
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVI No. 5

May 2010

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

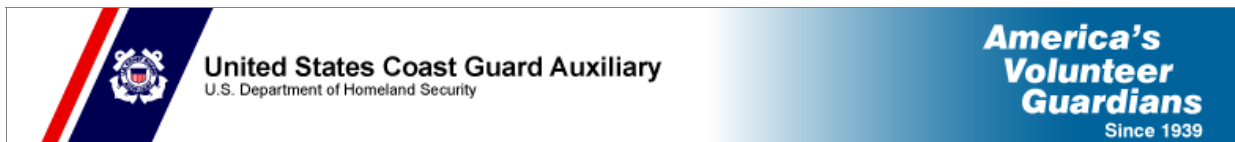
jblomgren1408@bellsouth.net
nthaggard@newdimension.net
cgstrong@comcast.net

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

Three Men... 106 Years of Dedicated Service



At the April meeting of Flotilla 14-8, Jeff Blomgren, FC (left) and Jesse Stevens, DCDR (right) gave their congratulations and thanks to three members of 14-8 who represent 106 total years of USCGAUX Service: COMO Joe Norman – 30 years; Bob Strong – 45 years and COMO Bill Edgerton – 31 years.



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



In May I will be traveling to Washington DC to receive a National Utility Contractors Association, William H. Feather Award for safety. This award is given to the company that has a proven safety record, has training and development courses in place to ensure currency in safety skills, has built a culture of safety throughout the company at all levels and has an active involvement in giving back to the community through volunteer efforts and betterment of society.

Sound familiar? The USCG Auxiliary does those same things. We are known as The Nations Lifesavers and we give not only to the community but to our country while providing the necessary tools to the boating public to remain safe on the water. I am proud of what we do and you all should be proud too. Those of you who take an active part in these important things should be going to Washington DC for your service award. Until then, my sincerest thanks to all of you who make that effort to contribute.

National Safe Boating week will be May 22-28. Let's do our part and get involved. Bob Strong needs volunteers for his Monday night classes and there will be many opportunities to piggy back on events with other flotillas in the area during this designated time. As the Nations Lifesavers it's what we do best.

Standing Rules Vote

Our Standing Rules have been approved by our membership and a special thanks to Bill Edgerton for his help in getting that done. Our rules have been forwarded to AUX headquarters for approval.

Jeff Blomgren, FC 14-8

Signing the Standing Rules of Flotilla 14-8 on 6 April 2010



Left to Right: Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14; Jeff Blomgren, FC; Paul Burns, FSO-SR

STAFF REPORTS

HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH, FSO-HR



Prior to last month's flotilla meeting all current members, and some not so current, were notified of the time, place and purpose for having as many members as possible attend the meeting. To say the least, attendance was a little disappointing. The usual FSOs and long-time members comprised the majority.

Something is wrong and I'm not sure what it is that is keeping flotilla members away from the monthly meeting. I want to find out why.

As a result I'm initiating a suggestion program. All submitted suggestions will receive a positive follow-up and I personally will advise the person submitting the suggestion as to why or why not the suggestion is to be implemented. Complaints should also provide a positive recommendation to solve the problem.

I will accept email, snail mail or telephone inputs. If you do not have a flotilla member contact roster with my address and telephone number, my email address is AKAKILOU@AOL.COM.

Waiting to hear from you,

Charles Smith, FSO-HR

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS, FSO-CS



It seems that the continued increase in Virus and Malicious Software activity is keeping me from coming up with new website ideas. I will dedicate a few more words this month to help you protect yourself from unwanted bugs in your computer. The “Infection of the Month” winner this month is the **“UPS/Fed Ex Delivery Failure Email Virus”**.

