
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVI No. 2

February 2010

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
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Jeffrey A. Blomgren
Neill A. Thaggard, IV
Carolyn G. Strong

Bob Strong is Honored for 45 Years of Service



***Bob Strong, member of Flotilla 14-8 was honored with a
45 Year Auxiliary Membership Service Award presented by
Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 and CAPT Andy Blomme, USCG Sector Jacksonville
At the Division 14 Change of Watch Dinner on January 9, 2010***

Bob has been a member of Flotilla 14-8 since 1978 when he transferred from Flotilla 28 in Virginia. He served as Flotilla Commander of Virginia Flotilla 28 in 1968 and Flotilla Commander of Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8 in 1982, 1990-91 and 1998-99. Bob currently serves as Division Staff Officer-Public Education, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Education and Flotilla Staff Officer-Finance

FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Our January meeting was well attended with three guests that included members of other out of state flotillas visiting. We have a challenge from Bob Funk to make an effort to recruit boat owners and to develop our members into COX qualified and crew qualified. We are on the way with that challenge with Flotilla Vice Commander Neill Thaggard seriously involved in the boating program and Whit Vick working hard to contact members for interest in the crew training that he and Cris Vonderheide are willing to provide.

In another area, Ralph Little has provided leadership in the area of Public Affairs and is doing a great job informing the public about opportunities for education and information on boating and boating safety. We are off to a great start and getting ready to kick off the Public Education program for 2010. Neill Thaggard is also going to hold a training session on the new forms. It's going to be a great year for 14-8.

8 Is Great!

Jeff Blomgren, FC 14-8

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



This information applies specifically to the Vessel Examiners (VE) and Program Visitors (PV). Please read the following information and comply as quickly as possible. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved in Recreational Boating Safety PV/VE activities early in the year to refresh themselves on the current Federal and State boating regulations and make an effort to contact your existing program participants to restock and nurture the relationship. I challenge the team to shoot for adding two new participants for each certified PV by March 31st. I know we can do it, and don't forget to talk up not only RBS but new member recruiting. Remember Jeff's goal, 10 in 2010. January is almost over.

Semper Peratus!

Neill A. Thaggard IV, VFC 14-8

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS, FSO-CS



For 2010 I have done a small makeover of our flotilla Website. Most of the work has been under the hood which will make the website work faster with fewer glitches. My favorite new feature is "AUXGOOGLE", a Google search box at the bottom of every page which only retrieves information from the National Auxiliary Website.

I urge all Flotilla Staff Officers to utilize their individual Staff Officer webpages. Send me what you want included on your page, and I will put it together for you. Messages, Articles, Pictures, Videos, Forms, Web Links, whatever you want, whatever will enhance your department. The officer webpages are accessed from the "Flotilla Departments" button in the left column, or from the "Flotilla Member's Homepage"

We have a new Flotilla Calendar (aren't you glad we aren't permanently stuck in June anymore). Send me schedules and noteworthy events and I will update the calendar with that information. Whit Vick is going to send our patrol schedules for the calendar so anybody in training will know when a boat is going out.

Send me an Email with your ideas, thanks.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – NEILL THAGGARD IV, FSO-IS



Paul Burns, FSO-CS has posted a three minute video on our FSO-IS webpage explaining the new ANSC-7029 form. Click the link below to view the video directly or go to the Flotilla 14-8 website on the FSO-IS “Latest News and Updates” page. Please take a look at it when you get a chance. We will also cover this at the Feb 2nd Flotilla meeting. Thanks.

<http://forms.cgaux.org/7029video.html>

Neill Thaggard IV, FSO-IS

MEMBER TRAINING – JEFF BLOMGREN, FSO-MT



The member training program will kick off in February with Vice Flotilla Commander Neill Thaggard presenting a training session on the new forms required for reporting. This will be an important training opportunity and the forms affect all of us. Future training opportunities include TCT refresher, ISC 210, Sexual Harassment Prevention, and IT refresher. Other training will include crew and COX under the direction of Whit Vick.

Jeff Blomgren, FSO-MT

PERSONNEL SERVICES – CHARLIE SMITH, FSO-PS



I have resumed my duties as the flotilla Personnel Services Staff Officer for 14-8. Jeff has set the goal of recruiting 10 new participating members during this year. As usual, I request the assistance of all flotilla members in helping me in meeting and exceeding this objective.

Also, I wish to thank everyone concerned for their thoughts and prayers during my recent medical crisis. It's good to be back.

Charlie Smith, FSO-PS

PUBLICATIONS – CAROLYN STRONG, FSO-PB



Thank you to all who contributed to this month’s newsletter. You make my job so much easier when you provide such good material. Thanks also to Rusty Gardner, Flotilla 14-5 for submitting so many good photos from the division change of watch dinner.

