
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXV No. 8

September 2009



Honors are rendered during a colors presentation at Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville's change of command ceremony, Friday, August 14, 2009, at Jacksonville Port Authority's cruise ship terminal. During the ceremony Capt. Paul Thomas relinquished his duty as commander to Capt. Andy Blomme. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Cindy Beckert)

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Charles Trippe
Sarah Tamargo

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| Sept | 01 | Tackle & Gun Club – 1830 Staff Officers Meeting – 1930 Flotilla Meeting |
| | 10 - 13 | Seventh District Fall Conference - Hilton Bayfront Hotel, St. Petersburg, FL |
| | 19 | Man Overboard & Communications Training – Station Mayport |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB |
| | 26 | Team Coordination Training – 0830 Stellar Building |
| Oct | 01 | Detachment Meeting – 1900 – Green |
| | 06 | Tackle & Gun Club – 1830 Staff Officers Meeting – 1930 Flotilla Meeting |
| | 10 | Unofficial - First Coast Head Race @ Arlington River |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB |

FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



We are reaching that time of year when we need to start thinking about 2010 and our new year of challenges and opportunities. Very soon we will be having elections and FSO appointments. There will be a significant number of our membership leaving for the new flotilla 14-5. That leaves us with a challenge. With more than half the staff moving to 14-5 we will have to find replacements who will be willing to step up and be counted in the Auxiliary mission for 2010. Will you be one of those? Have you been looking for a challenge? Do you want to contribute? Some have already stepped up and prepared themselves for service and that has been a tremendous encouragement to me but we need more to do the same. I challenge you all to search for your niche and make it know to me before October 1. It will be a tremendous year just as this one has been and I'd love to see you a part of it. The main question is "Why did you volunteer and why do you pay dues if you don't want to take part?" We need you!

Congratulations to all those who have accomplished great things this year. John Russette for the many steps toward 14-5, Fred Cooke for setting up the admin part of the detachment, Rusty Gardner for his position in the National staff and the emergency communication awareness program, Bob Funk for the co-op training program at Mayport, Bob Strong for initiating a new boating safety program, Paul Burns for his work on redesigning the website and taking over as secretary of record, Charlie Smith for recruiting one of the largest numbers of members in the Division, Carolyn for her work coordinating the 40th anniversary, Whit Vick for stepping up, in spite of a busy schedule, and making our ops program visible and involving our membership, Charles Trippe for stepping into the role of Flotilla Vice Commander when we needed him most, Sarah Tamargo for her work keeping up the quality of 8 Bells and for all those of you who I failed to mention, my sincerest thanks for your help in the mission of public information, program visitation, training and education, vessel examinations and the many other things you do so well.

Jeff Blomgren, Flotilla Commander

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES (CS):



As we enter the most active weeks of the hurricane season, the Jacksonville Weather page on Flotilla 14-8's website offers a wealth of weather information and links. Some of the most useful pages are:

- Stormpulse offers very easy to read storm graphics and information (This is my first choice for Tropical Weather information)
- The National Hurricane Center's Tropical Weather Update
- Live Jacksonville Radar with full animation
- JaxWeather.net with live conditions on the Northside of town
- RiverCityWeather.net with South Jacksonville/Mandarin live weather conditons
- Live Camera views of Downtown Jacksonville, The Buckman Bridge and Jacksonville Beach
- Local Tide tables for various locations on the St John's River.

The Internet is a valuable tool to know where the storm is, and where it's going, so you can make your best plan to deal with the situation.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

MARINE SAFETY (MS):



An assortment of very useful trivia from Marc Lang (SO-MS)

1. Sizing an Electric Trolling Motor - To move the boat at a fast walking speed, figure 2.5 pounds of thrust for every 100 pounds of boat, gear and crew. A 1200 pound boat would need a motor producing 30 pounds of thrust. Account for the anglers and gear on the boat also.
2. Options for mounting radar antennae – radar antennae may be mounted on main cabin roof in front of the flybridge/operator. However, remember that radar is RF radiation emitted in a searchlight pattern. The proper and safe location is at least 5 feet above the operator's head. If the Radar is too high, it is not accurate, too low and it is not safe.
3. Stimulus Money will pay for dredging the ICW - Army Corps of Engineers has budgeted \$6.175 million for Palm Valley to Jax, FL, \$5.9 million for Georgia, \$4 million for South Carolina, \$4.4 million for North Carolina, \$1.75 million for Virginia and \$1.26 million for New Jersey.
4. Mounting State Registration Numbers and State Decals on an Inflatable Boat – first check to see if boat has a factory-mounted pocket or a treated space for adhering numbers. If not, you need to determine whether boat is synthetic rubber (hypalon) or PVC (Strongan, Sharc or Decitex for example) so that you can glue the numbers on with the something that will stick. Vinyl does not adhere to rubber very well and rubber cements do not adhere to vinyl. Synthetic rubber boats are glued together and you may notice glue at the seams. If you can't find out from the manufacturer and can't see any glue, then test a tiny amount of surface with acetone in an inconspicuous place. The acetone will make PVC sticky but will not react with synthetic rubber. West Marine sells a water based vinyl paint on numbers kit. There is also a company that sells plates that allow you to put the numbers and decal on. Finally you can buy a state number and decal sleeve which can be glued to the boat. It is illegal to mount the state decal on the transom. www.Boatnumberplate.com. or 425-252-7661.
5. Mounting State Registration Numbers and State Decals on Air Boats - There are 3 locations to which you to adhere state numbers and decals:
 1. On the bow (problem is that grass scrapes off the decals).
 2. Below the forward seat on the side frame.
 3. On the rudders.