This method of luring people into launching a virus from their email has been around before. You may receive an email which appears to come from UPS or Fed Ex, announcing that they are unable to deliver a package that either you sent or was sent to you. When you click on the link or open the attachment, the virus launches and infects your computer. The virus will then use your email address and your internet connection to do whatever dirty deeds it's programmed to do. This particular version of the virus seems to disable your keyboard and mouse in order prevent you from stopping it, or removing it. **Note that UPS and Fed Ex, usually don't communicate to package customers via email, it is usually the shipper who sends the tracking information.**

If any computer infection prevents you from using your computer, it is important to leave your computer turned off until it can be repaired. Viruses are often able to use your computer and Internet when you cannot.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

MEMBER TRAINING – JEFF BLOMGREN, FSO-MT



Chuck Farmer, SO-NS 14 will be with us for another ATON update on May 6 and Michael Morgan is working on mini training sessions on Program Visitation and Vessel Examination that will help stimulate interest in those areas and supplement our future meetings. 14-8 will be hosting the Aids Verifier class that Chuck Farmer will be teaching on 31 July at the Stellar Building in Mandarin.

Paul Burns volunteered at the Boat Show and did a demonstration on knots. I've watched Paul and Bruce do this and they are masters at the craft (I have trouble with my shoe laces). Bob Strong, Paul Burns, Bruce Ennis and Top Ingram continue to be the sole teachers for our Monday night Boating Safety programs. We need your help to give some relief to those who have made this training program a success. See Bob Strong or Paul Burns for details.

Jeff Blomgren, FSO-MT

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG, FSO-PE



Attendance at all division PE programs continues to be poor when compared to earlier years. The West Marine store has offered us space in their new St Johns Town Center store to hold Monday evening classes as we are currently doing at the Stellar building. Whether or not this location would generate more participants is anyone's guess. Someone expressed concern about the store's noise level. I have conducted two evening seminars in that store and not found the sound level to be a problem at that time of day. If we move our Monday evening program to West Marine I think we need to return to holding Saturday classes at Stellar in order to retain our commitment to Stellar of using their training room to educate the boating public. That is why they granted use of their space in the first place.

The seventh District issued an edict last month directing that a second instructor, with knowledge of the current subject, must be present and paying attention during a lecture so as to correct the primary instructor in the presence of the class if he or she should make an error. This is an attempt to protect us from any liability lawsuits.

We also need to remind all boaters that a State fishing license is now required for salt water fishing. Customers on party boats are exempt.

The death rate due primarily to drowning in single vessel accidents is at 14 as of 17 April 2010. This is one ahead of last year's death rate of 13 at this time. We are asked to use this information to help drive home our point regarding safety and the wearing of life jackets.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK, FSO-OP



Flotilla 14-5 is currently doing crew classes for those interested in becoming crew or re-qualifying.

One of our new members, Phil Shults, is a captain for the downtown Jacksonville water taxi. He let me ride along on one of his tours of duty on 15 April. This was a great experience. The boat is an approximate 40 foot triple pontoon vessel with two outboard 130 hp Honda motors. Phil is an enthusiastic teacher and I learned a great deal.

This is the season for "snow birds" to move boats from Florida to points north, so the Intracoastal waterway is busy. I was able to participate in the un-grounding of a 39 foot sailboat in Georgia this month. The boat was traveling from Florida to Martha's Vineyard. The boat's skipper had tried to enter a popular anchorage called Wally's leg and had grounded on an uncharted shoal on the north end of the entrance. From information previously given to me by a Tow Boat US captain, I had a handwritten note on my chart that there is an oyster bar at this site and only the south entrance of Wally's Leg provides safe passage. Local knowledge can be useful but hard to come by if you aren't local. Towing companies survive on scenarios like this.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – RALPH LITTLE



The finest Public Affairs development in many a moon happened this month with Top Ingram's contributions to publicize the Public Education program to try and get more attendees. Thanks to Top, in providing media statements on Twitter, Craig's List and the Mandarin Sun Community Calendar web site.

A statement was also sent to The Times Union "Outdoors" Calendar, Clay Today, Florida Fishing Weekly, Folio Weekly and radio stations WOKV, WFXJ and WJXL. Don Dingman of "Hook the Future" on TV4 has agreed to have Bob Strong on to discuss the Boating Safety Program. Other than that, I managed our monthly article in the Mandarin

Newsline for May, featuring the Vessel Safety Check with mentions for National Safe Boating Week and the Boating Safety Program.

