
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVII No. 6

June 2011

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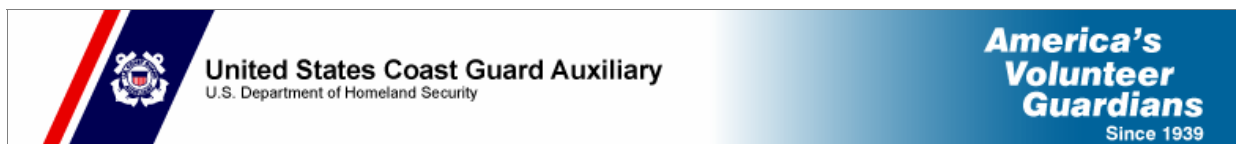
Kids enjoy exploring the CG 25' Rescue Boat – Small (RB-S)



On Saturday, 21May, Coast Guard Station Mayport allowed us to display one of their 25 RB-S boats for the National Safe Boating Week event at Academy Sports in Orange Park. Thanks go to Rusty Gardner for planning events for this location and for arranging for the CG Boat. Many children climbed onboard the boat while our Vessel Examiners talked with their parents about Safe Boating.

See more photos on pages 4, 6 & 7.

Photo provided by Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA 14-8



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



With almost half a year having passed since Jeff Blomgren passed the torch to our 2011 team, this is a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished and also to set goals for the remainder of the year.

As far as accomplishments, our staff officers for public education, publications, public affairs, program visits, vessel exams, human resources have all contributed much time and energy towards one of the main Auxiliary goals stressed by Coast Guard Commandant Papp -- promoting recreational boating safety. One of our principal areas of concentration has been National Safe Boating week, with a wide ranging program of Auxiliary exposure, education, and vessel safety checks organized by Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA and his committee formed to plan for this week. Ralph Little has contributed monthly articles about the Auxiliary to the Mandarin news. Rusty Gardner, with the help of Bob Strong, has made a video highlighting the new Coast Guard 45 foot rescue boat (45 RB-M). Bob Funk has organized a crew training class and has led the Welaka detachment and its quest to obtain Operational Excellence status for all crew working at Welaka. Several have stepped forward to assume new roles as we try to remain flexible and effective.

Going forward, think about what you would like to accomplish over the next six months. FSOs should try to make specific goals. I encourage all to reflect on why you are in the Auxiliary and then act on this reason. Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor day are big boating days providing us as Auxiliarists to make a positive difference for someone.

Thanks for all you do.

Whit Vick, FC 14-8

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES – PAUL BURNS

Nasty Computer Virus Alert!!



Last week my computer got hit with a nasty computer virus that ended up erasing all of my personal files. All Coast Guard Auxiliary files, all my websites, my pictures, all my tax returns - over 15 years of documents, everything was gone! This could have been devastating, had it not been for the backup that I did only 4 days earlier. Every Sunday night, I routinely plug an inexpensive USB Flash Drive into my computer. I have programmed Windows built in Backup program to copy the “My Documents” folder to the flash drive, after I go to bed that night. With the exception of that 4 day gap, I recovered everything that the virus had removed.

So, my question to you is, what would you lose if all your files were unexpectedly erased? Most people’s important files can be stored on a USB flash drive costing as little as \$10.00. No special software is required. You can either copy the files yourself, usually in a few minutes, or you can use the built in Backup program in Windows to do the job for you automatically at a scheduled time. Portable USB hard drives cost around \$75.00 and can hold your entire computer’s operating system which can turn several hours of restoration into a job taking only a half an hour or so. All office supply stores carry these USB devices.

Don’t wait until learn the lesson the hard way.

For updated information about the most common current virus attack, and how to protect your computer and your files, see the following page at SafeBoatingJax.com:

<http://www.safeboatingjax.com/pages/14-8computersecurity.htm>

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

FINANCE – BOB STRONG



I have sent 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



At the beginning of the year our flotilla adopted "11 in 11" as our recruiting goal for new members. To date, halfway through the year we have brought one new member on board. Three e-responders have been referred to me along with one individual referred by a flotilla member. Three individuals attended an initial briefing and accepted applications. None of these applications have been returned, with one stating they are no longer interested in joining us.

