
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVII No. 5

May 2011

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

cwvick@comcast.net
bombdude1@att.com
cgstrong@comcast.net

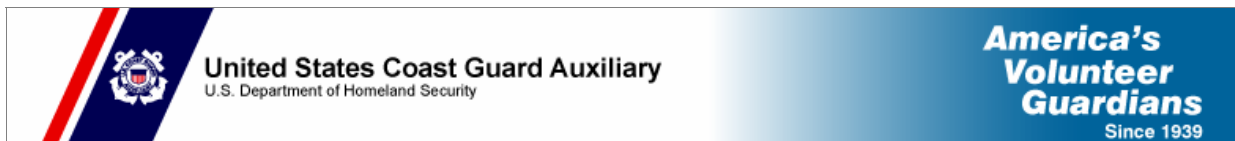
C. Whitley Vick
Michael S. Morgan
Carolyn G. Strong

The New 45' Rescue Boat – Medium (RB-M) at CG Mayport



On Thursday, 14 April, Rusty Gardner, BC-ASV and Bob Strong, both members of Flotilla 14-8 were invited to take a tour of one of the new 45 RB-Ms at Mayport. Rusty was onboard while the Coast Guard Coxswain put the boat through its paces. Bob was aboard a CG 25 RB-S with the videographer (see photos on page 8).

Photo provided by Bob Strong



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



The efforts of some of our members this past month have been outstanding. Some have taught classes, some have taken classes, others have done program visits, worked on our web site, written articles, and one is in training to become a watchstander at USCG Station Mayport. While all of these are commendable, one thing really caught my attention this month:

John Hadley, FSO-VE organized a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) event for the Florida Yacht Club, but unfortunately a family event occurred preventing John from attending. Without hesitation, Marlene Koehl, our FSO-PV and also a Vessel Examiner (VE), stepped up and volunteered to take over in John's absence. She and her fellow Vessel Examiners, Kevin Koehl, Ralph Little, and Charlie Smith had to remain flexible up the last minute, as the VSC event just happened to be scheduled the day after the near government shutdown. As a result, no one knew if they were to report for duty until late the night before. As we know, there was no government shutdown, and the Auxiliary was in business on April 9. Marlene and her fellow VEs carried out this event without a hitch. This type of teamwork, adaptation, stepping up to the plate for our mission of promoting recreational boating safety is the Auxiliary at its best.

Whit Vick, FC 14-8

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



I would like to take this opportunity to talk about Customs & Courtesies.

What is courtesy and what is protocol?

Courtesy is the key to successful human relationships (with courtesy goes respect).
Courtesy is proper consideration for the feelings and rights of others.

Protocol: Universally accepted customs and regulations that govern the formality and etiquette practiced in a civilized society. Protocol is the body of accepted rules of social behavior practiced by thoughtful and considerate people.

The practice of courtesy and protocol are necessary requirements for successful duty performance. They lead to a spirit of teamwork. Courtesy and protocol are part of the ceremonial procedures that contribute dignity and color to team coast guard. Although we are "Volunteers" we must still try to do our best to abide by the Policies, Procedures and Protocols set forth for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. I encourage everyone to review the following link to become familiar with those Policies, Procedures and Protocols.

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg3/cg3pcx/cginfo/uniforms/custom.asp>

"Semper Paratus"

"Always Ready"

Mike Morgan, VFC 14-8

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



I am pleased to announce our new website URL:

WWW.SafeBoatingJax.com

SafeBoatingJacksonville.com works as well.

Now when somebody asks you "What is your website address?" you can simply say www.SafeBoatingJax.com. It's easy to find, easy to remember, easy to direct the public to our safe boating features and activities. Currently SafeBoatingJax.com (and www.SafeBoatingJacksonville.com) mirror our regularly assigned Coast Guard

Auxiliary website, but with significantly increased storage space which allows us the capability to add more pictures, publications, videos and articles to better serve our boating community.

SafeBoatingJax.com and SafeBoatingJacksonville.com give us real brand name to promote safe boating. Please include this internet address with any public articles or correspondence.

Each flotilla member can also have their own email address *your_name*@safeboatingjax.com. Simply email me with your requested email address name, and I can set it up within 24 hours.

