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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 XXXVI No. 6**

**June 2010**

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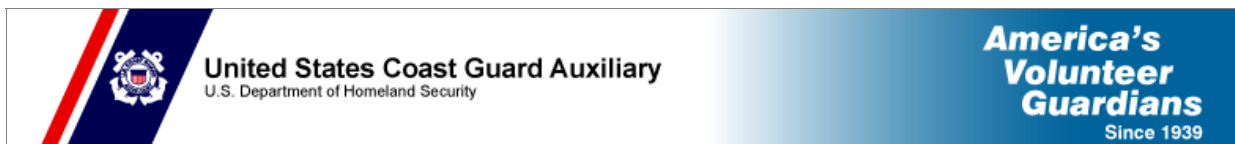
Jeffrey A. Blomgren  
Neill A. Thaggard, IV  
Carolyn G. Strong

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## **New Flags Flying at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club**



**“We thank you for the donation of the USCGAUX flag. We fly her proudly! It is too bad Flotilla 14-8 doesn’t have a pennant to fly also. Regards, Buz Palmer USCGAUX retired” (see story on page 6)**



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## FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



When we think about Safe Boating Week, we, as Auxiliarists, focus our activities on what it is we can provide to the boating public that will help keep them safe on the water. When most people are focusing their attention on summer fun and family activities, we are focusing on providing a service to others. That's the difference between volunteering and living lives that are relatively free of commitment to a cause or service. The summer months for us are filled with activities like vessel safety checks, marine dealer visitation, boating education and on the water activities all with the idea of helping others to enjoy the season. I think there is no greater service than that which we give to others. Many thanks to all who put their personal lives on hold to make the lives of others better. You are the greatest!

Jeff Blomgren, FC 14-8

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## STAFF REPORTS

### HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



It has become obvious that flotilla members need to be made aware of, or reminded of two very important CGAUX forms.

The first is the ANSC7056 (Transfers)

1. This form is used to transfer a member from one flotilla to another within a district or between districts. At the top, check off the box that indicates whether the transfer is to be effected within or outside of the district.
2. Current information section. This section is to be filled out by the member with the name, member number, current flotilla number (To: Flotilla Commander\_\_\_\_), flotilla and district desired to transfer to, effective date, signed and dated.
3. The current Flotilla Commander recommends approval and verifies that the member is in good standing, with all dues paid and property returned. If not approved, reasons must be submitted in writing.
4. The Flotilla Commander signs, dates and forwards to DIRAUX, with a copy to the Division Commander.

The second is the ANSC7028 (Change of member information)

This form is used to enter a permanent change of personal information with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, i.e., home address, Email address or contact telephone numbers. It is very important all members be aware of the necessity for completing this form in the event of any changes. It can help to avoid delays in mailing and receiving appropriate information from the CGAUX and the flotilla. Full instructions are given on the form.

Both forms can be found on CGAUX.ORG, members block, Forms.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

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### COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



**Two Free Office Suites Challenge the Question:  
“Do I Really Need The New Version of Microsoft Office?”**

Often in our jobs in the Auxiliary, we need to use computer “Office Software”. The popular standard suite is Microsoft Office, with Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. As well the Auxiliary is a frequent user of PDF files which takes another expensive program, “Adobe Acrobat” to produce. You may have priced these popular programs and thought that it’s not worth the money to invest in them for volunteer activities.

*CS Report continued on next page...*

*CS Report continued...*

In June, Microsoft will release the newest version of its popular Office Suite "Office 2010" and it will cost \$400-\$500 to buy it with all the popular parts. Although Office 2010 is an impressive productivity tool, I'm not going to tell you to run out and buy it. Instead, let's look at two free alternatives to MS Office. They are free to download, use and share. Not only are these programs FREE but also LEGAL, and SAFE to use, without advertising.

**"Open Office"** by Sun Microsystems offers an alternative to Microsoft Office that is absolutely free, legal and completely compatible with Microsoft files. Open Office can be downloaded for free at [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org). Open Office includes a Text Document Writer, Spreadsheet, Presentation, Database, Drawing and Algebraic Formula programs. The Open Office programs operate enough like the Microsoft versions that Microsoft users will have no problem locating each program's features. Open Office documents can also be saved in PDF format.

**"Google Docs"**, by Google of course, can be found at [www.docs.google.com](http://www.docs.google.com). It includes a word processor (like MS Word), a spreadsheet (like MS Excel), presentations (like MS PowerPoint), as well as a calendar program, drawing program, PDF Document reader and PDF Document writer. To use Google Docs, all you need is a Google Email (Gmail) address which is free and simple to setup at [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com).

