
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVIII No. 1

January 2012

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

cwvick@comcast.net
kevinkoehl@gmail.com
cgstrong@comcast.net

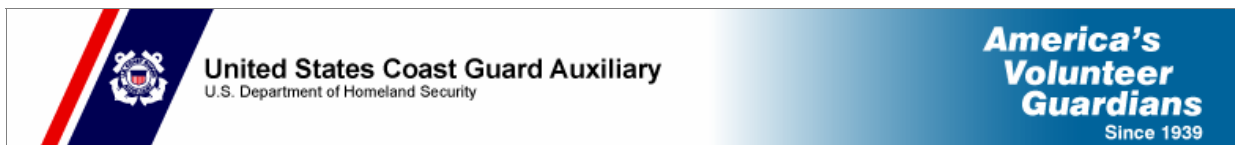
C. Whitley Vick
Kevin R. Koehl
Carolyn G. Strong

FLOTILLA 14-8 ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2012



Whit Vick, FC and Kevin Koehl, VFC-elect took the Oath of Office at the Flotilla Change of Watch

Photo by Marlene Koehl – see more photos on pages 6, 7 & 8



Visit our award winning website at www.SafeBoatingJax.com

FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard wrote that “*Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.*” At our December change of watch, we reflected on what our flotilla accomplished in 2011 and were also treated to a photographic history of the flotilla compiled by Carolyn and Bob Strong. We can gain a better understanding of our reasons for being in the Coast Guard Auxiliary by looking backwards and examining our past.

Looking ahead to 2012, we now must “live forward”. How we choose to live our lives for the next year will determine the “legacy” which we will look back on when 2012 ends. 2012 is a blank slate -- you write your story. If you have made the effort to join and remain in the Auxiliary, it follows you support the idea of volunteering your time and work for something bigger than yourself. You believe in civic service to your country and specifically to the patriots and heroes who make up the United States Coast Guard. I urge you now to put these ideals into tangible form in 2012 by actively participating in our Auxiliary mission. The more you participate, the more personal fulfillment you will get out of this service.

The Division 14 Change of Watch was held on 17 December 2011. Bob Strong received the Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation for his many years of superior service as Public Education Officer. Many upper level Auxiliary and active duty were present and gave excellent speeches. Listening to them, I see why these individuals are “upper level”--they are committed, bright, poised and articulate. At this event, I jotted down a few notes of phrases that caught my attention--here they are in no particular order: *honor, respect, devotion to duty; quality hours; good mentoring is key; Auxiliarists are ambassadors for the Coast Guard; what are you doing for others?* I also had the honor of meeting Captain Andy Blomme, Commander of Sector Jacksonville. Although I had never met the Captain before, when I introduced myself, I was surprised when he said he already knew who I was and felt like he knew me. I asked how--he said from reading our newsletter. This says to me our efforts in the Auxiliary are noticed and appreciated at the highest levels of active duty here in Jacksonville.

“*Semper Paratus*”

Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander

FROM THE FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER (elect)



My first duty as your new Flotilla Vice Commander is to thank our members for your expression of confidence in my abilities to develop in this role. I have a great deal to learn to effectively contribute to the flotilla as Vice Commander, but I commit to you I will give it my best efforts. Initially, I would like to contribute to and support our Flotilla Commander's goals for 2012, while learning the roles and responsibilities of the Vice Commander. I welcome the opportunity to assist you with any questions, suggestions or concerns. While I may not always have answers, I have found that our flotilla and division have a wealth of Auxiliary expertise from which to draw. In the coming year, I

look forward to our flotilla growing, more members participating in our safe boating activities, and having some fun as a flotilla.

Kevin Koehl, VFC 2012

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

HUMAN RESOURCES – REBECCA HABERMAS



Becky has accepted her appointment as FSO-HR and was sworn in at the December Change of Watch. She will begin the duties of that office in January 2012.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL



“Thank you” to all of you who have taken the time to submit mission reports to IS this past year. Every action taken in support of the organization is important, including reporting. If you have any unreported hours for 2011, you have until 15 January to submit them for posting into AUXDATA. Also, please verify your contact information in eDirectory, which can be accessed from our website www.safeboatingjax.com. Enter your ID number and password, scroll down to *District Seven* and select *Seventh District*, scroll down to *Fourteenth Division, Jacksonville, FL* and select *All Members*. Complete and submit form 7028 with any changes. You can also send me an email noting any

changes in your address, phone numbers or email address. Annual Member Letters are scheduled to go out in mid February. This letter is a summary of your qualifications, awards, ICS/IS courses and cumulative activity (missions and hours) for 2011. **I will be sending the letter via email so it is important that I have your current and preferred email address on record.**