As of this date new flotilla email addresses include:

Paul Burns - pburns@SafeBoatingJax.com, Webmaster@SafeBoatingJax.com, and Info@SafeBoatingJax.com.
Charles Smith - HumanResources@SafeBoatingJax.com

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

FINANCE – BOB STRONG



Our flotilla By-Laws require all members to pay their annual dues in June of each year. In May I will send every flotilla member a dues notice along with a stamped, addressed return envelope. Please send me your check or money order for the stated amount in the return envelope no later than June 30, 2011.

Bob Strong, FSO-FN

HUMAN RESOURCES – CHARLES SMITH



During the recent potential government funding crisis (shutdown) all CGAUX personnel were advised by e-mail that if the shutdown occurred all CGAUX duties were suspended pending resolution. I received several queries as to why this policy would be enforced. In an attempt to explain I would draw your attention to Auxiliary Manual COMDTINST M16790.1F, Chapters 1 and 5.

Chapter 1a.2.c states in part "While assigned to duty, Auxiliarists are considered to be Federal employees for certain purposes". This has been interpreted to mean facility patrols, training, VSCs and RB-S visitation programs.

In addition Chapter 5, section K further states "members of the Auxiliary who incur physical injury or contract sickness or disease while performing any duty to which they have been assigned by competent authority shall be entitled to the same medical treatment afforded members of the Coast Guard." Upon a government shutdown these guidelines are no longer applicable to CGAUX personnel.

In the past all flotilla members have been encouraged to study for and pass the APC exam based on the Auxiliary Manual. This is just one instance where your effort to do so could prove beneficial.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MIKE MORGAN



Please continue to turn your 7029's, 7030's and 7046's to me 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

"Behavior starts with a thought. Thoughts stimulate emotions which then result in attitude and finally produce behavior. Therefore, toxic thoughts produce toxic emotions, which produce toxic attitudes, resulting in toxic behaviors."

Dr. Caroline Leaf, author and learning specialist

"Thoughts. Emotions. Attitude. Yes, we can control every step of the process."

Deborah Smith Pegues, author of "30 Days to a Great Attitude"

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



Warm spring weather has brought a significant increase in our flotilla participation in public boating activities. Ralph Little, Charlie Smith, Marlene Koehl and I conducted Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) at an event requested by The Florida Yacht Club on 9 April. Bob Flaige, Bob Strong, John Hadley, Marlene Koehl, and I staffed a boating safety booth at the NAS JAX safety fair on 20 April. Bob Strong also assisted Flotilla 14-2 with the Auxiliary booth at the Jacksonville Outdoor Boat Show on 17 April. Marlene Koehl and I made a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Marine Association on 4 April. We presented the idea of preparing new boater safety information packages to the marine association with a proposal to prepare and deliver packages to the dealers in the Jacksonville area to provide to purchasers of new boats sold by member dealers. So far one dealer has requested information for 20 packages and the materials were delivered. The Jacksonville Marine Association extended an open invitation for me to attend their monthly meetings.

Plans have been finalized for National Safe Boating Week. On Saturday 21 May we will be manning information tables at the West Marine stores on Roosevelt Blvd and Blanding Blvd. If you would like to assist at these stores, contact Bob Flaige or Charlie Smith. We will also have an information tent and conduct VSCs at the Academy Sports store on Blanding Blvd in Orange Park. This will be our largest event on Saturday and we plan to conduct short seminars on boat safety subjects. We have also requested a Coast Guard Vessel for the event. If you are available to work the Academy Sports Location, contact Rusty Gardner. With the three events scheduled on 21 May, we are in need of our flotilla members to participate. On Sunday 22 May we will conduct VSCs at the Mandarin Park Boat Ramp from 11AM to 2PM. We will need Vessel Examiners (VEs) to help with this event. Ralph Little wrote an article for the Mandarin Newline to create public awareness of National Safe Boating week and what each person might do to make their boating a safer experience. The article is included on page 10 of this *EIGHT BELLS*.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

14-8 MEMBERS PERFORM VSCS AT FLORIDA YACHT CLUB - 9 APRIL 2011



Ralph Little (above) and Marlene Koehl (below) performing Vessel Safety Checks



Marlene speaks with a vessel owner

Photos contributed by Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

MEMBER TRAINING – MIKE MORGAN



We are still conducting our Boat Crew class. Please contact Bob Funk if you would like to join any part.

As Charlie Smith put in his report about taking the Administrative Procedures Course. I too encourage anyone who has not taken it to do so. This will give you an opportunity to become familiar with the different types of regulations there are and how to use them.