Apparently our flotilla is not alone in having problems in meeting their recruiting goals despite flotilla recruiting support from instructors, public affairs, web managers, vessel examiners and marine visitors. National leadership is so concerned they have established monthly reporting requirements in an attempt to identify recruiting deficiencies.

Has anyone besides myself noted that the large majority attending our monthly flotilla meetings are FSOs and newly recruited members? Is it apathy or is it our economic conditions contributing to this problem? Is it the number one reason members give for electing to drop their membership: "It's just not any fun"? I don't have the answers. I can only say I will continue my recruiting efforts and follow all leads presented to me in an attempt to meet our stated goal.

Charlie Smith, FSO-HR

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL



I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Jesse Stevens, IPDCDR-14, for taking time out of his busy schedule to train me in the AUXDATA process. Jesse brought me up to speed and I am now posting your reports. I would also like to thank you, the members of 14-8 for all that you do in supporting the Flotilla. The hours you put in teaching classes, maintaining the website, offering vessel exams, visiting local businesses and interacting with the general public are a gift to our communities. The hours you put in going to meetings, writing the newsletter, preparing for events and taking classes are a gift to the flotilla. But something you may not have thought of is that

the hours you put in submitting your reports are also a gift... to the U.S. Coast Guard. The cumulative hours submitted by volunteers across the country has a direct bearing on the Coast Guard's Congressional funding. Our flotilla benefits from this in funding our Operations, PFDs for Vessel Examiners, and the printed materials we have to offer the boating public.

Although we, as volunteers, do not receive monetary compensation for the hours we report, it is an important function and responsibility to the Auxiliary. And, it is the only way we can track your hours and offer some well deserved recognition for your contributions. I encourage you to take a look at the AuxInfo reports occasionally to watch our progress. AuxInfo is updated every Monday with new postings. The new electronic forms are relatively easy to use but if you have any questions, please contact me and we will work through it together. Please submit your 7029 forms by the 7th of each month. Let me know if there are any changes to your contact information including address, phone and email. I also want to inform you that in the next couple of weeks you will be receiving an individual Training Status Report. The report indicates if your status is current, what you may need to stay current and if you have changed to REYR/REWK status in any area. Please review the report and contact the FSO-MT and the FSO of the specific program (i.e. VE, PV, IT) if you need additional training or re-qualifying. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your FSO-IS and look forward to receiving MANY reports.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



May was a very active month for Public Affairs. I attended Public Affairs Aux-12 C School in Portsmouth, Virginia May 12-15. This was a great opportunity to gain knowledge of Public Affairs and how Flotilla PA Officers can positively impact recruiting, public boating events, boat safety training attendance, and vessel safety checks. Subjects included writing feature articles and press releases as well as creating compelling photographs. It was exciting to be on a major Coast Guard base where we were able to get up close to view the Coast Guard cutters in port. The 16 attendees included 3 other Florida PA officers from flotillas in Daytona Beach, St. Petersburg, and Lady Lake. In addition to a great classroom experience, we exchanged flotilla experiences and ideas with peers and instructors.

Our flotilla National Safe Boating Week kick off activities were executed flawlessly. On Saturday, Bob Flaige led the flotilla presence at the West Marine store on Roosevelt Blvd, while Charlie Smith led the West Marine Blanding Blvd event, supported by Paul Tynda, James Caudle, and Marlene Koehl. Rusty Gardner, despite injuries from a recent auto accident, led the event at Academy Sports in Orange Park, where we conducted Vessel Safety Checks, seminars, and had two literature tables. The icing on the cake was the US Coast Guard 25 foot vessel accompanied by two active U.S. Coast Guard from Mayport. The U.S.C.G. vessel was a big hit with the curious children exploring the boat. Whit Vick, John Hadley, Bob Strong, Carolyn Strong and I supported Rusty at the Academy.

