
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVI No. 9

September 2010

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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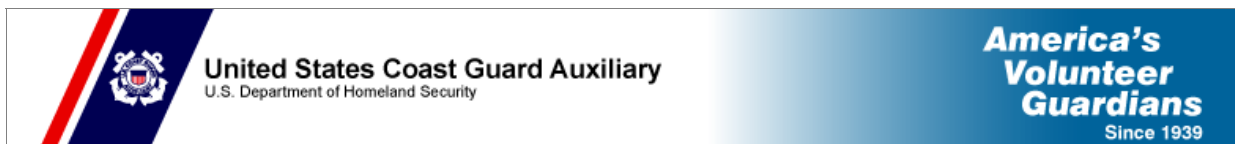
Jeffrey A. Blomgren
Michael S. Morgan
Carolyn G. Strong

Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Bob Papp at NACON



Coast Guard Commandant ADM Bob Papp (center) with the “A TEAM”, the Coast Guard Auxiliary’s Public and Governmental Affairs staff at the Auxiliary National Conference (NACON) in Scottsdale, AZ. Standing at far right in this picture is our own Rusty Gardner, BA-APVB. See story on page 10.

U.S. Coast Guard photo



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



I am continuously reminded of the importance of our function as Auxiliaries every time we see a boating accident and fatality report for Florida. We now stand at 50 fatalities and if we are to judge by the brief write-ups concerning the incidents we can safely say the 100% could have been prevented. Many could have been prevented by very basic rules such as WEAR YOUR LIFE VEST (PFD). It amazes me that insurance companies do not require proof of a boating safety class before issuing insurance for any boat. I can also not understand why anyone would not want their children aware of boating safety rules.

I am proud of our "Stand in the Gap" functions such as Vessel Safety Checks and our Boating Safety Classes and we need to also include our operations volunteers who spend time following up on the education side by practical application for those on the water. Anyone could spend their spare time doing good things and concentrating on hobbies or personal likes and dislikes. It's the true volunteer who uses their time to make the world a better, safer place. Congratulations to you all.

Bravo Zulu 14-8 team!

Jeff Blomgren, FC 14-8

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



"Limit: refers principally to the establishment of a maximum beyond which a person or thing cannot or may not go".

I don't think there are any "LIMITS" for this flotilla. Every time I turn around one of "OUR" members has done something outside their limits. Charlie Smith continues to bring in quality membership, Cris and Whit with patrolling, Bob Strong with his commitment to the teaching of boating safety, Top Ingram with Program Visits, Carolyn Strong and the newsletter, Ralph Little and the articles he writes and Jeff with his leadership. The list is endless, just like your limits.

Wow! These are exciting times! I am proud to be a part of this organization and this flotilla.

Mike Morgan, VFC 14-8

STAFF REPORTS

HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



I have asked before that current members suggest to friends, relatives and neighbors the benefits of joining the CGAUX. Giving back to the community and country by volunteering your time and experience to the boating public can be a very satisfying experience. A partial quote from the New Members Handbook says it better than I can and might be useful in asking individuals to consider joining us:

"Enjoying doing something useful with friends may be the benefit that will bring satisfaction to your membership. That could mean tossing a towline to a distressed boater, or tossing a salad at a flotilla picnic. It could mean being a student or an instructor, checking a boat or an exam, using computer skills or accounting skills. It could mean a lot of things. IT IS UP TO YOU...a little or a lot, once a month or once a day---something that interests you and as your time and circumstances permit. The personal benefits and satisfaction that you receive from your membership will depend upon your choice and level of participation."

Potential candidates can be referred to me for any questions they might have and I will do my best to encourage them to give us an opportunity to show them how good "giving back" feels.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MIKE MORGAN



I will be doing some training on the Aux Database with Jesse Stevens, DCDR 14 in the near future and hopefully sometime after October I will attend the Aux 10 course. This will allow me to become fully qualified as an Information Systems (IS) Staff Officer. In the meantime continue to furnish Jesse Stevens all your reports that need to be entered into AUX DATA and copy furnish me at: msmorgan221@gmail.com, bombdude1@att.net, and michael.s.morgan@us.army.mil.