Please contact me for any of your Training needs

Mike Morgan, FSO-MT

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



We had 14 students signed up for our course on April 9, unfortunately only 7 students made it to class. I ran down the no-shows and they all had an excuse. Two just could not get out of bed in time to arrive by 0745. Yes, they were both born since January 1, 1988.

Personally, I believe the school systems need a new course for males and females about parenting. Teaching responsibility to young people while boating is part of our job but I think we need to drive the responsibility thing home to parents also.

Our last course this month is on April 30 at the stellar building. We need instructors and assistants. Please let me know if you can help.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



On 04 April, Kevin Koehl, our FSO-PA and I attended a meeting of the Jacksonville Marine Association. This group includes boat dealers and brokers as well as other marine businesses in the Jacksonville area. Our intention was to begin a relationship with the organization and perhaps create another opportunity to promote boating safety education. We put together 20 packets of materials and gave them to each member. Kevin explained the Auxiliary's focus on safe boating through classes, Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) and the distribution of educational materials. Our proposal to them was that we could provide these packets to their businesses to be used as handouts to new boat owners. Consequently, we were contacted by one marine dealer requesting materials and we were able to sign them up as an official partner. Also, one of our ABS students indicated that he had received the class information from one of the marinas. Although we were hoping for a bigger response, Kevin and I will continue working on building a relationship with the Association.

As noted in previous Eight Bells, we will have several opportunities coming up in May to interact with the public in promoting safe boating. On 14 May, we will be doing VSCs at Mulberry Cove Marina located at NAS JAX. John Hadley, FSO-VE is coordinating this partner event. It is important that we have ample participation in the events scheduled for National Safe Boating Week. Event locations include Sports Academy on Blanding, West Marine Stores on Roosevelt and Blanding and the boat ramp at Mandarin Park. Please consider donating a couple of hours on 21-22 May where we will be hosting information tables and VSCs. Please contact Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA, with your availability at kevinkoehl@aol.com. Again, I would like to thank all the Program Visitors for their time and effort in support of the Recreational Boating Safety Visitor Program.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

VESSEL EXAMINER – JOHN HADLEY



Vessel Examinations for April have been somewhat quiet, much as it was in March. On Saturday 9 April, North Florida Yacht Club in Ortega hosted a mini-blitz. The arrangement was to supply Vessel Examiners to perform safety checks for the Club’s vessels as they departed for the Blessing of the Fleet downtown Jacksonville

In the event, our flotilla was well-represented, but only six Vessel Safety Checks were performed, of which two boats failed their exam. We continue to entertain hope that the activity level will climb, as the weather continues to improve.

National Safe Boating Week is expected to provide much activity. At this point and as of this writing the next Vessel Examination event will be hosted at NAS JAX at the Mulberry Cove Yacht facility’s docks from 0900 to 1400. Details are being firmed up. Flotilla Vessel Examiners are once again invited to participate.

John Hadley, FSO-VE

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

COMMUNICATIONS – JOHN HADLEY



St. John River ‘dead spots’ in the 14-9 AOR have been mapped and are now a known quantity. Increasing the volume in the Espanola and Deltona RFF towers (Rescue 21 assets) as well as the Mayport RFF tower has solved a good portion of the remaining issues with signal quality from the Welaka patrol.

My Station Comm Watch Stander training is coming into the last 1/3, and I hope to face the quals board by the end of the month. Will let you know how that turned out. Flotilla AUX members have continued to support at least half of the STA MAYPORT Comm station watches, enabling the newer USCG personnel to get comms-qualified and out to their boat assignments more quickly. Soon Flotilla 14-8 will be taking up its share of this important load as well. In this effort, I have had the opportunity to lessen the workload of the mentor watch-stander by pre-examining the new personnel on some of the materials in which I have had extensive professional background.

John Hadley , FSO-CM

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



Cris Vonderheide served as coxswain on Marc Lang's boat at a permitted marine event--the Ortega River rowing regatta--on 4/2/11. I was able to do the same on 4/9/11. On my patrol, we "intercepted" 41 boats heading toward the part of the river where the race was being conducted. Quite a few of these boats were proceeding upriver at a rapid clip and would have likely entered the race area inadvertently, potentially endangering the rowers on their small racing boats. The race site was not easy to spot proceeding upriver, as it was blocked by the Timuquana bridge. Our boat was stationed just north of the bridge and the race area. Our goal was to warn boaters about the race and have them proceed with caution at idle speed. Most had no idea about the race. All complied and many thanked us for the warning. Another aspect of this patrol was getting to see Marc Lang's incredible 1979 Boston Whaler Montauk which he has extensively modified and outfitted with sirens, public address system, safety lights, and patrol signboard shade system.