Bob Strong led the About Boating Safely (ABS) course at Stellar. Bill Edgerton and Paul Burns taught the class, allowing Bob to do “double duty”. The class had the highest attendance this year. On Sunday, John Hadley led the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) event at the Mandarin Park boat ramp. The event, scheduled from 1100 to 1400 turned out to be an excellent time to catch boaters heading out for the day. Bob Strong, Ralph Little, Jack Holler, Marlene Koehl and I supported John for the event. The team of Vessel Examiners, often double teaming for speed, conducted 20 Vessel Safety Checks during the event. Overall, we executed all of the events, as planned, for National Safe Boating Week. What we learned from the events will be applied to planning future events. Many thanks to the planning team for creating and executing a great plan. Thanks to all the flotilla members that participated in the events which made them successful.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

A SERIES OF EVENTS ON MAY 21 KICKED-OFF NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK



James Caudle (left) speaks with a vessel owner at West Marine on Blanding Boulevard in Orange Park.



Children were excited to explore the Coast Guard Rescue Boat at Academy Sports & Outdoors

Photos contributed by Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



We had twenty one students signed up for our course on May 21, fifteen students attended. Those who didn't attend missed a really special course. Bill Edgerton and Paul Burns did a great job teaching most of it. The student evaluation questionnaire that we ask each student to complete overflowed with praise of the course and the instructors. One middle aged man said, "best course I have ever attended". Almost all students commented on liking the "personal tidbits of real life situations to emphasize certain points". And several said, "this course should be mandatory for all boat owners." We can't disagree. "Bravo Zulu" to Paul and Bill.

Our next course will be on June 25 at the Stellar building. We need help with instructors and assistants. Please let me know if you can help.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



The past three months have been a busy time for the Recreational Boating Safety Visitor Program (RBSVP) in planning and executing multiple Partner events. On 14 May, we provided an information table and Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) at Mulberry Cove Marina. Thanks to John Hadley for taking the lead and Bob Strong for joining me at the event. To date in 2011, we have participated in 7 events at area marinas and businesses including the recent activities for National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) held on 21 May where we were set up at two West Marine Stores and Academy Sports & Outdoors.

I would like to thank all those who supported our efforts in each of these events. As a result of an initial contact made by Rusty Gardner and the NSBW event held at Academy Sports & Outdoors, we were able to sign up that business location as a Partner. I encourage our Program Visitors (PVs) to continue pursuing new leads to expand our contact with the boating public. If any member knows of a location that would be interested in having one of our PVs provide them with boating safety information on a regular basis or as needed, please contact me at mekoehl@gmail.com. Congratulations to Paul Tynda on passing the on-line course. I look forward to meeting with Paul to complete his requirements to become a certified Program Visitor. If anyone is interested in becoming certified or re-qualifying, please contact me and the FSO-MT to get the process started.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

VESSEL EXAMINER – JOHN HADLEY



Vessel Examinations experienced a decidedly mixed result in May 2011. While April showed some activity, there were fears by the undersigned that May would prove to be much the same. Happily, that has (and is) proven to be a wrong assumption.

The event on 14 May at Mulberry Cove Marina/NAS JAX was rained out, and while some Public Education functions were accomplished, a small team composed of members R. Strong, M. Koehl and J. Hadley were only able to complete 2 Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs).

The following weekend was the signature event for this year's National Safe Boating Week. While three safety checks were completed on Saturday 21 May, a great amount of ancillary work was completed. On Sunday 22 May the flotilla's Vessel Examiner (VE) community was present at Julington Creek Marina and Mandarin Park boat ramp, resulting in a total of 20 VSCs at latest count. This has had the fine results of (a) recertifying two members as VEs, as well as (b) completing full first year certifications for three additional members. Two other members are in the wings, preparing for their initial certifications. One member probably has renewed his certification this year, while two others will soon probably have theirs completed as well.