Wherever it is, the Decal must be within 6" of the numbers and the numbers on "BOTH" sides must be at the same location (both rudders, both bows or both seat frames).

6. ABYC (American Boat and Yacht Council) Sets Standards and Guides for the Design, Construction, Installation and Maintenance of Boats and their Equipment. These are recommendations with no funding for enforcement. H-2 5.4.1 At Least One Exhaust Blower for "Each" Gasoline Engine used for Propulsion.
7. Certificate of Alternative Compliance - The USCG has the authority to issue this certificate to vessels (mainly U.S. Navy) when they cannot comply with the 72 ColRegs or Navigation Standards because the configuration or mission of the vessel hinders correct placement of the navigation lights. Upshot for us is that the nav lights on U.S. Naval Vessels may or may not be in the correct location.
8. Outboard Engine Brackets - Made by Armstrong or Gil Manufacturing and others. Using brackets rather than bolting engine(s) directly to the transom has several advantages. The props run in cleaner water creating less turbulence, the engines are raised higher out of the water, the engines operate in reverse better and the drag is reduced when operating. The brackets are usually made of aluminum so you cannot use the same copper antifouling copper paint as you do on the fiberglass hull. If you must use copper based paint, you must barrier coat it first. Some boats have molded in brackets in the hull.
9. Google Ocean - to view underwater locations go to <http://earth.google.com/ocean>.

10. New Products –

- A. Single or Twin Engine Indicators for Loss of Cooling Water, Nav. Light Indicator Panel, Bilge Pump Overrun Panel and Anchor Fluke Covers (protect boat gelcoat when stowing) Products by Borel Mfg. 1 800 824 4449 or www.borelmfg.com
- B. Polyurethane non skid protective coating you apply yourself by Durabak. 303 690 7190 or www.durabakcompany.com
- C. The Landing Loop helps you to get the lines to the dock unassisted. www.landingloop.com or 1-800-250-9545.
- D. Keel Guard- protection for your boats keel against boat ramps beaches etc. 800-292-9835 or www.keelguard.com
- E. Green Cleaning Products by Thetford Corp. Cleaners, waxes, polishes and holding tank products. www.thetford.com or 1-800-543-1219
- F. Realistic looking Lighthouses, different designs, lighted and over 5 feet high. www.nauticalbayllc.com
- G. The Fuel Bib- Place it around your fuel fill to absorb spills, also for oil changes, coolant filling or hydraulic fluid fills. www.thefuelbib.com
- H. Prop Glop- A sticky substance that you apply to underwater running gear to prevent marine fouling. Can be applied underwater. www.moby-cool.com 407-435-9733
- I. Thumb guard protects your thumb while fishing. www.thumbdinger.com
- J. Sealegs Boats with 3 fold up wheels eliminate a trailer if launching close to the water. Comes in 6 and 7 meter lengths. www.sealegs.com
- K. www.TomosCanada.com Makers of Gas Outboards from 2-25 hp
- L. Quick Fist- Rubber Clamps used to hold Fire Exts., Flashlights, Gas Cans, Paddles etc. About \$10. Go to www.endroad.com

Merrill Varn, FSO-MS

MEMBER TRAINING (MT):



Training is the foundation of the Auxiliary and every member has the opportunity and obligation to participate in the training being offered. Much can be learned on line, however, the classroom environment offers a perspective that is unique. Please take advantage of the training coming up in the near future, and you, as well as all of us, will be better Auxiliarists as a result.

- The **Seventh District Fall Conference** is scheduled for **September 10 through the 13th** and is open to all members. Plan on attending three days of instruction, fun, and relaxation. For group rate reservations of \$104 per night contact: the Hilton Bayfront Hotel, St. Petersburg, FL, located at 333 First Street South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701-4342 727-894-5000 direct. For the meeting agenda and all the details, go to cgaux7.org.
- The last in the series of **Mayport training** is scheduled for **September 19** and will cover the Man Overboard procedures, and radio communications with Station while on patrol. Let me know if you are interested at clairebailey@bellsouth.net.
- **Team Coordination Training 8 Hour** – Required for all Operations personnel – Saturday, **September 26**, 0830 – Stellar Building. Bob Pape, Instructor. No breaks are taken so bring any food items you may need. Dress is casual civilian clothing. Reply to me or Bob Pape at bolou@juno.com.

