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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 XXXVII No. 3**

**March 2011**

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## **Flotilla 14-8, a Mighty Force for Boating Safety In Northeast Florida Waters**



*View of the Fuller Warren Bridge and Downtown Jacksonville from Top Ingram's facility FISH TALES  
Photo by Bob Strong, May 2006  
From Flotilla 14-8 Archives*

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	<p><b>United States Coast Guard Auxiliary</b> U.S. Department of Homeland Security</p>	<p><b>America's Volunteer Guardians</b> Since 1939</p>
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## FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



As Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Papp has requested, our flotilla is focusing on recreational boating safety and directing efforts towards this area for the upcoming boating season. Members are planning activities for National Safe Boating week, in May, 2011, in addition to organizing public education classes, program visits, vessel safety checks, and member training. Although flotilla staff officers are leading these efforts, all of our members are encouraged to participate in this worthy mission. In particular, more Vessel Examiners are needed, and this would be a great way to begin or renew your involvement with the Auxiliary.

I attended the flotilla leadership course at Station Ponce on 12 February 2011. Even though I managed to make this long day even longer with an 80 mile backtrack detour to make sure I had turned my coffee pot at home off (I had), the conference was well worth the effort. In addition to the standardized PowerPoint presentation of the course you can view on line, what I really found interesting was the personal practical advice, laced with anecdotes, provided by the instructors, all of whom have a great deal of Auxiliary and life experience. Here are just a few of the highlights for me:

- John Tyson (District Vice Commodore) had people under his charge in his former job write their own obituaries. Although we may not like to contemplate our own mortality, this can be a good way to focus on what is important in our lives. Visualize the direction you want to go. What do you want to accomplish? How will your life be summarized?
- Although the Auxiliary is not a social organization, fellowship is very important to our overall success. This is not only for cementing friendships, but if you keep your eyes and ears open, you may pick up on potential issues before they become problems.
- Share your ideas in a newsletter like Eight Bells.
- Servant leadership--there is a book by this name which one of the instructors recommended. Sounds good, and reminds me of the phrase (and I'm paraphrasing), "it's amazing how much can be accomplished when you don't care who gets the credit".
- As volunteers, we want to do things we like. Leaders should attempt to find out what people like and then harness and organize this energy for our common goals.
- We are a democracy, not a monarchy. We do not give orders, we can only encourage, persuade --"are you with me?"

These are just a few of the things I jotted down at the course. There was much more good material which I will try to share with you in the future.

Thank you all for your work for our flotilla and the Auxiliary, and keep it up.

Whit Vick, *FC 14-8*

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## FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Well here it is March already and soon we will be getting ready for warmer weather and the start of the boating season. Our new Vessel Examiner, Program Visitor and Public Affairs Flotilla Staff Officers are doing a great job of coordinating National Safe Boating Week events. If we can get out there in force and educate the public on the practice of safe boating, hopefully it will cut down on the amount of boating accidents.

The flotilla, with its new members and the level of enthusiasm from everyone, I look for great things to come from 14-8.

"Semper Paratus"

"Always Ready"

*Mike Morgan, VFC 14-8*

## **FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS**

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MIKE MORGAN**

Please continue to turn your 7029s and 7030s by the end of each month. It is important that we account for all your volunteer time. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Mike Morgan, FSO-IS*

### **MEMBER TRAINING – MIKE MORGAN**

We are preparing with the help of Bob Funk to hold a Boat Crew class. Currently the class is scheduled to start on the 9th of March at 1900 - 2100 at the Stellar building. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Funk at [auxsar7728@comcast.net](mailto:auxsar7728@comcast.net). I will be looking at doing some other training events coming up in the next few months, as well as incorporating into the monthly meetings. If you have any questions or I can help you with any of your training, please feel free to contact me.

*Mike Morgan, FSO-MT*

### **HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH**



With warm weather approaching members may be authorized to wear the hot weather uniform under certain circumstances. The following guidelines apply.

Hot weather uniform components:

Cover: Tilley, (boonie) No insignia worn on this cover.

Ball cap, dark blue base ball style, insignia worn appropriate to mission, i.e.; office insignia.

Shirt: USAF blue short sleeve shirt

ODU blouse

VSC polo shirt while performing VSCs

CXGAUX blue crew neck polo shirt

Note: Shirts stenciled with USCG are not to be worn.