As we begin a new year, I hope every member will resolve to make an effort to submit your mission hours for tracking. I plan to provide additional training related to forms and AuxInfo early this year at one of the monthly meetings. But I am always just a phone call away if you need help getting started or have any questions regarding IS. Form 7029 should be submitted monthly, preferably during the first week of the following month. All other forms should be submitted as missions are completed. I have enjoyed serving the flotilla as FSO-IS and appreciate the opportunity to continue supporting the Auxiliary in this role. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

As noted in an earlier email, all mission reports must be submitted by 31 December in order to avoid going into REYR status. I would also request that you submit your December 7029 by the end of this month so that I can get it entered into AUXDATA.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS

MEMBER TRAINING – JOHN HADLEY



John has accepted his appointment as FSO-MT and was sworn in at the December Change of Watch. He will begin the duties of that office in January 2012.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



The December wraps up my first year as your Public Affairs Officer. In May, I attended AUX-12 Public Affairs (PA) training in Portsmouth, Virginia. After completing follow up assignments, I successfully completed the course. I continued my PA education achieving “PA Specialist 1” certification in October.

Our flotilla planned, promoted and executed National Safe Boating Week activities and the NAS JAX Air Show. PA also supported the Midway Memorial Event and the development of a presentation for the Welaka detachment. I want to thank Ralph Little, our former PA Officer for his monthly contribution of a story in the Mandarin Newsliner. I have focused on experimenting with new Public Relations opportunities utilizing the First Coast News Community web pages and creating our Coast Guard Auxiliary Jacksonville Facebook page. In 2012 I will take on the role of Division Public Affairs Officer in addition to my Flotilla Public Affairs role. My goal for 2012 is to develop new relationships with other Public Affairs Officers in Division 14 to leverage their knowledge of Public Affairs to make our division and flotilla recruiting and boating safety activities more productive.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



Happy New Year to all!

Our first ABS course for 2012 will be held on January 14, at the Stellar HQ Building.

At this time, I have selected 11 dates for the flotilla to conduct ABS courses. The first date is set for January 14. The remaining dates for this year are 2/11, 3/3, 4/14, 5/12, 6/23, 7/14, 8/11, 9/15, 10/13 & 11/10. Please mark your calendars accordingly and advise me of any conflicts.

For some reason we are losing the teenage students in our classroom. We held ten ABS courses in 2011 and only attracted 4 students less than 17 years of age. In December of 2010, between Christmas and the New Year, the Florida Yacht Club scheduled a daytime course primarily for the club's teenagers. They had hoped those parents with teenaged children would direct them to our course. It didn't happen and the course was cancelled.

In 2011, we had at least a dozen parents, who did attend our course, say they were bringing one or more of their teenage children with them. It didn't happen; they could not get the kids up in time to attend the course. That doesn't speak much for parenting these days. Several parents who attended our course admitted they had taken the course online with their teenagers and said, thankfully, that our classroom course was much better. Even so, we never saw any of these teenagers at a later course. Any suggestions to solve this problem will be considered and appreciated.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL



As 2011 comes to an end and we begin a New Year, I would like to thank John Hadley, Charlie Smith, Kevin Koehl, Mike Morgan, Paul Tynda and Top Ingram for their time and support of the Recreational Boating Safety Visitor Program. Through their efforts and as of 07 December, we were able to make 217 Partner visits which provided boating safety information and support to the general public and local marinas. I hope to increase that number in 2012 by adding at least one additional qualified PV and seeking out additional Partner locations. It has been an honor to serve the flotilla as your FSO-PV and I appreciate the opportunity to continue in this role in 2012. I look forward to working

again with this fine team. I encourage all members to consider becoming qualified in the Visitor Program in the New Year in order to make an even greater impact in helping to make boating fun and SAFE for our local community. Happy New Year!

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

VESSEL EXAMINER 2011 – JOHN HADLEY



This is my last report for 2011 as your Vessel Examinations Officer. In January, I will be taking up duties as your Member Training Officer. Charley Smith will be taking over, relieving me. I hope and plan on supporting him, as you have supported me, in carrying out one of the Coast Guard's assigned missions under the umbrella of Boating Safety.

This past year proved to be solid year, if not spectacular. A good number of exams were carried out. We achieved a total of 80-odd, and while it did not come close to last year's total, we see that the present economic conditions have led the boating public to explore a different sort of craft. While the statistics are not in yet as to the number of erstwhile boaters becoming owners of SUBs (kayaks, canoes, daysailers, paddleboards, sailboards), it is safe to assume that our practice as Vessel Examiners is expanding to include the smaller craft.

This means that a different sort of knowledge is needed, and we will have to meet those requirements. This training has not been made available to all flotilla members yet. I encourage all VEs, prospective VEs, and those who've fallen into the REYR category to stay tuned to those developments. So much for the really big change this year!

Continued on next page...

Vessel Examiner 2011 continued from page 4...