Mike Morgan, FSO-IS

MEMBER TRAINING – JEFF BLOMGREN



We have a goal of using the 14-8 flotilla meetings to take advantage of the attendance to provide training and education for our membership. We have done Sexual Harassment Prevention, ATON, 7029 forms for reporting hours of service. We are exploring the continuation of making our meeting nights a fellowship/training night as well as regular meeting. Mike Morgan has presented a program on VE and PV as well as uniform standards for the Auxiliary. We also have had one training session for the TCT refresher and will do more as needed. We will also be presenting an opportunity for members to take a CPR and First Aid course in the near future.

Our new members are anxious to learn and Charles Smith has done a great job of providing us with prospects that have a desire to help. Great job everyone.

Jeff Blomgren, FSO-MT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – RALPH LITTLE



During August, we published a monthly article and some notices of PE classes. The article for the Mandarin NewsLine, published in late July put the spotlight on Carolyn Strong, Flotilla Staff Officer – Publications (see complete article on page 7). The Mandarin NewsLine to be published in late August spotlights VE/PV Officer, Mike Morgan. This is the third article that familiarizes readers with Auxiliary personnel and informs them of our functions. Each of the first three, Whit Vick, Carolyn Strong, and Mike were chosen to represent a mission area - Operations, Member Services and Recreational Boating Safety. The goal is to entice readers to join up and work in areas of

their own interest. Top Ingram has continued his success at getting Public Education notices published in the Times-Union Sunday Outlook section of Sports and elsewhere.

Otherwise, we finished developing the hand outs on documented and registered boat marking. Bob Strong has already used some of them in his classes, and to three commercial sign firms contacted during the development.

Ralph Little, Public Affairs

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



We held a three Thursday evening About Boating Safely (ABS) programs at the Florida Yacht Club (FYC) beginning in the last week of July, and had 13 participants. Ten participants attended all three classes and passed the end of course examination. Three of the participants are attending our Monday night program at Stellar to make up what they missed at the club.

Since 15 February 2010, 66 participants have attended our ten About Boating Safely (ABS) programs. We had 53 participants on Monday nights and 13 at the FYC. Yes, if you're a mathematician your quick to discover that almost 20% of our total attendees were in one program at the FYC. This leads me to think we need to hold more private ABS programs. We need to take our program on the road and go to the participants. Perhaps one for the FT&GC? Please speak up if you know of any organizations (business or private) that might be interested in sponsoring an ABS program.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

VESSEL EXAMINER / PROGRAM VISITOR



Vessel Safety Checks have kind of slowed a bit, probably due to everyone getting ready to send their kids back to school or planning their last big weekend on the water before the end of summer. Whatever the reason, we need to keep in mind that Safety on the Water is year round and we need to continually get the word out on how important it is to have their vessels checked.

If you are not qualified as a Vessel Examiner (VE) or Program Visitor, I challenge you to become qualified by the end of the year. Go to the Safetyseal website at:

<http://safetyseal.net/> and click on the USCGAUX V Dept icon and select “How to

become a Vessel Examiner and / or Program Visitor”. Go to the VSC Manual M16796.8 and the “Changes to the manual” link. This is what you will need to take the online test at: <http://ntc.cgaux.org/>. Once you complete the test, you will then need to complete 5 VSCs with a qualified VE.

Mike Morgan, FSO-VE/PV

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



Several new members have expressed interest in operations. This got me thinking about how we could facilitate things for those just starting out in operations. I have been asked whether there is a "fast track" to operations, say if you are already a boater, or if I could provide some type of abbreviated guide for the qualifying process. The answer is that there is really no fast track or shortcuts--all the steps must be completed. Each step is not in itself particularly difficult, but there are a number of requirements that must be fulfilled. The time required is up to the individual, how much time you have to devote to this and how often you can get together with a mentor and go out on patrols. It has been

my experience that it takes about one year to get crew qualified, then one more year to get coxswain certified if you want to go that route. The guidelines indicate you should complete the process within 2 years of beginning.