All in all, the third week in May has proven the turning-point for this year's activities, and I look for more to come.

John Hadley, FSO-VE

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



The boat crew class continues with four members regularly attending this. Heinz Fridrich, FSO-OP 14-1 from the Fernandina Beach flotilla, gave a truly excellent class on chart work and piloting which I was able to attend--his power point slides, which he made himself, were professional quality and outstanding in terms of explaining his material. A class on how to read a nautical chart was given at Green Cove Springs on 7 May, attended by our crew trainees. The book used for this, Nigel Calder's *How to Read a Nautical Chart* was given to me as a present and is excellent and detailed.

We will plan to begin the check off process in the boat crew manual workbooks for the crew trainees.

A safety patrol has been scheduled on my boat, *Carlie 11*, for 22 May. Bob Funk has indicated his willingness to take our crew trainees on his boat for on the water experience.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

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

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK KICK OFF EVENTS 21 - 22 MAY 2011



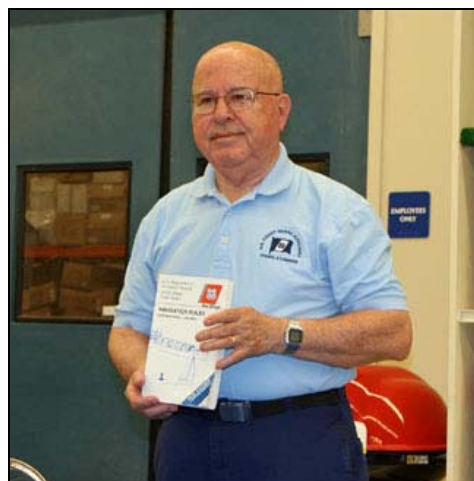
Carolyn Strong (left) and John Hadley (below) with FN Loreigh Digesu and FN Orlando Ramos from USCG Station Mayport at Academy Sports



Charlie Smith gets a "thumbs up" from a visitor to our information table at West Marine



Orlando, Loreigh and John



Bob Strong was on hand to present a mini-seminar on Navigation at the Academy Sports location

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK
KICK OFF EVENTS 21 – 22 MAY 2011**



Our amazing FSO-PA and FSO-PV Team,
Kevin and Marlene Koehl



Rusty Gardner, BC-ASV, recently injured in a car crash was, nonetheless on board for the activities at Academy Sports & Outdoors. He made arrangements with the store and also with the Coast Guard, who provided the Rescue Boat and two members of the CG Mayport team.



Our FSO-VE extraordinaire, John Hadley

**Thanks to these folks, and many others,
our flotilla's National Safe Boating Week
events were "executed flawlessly".**

*Thanks also to all who contributed photos of these
events for publication in our Eight Bells newsletter:
Whit Vick, FC; John Hadley, FSO-VE,
Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV and Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*



Our team of VEs performed vessel checks at the Mandarin Park boat ramp, doing 20 exams in one day.



Ralph Little had the opportunity to examine a kayak during the VE blitz at Mandarin Park boat ramp.

ABS CLASS ON 21 MAY 2011



Bill Edgerton discusses boating emergencies with a class of 15 people at the Stellar Building

Photo by Paul Burns, FSO-CS



Kevin and Marlene Koehl, who have already added so much to the achievements of this flotilla since becoming members in 2010. In addition to her duties as FSO-PV, Marlene has accepted the challenge of working as our FSO-Information Systems.

FLOTILLA DINNER MEETING AT BOB EVANS RESTAURANT 3 MAY 2011



We were pleased that Becky and Ronald Habermas attended the dinner meeting. Becky is our newest member of Flotilla 14-8. Becky's background includes work as a former paramedic / firefighter. We look forward to putting her many skills to good use.

Meeting photos by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB



Jeff Blomgren, our Immediate Past Flotilla Commander and his wife Karol



Marsha Flaige, whose lovely smiling face is always welcome, attended without husband Bob because he was at work.