Staff Officers, please keep up the good work of writing reports on your activities and submitting them by the deadline. Other members, we need your input too. I am always looking for good pictures and articles. It would be fun to see some “Sea Stories” from those of you who get out on the water. Remember to take a camera!

Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – RALPH LITTLE, ACTING FSO-PA



We've managed to publish an article in the January *Mandarin Newslines* promoting the Boating Safety Program (BSP). Another article mentioning that program and working the issues of Vessel Exams and recruiting is scheduled for the February edition. Additional notices concerning the BSP have been requested of the Times-Union in both the Mandarin community edition and Sunday sports calendar. Requests have been sent to both the Lamb's Yachts and Epping Forest Yacht Club to include information on the Public Education program and the flotilla in their newsletters or websites. I always entertain suggestions for good PA targets, especially if accompanied by specific insider access! So far I haven't used any photos, but hope to do so for particular events.

Ralph Little, Acting Public Affairs Officer

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG, FSO-PE



We are set to begin our Monday evening About Boating Safety (ABS) programs on 15 February 2010. On every Monday evening from 15 February through 1 November, except for Memorial and Labor Days, we will be offering the complete ABS program 12 times. All we need now are students. As of 25 January we have four students pre-registered.

We need instructors to sign up for teaching dates. Please refer to our flotilla web site for the schedule. A quick outline is as follows: The first evening includes ABS chapters 1, 2 & 4, or “Know Your Boat”, “Trailing” and “Operations”. The second evening includes chapters 5 & 6 or “Legal Requirements” and “Boating Emergencies”. The third evening includes chapters 3 and 7 or “Navigation” and “Enjoying Water Sports”. I hope all instructors will be trained to teach all the chapters by mid year. Each Monday evening we should have two instructors and one or more aids. The second instructor will backup the first and handle examinations for those students returning to take the exam. The aid will be there to assist where needed including working the door at the beginning of each evening. I will work with all instructors who may want help learning to teach all the chapters.

I talked to a weekend fisherman the other day; he told me no fisherman wants to give up a Saturday to attend school. A woman told me last fall that it was all but impossible to find a baby sitter for 11 hours. I told her the course was only 9.5 hours long and she responded that it was about 11 hours for her - door to door. Friends, I really believe this is going to work we just need to all advertise, advertise and advertise. In exchange we also get back our Saturdays.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK, FSO-OP



At the division meeting on 16 January, we heard a brief summary from the Coast Guard about the WAMS program, which involves using boaters with local knowledge to observe and report on aids to navigation that might need to be changed. For example, if a shoal has developed such that an aid needs to be moved or placed, this would be reported to the Coast Guard for their analysis and action if necessary. The program for the St Johns River goes through 31 March 2010.

Weather forced cancellation of several patrols in December. Bob Funk did a patrol for the fireworks at downtown Jacksonville on New Year's Eve. Cris Vonderheide, Neill Thaggard, and I did a patrol on my boat, *Carlie*, on 17 January at which time we checked the status of a number of PATONS (private aids to navigation) between Buckman and Fuller Warren bridges.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

**DIVISION 14 CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER MEETING GUESTS
9 JANUARY 2010 at MUDVILLE GRILL**



**CAPT Andy Blomme
Sector Commander, USCG
Sector Jacksonville**



**Lt Tom Condit
AUXLO, USCG
Sector Jacksonville**



**CWO Jim DeVane
Commander, USCG
Station Mayport**

14-8 PHOTO ALBUM
FLOTILLA MEETING 5 JANUARY 2010



Jeff Blomgren gave an Annual Service OPS Award to Bob Funk, along with a Vessel Offer for Use Certificate



Paul Burns received his Instructor's Certificate



Bob Flaige, Ralph Little & Bob Strong all received Certificates of Appreciation for Vessel Exams



Whit Vick received a Certificate of Completion of TCT Training



Brady Ward received Appreciation for his Performance as Operations Duty Officer at Coast Guard HITRON

*Pictures on this page by Carolyn Strong
 Pictures from division Change of Watch by Rusty Gardner*



FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday 2 February 2010
FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB
9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|-----|-------|---|
| FEB | 02 | Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930 |
| | 05-07 | Jacksonville Boat Show – Prime Osborn Convention Center |
| | 15 | Monday Evening Boating Safety Program begins – 1830 – 2115 Stellar Bldg |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO |
| MAR | 02 | Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930 |
| | 20 | ICS 210 Training – Stellar Building – 0800 to 1300 |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO |



Open to the Public! Boat Show Hours

11-8 Friday, February 5th
10-8 Saturday, February 6th
10-4 Sunday, February 7th

Prime Osborn Convention Center

If you would like to participate, let the FC know at the next flotilla meeting



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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