Charley and I have been carrying out the procedure for changeover. He has received the pertinent contact info needed to proceed with FSO-VE duties for 2012. I will transmit to him all forms in excess of my requirements as a VE. The 2012 VSC decals have been made available, and our flotilla's allotment for 2012 is 90, based on our performance from June '10 to June '11. These should be arriving soon at ANSC. The National Director-V has informed us also that Division SO-MAs will receive 50 decals as their allotment.

A new change has come with time: the harbormaster at Epping Forest Yacht Club has asked about attending our Change-of-Watch. Sadly, since this has already occurred, we are unable to accommodate them, but theirs is 30 March. We look forward to nurturing our relationship with them, and perhaps attending their CoW.

In sum, the 2012 year looks exciting for Charley, and I am pleased to be a Vessel Examiner for him. This flotilla made a solid mark in Vessel Safety Checks in 2011, which I am happy with. As always we can do better, and the changes in 2012 look to be interesting for us all. We have a solid cadre of experienced examiners. Members of this flotilla who are looking for 'more action' have a splendid opportunity.

I look forward to serving you in both Vessel Exams and as your Member Training Officer in the New Year. Thank you for all the chances, the patience in helping me along, and all the help in my latest - first assignment.

John Hadley, FSO-VE 2011

VESSEL EXAMINER 2012 – CHARLES SMITH



As I begin my tour of duty as Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations I look forward to a productive year of serving, educating and advising the boating public on all aspects of boating safety. I've already received some excellent suggestions on how to possibly increase member participation in the examination program and make it a more accessible and pleasant experience for boaters. Over the next year I will implement these ideas to test their feasibility and determine whether their permanent adoption increases the number of examinations conducted.

For those flotilla members who have yet to qualify as examiners let me point to two reasons for giving the idea some consideration. First, you can order the required manual and forms or view them on your computer to study at your leisure. The open book exam is taken on-line, does not require a proctor and can be repeated as often as necessary to achieve a passing score. Second, once qualified, you can conduct vessel examinations, again at your leisure, at the marinas or boat ramps of your choosing. You do not have to wait for a scheduled "VSC Blitz" but can independently serve and educate the boating public, supposedly one of the reasons you joined the CGAUX in the first place.

Current examiners should provide me their initial 2012 decal requirements ASAP so that an issue request can be submitted.

Charlie Smith, FSO-VE 2012

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



I am looking forward in 2012 to getting those who have expressed interest in crew involved and ready for the qualifying exam as crew or coxswain. We currently have a small number of qualified crew, but this increased by 50% in 2012 (from two to three). My experience from my past flotilla in Atlanta is that more crew begets more crew (sounds almost biblical), as any qualified crew or coxswain can do the required "check-offs" for a trainee in preparation for their crew qualifying exam.

If we can somehow procure another facility, our operations program could potentially benefit greatly. I know of several in our flotilla who have been sniffing about for a boat, so we can hold out this hope for 2012, that they will experience the happiest day of their life and buy a boat.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

***** FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM *****
FLOTILLA CHANGE OF WATCH – 6 DECEMBER 2011



The Cover Table and our "8 IS GREAT" Banner

Whit & Mike gave Certificates of Appreciation to the 2011 Staff Officers for a job well done:



To Whit Vick, FC & FSO-OP



Whit congratulates Kevin Koehl for his Qualification as "Public Affairs Specialist 1"



To Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB



Whit congratulates John Hadley upon receiving the Auxiliary Performance Award for Operations



To Bob Strong, FSO-FN & PE

Meeting photos by Kevin & Marlene Koehl

Certificates of Appreciation to 2011 Staff Officers



To Charlie Smith, FSO-HR



To Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA



To Paul Burns, FSO-CS



To Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS & PV



To Mike Morgan, VFC & FSO-MT



To John Hadley, FSO-VE



To Cris Vonderheide, FSO-NS



Many thanks to Ralph Little, for writing monthly articles for publication in the Mandarin Newline

**FLOTILLA CHANGE OF WATCH
6 DECEMBER 2011
Continued**



Whit gave Jesse Stevens, IPDCDR a Certificate of Appreciation for all of the advice and assistance that he has given to Flotilla 14-8.



Bob Strong, Awards Chairman presented the Pete Field Award for Operations to John Hadley



Whit gets a kiss from his wife Serena after surprising her with a Certificate of Appreciation for her understanding and support throughout 2011.



Marlene & Kevin received the Andy Anderson Award for their many contributions to Flotilla 14-8.



Whit Vick received the Jimmie Anderson Award from Cris Vonderheide & the Awards committee.



Jesse Stevens, IPDCDR Reads the Prologue and Tom Hayden, DCDR prepares to administer the Oath of Office.



Whit and Kevin are sworn in for 2012.