A brief overview for crew might go something like this: Pass Incident Command System (ICS) courses 100 and 700 (both online). Attend Team Coordination Training (TCT) class--given periodically in a classroom setting, 8 hour course initially and every 5 years, and 1 hour TCT refresher every year. Completed / passed a basic boating course such as Boating Skills and Seamanship; About Boating Safely; USPS Public Boating or Boat Smart course. A series of qualifying tasks which are in the Boat Crew Qualifying Guide must be completed and signed off by a mentor. These are both knowledge and performance tasks. The mentor is someone (not necessarily a specifically assigned individual and can be more than one person) to help guide you through the process. It should be someone who you get along with and who has the time and experience to help get you through the process. Technically, a mentor can be any qualified crew or coxswain. The performance tasks are usually done at dockside or on patrol. Patrols can be done on any Auxiliary vessel. On patrol, you will be designated a "trainee", will need to be in proper uniform and have an appropriate life jacket with attached personal protective equipment (light, mirror, whistle).

After completing the above, you will be scheduled for a dockside oral exam and a check-off ride with a qualifying examiner. When you pass, you will be certified as crew.

To maintain currency, you must serve as crew under orders 12 hours per year. Then you must do a re-qualifying check ride with a qualifying examiner every 3 years.

The complete details of the process are available online. Go to the Coast Guard Auxiliary website "manuals and publications". There you will find the Boat Crew Training Manual and Qualification Guide; Seamanship Manual; Search and Rescue addendum; Nav rules, all of which pertain to crew.

It may seem like a lot, and it is, but it can be accomplished with perseverance and motivation. If you like boats, like to learn, and want to volunteer for a good cause, operations may be for you.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

SEPTEMBER FLOTILLA FELLOWSHIP

Whitey's Fish Camp, south of Orange Park, has been reserved for 18 September, Saturday. Starting at 1500 (3PM) we will have the Tiki area (covered) for drinks and snacks. We cannot bring our own finger food. Any snacks and drinks must be ordered from the bar. A table will be reserved for 15-20 people inside at 1700 (5PM) for those wishing to order dinner. Separate checks will be written for those ordering drinks and dinner. We will discuss details at the September meeting. Members, prospective members, spouses & guests are welcome. Civilian casual dress.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

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

ATON VERIFIER CLASS 31 JULY



Flotilla 14-8 hosted an eight hour ATON Verifier class for members of Division 14 at Stellar on 31 July. Chuck Farmer, SO-NS 14 led the class and there were fifteen students present.

Photo from Jeff Blomgren



Top Ingram received his IT completion memo and his Instructor's Certificate and ribbon

FLOTILLA MEETING 03 AUGUST



New members John Hadley, Kyle George and Bill Walsh took the Oath of Membership. Bill Walsh also received his certificate for successful completion of the Boating Safely course.



Cris Vonderheide received his NAV Rules Certificate and a second Sustained Member Service Award.

Photos by Carolyn Strong

ON PATROL FOR USCG WELAKA DETACHMENT

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Welaka Auxiliary Detachment was held at 1100 on August 9th at Welaka, Florida. Three members of our flotilla, Bob Funk, Whit Vick and Cris Vonderheide, were on patrol aboard the 18 foot TEAM WELAKA facility during the August 21 weekend. Photos provided by Whit Vick, FSO-OP.



Cris Vonderheide



Bob Funk



Whit Vick

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS At Goodby's Creek August 28 – 29



Bob Strong helps new recruit Kevin Koehl perform a qualifying exam as Vessel Examiner



Bob Strong and three new recruits: Marlene Koehl, John Hadley and Kevin Koehl examine boats at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club on Goodby's Creek. Twelve VSCs were performed.

Photos by Jeff Blomgren

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

Dedicated to Prompt and Suitable Information

by Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Public Affairs, Flotilla 14-8

The Auxiliary's missions are grouped into member services, recreational boating safety and operations and marine safety. A fourth group is fellowship which includes our social activities. In July's article, we introduced you to operations, which obviously falls into that group. This month the focus is on member services.

Auxiliarists working in this group provide the support necessary to members and overall Coast Guard missions. There are eleven categories of support, but this article discusses the person who creates and distributes the publications that keep members informed on all our activities and help us stay abreast of plans and policies. The Publications Staff Officer, Carolyn Strong, is primarily the editor and distributor of the flotilla newsletter. To do this she must work closely with division and district levels to ensure the flow of suitable articles and information. She also must encourage flotilla members to submit articles, maintains files of publications, articles and photographs of flotilla activities and submits publications and articles for broader consumption. Unlike operations, Carolyn primarily operates alone with some support from other members or higher level counterparts.

