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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. 8**

**August 2010**

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FLOTILLA COMMANDER

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## **New Flotilla Vice Commander of Flotilla 14-8**



**Jeff Blomgren, FC congratulated Michael Morgan who took the Oath of Office as VFC in July**



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

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## FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Our meeting on Tuesday 6 July was one of the most satisfying regular meetings I have attended since becoming a member of 14-8. It had everything from pizza to the slide show done by Carolyn Strong. We had four prospective members and two visitors which included Jesse Stevens our Division Commander. I was encouraged by the turnout of members and the activity reports as well as the election of Mike Morgan as our Flotilla Vice Commander. The suggestion about having dinner together at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club was a good one and well received so we can look forward to that happening. The four new prospective members present include former members of the Merchant Marines, US Coast Guard and US Navy and two boat owners from Michigan.

Ralph's spotlight article about Operations and Whit Vick were very well done and I'm looking forward to the next article. A special welcome goes to member Antonio Bolet, who has been on special assignment to the U.S. Navy. Antonio is anxious to be part of the Vessel Examination and Program Visitation (VE and PV programs and will be working to get qualified for this role. Top Ingram has been working as instructor for Monday nights and has also been a leader in PV. Whit Vick and Cris Vonderheide are both in the Welaka Station AUX OPS rotation and folks, we are doing a lot of things right and it's time for you to be involved. For those of you who missed this meeting, you missed out on some great pizza and fellowship as well as an opportunity to meet our prospective members. Special thanks go out to Charlie Smith and Bob Strong for their phone calls to get everyone in the loop on this meeting and the membership responded well. I'm proud to be a part of 14-8.

*Jeff Blomgren, FC 14-8*

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## FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



I want to thank Jeff for giving me the opportunity to support him and the flotilla in the Flotilla Vice Commander position. I will do my best to support Jeff in his vision and the needs of the flotilla. One of my personal goals for the next 6 months as VFC is to identify ideas and items that we can do to make our flotilla stronger. I also want to reinforce what Jeff has said about our last meeting. I think it was one of the best ones I have been to as well, from having new prospective members to talking about doing a fellowship event. I feel as though the flotilla is heading in the right direction, but we can still do things to make it better. I'm also encouraging everyone to get involved. Thank you and I look forward to your ideas and suggestions. Please when

you email me use all the following email addresses: [michael.s.morgan@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.s.morgan@us.army.mil), [bomdude@comcast.net](mailto:bomdude@comcast.net), [mismorgan@gmail.com](mailto:mismorgan@gmail.com).

*Mike Morgan, VFC 14-8*

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## STAFF REPORTS

### **FINANCE – BOB STRONG**



Thanks to all those members who paid their flotilla dues in June and early July. We have only a hand full that have not yet paid for 2011. Disenrollment papers are being prepared for them at this time.

A special thanks goes to Earl LeBlanc for paying his dues on time. Earl moved to New Orleans but has not yet transferred his membership. Perhaps he will change his mind and return to the land of iced-tea colored water?

The Division Board decided to reinstate division dues beginning in 2011. Our flotilla may need to raise our flotilla dues for 2012.

*Bob Strong, FSO-FN*

## **HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH**



Jeff Blomgren, our Flotilla Commander, stated for this year our recruiting goal of "10 in 10". The following is a to-date total of recruiting efforts.

- Number of personnel contacted - 19
- Membership numbers received - 2
- Membership applications accepted but not yet returned - 4
- Applications submitted awaiting membership numbers - 6

Recruits referred by present flotilla members has been a factor in the number of personnel contacted and applications accepted.

Thanks to you I'm positive we can surpass Jeff's goal in the five months left to us.

*Charlie Smith, FSO-HR*

## **INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MIKE MORGAN**



Currently Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 is filling the role of our flotilla IS officer. I feel this job should be done by someone in our flotilla, so I have volunteered to take on this role. I am in the process of getting my login ID and looking to take the Aux-10 course as soon as one is available. Until we get everything switched from Jesse to myself please continue to send all your information to Jesse and furnish a copy to me so I have the ability to become familiar with the paperwork.