**FLOTILLA DINNER MEETING
AT BOB EVANS RESTAURANT 3 MAY 2011**



It was good to see Joe Norman, a longtime member of 14-8 and a Past National Vice Commodore. Joe is busy planning a long cross-country trip in his Winnebago motor home. Good traveling Joe!



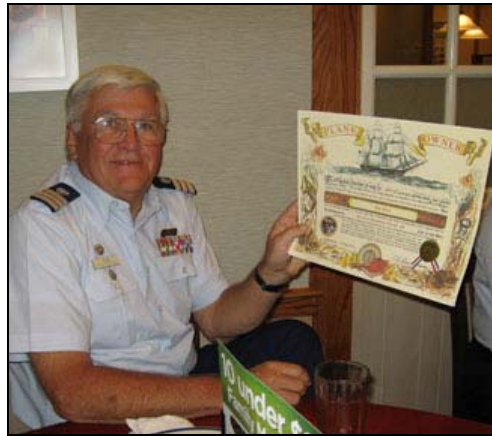
Whit Vick, FC presents a New Member Certificate and a welcome to Becky Habermas.



Paul Tynda received congratulations from Whit along with Certificates of Completion for VE & RBS-PV.



Paul Burns receives a handshake from Whit along with a Sustained Service Award. Paul is our Award Winning webmaster and computer geek.



Bob Funk, a Past Division Commander of Division 14 received a Plank Owner Certificate for his work with the Auxiliary Detachment in Welaka, FL.

Meeting photos by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB

**KYLE GEORGE IN TORNADO STRICKEN
ALABAMA – APRIL 29 2011**



Read Kyle's story on the next page

NEWS FROM KYLE GEORGE – MAY 4, 2011:

The new company I am with got a contract with the Alabama National Guard. Originally we were doing armed security at the Huntsville airport but the situation continued and unfortunately got worse when the third set of tornados came through on Wednesday April 27th. We were asked if there were any volunteers to go out with the National Guard to help with rescue situations. Out of ten I was the first choice with the previous experience and what little Auxiliary training I have received.

The picture on page 9 was taken Friday April 29th on East Highway 21 which is the main road between Decatur and Huntsville Alabama. We were evacuating twelve towns in the Tennessee Valley when the rain storm followed the tornados. The situation quickly changed from evacuation to rescue. We had two off road tow trucks with 200 foot cables winching vehicles across this small bridge which you can see in the picture (p. 9) was completely flooded at the time. Friday night the flooding got so bad the Alabama National Guard and the governor provided four Blackhawk helicopters to fly people across the water. I thought this was very generous that the governor gave his own helicopter to evacuate citizens. Late Friday night we pulled out of the area after several sheriff deputies searched 312 homes for anyone left behind.



On Saturday the 30th we posted security with assistance from the Secret Service for the arrival of President Obama who visited over the weekend. I have also included a picture of a church (left). My co workers found 13 people who took shelter in the bathroom of this shelter and were pinned in by the debris. The bathroom was the only part of the building still standing and these people were very lucky to not only survive the tornado but also to be found so quickly.

Today is Wednesday may 4th and we are still in the Huntsville area providing security for grocery stores and generators AT&T has set up to keep cell towers operational. This is truly the worst devastation I have ever seen from a natural disaster and we anticipate staying for another two weeks. To find out how you can help please go to the Red Cross or Salvation Army website to donate money or goods to the people here. The current total is 95% of people do not have power nor running water but crews are working day and night to bring the power back up. I appreciate any prayers for me and my crew but more importantly the people who have lost everything in this disaster. Thanks again and keep the prayers coming!

Kyle J George, FSO-MS May 4

This additional note was received from Kyle on May 17:

“Home now, thank God! I now appreciate a dry pair of socks!”