On a monthly basis, Carolyn puts the Flotilla 14-8 newsletter, *EIGHT BELLS*, together and distributes some 100 copies by email or mail. Examples of her organization and creativeness can be found on the flotilla website at <http://a0701408.uscgaux.info/pages/14-8Publications.htm>.

After moving to Jacksonville from Des Moines, Iowa in 1981, Carolyn married a member of the flotilla and joined up. Although retired in 1991 after 25 years with Bell Telephone companies as a design engineer and scheduling engineer, she has since worked for other companies and as a contractor for AT&T. She has also managed to have two daughters, two sons and three grandchildren. Carolyn was appointed Publications Officer in 1998 and began publishing the then hard copy and mailed newsletter. Learning the necessary skills, she transitioned to an online format and maintains a quality newsletter. Showing her capacity, Carolyn also accepted the unofficial title of flotilla historian and began collecting photos and memorabilia from other flotilla members and organizing them into large albums and digital files. In 2004 Carolyn also took on the role of Division Publications Officer and began publishing the division's quarterly newsletter, the *Nor'easter*.

Carolyn's publication awards speak for the flotilla's good fortune. *EIGHT BELLS* was chosen as the Auxiliary's Seventh District "Best Flotilla Publication" for the year 2004 out of some 74 flotillas. The *Nor'easter* was voted "Best Division Publication" in the Seventh District for the year 2005 out of 17 divisions, and it also received the 2005 National Award for "Division Publication First Place".

If you have publications skills or want to learn, Carolyn would be happy to share and our staff positions are open for selection annually. Contact Charles Smith at 904-541-1660 and he will guide you through membership. Members and all boat operators can take the Auxiliary Boating Safety Program which occurs nearly every Monday at 6:30pm at the Stellar building near I-295 at 2900 Hartley Road. The cost is \$20 per participant. Please call Bob (904-721-1346) for specifics and to register.

FLOTILLA 14-5 CHARTERING CEREMONY – 04 AUGUST 2010 GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA



CAPT Andy Blomme, Commander, USCG Sector Jacksonville, congratulates John Russette, FC 14-5



The ceremony opened with a presentation of the Colors by the Division 14 Auxiliary Honor Guard, led by Art Tenney on bagpipes.



The Division 14 Auxiliary Honor Guard



Helen Russette talks with guest
COMO Allen Brown, IPDCO District 7

14-5 Chartering Ceremony continued



Guest Reggie Hollar, District Captain – North chats with Claire Bailey, member of Flotilla 14-7



Officer Chris Castelli of the Clay County Sheriff's Office, who played an important role in the formation of the Green Cove Springs flotilla

Photos by Helen Russette and Carolyn Strong



USCG CAPT Andy Blomme with Commander Donald Winfield, D7 DIRAUX

Congratulations to our good friends and Fellow Auxiliarists in the Clay County area on the chartering of Flotilla 14-5

National Elections 2010 – Scottsdale, Arizona

NACO (Elect) Jim Vass



Commodore Jim Vass has been elected National Commodore for the 2010-2012 Term.

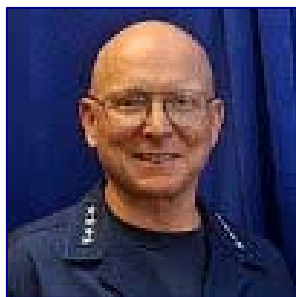
Commodore Vass began his career in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1991. He has served in all elected positions up to his current role as National Vice Commodore.

Commodore Vass is a qualified Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Coxswain and Qualification Examiner. He has been recognized with the following awards during his association with the Auxiliary: Medal of Operational Merit, Auxiliary Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Sustained Auxiliary Service Award, and the Coast Guard Unit Commendation.

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Commodore Thomas C. Mallison has been elected National Vice Commodore. He is currently serving as Deputy National Commodore - Operations Policy and Atlantic Area West.

Admiral Papp thanks Auxiliary at National Conference



Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Bob Papp expressed his deep appreciation to the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for their selfless service during the Commodore's Banquet at the Auxiliary's National Conference in Scottsdale, AZ, Saturday. Adm. Papp noted that Auxiliarists time and again unfailingly and unhesitatingly answered the call to duty in major operations like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response and routine activities like boating safety education.