What is interesting about Google Docs is the software is not installed on your computer - it runs online through your Internet browser. Your documents as well, are stored online in your free "Google Hard Drive" (1 Gigabyte free). This allows you to run the programs on any computer at anytime that you have an Internet connection. You can upload, edit and store traditional Microsoft Office documents. Multiple users can view and edit the same document simultaneously. You can literally have two people in different parts of the country typing on the same page at the same time in full view of the other collaborator. The obvious drawback to Google Docs is that you must have an Internet connection to use it. I guess Google looks forward to the day when everybody has Internet access everywhere and anytime.

This report was written with Google Docs

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

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### **PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



Congratulations to Top Ingram for completing the instructor qualification requirements. Now all we need are more Instructors. Please feel free to call Top for all the details about how it's done. We have lost Paul Burns as an instructor until this fall. Paul was offered a travelling job and he took it, we can't blame him for that.

Our Monday evening Boating Safety program was doing better than I had expected, now all of a sudden we are out of active participants. Our last participant finished Monday May 24. A total of 26 participants have completed the program to date. Four participants started the program but can't seem to find the time to return and finish.

We need two instructors and at least one aid every Monday evening, please let me know if you are willing to help.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

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### **FINANCE – BOB STRONG**

In accord with the Standing Rules of Flotilla 14-8, member's dues for 2011 are to be paid on or before June 30, 2010. 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 June 30, 2010. Failure to pay next year's dues to the flotilla by July 1, 2010 could result in your disenrollment from the Auxiliary. Thanks.

Bob Strong, FSO-FN

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**OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK**



Flotilla 14-5 at Green Cove Springs continues a crew class every other week. Contact me if interested.

Note from Bob Funk indicates the Welaka detachment is nearly ready to begin operations and that an 18 foot Coast Guard boat has been procured for this purpose. The boat will remain Coast Guard property but have an AUX indication on it. A picture of the boat (below) shows center console with a T-top, metal hull, and outboard motor. The Welaka detachment will be called TEAM WELAKA and also be referred to by the acronym WEDET/AUX. The detachment will be assigned to Sector Jacksonville rather than

Station Mayport. The plan is to have crews from Division 14 rotate weekend and holiday coverage.

My own facility, the *Carlie*, has finally made it back into AUX DATA after an arduous red tape journey apparently instigated by switching the registration from Georgia to Florida--a switch which is required by law. Patrols can now begin again on this boat.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP



**18 foot Coast Guard Boat to be used by TEAM WELAKA**

*Photo contributed by Bob Funk*

**FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM**

**Flotilla Meeting 04 May 2010**



**Jeff Blomgren, FC congratulates Charles Trippe and presents a 5-year Membership Service Award**



**Jeff Blomgren receives a Flotilla Commander's Certificate from David Green, VCDR 14**



Jeff Blomgren, FC congratulates Ralph Little and presents a 5-year Membership Service Award



David Green, Division Vice Commander spoke about the Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 14 Memorial Wall being erected at the CG Jacksonville Beach ANT Station.

## Honoring the Men and Women of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division 14

A dedication ceremony for the Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 14 Memorial Wall will be held at the Coast Guard Jacksonville Beach ANT Station on Saturday, 26 June at 1000. The station is located at 1462 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jacksonville Beach. The wall will honor our fellow Auxiliarists, including those from our own flotilla, who have passed over the bar.

The division is accepting contributions to help pay expenses for this lasting memorial. Contact David Green at [gdgreen1945@gmail.com](mailto:gdgreen1945@gmail.com) if you would like to make a tax deductible donation.

Watch for a special article in the Florida Times Union this weekend. Carlene Candreia, a retired member of 14-8 was interviewed for the article.

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**ENJOY A SAFE HOLIDAY BUT DON'T FORGET WHAT MEMORIAL DAY IS ALL ABOUT!**



## **From a Retired Charter Member of 14-8:**

I realize that 14-8 is not prone to become politically involved in boating issues. But, frankly this situation has me rather incensed. Maybe the flotilla can get behind someone on the state or county level to start writing laws, and enforcing them, to have a speed limit on the St. Johns River.

The links to the You-tube videos speak for themselves. I know you will recognize the background scenes. The *Pure Platinum* is seen launching at the public ramp on Goodby's Creek.

The first you-tube is the *Pure Platinum* doing 186 mph in front of Goodby's Creek on the St. Johns River. I would suggest the fish boaters, sail boaters, and kayakers stay home when these boys are out!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTB4AEPtH08>

The second you-tube will give you an idea of what these boys term, "a poker run". Looks like a race to me. You may not appreciate the background music, so before you show it to the ladies turn the sound down.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KXpuO08PG8&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

Can you imagine being out in a normal boat, that you typically see on the St. Johns, cruising along, swimming, or fishing and see this crowd coming at you at 80 plus mph?