Crew class and Welaka ops excellence training are ongoing.

On the next page are two photos from our 4/9/11 patrol on the Ortega River for the rowing regatta. Shown in the pictures are Marc Lang, SO-MS 14 and Rick Smith, a trainee from Flotilla 14-4.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

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

**ORTEGA RIVER ROWING REGATTA
9 APRIL 2011**



Three of our youngest members: Paul Tynda, James Caudle and Kyle George. Paul joined the Auxiliary in 2009, James and Kyle joined us last year. All three were in attendance at our April meeting.



Mark Lang, SO-MS 14 with his fully equipped 1979 Boston Whaler Montauk

Photos by Whit Vick, FC/FSO-OP

**2011 SOUTHEAST US BOAT SHOW
METRO PARK 17 APRIL 2011**



The "Wear It" trailer was on display at the boat show.

Photo by Bob Strong

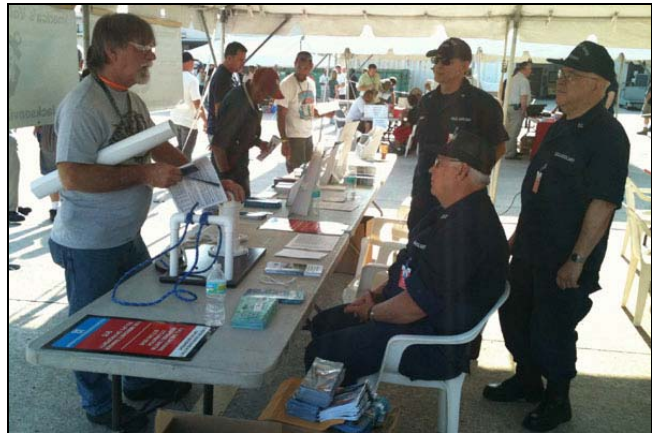
**FLOTILLA MEETING
1 MARCH 2011**



Whit Vick, FC presents a Membership card to Charlie Amonte, who joined 14-8 a few months ago.

Meeting photos by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB

**AT NAS JACKSONVILLE
20 MARCH 2011**



Bob Flaige (seated), John Hadley and Bob Strong speak with a visitor to our booth

Photo by Kevin Koehl

**BOB & RUSTY AT CG STATION MAYPORT
14 APRIL 2011**



Rusty Gardner, BC-ASV and CWO Jim DeVane
At USCG Station Mayport on 14 April

Auxiliarists Rusty Gardner and Bob Strong visited USCG Station Mayport on April 14, 2011, to make a performance video for the Auxiliary of the new 45' RB-M joystick controlled, jet drive Search and Rescue vessel.

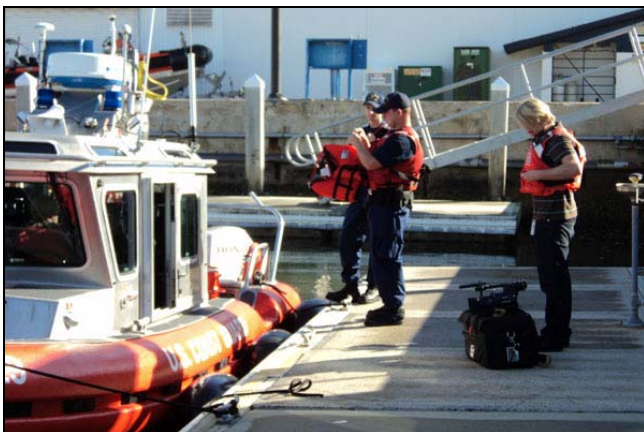
Rusty and camera man Beau Crum were on board the 45' while Bob and camera man Mark Hubbard were on a 25' RB-S filming the action. Bob, the Grip, held on to Mark to make sure he didn't fall overboard while he concentrated on the filming process. It was definitely a rock n roll experience.



