
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVI No. 1

January 2010

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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Jeffrey A. Blomgren
Neill A. Thaggard, IV
Carolyn G. Strong

Flotilla 14-8 Officers Sworn in for 2010



Neill Thaggard, VFC (center) and Jeff Blomgren, FC (right) took the Oath of Office, administered by CWO Jim DeVane, USCG at the Flotilla 14-8 Change of Watch Dinner on 01 December, 2009 at The Athens Café, Jacksonville

INTRODUCING OUR FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS FOR 2010



**Charles Taylor,
Communications**



**Cris Vonderheide,
Navigation Safety**



**Paul Burns,
Communication Services /
Secretary of Records**



**Whit Vick,
Operations**



**Bob Strong,
Finance / Public Education**



**Charles Trippe,
Personnel Services**



**Neill Thaggard, VFC /
Information Services**



**Mike Morgan,
Program Visitor /
Vessel Examiner**



**Bob Flaige,
Materials**



**Carolyn Strong,
Publications / Historian**



**Jeff Blomgren, FC /
Member Training**

**Marine Safety
Public Affairs**

**Vacant
Vacant**

FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Our new flotilla year began December 1 with our Change of Watch and the swearing in of Neill Thaggard, Flotilla Vice Commander and our new Staff Officers for 2010. The event was held at the Athens Café. Twenty five members and guests attended along with special guests CWO Jim DeVane, USCG, his wife Cheryl, and David Green, Division Vice Commander and his wife Nell.

We had a wonderful slide show done by Carolyn Strong, Historian 14-8, and the Change of Watch Team did a great job organizing the event. We presented a number of special awards to members of 14-8 including two Operations awards, three HITRON awards, three Special Recognition awards and the annual flotilla awards.

This has been a great year for 14-8. We won awards for our website, recruiting, HITRON, Vessel Exams and Public Education. GREAT JOB 14-8 and the people who helped us get those awards are still a part of 14-8 so we have a terrific year to look forward to and I'm excited about being chosen to be a part of it. Thank you all for a tremendous year.

I have already received two e-mails from interested people who want to attend our January 5 meeting at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club. Our goal of "10 in 10" is not that difficult if we look at the possibility of recruiting one person a month. We can accomplish this goal and we have the best group of people to do it.

8 Is Great!

Jeff Blomgren, Flotilla Commander 14-8

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS, FSO-CS

Last year Paul did a tremendous job putting together the Flotilla 14-8 website and was recognized for his efforts by the flotilla and Nationally. In order to keep up with the standards he's established, all FSOs should update our message on the website for 2010. So when you have time, try to put something together before he has to ask you for it. It doesn't have to be anything specific but just a general idea of what you will be doing for the Auxiliary in 2010 and in general terms designed for non member information. We want to appeal to those who are exploring the idea of joining.

Jeff Blomgren, FC

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK, FSO-OP

In November, Neill Thaggard's boat was approved as a facility. Neill is working towards crew qualification. Others still verbalize interest in ops and we will continue to encourage these. Charles Taylor expressed interest in returning to ops in January after being sick for several months. He would like to get back as active crew.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Working with Bob Strong, we made the deadline to insert a new article on the 2010 Boating Safety Training Program in the *Mandarin Creepline* monthly for January. As usual, the article also contains phone numbers and web site quotes to encourage those seeking safety or membership information. While the Public Education program is a focus of our Public Affairs (PA) efforts, we will endeavor to both pave the way for any flotilla events and report happenings of interest to all. Besides supporting leadership PA initiatives, I hope to secure the participation of local media reporters in appropriate events where they might produce products for a wider audience.

Ralph Little,
Acting Public Affairs Officer

MEMBER TRAINING – JEFF BLOMGREN, FSO-MT

MT Action Plan 2010:

2010 will be a year of opportunity for our members. As FSO-MT I am committed to the process of equipping our members with the tools they need to accomplish the goals they set for themselves. By using the following format as an action plan for 2010 we will accomplish the mission of providing opportunities to all who participate in the 14-8 volunteer process.

Communications

- Establish communication format
 - E-mails, phone lists, addresses
 - Explore existing education methods/opportunities
 - Follow-up on training requirements
 - Provide individuals with training requirements for each discipline
 - Follow-up on members personal objectives
 - Review goals periodically to ensure completion

Training

- Explore training opportunities “outside the box”
 - Centralized training for core competencies
- Establish training action plan of core competencies for members/new members
 - Review MANDATORY courses with members
 - Review ANNUAL training requirements with members
- CPR/First Aid
- Sexual harassment prevention
- Instructor (IT) – Administrative Procedures (APC) – Vessel Examiner (VE) – Program Visitor (PV), etc.
- Advanced training opportunities for members
 - Explore established on-line schools
 - Review Coast Guard Institute Courses available

Jeff Blomgren, FSO-MT

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG, FSO-PE

We began the Monday evening Boating Safety Programs on 17 August 2009 to replace the One-Day Program. The attendance was poor (20 students for 4 complete programs) but all those who attended gave us great reviews. All the participating instructors agreed to continue for now, BUT we need the help of all members to help advertise our new program. The following is the first ad, written by Ralph Little, for the Mandarin edition of the *Times Union* newspaper. I will be pleased to provide additional copies to anyone willing to help spread the word. Thanks!