Thank you and I look forward to being your FSO-IS.

*Mike Morgan, FSO-IS*

## **MEMBER TRAINING – JEFF BLOMGREN**



There will be a Team Coordination Training (TCT) refresher training session at the Stellar Building Monday night, July 26 for those who need this to remain qualified. Also, there will be an Aid Verifier class at the Stellar Building on 31 July beginning at 0900 (See details provided by Chuck Farmer, SO-NS 14 on page 4). Mike Morgan completed numerous ICS courses online. We are still working to get people involved in the VE and PV programs. Four new members have expressed interest in On the Water (OTW) training, Marine Safety and many other areas. We will be working hard to see that they receive the right direction to get qualified.

*Jeff Blomgren, FSO-MT*

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS – RALPH LITTLE**



During July, we have managed to prepare a monthly article and publish some notices of Public Education (PE) programs. The article for the Mandarin Newslines will be published in late July and spotlights Publications Officer, Carolyn Strong. This type article attempts to familiarize readers with Auxiliary personnel and inform them of our functions. The goal is to entice readers to join up and work in areas of their own interest. Top Ingram has continued to have some success at getting PE notices published in the Times-Union Sunday Outlook section of Sports and elsewhere.

Growing out of my Vessel Examiner (VE) side, I launched a project this month to fix boat lettering and numbering systemically. The PA connection is slim, but relates to our role to promote safe recreational boating. The idea is to distribute precise, succinct instructions to commercial sign businesses concerning how to letter and number documented and/or registered vessels. Our examinations prove that commercial sign makers do most of the lettering on documented vessels and many boats don't pass a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) because of non-regulation lettering. Test visits to sign makers have resulted in their comments that they have never had the regulations! Mike Morgan, VE/PV and Bob Strong, PE have assisted greatly and Marc Lang, SO-MS, has contributed insight to the draft. Perhaps if sign makers have our material, the number of successful VSCs will rise. We intend to hand out copies to boaters who fail VSCs because of markings. If numbering is less of an issue, boaters will be happier, sign makers will be happier and our VEs will be happier to concentrate on safety issues. All that happiness makes for good Public Affairs.

*Ralph Little, Public Affairs*

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



Our weekly About Boating Safety (ABS) program keeps bumping along. Every time I think we will not have any students this Monday one or two call and sign on for that Monday evening.

I plan to continue with the Monday evening format through November 1, 2010, as originally planned, but we need to give it some serious analysis before planning next year. To date we have had 48 participants attend the program; as of 20 July only 33 have taken the final examination and received a certificate. It has become a real book-keeping chore to keep track of who attended which session and to call to remind them to return for the missed lectures.

We will be teaching a special three Thursday night ABS program at the Florida Yacht Club on July 29, August 5 & 12. We need your assistance to do this. Please let me know if you are able to help. Call me at 721-1346.

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE*

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## **VESSEL EXAMINER / PROGRAM VISITOR**



We had another Vessel Safety Check (VSC) event at the Florida Yacht Club on July 3rd. Ralph Little and Bob Strong conducted approximately 11 VSCs. During the VSC they encountered a systemic issue with documented boats which has led to Ralph Little taking on the task of drafting a letter with input from myself and Bob Strong informing sign and letter painters of the rules and guidance set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations. Ralph will go out and talk to them to see what kind of impact this will make. Hopefully this will cut down on the number of non-compliance vessels we inspect.

Again, I want to thank Top Ingram on his continued Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program Visits. Currently he is the only one conducting RBS Visits. I would like to encourage everyone that is qualified to start visiting boat stores, marinas, retail outlets etc. If you need literature please get with Bob Flaige, FSO-Materials. I would also like to encourage everyone that is not qualified to do RBS Program Visits to get qualified. It's easy and painless. Go to the following link: <http://ntc.cgaux.org> and sign up to take the RBS-PV test. Once you complete the test you will be assigned to someone who is qualified to perform 3 RBS Visits. Once the visits are completed you will be able to perform RBS-PV visits. These visits are just as important as performing Vessel Safety Checks; we are putting out information for the public to be informed on Boating Safety. Thank you and I look forward to your participation.