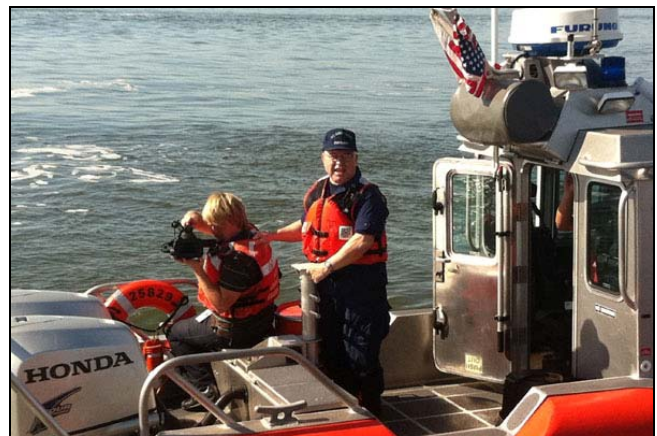
Rusty prepares to go aboard the new CG 45' Rescue Boat (RB-M) with photographer Beau Crum



Bob Strong is prepared to board the CG 25' RB-S



Coast Guard personnel prepare to board the CG 25' RB-S with photographer Mark Hubbard



Bob held Mark Hubbard steady as they rode in the wake of the CG 45' RB-M (see photo on front page)

Photos contributed by Bob Strong and Rusty Gardner

To view the video, visit: <http://vimeo.com/22888249>

NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS



Linda and Earl LeBlanc

Linda and Earl LeBlanc now live in Slidell, LA. After the house they owned in New Orleans was ruined by the floods of Katrina, they restored it and then moved back to Louisiana from Jacksonville. They have since built a new home on stilts in Slidell, northeast of New Orleans. Earl has been a member of 14-8 for many years.



Linda and Earl's new home with his boat *Rajun Cajun*

Photos received from Earl LeBlanc

OFFSHORE SAILING REGATTA MARCH 23 – 26



From Laura Pierano, member of 14-8:

“Here is a shot from our race! We are not in this shot. We had a great time and placed 3rd in 2 of 3 races which placed us 3rd overall in our class. (Non spinnaker). Also wanted to report that the flashing light on STM 16 (red) in the St. Mary's Channel inlet was not lit as of 4/2/11.”

Laura also reported the following:

“On 4/10/11 I was steering the boat on Sunday through the St. Augustine inlet from the ocean and back to the marina. We were in just 11 feet of water well inside the channel between the first and second set of markers. The tide was going out at about 2.8 knots and the time was 5.15 PM. By favoring the red markers we were back in 18 feet of water. #7 and 5A both had 12+ feet. It seems like the area between #5 and temp 5A is getting worse. We were finding 7-8 ft at mid-tide, well inside the channel, even as revised by temp 5A. It was made worse by the fact that this area was not breaking, so didn't appear to be a problem. Advise friends and family to stay well to the red, and don't cheat any markers. (Remember 'green with envy.')”

USCGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC-626)



Rusty Gardner shot this photo while visiting the CG Training Center in Cape May, NJ earlier this month.

Mandarin Newslines – May Edition



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

Do One Thing

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

My thought is that you “do one thing” in May to make your boating safer. Of course, more is okay, but take your pick and commemorate the annual U.S. Coast Guard National Safe Boating Week, which falls on May 21-27. There are some interesting, simple and low cost choices that could make a big difference in your future:

- As of December 1, 2011 the Coast Guard’s new rule concerning the carrying capacity for passenger vessels will take effect. Not being applicable to recreational boats doesn’t lessen its worthy consideration for small private boats. The official Assumed Average Weight Per Person translates to the carrying capacity for a boat. The new weight for a person is judged to be 185 lbs. or 25 lbs heavier than when most Capacity Plates were affixed. So, if your own boat is rated to carry 8 persons (1280 lbs.), it is still rated for 1280 lbs., but dividing by 185 means you should safely carry only 7 persons. Sorry, but the average American is heavier now.
- Try wearing your life preserver full time. Maybe get an automatic version that is light – especially if you boat alone. Fishermen and women, canoeists and kayakers take special note since they are high risk vessels.
- Get a marine radio and stop thinking that a cell phone will be sufficient for an emergency. Cell towers aren’t placed to cover water. Cell coverage is not reliable off shore and the size and bays of the St. Johns River also assures dead zones which you will probably be in when you have an emergency. Correctly set marine radios will bring rescue quickly under the Digital Selective Calling system.
- Review your fueling procedure, including a check that your ventilation system works and your battery terminals are covered to keep a spark from igniting fumes.
- For no charge, have a friendly Vessel Examiner check your boat out for safety. Email John Hadley at hadley.beverly@yahoo.com or call 904-519-0481 or 904-626-3772 to schedule a vessel examination at your convenience for no charge. On Sunday, May 22 we will have examiners at the Mandarin Park Boat Ramp to provide these exams as part of National Safe Boating Week.
- Take a boating safety course. The USCG Auxiliary offers Safe Boating Courses in the Jacksonville area. Among other offerings, Flotilla 14-8 will present the next one day course on May 21 in Mandarin. For detailed information call Bob at 904-721-1346.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK PLANS

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 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 to get qualified.