Claire Bailey, FSO-MT

PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS):



To date I have seven applications accepted and one scheduled for submission. All applicants are interested in joining the new flotilla (Det 5). As usual, many applications are never returned for processing. Present flotilla members should intensify their recruiting efforts to fill the void when the new flotilla is formed. Simply give interested personnel my name and number and I will do the rest.

I have observed that several new members have stopped attending flotilla meetings and participating in flotilla activities. My only thought is that they might be busy with summertime activities or their expectations concerning the CGAUX haven't been fulfilled. When a new member expresses interest in a specific area I notify the appropriate FSO so contact can be made and mentoring initiated. I'm not sure this is being accomplished to the satisfaction of the new recruit and may be the cause for their sudden lack of interest. Again, all flotilla members and especially FSO's should actively encourage the realization of another members expectations.

Charles Smith FSO-PS

OPERATIONS (OP):



It is encouraging that several 14-8 flotilla members have recently gotten involved with operations, attending training sessions being held at Station Mayport and also going on boat patrols.

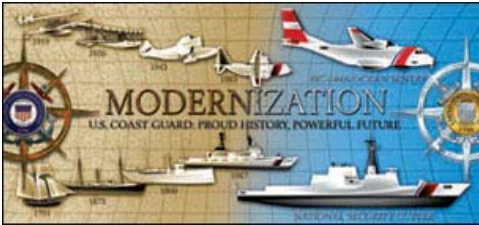
The next (and final scheduled) Mayport training session is on 9/19/09, subject is man overboard. Flotilla 14-4 is currently putting on an "operations academy" with the goal of going through all the requisites for crew or coxwain culminating in a QE audit, and this is open to all.

Opportunities for participating in patrols are available in our flotilla as well as other flotillas. I have names and numbers of members of other flotillas who have been willing to take our members on on their boats. The QE's are encouraging going out on different boats during training. And we all remain in training.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Rear Adm. Steve Branham, commander Seventh Coast Guard district, presides over a change of command ceremony where Capt. Paul Thomas relinquishes his duty as commander Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville to Capt. Andy Blomme, Friday, August 14, 2009, at the Jacksonville Port Authority's cruise ship terminal. (U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Cindy Beckert)



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



PRESS RELEASE

August 23, 2009

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

LACK OF BOATER EDUCATION LINKED TO RISE IN RECREATIONAL BOATING FATALITIES

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has expressed concern over statistics reporting a rise in recreational boating fatalities in a recently released publication of the 2008 boating safety statistics.

The fatality rate, a measure of the number of deaths against the number of registered recreational boats, increased from 5.3 in 2007 to 5.6 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational boats in 2008. During this time, the Coast Guard recorded 709 deaths, 3,331 injuries and approximately \$54 million dollars in damage to property, stemming from 4,789 recreational boating accidents.

Operator inattention, careless or reckless operation, no proper lookout, operator inexperience and passenger or skier behavior rank as the top five contributing factors to recreational boating accidents.

Alcohol consumption continues to be of major concern in fatal boating accidents and is listed as the leading contributing factor in 17 percent of the deaths.

Rear Adm. Kevin Cook, the Coast Guard's director of prevention policy, emphasized the importance of boating education saying, "The 2008 report shows a clear link between safety and boating education by highlighting that only 10 percent of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety education. This statistic indicates that boaters who have taken a boating safety course are less likely to be involved in an accident. In addition, two-thirds of all fatal boating accident victims drowned; and of those, 90 percent were not wearing a life jacket. The Coast Guard urges all boaters, whether as an operator or passenger, to take a boating safety course and to always wear your life jacket."

For seventy years the Coast Guard Auxiliary has provided boater education to the American boating public. Courses are taught by experienced and knowledgeable instructors committed to the highest standards of the U.S. Coast Guard. For more information about Coast Guard Auxiliary boater education course please visit <http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/>. In addition to boater education courses the Auxiliary also offers free Vessel Safety Checks. (<http://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>)

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.

To view the 2008 recreational boating safety statistics, go to:

http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_stats.htm

For more information on boating responsibly, go to <http://www.uscgboating.org/>.



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
America's Volunteer Lifesaverssm

FLOTILLA 14-8
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday September 1st, 2009 at 1930
FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB
9010 San Jose Blvd

2009 FALL DISTRICT 7 CONFERENCE
September 10th – 13th, 2009



Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront

333 First Street South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701-4342 727-894-5000 direct



8 IS GREAT !

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

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