*Mike Morgan, FSO-VE/PV*

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## **OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK**



Operations has been active with our 14-8 crew members since *Carlie* was reinstated into POMS, with a patrol on the St Johns river going from Julington Creek up to Black Creek on a hot July 11. On the past two patrols, we have taken a trainee from Flotilla 14-5 boat crew class, Dan Quinn, and checked him off on some of his required elements for crew qualification. We practiced dead reckoning (DR) and man overboard drills and returned just before thunderstorms started up.

The Welaka detachment is becoming operational. Bob Funk and Mike Owsley are conducting boat check rides for all crew who will do patrols on the 18 foot Welaka facility. Cris Vonderheide and I had our check ride with Bob Funk on Saturday July 10 (see photo on page 5). We were met for a towing exercise by Ted Schneider and Reed Tillery on Ted's boat.

I encourage all with an interest in boating to look into joining operations.

*Whit Vick, FSO-OP*

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## 10 JULY 2010 – CHECK RIDE



**Cris Vonderheide and Bob Funk aboard the 18 foot TEAM WELAKA Coast Guard Boat**

*Photo contributed by Whit Vick, FSO-OP 14-8*

### **Announcing: Phone/iPad Boating Safety Check App**

Great news for boaters! Now you can check to make sure your boat has all the required safety equipment just by touching a few buttons. *Florida By Water* has just released a brand new iPhone/iPad Boating Safety Check application, based on the Federal Boating Requirements.

Knowing exactly what's required on your boat in order to meet Federal Boating Regulations can be a challenge. There are many variables that can change the requirements, including whether your boat uses gas or diesel, whether you're boating in inland or coastal waters, and the size of your vessel, among other things.

To make meeting these regulations easier - and to make sure your boat has all the required safety equipment, Florida By Water created an iPhone/iPad application that can help you quickly and comprehensively navigate the list of requirements. You start by simply selecting the features of your vessel. From there, you'll be presented with a list of required items for your vessel. These lists are based on the Federal Boating Regulations, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's vessel exam form. If you need more information about any item, you simply touch the "More Information" button. This will show you a portion of the actual text from the Official Requirements document. Once you have selected the items you have on board, you'll be presented with a list of Optional, yet recommended, items. This list of needed items can be e-mailed or saved for future reference.

Just in case this isn't enough, there are a few little extras we've thrown in to add value to the app, which is already a great deal! One of these extras is a *West Marine Locator*, which uses GPS to help you find the West Marine store closest to your location. *Find a Vessel Examiner* allows you to send an e-mail to a qualified examiner if you would like to receive an official Vessel Safety Check. And *West Marine Recommendations* gives you a list of items you need to keep your vessel safe.

This application is not meant to replace an examination by a qualified Vessel Examiner. However, it will ensure that you have the proper equipment on board in case of an emergency or an inspection by a law enforcement officer. The application is available in the iTunes Store.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/vessel-safety-check/id381787501?mt=8>.

Thanks, Rusty Gardner

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

## **RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY for USCG WELAKA DETACHMENT**

US Congressman John Mica, the Ranking Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has agreed to preside over the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Welaka Detachment to be held at 1100 on August 9th in Welaka. We will keep you advised of the details as they unfold, but for now this is a heads up of the date. Warren Rauhofer, Flotilla 14-7, is working with Congressman Mica's staff on the arrangements. CAPT Blomme, USCG Sector Jacksonville has invited RADM Baumgartner and we expect Law Enforcement agencies from the four counties we serve. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regional office said they will participate. Uniform will be Tropical Blue.