Kevin Koehl, Public Affairs Officer, Flotilla 14-8

WASHINGTON - National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) -- the traditional start of the summer boating season -- is slated to kick-off throughout North America on Saturday, May 21, 2011. This represents a perfect opportunity for Coast Guard Auxiliary units to actively promote the core mission of Recreational Boating Safety (RB-S) to the general public.

With only six weeks left to prepare, NSBW campaign planning should now be well underway in all Coast Guard Auxiliary units. A portfolio of public-facing missions including operations (OP), public affairs outreach (PA), public education (PE), RB-S program visitations (PV) and vessel examinations (VE) is advised to achieve maximum results. All units are additionally encouraged to build an RB-S team to work in concert toward achieving NSBW mission objectives.

For additional information on National Safe Boating Week and recreational boating safety in general, please visit: <http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/> or <http://www.uscgboating.org/> respectively. For additional questions on Coast Guard Auxiliary NSBW activities, please contact Harriet Howard, Special Assistant - NSBW in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Department of Public Affairs.

Christopher Todd
Deputy Director | Public Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

ARLINGTON, Va. - Adm. Bob Papp, Commandant of the Coast Guard, addressed Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary public affairs and governmental affairs leadership on Tuesday, April 12 at the GAO/PAO Conference held at the Navy League Headquarters. Papp spoke about his new "Commandant's Direction 2011" publication designed to provide a "trackline" for the Coast Guard's future.

Building on the four "Guiding Principals" of (1) "Steady the Service", (2) "Honor Our Profession", (3) "Strengthen Our Partnerships", and (4) "Respect our Shipmates" that Papp unveiled in 2010 to provide a framework for the future, the "Commandant's Priorities" for 2011 are designed to provide the blueprint.

COMMANDANT'S PRIORITIES:

- 1) Sustain Mission Excellence
- 2) Recapitalize and Build Capacity
- 3) Enhance Crisis Response and Management
- 4) Prepare for the Future

All Coast Guard Auxiliary members are encouraged to become familiar with the Commandant's Priorities. To download the 24-page "Commandant's Priorities 2011" publication in .pdf file format, please visit: <http://www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership/docs/ccgs-direction-2011.pdf>

Christopher Todd
Deputy Director | Public Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Attention all members of Flotilla 14-8:

Our May 3 meeting will be a Dinner Meeting and Social event at Bob Evans Restaurant, 3163 Hartley Road in Mandarin. Bring a spouse and/or a friend and be ready for some good food and fellowship. We will meet at 7 PM, in uniform (Tropical Blue or appropriate civilian dress).

Please RSVP to the Strongs at 721-7828 or cgstrong@comcast.net ASAP so we can let the restaurant know how many will be there.

You may search the menu in advance at <http://www.bobevans.com/>.





FLOTILLA 14-8 DINNER MEETING

Tuesday 3 May 2011 at 1930

Bob Evans Restaurant

3163 Hartley Road, Jacksonville

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- APR 30 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- MAY 03 **Flotilla Dinner Meeting at Bob Evans Restaurant – 1900**
- 07 ICS 210 Member Training – Stellar Building
- 14 VSC Day at NAS JAX Mulberry Cove Marina
- 20 **Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO**
- 21 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- MAY 21 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK – Events to take place at two West Marine stores and the Academy Sports store on Blanding Boulevard.**
- MAY 22 Vessel Safety Checks at Mandarin Park Boat Ramp – 1100 to 1400**
- JUNE 07 Flotilla Meeting - 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 11 USCGAUX Memorial Wall Ceremony – ATON Station, Jax Beach
- 15 **Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO**
- 18 Division 14 Meeting – St. Augustine
- 25 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- 30 Deadline for flotilla dues to be paid to the FSO-FN

*** **



8 IS GREAT !

Visit our award winning website at www.SafeBoatingJax.com

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