Shorts: ODU trouser cut and hemmed to be 1" to 3" above knee

Belt: Standard ODU belt or optional "riggers" belt

Socks: White, crew length (to calf) only style to be worn

Footwear: Low boot, oxford or brown boat shoe with leather lace

The hot weather uniform must be authorized for wear by DIRAUX Or Group uniform ensemble, within district. can be authorized by elected officer or mission leader, i.e.; Coxswain, VE or VSC FSO.

*Charlie Smith, FSO-HR*

### **MATERIALS – BOB FLAIGE**



With Safe Boating Week approaching, there is a need to determine what type and how many additional pamphlets, flyers, decals, etc. will be required for distribution at the events planned for the week and for Boating Safely Classes. The materials requested at our last flotilla meeting from the NSC were ordered and will be forwarded to the FSO-VE and FSO-PB upon receipt.

For those members needing a ribbon bar for 2 or 3 ribbons, I have two of each available.

For those needing name tags, they can be obtained from Holmes Stamp & Sign Company at 2021 St Augustine Road E, #5, Jacksonville, 32207 phone # 904-396-2291. This is their new place of business.

*Bob Flaige, FSO-MA*

**MARINE SAFETY – KYLE GEORGE**



Everybody, please excuse my absence as I am still overseas training police forces in Egypt. I did however want to send in my monthly MS report.

The Coast Guard responded to a fishing vessel on fire February 4th in the St Mary's River. Crew members on patrol in the area rushed to the scene and quickly extinguished the flames. The three fishermen on board suffered minor cuts and burns and were treated by first aid personnel in Fernandina where their boat was towed. The incident is being investigated by Florida Fish and Wildlife. Early reports say the men were smoking and drinking as several cigarette butts and empty beer bottles were found on board. The cause of the fire was a bottle of fuel stabilizer on the

fishing deck tipped over with a loose cap and a lit cigarette was the source of spark. If they had a recent Coast Guard Inspection they would have learned a better place for chemicals on board their vessel and common sense should have told them not to be smoking and drinking while boating.

*Kyle J. George, FSO-MS*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL**



Attending the Jacksonville Boat Show in early February reminded me warmer weather and the peak boating season can't be far away. Flotilla 14-2 did a fine job organizing and staffing the Auxiliary booth at the boat show. 100 free children's life jackets were given out at the booth on Saturday. I had the opportunity to work the booth on Sunday along with members from 14-2 and 14-4. There are two upcoming Jacksonville area boat shows. March 12-13 is the Florida Sportsman Boat and Fishing Show at the Morocco Shrine and April 15-17 is the Southeast US Boat Show at Metropolitan Park. The Auxiliary will provide a booth for the Southeast US Boat Show with Flotilla 14-2 taking the lead. I will pass along sign up details as they become available.

Bob Flaige was asked by the Marina at Julington Creek to provide Auxiliary participation for their Customer Appreciation Day on March 19. The Auxiliary will plan on setting up a table to distribute boating safety information and conduct Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at the marina. A VSC sign-up sheet is available for March 19 for marina customers to schedule advance appointments for that day. Vessel Examiners (VE) will be needed to support this event. It will also be a great opportunity for anyone needing to qualify for VE to perform some qualifying VSCs. Contact Marlene Koehl at 904 923-6613 if you are interested in working the Julington Creek Marina event.

NAS JAX has contacted Bob Strong and requested Auxiliary support for a Safety Stand Down on the base on April 20th. NAS JAX is requesting a boating safety display as well as a Coast Guard vessel exhibit. Bob is working on initial plans and we will be looking for members to set-up, work, and teardown our display. If you are interested in participating in the NAX JAX event, contact Bob Strong at 904 721-1346. Plans continue to develop for National Safe Boating week in May.

On May 21, 14-8 will have tables set up at the West Marine on Roosevelt Boulevard and Blanding Boulevard. Marlene has asked the SO-PV to provide support from 14-2, 14-4 and 14-7 to support three other area West Marine locations. We are also looking at scheduling VSC days at several area marinas or ramps on May 21 or May 22. Rusty Gardner is also investigating a VSC/marine safety event with a large outdoor sports equipment retailer. If you are interested in participating in National Safe Boating Week events contact Kevin Koehl at 904 923-6645. The Times-Union placed our February area upcoming ABS classes in the Outdoor Calendar. If anyone has suggestions on print or web publications we could use to promote our safe boating courses, please contact me. Ralph Little contributed a great article in the Mandarin Newline on the importance of getting a Vessel Safety Check. This article is included in this month's 8 Bells (see page 7).

*Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



Our first About Boating Safely (ABS) course was held on Saturday, 19 February. We had six students, although eight had pre-registered. One student, Rebecca Habermas scored 100% on the examination. This is the first 100% in at least two years. Rebecca has also been talking to Charlie Smith about becoming a member. Congratulations to Rebecca and hopefully welcome aboard.

This first course was taught by Paul Burns, Top Ingram and I. Now we need to get other qualified Auxiliary Instructors on line to teach this course. Please review the dates listed below and let me know which dates you will be available to teach. Paul has placed the PowerPoint Slide presentation for each ABS chapter on the flotilla web site. Just download them to your PC then prepare and print your own lecture notes. You will be using the flotilla's PC with the show on it in the classroom.

The current dates for 2011 ABS courses are: February 19, March 5, April 9, April 30, May 21, June 25, July 23, August 13, August 27 and October 15. We may add a course on Saturday November 11 if we are successful in running a booth at the U.S. Navy's celebration of 100 years of Naval Aviation on November 5 & 6 at NAS Jacksonville.

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE*

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## **PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL**



The Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program (RBSVP) is off to a busy start in 2011. Our Program Visitors have begun calling on Program Partners and already have a couple of prospective new partners to sign up. Bob Flaige received a request from the manager of The Marina at Julington Creek for Flotilla 14-8 to participate in their Customer Appreciation Day on March 19th from 1100 to 1600 by offering Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and an information table. We will be coordinating the event with the FSO-VE and asking for volunteers to help cover the event. Please contact me at 904-923-6613 if you are available to participate in this event.

I continue working with the National Safe Boating Week team lead by Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA, in developing plans to host events at two partner locations and doing VSCs at area marinas or ramps on the weekend of May 21-22. It would be great to increase our number of Vessel Examiners (VE) so that all VSC events will be adequately covered. Please consider taking the on-line course to begin the certification process. If you have questions on becoming VE certified, please contact John Hadley, FSO-VE. However, we also welcome non certified VEs to participate in partner events. Your knowledge of boating safety and the Auxiliary in general is a valuable asset that can be utilized at information tables. The handout that was discussed at the February meeting, regarding young boaters being required to take a boating safety course, has been printed and will be handed out to our Program Visitors at the March meeting. As always, I appreciate the team spirit this flotilla continually demonstrates in supporting RBSVP.

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV*

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## **OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK**



Operations remained quiescent during February as my facility, *Carlie*, was sold. This was supposed to be the "happiest day of my life", but it really was not as I truly loved this boat and enjoyed the patrols we did on her. However, the finances of owning and storing a 25 foot boat were not making sense for my family, and she had to go as we contract our discretionary spending pre-retirement.

I own a smaller facility, *Carlie II*, a 16 foot Boston Whaler center console. It has recently been reinstated into POMS after a minor paperwork glitch. Although she can only take one or possibly 2 trainees, in addition to coxswain and crew, we should be able to do training on this boat. The boat is currently in rack storage at St Simon's Island, GA, but has a trailer. The issues here will be time to trailer the boat to Jacksonville and where to store her, but I believe these can be worked out.

This brings up another point---any of our members who have a boat can offer this as a facility for use in the Auxiliary. This is true whether you are crew qualified or not. Of course, the appropriate number of qualified crew and a coxswain would have to be on board during any patrols under orders. Please consider doing this if you have a boat.

Bob Funk has indicated he will organize boat crew training classes. At this time, details such as time/place are still being worked out.

As the boating season approaches, my goal is to get our 4 crew trainees crew qualified this year---this is definitely achievable if we remain committed to getting the requirements in the boat crew manual done. Scheduling a qualifying exam requires advance notice, so once we have our qualifications checked off we can schedule this. Also, I encourage any flotilla member who is interested in getting crew qualified to contact either Cris Vonderheide or myself.