*Bob Funk*

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### **NAVIGATION SAFETY – CHUCK FARMER:**

#### **Subject: Aid Verifier Class 31 July 2010**

The class will begin at 0900 and run until about 1600, or whenever my voice runs out. Location is the Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, in Mandarin, just north of I-295 and off San Jose Blvd. Rumor has it that coffee and “fixins” will be available. We will break for lunch; restaurants are nearby. Civilian attire is preferable.

I will provide each student with a CD of hopefully useful items. In preparation, I request that each student download and print the appropriate NOAA Booklet Chart for his or her area, i.e. Flotilla 4-8 Chart 11492. These Booklet Charts can be found at <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/BookletChart/AtlanticCoastBookletCharts.htm>.

#### **Following is a list of web sites that I have found useful:**

USCG Auxiliary Prevention Department – Navigation Systems

[http://www.auxmdept.org/latest\\_navigation\\_systems\\_division.htm](http://www.auxmdept.org/latest_navigation_systems_division.htm)

District 7 Navigation System

<http://cgaux7.org/index7.htm?page=members>

Auxiliary Forms

<http://forms.cgaux.org/>

Atlantic Coast Nautical Charts (viewer)

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/AtlanticCoastViewerTable.shtml>

Light Lists

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightLists>

Local Notice to Mariners – Seventh District

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lnmDistrict&region=7>

Coast Pilot

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpilot4-6.htm>

USCG Auxiliary First District Northern Navigation Systems

<http://www.uscgaan.com/index.htm>

Seventh District “C” School Application

<http://cgaux7.org/index7.htm?page=members>

GSA Purchases

[https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/advgsa/advantage/main/start\\_page.do](https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/advgsa/advantage/main/start_page.do)

Finding a Benchmark

[http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds\\_radius.prl](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_radius.prl)

Booklet Charts

<http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/BookletChart/AtlanticCoastBookletCharts.htm>

ANT Jacksonville Beach ATON/PATON Website

<http://www.uscgajaxbeach.com/navaids/login.php>

Please note that completion of this course is only one step in the Aid Verifier qualification program. Prior to certification, each candidate must complete the on-line ICS-100 and ICS-700 course, with completion noted in AUXDATA, as well as conduct a PATON check and a bridge check, with the appropriate photos and ANSC 7054 reports. I will verify completion of the two ICS courses through AUXDATA. The ANSC 7054s on the PATON and bridge checks should be e-mailed to me, with copy to your FSO-NS, and if outside Division 14, any other addressee deemed appropriate by your flotilla and division reporting procedures.

*Chuck Farmer, SO-NS 14*

**\*\*\* FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM \*\*\***

**FLOTILLA MEETING - 06 JULY 2010**



**Mike Morgan receives congratulations from Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 and Jeff Blomgren, FC upon becoming the new VFC of Flotilla 14-8**



**Mike Morgan, VFC and Jeff Blomgren, FC congratulate prospective member John Hadley on his successful completion of the ABS course**



**Bob Funk receives an Auxiliary Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution – Operations**



**Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 presents a new Facility Decal and Documentation to Whit Vick, FSO-OP for his vessel *Carlise***



**Bob Strong receives an Auxiliary Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution – Public Education**

*Photos by Carolyn Strong*



## FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING

1930 Tuesday 03 August 2010

FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB

9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- JULY 26 TCT Training – Stellar Building - 1900
- 31 Aid Verifier Class – Stellar Building – 0900 - 1600
- AUG 03 Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930
- 04 Chartering Ceremony for Flotilla 14-5 – Green Cove Springs
- 09 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Welaka Detachment – 1100 at Welaka
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division
- 25-29 National Conference (NACON) Scottsdale, AZ  
See <http://www.cgauxa.org/nacon/> for information
- SEP 07 Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1930
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division
- 22-26 7th District Fall Conference – Orlando – See web for details

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

### SEVENTH DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 22 - 26, 2010

The **FLORIDA HOTEL ORLANDO** (aka **FLORIDA MALL HOTEL**)

<http://www.cgaux7.org/index7.htm?page=members>

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