Cris gave Whit a box of cookies, along with The Jimmie Anderson (boner) Award, so he will have "rations" on board for his next patrol.

**DIVISION 14
CHANGE OF WATCH
17 DECEMBER 2011
AT THE EMBASSY SUITES**



Flotilla 14-8 Display Table highlighting our history



CWO Doug Schubert and his wife Sam were present. Doug is the Commanding Officer at Station Mayport.



Whit talks with John Fields, SO-MT 14. John is a member of the Beaches Flotilla 14-4.



**COMO Walter Jaskiewicz,
District Commodore D7**



**CDR José A. Quinones, USCG
Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) D7**



Tom Hayden, DCDR 14

DIVISION 14 CHANGE OF WATCH

Continued



**CAPT Andy Blomme, Commanding Officer,
USCG Sector Jacksonville**



**CAPT Blomme reads the Citation which
accompanies the Auxiliary Achievement Medal,
to be presented to Bob Strong of Flotilla 14-8.**

Division CoW photos by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB



**CAPT Blomme and COMO Jaskiewicz presented
the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal to
Bob Strong for Superior Performance as Division
Public Education Staff Officer.**



**CAPT Blomme received a plaque from the
Division 14 Honor Guard, represented by
David Hensel and Bill Sekeres.**



**The plaque names CAPT Blomme an
“Honorary Honor Guardsman”.**

Safety Alert from Rusty Gardner 12/1/11:

The Coast Guard has issued a safety alert urging mariners and boaters to check their Mustang Survival PFDs.

Mustang Survival is voluntarily recalling all model number MD2010 and MD2012 inflatable PFDs sold in the United States during 2011. The recall is being issued for the inspection and repair of an inflator installation inconsistency that could prevent some units from fully inflating with CO2, although the oral inflation functions normally. Mustang Survival has developed a solution that corrects any affected product and prevents re-occurrence of this issue. The inspection and repair can only be performed at a Mustang Survival factory and consumers are urged to not return product to their dealers.

[Click here](#) for the official recall notice from the Coast Guard and [click here](#) for the notice posted by Mustang Survival.

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## Why Boat Accidents Occur:

Almost three-fourths of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 88% were not reported as wearing a life jacket.

Only 9% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instruction.

Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 19% of the deaths.

From the Coast Guard's  
[Recreational Boating Statistics 2010](#)

**Bruce Johnson, DIR-B**  
Director for RBS Outreach  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary



RBS-News mailing list  
[RBS-News@bdept.cgaux.org](mailto:RBS-News@bdept.cgaux.org)

## Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year From Rusty Gardner.

Click on the link to see Rusty's message:

<http://youtu.be/MWkTnRgwwa8>

**Rusty Gardner**

**Florida By Water**

904-866-6389

<http://www.floridabywater.com/>



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To: ALAUX

From: CHDIRAUX

Subj: INCREASED ODU AVAILABILITY
AT THE COAST GUARD UNIFORM
DISTRIBUTION

CENTER (UDC) -027/11

1. The Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) in Woodbine, NJ has a surplus inventory of many Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) sizes. This ALAUX is intended to make Auxiliarists aware of this opportunity to purchase multiple sets of ODUs.

2. A few sizes are not available due to high demand by Coast Guard recruit and Academy needs (as highlighted in yellow on the accompanying chart; the UDC must reserve the right to adjust uniform availabilities as needed to meet Coast Guard active duty demands). See <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/ODU-SIZE-AVAILABILITY-DEC11.pdf>

3. UDC highly recommends that Auxiliarists speak to a UDC customer service representative for updates on available sizes and place all their orders by phone. The UDC customer service desk can be reached at (800) 874-6841 or (609) 861-1221 (web site: <http://uscg.mil/uniform/>).

4. The purpose of this list is to keep Auxiliarists as well as all other interested parties abreast of current developments, policies, manuals, etc.

All information contained herein and linked is OFFICIAL policy and information.

5. Internet Release and Distribution is Authorized.



FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

Tuesday 3 January 2012

Fellowship & Refreshments 1900, Meeting at 1930
Florida Tackle and Gun Club

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- JAN 01 New Years Day
- 03 Flotilla Meeting – 1930 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 07 December 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 14 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 21 Division 14 Quarterly Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
Hosted by members of Flotilla 14-8*
- 23 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- 27-29 Jacksonville Boat Show – Prime Osborn Convention Center
- FEB 07 Flotilla Meeting – 1930 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 07 January 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 11 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB

*** **

DIVISION 14 MEETING

Hosted by Members of Flotilla 14-8*

Saturday, 21 January 2012

Florida Tackle & Gun Club

***Come to our January Flotilla Meeting for more details.**

FSOs: Come and meet your Division 14 Counterparts

*** **

8 IS GREAT !



Visit our award winning website at www.SafeBoatingJax.com

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