Ralph Little, Public Affairs, 14-8

VESSEL EXAMINATION/PROGRAM VISITATION – MIKE MORGAN



Hello all, I have yet to introduce myself. I am Michael “Mike” Morgan, I have been appointed as your Vessel Examiner/Program Visitor FSO for 2010. I look forward to helping Jeff and Neill realize their vision for the flotilla in 2010 through the VE/PV Program.

As we approach the warmer summer months and boats begin to head out for the water, we need to try and get the word out how important it is to get their boats examined. With the increase of boating accidents and fatalities on the rise it’s our job to try and educate the public the best way we can, whether it be through our Boating Classes or Vessel Safety Checks. I will do my best to support each and every one of you in the flotilla.

I will begin to put together a list of dates and places for us to start hitting over the course of the summer; I would like to encourage as much participation as possible at these events.

I encourage everyone to get their Vessel Safety Check Activity Report (ANSC 7038) and Program Visitor RBS Activity Report (ANSC 7046) to me by the 12th of every month so that I can turn them in to the SO-VE/PV 14. I look forward to another great year with the Mighty 14-8.

I recently sent out a couple of information sheets about the Orion Flares Safety program for Vessel Examiners. This is good stuff. VEs get a free Safety kit for taking the quiz and you earn points for doing VSCs.

Respectfully,
Mike Morgan, FSO-VE/PV

FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM

Flotilla Meeting 06 April 2010



Jeff Blomgren, FC congratulates Mike Morgan on his Qualification as RBS Program Visitor



Chuck Farmer, SO-NS 14 led an Aids To Navigation (ATON) Refresher for our members



Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 presented to COMO Joe Norman an Auxiliary Membership Service Award for 30 years of valued service in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Joe joined the Auxiliary and Flotilla 14-8 in January 1980. He quickly became a valuable and active member and served as Flotilla Commander, Division Vice Captain and Division Captain. He was then elected and served in the offices of District Rear Commodore North, District Commodore, National Vice Commodore East and National Vice Commodore Atlantic Area. Congratulations Joe and thanks for 30 years of dedicated service.



JULINGTON CREEK MARINA SPRING BASH

It was a great sunny and breezy day at the Julington Creek Marina Spring Bash. The annual event was held on Sunday April 11 and the event began at 1330 with free food and drinks for members. 14-8 was invited to participate again this year and Bob Flaige coordinated the event.

"Why do we volunteer?..Free food!"

Ralph found a shredded serpentine belt on the boat motor which would have given out very soon out on the water. The owners didn't even see it until Ralph pointed it out to them. They are avid supporters of the VE program now.



After free food it was back to work for Bob Flaige who examined 5 boats that day at Julington Creek Marina. Thanks to Bob for setting up the whole day and thanks to Mike Morgan, Charles Taylor, Ralph Little, Charles Smith and Jeff Blomgren for volunteering to help.

Photos contributed by Jeff Blomgren

Mike Morgan and his wife Lisa in front of our banner

Rusty Gardner Receives Award from National Water Safety Congress



The National Water Safety Congress has an extensive award program to recognize those people who contribute to the safety of everyone who enjoys water recreation.

Each year the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) presents awards at the annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit to selected individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to water safety during the previous year.

Recognition of those who contribute substantially to water safety is encouraged to further promote water and boating safety, helping to reduce the number of drowning and boating accidents now occurring each year. You can research your area and nominate the most deserving individual or group for one of the awards.

NWSC's extensive award program recognizes the contributions of the many water safety professionals and dedicated volunteers. Please check out our award program and nominate anyone that you know has performed a laudable water safety act. This gives us all an opportunity to say "Thank You" and to inspire others to continue to give their best for water safety!