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

MONDAY EVENING BOATING SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

On February 15, 2010, Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will begin a Monday evening Boating Safety Training Program for the public that will run through out the year, except for major Holidays until early November 2010. A complete cycle of this training will consist of three Monday evenings of classroom training and a final examination. Each training session will run from 6:45 PM to 9:15 PM. A participant may begin on any Monday evening by registering at 6:30 PM. The flotilla is offering this format in an attempt to accommodate attendees who may find it easier to complete the 2½-hour sessions than our previous day-long program. Other benefits include the opportunity to interact with knowledgeable Auxiliary instructors, a flexible attendance format and a top-notch modern classroom environment for all training. All sessions will be held at the Stellar building, 2900 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257.

Public Education continued next page...

Public Education continued...

The quickest way to complete the program is to attend three successive Monday evenings from 6:45 PM to 9:15 PM. However, if participants miss a night, topics can be made up when they are repeated in another cycle. After a participant has attended three different sessions and read the textbook they may take the closed-book exam that evening or return to take it any Monday evening.

The first evening program in each cycle will include: boating terms, discussion on types of boats and their use, ropes and knots, boat handling, docking, undocking, anchoring and trailering. The second evening will include knots and line handling, State and Federal legal requirements, and emergency operating procedures. The final evening will cover navigating your boat and rules for safe operation.

Upon passing the examination the participant will receive a certificate from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and, with their permission, information will be sent to the State of Florida for issuance of a Boaters Education ID card. This card and a picture ID are required by anyone born on or after January 1, 1988 to operate a power vessel in Florida with 10 or more horsepower and may soon be required for all Florida boaters.

The \$20.00 cost for each participant includes a book, examination, certificate and all training. Please call Bob at 904-721-1346 to pre-register or for more information. The program is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the United States Coast Guard. All instructors are trained members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

For more information on boating safety and required and recommended safety equipment, visit <http://www.safetysal.net/>. Flotilla 14-8 will also be glad to assist you with information or free vessel safety checks at <http://a0701408.uscgaux.info/>. If you are interested in learning more about how to become involved in the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary or just find out more information about what we do, please check our site or contact Bob at 904-721-1346.

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.

IN MEMORIAM



We are saddened to report the passing of our friend and retired member Ila Beighley on Sunday 13 December, 2009.

She was born in Bainbridge, Georgia April 14, 1920. Her family moved to Jacksonville when she was 12 years old and she graduated from Andrew Jackson High School. She was an active member of the Florida Tackle & Gun Club, the Elks Lodge 221 and served with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8 for over 20 years. She was a member of Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran church where a memorial service was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009. Ila was full of life, encouragement, energy and joy to all who knew her. She was an inspiration through her active life style whether on the golf course, boating, fishing or practicing Tai Chi which she continued to do until just three weeks prior to her passing. She is survived

by her daughter Pam Beighley, her son Sid Beighley and his wife Dorian, a sister and brother and many nieces and nephews.

Many members and retired members of Flotilla 14-8 will remember Ila for her sense of humor, her cheery smile and her alert mind.

14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER MEETING 1 DECEMBER 2009

Jeff Blomgren gave Special Appreciation Awards



Bob Strong received the Appreciation Award for setting up a Monday PE program for our flotilla



Ralph Little received the Coast Guard Achievement Award for his Performance as Operations Duty Officer at Coast Guard HITRON



Cris Vonderheide received an Appreciation Award for the most on-the-water Operations hours



Neill Thaggard received the Andy Anderson Award, our highest Flotilla Award, for his Achievements and all around Performance



Whit Vick received a Appreciation Award for Outstanding work in the area of Operations



David Greene, VCDR 14 presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Flotilla 14-8 for Vessel Exams

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Pictures by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB 14-8



*United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
District Seven, Division Fourteen*

*Division Change of Watch*

*Saturday, 09 January 2010*

*All members are welcome to attend the Division Change of Watch.  
The Division Staff Officers will be sworn-in during the evening  
as well as the presentation of awards.*

*The ceremony will take place at the Mudville Grille  
1301 Monument Rd, Jacksonville, Fl.  
Commencing at 1900  
Attendees will order from the restaurant menu.*

*R.S.V.P. by December 31, 2010  
William Sekeres 904-591-4493 or  
[bill@sidquality.com](mailto:bill@sidquality.com)*

*Uniform:  
Tropical Blue  
Appropriate Civilian Informal*



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
America's Volunteer Lifesavers<sup>sm</sup>

## **DIVISION 14 CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER**

**Saturday 9 January 2010**

**Mudville Grille**

**1301 Monument Road, Jacksonville**

**Dinner at 7 PM – order from Restaurant Menu**

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## **FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday 5 January 2010**

**FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB**

**9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- |            |              |                                                                                |
|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JAN</b> | <b>01</b>    | <b>Happy New Year!</b>                                                         |
|            | <b>05</b>    | <b>Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club - 1930</b>            |
|            | <b>09</b>    | <b>Division 14 Change of Watch Dinner – Mudville Grille 1900</b>               |
|            | <b>16</b>    | <b>Division 14 Board &amp; General Meetings – The Stellar Building – 0900</b>  |
|            | <b>20</b>    | <b>Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO</b>         |
| <b>FEB</b> | <b>02</b>    | <b>Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle &amp; Gun Club – 1930</b>            |
|            | <b>05-07</b> | <b>Jacksonville Boat Show – Prime Osborn Convention Center</b>                 |
|            | <b>15</b>    | <b>Monday Evening Boating Safety Program begins – 1830 – 2115 Stellar Bldg</b> |
|            | <b>20</b>    | <b>Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO</b>         |



# **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.*