 14 or older

Rusty Gardner FSO-VE

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# FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM 2009 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK



Mayors signed proclamation for Jacksonville and The Beaches National Safe Boating Week



A busy day at Knight's Marina in Green Cove Springs on May 16 the first day of National Safe Boating Week and 14-8 was on hand to kick off the event with free Vessel Safety Checks



Rusty Gardner had an opportunity to present the communications set-up constructed by 14-8 member Alton Ricker and demonstrated the new emergency communication system to members of the FWC and Clay County Sheriff's Department Marine Division.



Flotilla Commander Jeff Blomgren is shown here with Atlantic Beach Mayor John Meserve outside the Jacksonville Beach City Hall where the Mayor's Safe Boating Week Proclamation was signed on Monday May 11. Flotilla Commander Blomgren works for the construction company that did the Mayport Road improvements completed this year. Commander Blomgren was the Safety Officer on site and was congratulated by Mayor Meserve on the work done and sited that the improvements have exceeded the desired reduction in injuries and accidents due to the improved traffic design.



Charlie Smith assist with vessel safety checks, as well as recruits new members while providing information on the Coast Guard Auxiliary to the boating public.

## FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM 2009 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK



Jeff Blomgren Flotilla Commander 14-8 (right) and Jesse Stevens (Division Commander) shared a happy moment watching David Green, Division Vice Commander in the costume he uses for public events.



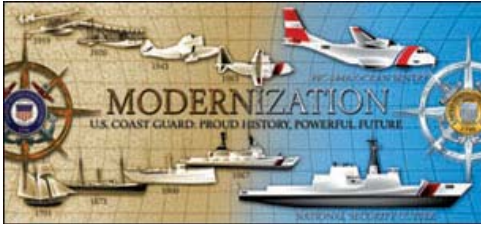
Chrystal Wickline is surrounded by law enforcement. Deputy Chris Castelli, (far right) Special Operations/Marine Enforcement, Clay County Sheriff's Office was Commander in Chief for this event. Member Claire Bailey, Clay County uniform is at the rear between Chrystal and Deputy Castelli



Rusty Gardner doing the instruction and demonstration of the new emergency radio procedures for the Clay County Marine Enforcement and Florida Wildlife officers at Knight's Marina.



Chrystal Wickline, Deputy Castelli and Flotilla 14-8 Commander Jeff Blomgren discussed the cooperative efforts and the effectiveness of joint operations.



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



## NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 29, 2009

### COAST GUARD URGES SAFETY DURING UPCOMING HURRICANE SEASON

MIAMI – The Coast Guard urges mariners and residents living along the coast to plan ahead and prepare for the 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which starts Monday.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts there will be nine to 14 named storms during the 2009 season, which begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30.

Tropical systems acquire a name when they reach tropical-storm strength with sustained winds reaching 39 mph. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 mph and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 mph.

As storms approach, the Coast Guard urges the public to be mindful of the following safety tips:

- **Stay informed:** The public should monitor the progress and strength of the storm through local television, radio and the Internet. Boaters can monitor storm progress on VHF channel 16. Information can also be obtained on small-craft advisories and warnings on VHF channel 16.
- **Evacuate as necessary:** If mandatory evacuations are set for an area, the public is urged to heed evacuation orders. Coast Guard personnel and other emergency responders may not be able to evacuate those in danger during the storm.
- **Secure your belongings:** Owners of larger boats are urged to move their boats to inland marinas where they will be less vulnerable to breaking free of their moorings or damage. Trailerable boats should be pulled from the water and stored in a place that is not prone to flooding. Those who are leaving their boats in the water are reminded to secure life rings, life jackets and small boats.
- **Be cautious of hazardous materials:** If you have hazardous materials on or near the water you are responsible for any spills that may occur. Take the necessary precautions to secure them prior to any foul weather.
- **Stay clear of beaches:** Even the best swimmers can fall victim to the strong waves and rip currents caused by storms. Swimmers are urged to stay clear of beaches until local officials say the water is safe.

Mariners are reminded that drawbridges along the coast may deviate from normal operating procedures prior to a storm. They are generally authorized to remain closed for up to eight hours prior to the approach of gale force winds of 32 mph or greater and whenever an evacuation is ordered. Because of the uncertainty of weather movements and related bridge closures, mariners should seek early passage through drawbridges well in advance of the arrival of gale force winds.

For information on hurricane preparedness, please visit the National Hurricane Center's Web site: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.



**FLOTILLA 14-8**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Tuesday 2nd June 2009 at 1930**  
**FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB**  
**9010 San Jose Blvd**

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All members and their guests are invited to attend Flotilla 14-8's

**Date: July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Location: The Florida Tackle & Gun Club**



**Times: 1800 Social hour begins with a cash bar**  
**1900 Catered Dinner**  
**2000 Program**

**Attire: Civilian, no uniforms**

**Cost: \$18.00 each**

**RSVP BY: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to Bob Strong, FSO-FN**

**Make checks payable to: "USCG AUX 14-8"**

**Please mail you reservation check to: Robert Strong, FSO-FN 14-8**  
**923 Parkridge Circle East, Jacksonville, FL 32211**



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

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*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.*