Rusty Gardner, Florida By Water 904-866-6389 www.floridabywater.com

~~~ ~~~ ~~~

**Rusty, Congratulations! You deserve it. The Auxiliary needs to help spread the word about your website [www.floridabywater.com](http://www.floridabywater.com). Thanks for sharing the news.**





On March 24-25, a Spill of National Significance (SONS) exercise took place off the coast of Portland, Maine; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Boston, Massachusetts; and in Washington, D.C. A SONS, defined in the National Contingency Plan (NCP), is a rare catastrophic oil spill event which captures the nation's attention due to its actual damage or significant potential for adverse potential impact. SONS 2010 is a full-scale Department of Homeland Security Tier II exercise intended to implement oil spill response plans that initiate a response organization including a local Unified Command, National Incident Management System (NIMS) Area Command and National Incident Commander (NIC) response organization in accordance with the NCP and National Response Framework.

The focus of SONS 2010 was on implementing the new SONS Response Policy, the first to define the roles and responsibilities for the NIC, as well as exercise regional and local oil spill response policy, plans, and procedures.



**Here are some photos of Rusty Gardner at SONS2010. He reported that on the boat on March 24 it was 34 degrees and snowing! He was very pleased with the coat that we presented to him before he went.**

**Great job Rusty! Looks like the coat worked out really well. We are really proud of all you do.**



Photos contributed by Rusty Gardner



## Auxiliarists Give Presentation for the Southeast Nordic Tug Owners Association - SENTOA

Story submitted by Bob Strong

On Thursday, 22 April 2010, Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14, Bob Strong and Charles Smith attended SENTOA at the Ortega Landing Marina. SENTOA stands for the "Southeast Nordic Tug Owners Association". About thirty of their members attended a two day meeting and seminar. Various tradesmen talked about a variety of boating subjects. When we arrived the speaker was just finishing a talk about the various types of batteries and battery systems that may be used on a boat. We were there to speak about "Running Inlets" and the "DSC radio system".

Just in case you didn't know, Mike Hagan, one of our newest members is a Yacht delivery Captain. As Mike said, he "makes a living running inlets". Mike was scheduled to be a guest speaker at this meeting. Unfortunately, Mike was not able to attend the event as planned because a supplier sold him a bad load of diesel fuel and he was stuck on a Yacht he was delivering somewhere on the Delaware River and unable to return home in time to make his presentation. Mike emailed his Power Point Presentation to us, Jesse and Bob were able to get through it OK, at least none walked out on them. We were also asked to talk about DSC radio. Of course, Rusty Gardner our resident DSC radio expert was also out of town. Bob got through it and they offered us lunch. Later that afternoon Charles Smith and Bob examined four of the five tugs whose owners attended the meeting by boat. If you have ever dreamed of retiring and spending your remaining days living on and touring on a boat, don't do it until you check out a Nordic Tug. The only similarity between one of these boats and a real tug is the trawler hull and a diesel engine. There is only one word that describes these boats and it is PLUSH".

~ ~ ~

## NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK MAY 22 - 28



"Life jackets save lives". That's why we Public Affairs Officers and Vessel Examiners must find many ways to keep that message before the boating public. "Life jackets float. You don't." We urge boaters to be responsible and always wear a life jacket when aboard. "Boat smart. Boat safe. Wear it!" The focus for this year's National Safe Boating Week campaign continues to be on life jacket wear.

### OPERATION: **"WEAR IT"** LIFE JACKETS FOR LIFE TOUR 2010

(A National Safe Boating Week Initiative)

In Florida, "Operation Wear It!" will highlight the importance of life jacket wear with a "Life Jacket for Life Tour" along the Intracoastal Highway from Jacksonville to Miami, May 23-28. This is a joint effort which includes the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadrons.

■ **KICK OFF : Sunday: 23 MAY 2:00 PM:**

Sister's Creek - Jim King Park & Boat Ramp ICW Jacksonville/ *Public Event*

*Before, during and after NSBW, Auxiliarists will promote life jacket wear because "Life jackets save lives".*



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

America's  
Volunteer  
Guardians  
Since 1939

## FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday 4 May 2010

Training Topic: ATON Refresher by Chuck Farmer, SO-NS 14

FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB

9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

~~~ ~~~ ~~~

UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|-----|-------|---|
| MAY | 04 | Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930 |
| | 15 | Armed Forces Day |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO |
| | 22-28 | National Safe Boating Week Activities |
| | 31 | Memorial Day |
| JUN | 01 | Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930 |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO |
| | 30 | Flotilla dues due to FSO-Finance for calendar year 2011 |
| JUL | 04 | Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930 |
| | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO |

Each Monday evening – *About Boating Safely* Program – 1830 – Stellar Building



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.