"From the top of the world in the Arctic, to the Deepwater Horizon command posts along the Gulf Coast, and reaching down through the Caribbean to the island of Hispaniola; indeed, everywhere I have travelled in my first 100-days as Commandant, and throughout my 35-years of service, I have found the dedicated men and women of the Auxiliary assisting and supporting Coast Guard active duty and reservists," said Papp.

"The Auxiliary continues to perform a broad range of services that provide for the safety and security of the American people," Papp said.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary's commitment to boating safety and saving lives through education and patrols of America's waterways in particular were highlighted by Adm. Papp in his remarks.

"This year alone, the Auxiliary's 31,000 members collectively assisted in saving 250 lives, assisted almost 1400 others in distress, and saved more than \$9 million in property," said Papp.

Adm. Papp also recalled the Coast Guard Auxiliary's beginnings, in World War II, when volunteer Auxiliarists guarded our ports from sabotage, patrolled America's coasts and performed other domestic responsibilities to allow Coast Guardsmen to serve overseas. Then as now, the Auxiliary stepped in to assume responsibilities that ensured our success.

"The continued strength of the Coast Guard Auxiliary remains as important today as it was when the Auxiliary was formed," Papp said.

After thanking National Commodore Nick Kerrigan for his exceptional service and welcoming prospective National Commodore Jim Vass, Papp said to all Auxiliarists, "Thank you for your service, your patriotism and your volunteer efforts; you are greatly appreciated and much needed."

Check out <http://www.vimeo.com/14561120> for a new video.

This video showcases the "Fast and Fun Version" of what happened on Friday, August 28, 2010 at NACON - the National Conference for the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The music is provided by the U. S. Coast Guard Band. Enjoy!

In addition to the "NACON-The FAST & FUN Version", there are two other new videos by Roxane Firmin posted at <http://www.vimeo.com/14602502>.

District Seven News:

COMO Donald L. Frasch elected

Currently serving as District Commodore of District Seven, Commodore Frasch has been elected Deputy National Commodore Operations and & Atlantic Area East.

COMO Frasch is a member of Flotilla 11-7 in Hudson, Florida.





SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Commodore Donald L. Frasch, DCO-7, is joined by his wife Sandy, Commander Donald Winfield, D7 DIRAUX, and BOSN2 Ursula Walther, OTO D7 DIRAUX, shortly after his election to the office of Deputy National Commodore, Operations and Atlantic Area East for the 2011-2012 term. The election was held on August 27, 2010 as part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary National Conference held at the J.W. Marriott Camelback Resort & Spa. Also elected to new positions were Commodore Jim Vass, NACO and Commodore Thomas C. Malison, VNACO.

PHOTO BY: Christopher Todd, DVC-AP

**U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
SEVENTH DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE**

22 – 26 September

The Florida Mall & Conference Center

1500 Sand Lake Road

Orlando, FL

407-859-1500 – direct

ASK FOR IN HOUSE RESERVATION

\$104.00 room rate

MARDI GRAS will be the FUN NIGHT THEME for the conference in September 2010. I hope to have beads for everyone BUT if you want fancy ones - you might get your own! AND costumes can be Mardi Gras type or anything goes! Body Painting (preferable with clothes), Halloween costumes - whatever you are comfortable with! We will have a costume contest!

Carolyn Hooley, Conference Chairman, D7

For conference agenda and registration information, look at “Conferences” in the Members Section of the 7th District website at: <http://www.cgaux7.org/>



FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MEETING

1930 Tuesday 07 September 2010

FLORIDA TACKLE & GUN CLUB

9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- SEP 07 Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club 1930
- 18 Flotilla Social – Whitey’s Fish Camp – Orange Park starting at 1500
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division
- 22-26 7th District Fall Conference – Orlando – See web for details
- OCT 05 Flotilla 14-8 Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club 1930
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to FC, FSO-PB and Division
- 23 Division Meeting & Election of Officers – Stellar 0900
- 23-24 NAS Jax Air Show featuring the *Blue Angels*
See www.airshow.jacksonville.com

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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8 IS GREAT !

Visit our award winning website at <http://a0701408.uscgaux.info/>

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