*Whit Vick, FSO-OP*

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

### **FLOTILLA MEETING 1 FEBRUARY 2011**



**Jeff Blomgren, IPFC presented an Operations Excellence Award from the Division to Bob Funk**



**Top Ingram received his Certificate of Appreciation for excellence in 2010 for his work as Program Visitor along with a bronze plaque in appreciation for his service in the areas of Public Affairs and Program Visitor for 2010**

*Photos by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB*

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## **NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK PLANS UNDERWAY**

Please hold Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22 for National Safe Boating Week Flotilla, 14-8 activities. We are planning on having display booths at area West Marine locations, conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at Marinas and/or ramps. We are also working on setting up a VSC event at a large outdoor sports retailer. We will need Vessel Examiners to support VSCs and will need 14-8 members to work booths at Marine Retailers.

If you are interested in becoming a Vessel Examiner, or have been one in the past and need to be qualified again, please contact John Hadley [hadley.beverly@yahoo.com](mailto:hadley.beverly@yahoo.com) to get qualified. There is time to get qualified prior to May 21st, but you need to start now.

In the next two months we will be asking for members to commit to support specific events, times and locations.

Thanks for your support!

Kevin Koehl

Public Affairs Officer, Flotilla 14-8

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## Mandarin Newsline – March Edition

Our article for the March edition of the Mandarin Newsline talks about Vessel Safety Checks and learning how to use the required safety equipment on your boat.

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### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update **Double-Check for a Safe Boat**

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

Having and knowing how to use the required safety equipment on your boat can mean the difference between life and death in the event of a boating accident or mechanical failure. Who wouldn't like to have their preparations for a safe boating season double-checked by a knowledgeable expert? With the arrival of the 2011 decals, the Auxiliary's Vessel Safety Examiners are prepared to perform free vessel safety examinations wherever your boat is located in Northeast Florida. The examiner will conduct a thorough check of your boat's safety equipment and be a source of information on requirements. The exam itself can be accomplished in as little as 15 minutes, but the examiner will spend as much time as is necessary to discuss what you need to know. Examiners have different criteria, depending on the motor and type of vessel such as those over 40', runabouts, kayaks or a Personal Watercraft.

The exam starts with your registration data, and proceeds to cover up to 15 requirements and as many as 17 discussion points, depending on the size and type of vessel and pertinence to the situation. Required items will cover display of registration numbers and the presence and serviceability of safety equipment such as life preservers, distress signals and navigation lights. Over 12 percent of 100,000 Vessel Examinations were failures due to distress signal issues. Examiners also cover pollution protection notices and practices, especially for vessels with marine toilets. If you wish to have more detail on the exam, go to <http://a0530801.uscgaux.info/checklst.htm>.

With the award of a decal to a passing vessel, it is good for the year of issue. The boater receives a copy of the report with the examiner's phone number to set up next year's check-up. As a bonus, your examiner may notice unsafe situations you hadn't detected. Our examiners have spotted a shredded drive belt, a broken ventilator fan, and unsafe battery connections that could have made for expensive tows or fuel explosions. Email John Hadley at [hadley.beverly@yahoo.com](mailto:hadley.beverly@yahoo.com) or call 904-519-0481 or 904-626-3772 to schedule a vessel examination.

Flotilla 14-8 will present the next one day course, About Boating Safely, on March 5 at the Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road in Mandarin. The class will run from 7:30am to 5:00pm with 30 minutes for lunch. A fee of \$25 is charged for each student and just \$5 more for the second member of a family. Call Bob Strong at 904-721-1346 for specifics on where and when courses are offered and to register or to indicate interest in the courses. If you wish to join the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, contact Charles Smith at 904-541-1660 and he will guide you through membership.

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## **A Letter from Buz Palmer, Charter Member of Flotilla 14-8**

Congratulations on a job well done on the new Flotilla 14-8 website! It is very obvious that a lot of hard work went into the effort and it will take a lot of hard work to maintain the site. I especially like the public section where a boater can go to find out how to get a vessel examination.

You may, or may not, be aware that I publish a Newsletter once or twice a week to members of the Florida Tackle and Gun Club (FT&GC). I would like permission to place the flotilla's website link in my Newsletter with a piece about vessel examinations with a direct link to that section of the website.

I would like to offer congratulations to the new officers in Flotilla 14-8 and offer them the opportunity to receive my Newsletter. Just send me an email with your request and I will add you to my list, (there are over 300 email recipients now). If you are receiving the newsletter and wish to discontinue by all means please let me know.