Mandarin Newsline – June Edition



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update **Opportunity**

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

You can join this organization and then satisfy any number of desires to do something positive and feel that you are useful. There are standard opportunities and there are the ones that come along. When you have your basic qualification as an Auxiliarist, you are eligible to take further training to achieve your chosen specialty, enhance your abilities to perform a staff position, supplement the Coast Guard in various positions or provide your services to a special event.

The flotilla has staff positions to fill every year and we always want members to sign on as crew for patrols, rescues and events. You can take on many positions based on your enthusiasm and then acquire skills through on-line courses or fully funded attendance at a Coast Guard school. Our on-the-water crews assist events that include air shows, fireworks and regattas. They also perform port security and environmental missions using our own designated boats. We have a regular patrol presence using a Coast Guard boat at Welaka. Anyone can sign on for occasional special events that have included a G-8 economic conference, a space shuttle recovery, and port visits.

Some members take active Coast Guard training and perform regular radio watch at Station Mayport, run the operations room for the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron at Cecil Field or work in port surveillance. Regardless, other opportunities come along that have included visits to Kings Bay Submarine Base, sailing on Coast Guard vessels, or working as commercial vessel examiners or ship inspectors.

If you want to talk it over anyone with an interest in joining the Auxiliary can contact Charles Smith at 904-541-1660 and he will guide you through membership. The USCG Auxiliary also offers Safe Boating Courses in the Jacksonville area. Flotilla 14-8 will present a one day course on June 25 at the Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road in Mandarin that also is a major step in achieving the basic Auxiliarist qualification. This is a convenient location just off San Jose Blvd. on the north side of I-295. For detailed information call Bob at 904-721-1346.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AT JUNE 7 FLOTILLA MEETING

We will have a distinguished guest speaker, A. Quinton White, Jr., Ph.D., at our June 7 flotilla meeting at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club. **We plan to start earlier than usual, with refreshments at 7:00 (1900)** so we can meet and welcome our guest. He is scheduled to speak at 7:30 (1930).

Please plan to be there by 7 for the "meet and greet".

Our guest is Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. He is the Executive Director of the new Marine Science Research Institute (MSRI) at Jacksonville, University.

Dr. White, one of the area's foremost marine biologists, has been at JU for more than 30 years. He came to JU in 1976, after completing his doctorate at the University of South Carolina. White served as chair of the Department of Biology and Marine Science and the Division of Science and Mathematics before taking over as interim dean of Arts and Sciences in 2000 and becoming dean in 2001. White established JU's major in marine science and is recognized as an expert in the field of marine biology. He often serves as a consultant to local, state and national policy makers and is also the founding director of Jacksonville's Manatee Research Center.

Dr. White will give a 1/2 hour presentation, including some spectacular aerial photographs of Manatees in the St. Johns River. You won't want to miss this.

Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB 14-8



FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

Tuesday 7 June 2011 at 1900 (note earlier time)

At Florida Tackle & Gun Club

Special Guest Speaker:

A. Quinton White, Jr., Ph.D.

Executive Director - Marine Science Research Institute

Please be there at 1900 (7 PM) to meet and greet our guest

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- JUNE 07 **Flotilla Meeting - 1900 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club**
Special Guest: Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr.
- 11 USCGAUX Crossing the Bar Ceremony – USCG ATON Station
1460 4th Avenue North, Jacksonville Beach - 0900
- 18 Division 14 Meeting – St. Augustine – Bridge at 0900 General meeting 1000
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC, FSO-PB and Division SO
- 23 US Coast Guard Auxiliary 71st Birthday
- 24 Change of Watch USCG ANT JAX – 1320 4th Ave N, Jax Beach – time TBA
- 25 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building
- 30 Deadline for flotilla dues to be paid to the FSO-FN
- JULY 04 **INDEPENDENCE DAY – FLY “OLD GLORY”**
- 05 Flotilla Meeting – 1930 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 19 14-1 Begin AUXWEA course – 4 Tuesday nights
For info contact Jim Arman, FSO-MT 14-1
sethut23@bellsouth.net
- 23 ABS Course 0730 – 1700– Stellar Building



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8 IS GREAT !

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