### **About the CGAUX Flag donated to the Florida Tackle & Gun Club by Flotilla 14-8:**

I just wanted to let you folks know that the Florida Tackle & Gun Club Flag Pole committee, (I am chairman), has overhauled the club flag pole with new hardware, halyards, paint, etc. She is well lit at night and we have received numerous comments on how well she looks when boaters enter Goodby's Creek at night time.

We thank you for the donation of the USCGAUX flag. We fly her proudly! It is to bad Flotilla 14-8 doesn't have a pennant to fly also.

Jeff, I have added you to my FT&GC Newsletter broadcast list, FYI. I still offer to include 14-8 functions such as boat safety exams, safe boating classes, etc. I have over 250 email addresses for the club newsletter. It goes without saying; many of those members are boaters!

Anything I can do to help 14-8 and your relationship with the FT&GC please let me know.

Regards,

Buz Palmer, USCGAUX 14-8 retired



**View of Goodby's Creek from Florida Tackle & Gun Club**

*Photo contributed by Buz Palmer*



We understand that many Floridians, as well as Florida visitors, are concerned about the Deepwater Horizon Incident and the impact it will have on boaters this summer. At Florida by Water, we want to ensure that you have the correct information to make an informed decision about your summer boating activities. We are committed to monitoring the information from the major agencies as well as keeping in close contact with the local Chambers of Commerce and

Visitors Bureaus. We will alert you to any possible impacts or closures that may affect your cruising decisions. For detailed information please click here:

<http://www.floridabywater.com/component/content/article/1596>

Thanks, Rusty Gardner

Florida By Water

904-866-6389 [www.floridabywater.com](http://www.floridabywater.com)

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**Bob Strong recently received a call from a boater with some questions regarding SPACING OF RED/GREEN FROM 360 WHITE LIGHT. Bob asked Marc Lang, SO-MS for an opinion. Here are the questions and Marc's answers:**

Marc, I talked to a boater by phone today who presented the following question.

He owns a 21' CC Inboard Boat and is installing a Bow Sprite to hold an anchor on the bow. This displaces the combination red/green light.

He asked if he could install separate colored side lights on each side of his TEE top, just in the forward half, and how much horizontal separation must be between the colored lights and the white light.

He asked if he could convert his white light/anchor light combo to an all around white light and eliminate the white light mounted on his transom. The mast head/anchor light is already mounted at the rear of his TEE TOP which is about four feet from front to back. This mast will need to be extended in height to obtain the one meter height separation but will fold down when not in use.

Where may the all around white light be mounted?

**Marc's response:**

Navigation Rules- Annex 1 red and green forward half, white stern after half. This gives a lot of leeway. Vessels under 20 meters, just as stated above.

Horizontal spacing on vessels 20 meters or more- (so this does not apply to this boat) not less than 1 quarter the length of vessel. So even though there is no minimum, I would use as a reference if possible. You do not want them right next to each other. If he has a 4' tee top, place the red and green forward and 4 feet back the white. That would be OK. Not quite the 1/4 length but there is no requirement listed for this size boat.

Rule 23- (iii) Vessel less than 12 meters- International-Does he go past the boundary line? Out the St Johns into the ocean? It is different from Inland Rules.

- **INLAND**- If the Red/Green lights are on the centerline (like they were) the white stern light "can" be on the port or starboard side "aft" OR centerline. You have a choice!
- **INTERNATIONAL**- If the Red/ Green lights are split then the white stern light "Must" be on the centerline and "Not" Port or Starboard. No choice! Only place it goes.

If he only goes inland, then the white stern light may be displaced (word they use) either port or starboard or centerline. To be safe, mount it 1 meter higher on the "centerline" and then he is OK, in shore or off shore, either way. Remove the transom light and the T Top light is an anchor and stern light combo.

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## FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday 4 May 2010

FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB

9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- MAY 31 Memorial Day – Say “Thanks” to our Veterans
- JUN 01 Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930
- 05 VSC Blitz – Florida Yacht Club – 0900 – 1200 (or until finished)
- 14 FLAG DAY
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- 23 USCG Auxiliary 71<sup>st</sup> Birthday
- 26 Dedication Ceremony for the CGAUX Division 14 Memorial Wall – 1000  
CG Jax Beach ANT Station - 1462 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jacksonville Beach
- 30 Flotilla dues due to FSO-Finance for calendar year 2011
- JUL 04 Fly the Flag and have a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!
- 06 Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930
- 17 Division 14 General Meeting – Stellar Building, 0900 – 1200
- 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.