As a plank owner of, originally 10-8, now 14-8, I am very proud to see the continued success and growth of the "Goodby Creek Flotilla!" I am also a proud member of the Florida Tackle & Gun Club and have been since 1968. I am a firm believer that both organizations go hand-in-hand and neither would be the same without the other!

With that said, I feel it is important that the flotilla is sensitive to letting members, (especially new members), of the FT&GC know what the Auxiliary, especially 14-8, is all about, and not just vessel exams!

I know that the flotilla publishes in the Mandarin Community paper. If a flotilla member would like to email me an excerpt on a regular basis I would be glad to publish it in my Newsletter for our club members. It would contain the name of the author and contact information.

I find that club members do read the Newsletter and do respond! Club members should at least know when & where the flotilla is holding safe boating classes.

In addition, the FT&GC would like to invite members of Flotilla 14-8, and any other flotilla for that matter, to join our club! We do have a special payment program to ease the initial cost of joining. After that, you will find the cost of membership to be very economical.

We are a family club with many interests! There is an activity going on all the time. The club is owned, including the property, by our members. We have around two hundred regular members with many of them boaters. We are run by volunteers with the only employees being the bartenders.

Send me an email and I will send you the details!

May all of you have "clear skies and smooth sailing!"

Regards,

Buz Palmer  
USCG Aux 14-8 retired  
[BuzPalmer@ATT.net](mailto:BuzPalmer@ATT.net)

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## Honor Flight

*Article and photo by Dan Herrmann, Flotilla 58 Public Affairs Officer,  
District 7, Fort Pierce, FL (Article published in SITREP eMagazine 1/14/2011)*



Auxiliarist Anthony L. Elvas

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist Anthony L. Elvas, Flotilla 58 Fort Pierce, along with one hundred World War II combat veterans were recognized for their sacrifice and service with an "Honor Flight" to Washington DC and Arlington National Cemetery.

The Honor Flight to honor living veterans was sponsored by the Martin County Fire Department funded by "boot collections" and other fundraising activities.

Auxiliarist Elvas enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17. He was assigned to Pacific duty as a fireman aboard the Navy destroyer USS Swanson escorting the USS Indianapolis to Hawaii. The Indianapolis

became the last American ship sunk in WWII. It was sunk by a Japanese submarine after the Swanson was redirected to escort the battleship USS New Jersey in the waters off Iwo Jima.

The day began with a police escort for the four buses going from Stuart, Florida to West Palm Beach Airport. Martin County Fire Department arranged a grand sendoff with fire trucks spouting water into rainbows and emergency vehicle lights reflecting in the spray.

On arrival at Washington the flight was escorted to the disembarking gate by vehicles with American Flags proudly flying. In the airport reception area a team of more than 500 soldiers, firemen, Boy Scouts, and well wishers greeted these one hundred "Old Warriors" and the firemen and emergency medical technicians that were with them.

These men were then taken on an escorted tour of monuments and of course Arlington National Cemetery.

"The monuments were beautiful but not as beautiful as the people. They all were thanking us and shaking our hands while we were thanking the young service men and women for their sacrifices today," Elvas said feeling great emotion. "The tradition of Americans sacrificing their all for freedom carries on, God bless the USA," he added.

The return flight, after a long but wonderful day, was a time for reflection. As the veterans tried to put it all in perspective, Mr. Elvas said he had never been thanked or honored in any way before nor did he think he should be, but it was a wonderful feeling that is irreplaceable and much appreciated.

He continues his service to America and is still serving as an active member in Flotilla 58, Fort Pierce. He just requalified as a crewperson on Auxiliary vessels.

He is a man of honor and was justly recognized.

Congratulations Auxiliarist "Tony" Elvas!

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## FLOTILLA 14-8 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

**Tuesday 1 March 2011 at 1930**

**Florida Tackle & Gun Club**

**9010 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- MAR 01 Flotilla 14-8 Regular Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 05 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- 12-13 Florida Sportsman Fishing & Boat Show Morocco Shrine
- 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 19 Division 14 Meetings – Bridge 0900, General 1000 – Stellar Building
- 19 VSC Blitz – Julington Creek Marina – contact Marlene Koehl
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- APR 05 Flotilla 14-8 Regular Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 09 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- 15-17 Southeast 2011 US Boat Show – Metropolitan Park
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- 22 Good Friday
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 30 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building

**MAY 21-27 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

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# 8 IS GREAT !

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

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