
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XXXVIII No. 2

February 2012

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
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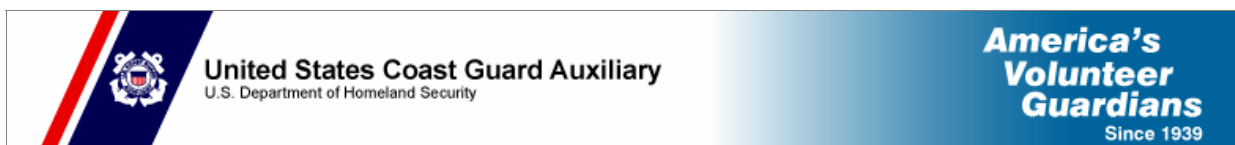
C. Whitley Vick
Kevin R. Koehl
Carolyn G. Strong

DIVISION STAFF OFFICERS FROM FLOTILLA 14-8



Bill Sekeres, VCDR 14 (far left) and Whit Vick, FC 14-8 (far right) with five new Staff Officers from 14-8: Paul Burns SO-CS; John Hadley SO-MA; Marlene Koehl SO-PV; Kevin Koehl SO-PA & Bob Strong SO-PE. All Staff Officers took the Oath of Office at the January 21 Division Meeting at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club.

Photo by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB 14-8 – see more on page 8



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FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



My original report, which was incisive, witty, inspirational, possibly even brilliant, was unfortunately deleted by this rogue and evil computer. Or there is a small possibility that I pressed the delete key. Whatever... as a result, I am obliged to re-write this report just prior to the Eight Bells deadline, but unfortunately my muse is now sleeping, so this report will have none of the above-described features.

Instead, I will report on the Division 14 meeting held on Saturday Jan 21, 2012 at our meeting place—The Florida Tackle and Gun Club.

First of all, 14-8 contributed to the division meeting in several ways. Cris Vonderheide arranged for permission from the club for the meeting to be held at their facility. Carolyn Strong organized a group of our members to procure refreshments and set the meeting room up and then clean it up. The new awards cabinet made by Kevin Koehl was on display.

Tom Hayden, Division Commander recognized several 14-8 members. Carolyn Strong received an Auxiliary coin for her work as historian and for organizing the meeting. Commander Hayden also cited Flotilla 14-8 for filling five division staff officer positions. This includes Bob Strong as SO-PE, Paul Burns as SO-CS, Marlene Koehl as SO-PV, Kevin Koehl as SO-PA, and John Hadley as SO-MA. This is an outstanding endorsement and recognition of the excellent work you have done the past year.

One of the areas the division will be concentrating on is member recruitment and retention. A division program called "Cruisin for Cruits" is being developed. As you may know, our flotilla has been working on this same issue for several months, with Marlene Koehl heading up our "Recruitment and Retention" Committee. We will be discussing ways to address and implement ideas from this committee at our regular flotilla meetings. If you have any ideas about how we can improve recruitment and retention, please attend and be heard at our meeting, or you can e-mail me or Marlene Koehl with your ideas.

Kevin Koehl and Mike Owsley gave a well-illustrated powerpoint presentation on the Auxiliary Welaka Detachment. Angela Pomero, the District HR Officer, gave a talk on filling out forms related to change in member status. John Russette gave a talk on mining data from VSC reports to see what areas are prone to being deficient; therefore we may concentrate boater education in these areas.

Lastly, the division meeting is a good place to network and get to know members from the other flotillas.

“Semper Paratus”

Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - LOGISTICS

HUMAN RESOURCES – REBECCA HABERMAS



I'm very excited to have been appointed as the new Human Resources Officer. I know I have big shoes to fill. The year has started out pretty slow as far as new members but I'm hoping things will pick up as the weather starts to warm up and more people get back to enjoying the beautiful Florida Waterways.

I'd also like to mention that Auxiliarists are authorized and encouraged to wear the various Auxiliary uniforms. Members must wear the appropriate uniform when participating in certain programs and activities. Situations when uniforms are required are on patrol, conducting vessel safety checks, and teaching public education.

Auxiliarists are also encouraged to wear their uniforms during meetings and member training.

I also wanted to update everyone on uniform insignia. Auxiliary insignia of office include the letter "A." On all insignia, a blue "A" indicates elected leaders and a red "A" indicates appointed leaders. Members who have never held an office wear the Auxiliary Member Device (the Auxiliary emblem). Member Device shoulder boards have a silver color "A" within the silver color shield.

Don Mooers, the Division SO-HR, has asked me to become certified as a finger print technician.

Becky Habermas, FSO-HR

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



Do you have a "Member Zone" Password?

In order to insure that Coast Guard Auxiliary members' personal information is kept private. The Auxiliary is using password protected access to many online areas.

Log in credentials, called "Member Zone" credentials, give the member access to a variety of Auxiliary applications such as the AuxDirectory ("AuxOfficer"), Webforms, the CGAuxCen National Materials Center, the National Test Center, and password protected areas of flotilla and other Auxiliary websites.

Members who have not yet set up a Member Zone password can visit <https://auxofficer.cgaux.org>, and click on "Add or Reactivate a Password". A confirmation email will be sent to their *primary* email address in AuxData (from their membership application, or later change of member information form) which must be acknowledged within 15 minutes for the password to become valid.

It is advisable to take care of this, or simply test your current log in before you actually need to access these areas. It will save you time in the future.



Be advised, I will be going back to New York for 6 to 8 weeks around the end of February. I am likely to miss the March and April Meetings.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL



Your volunteer hours are very important to the flotilla, division and district. Many of the awards given in recognition of your time and talent are based on missions accomplished and hours donated. In addition, part of the United States Coast Guard budget depends on the reported hours of Auxiliary members. The more hours we report, the larger their budget to support safety operations in our communities. The goal of the Auxiliary is to assist the USCG. Filling out these reports is of major financial importance to the USCG and is a way for the Auxiliary to recognize your contributions.

As we begin a new year, I encourage all members to submit your volunteer hours for posting into AUXDATA, tracking by the Auxiliary and supporting the U. S. Coast Guard. The most commonly used form is the 7029. It should be submitted monthly to the FSO-IS. Following is a guide to access and get information regarding the form:

- It is easiest to use the E-form, but you may use the PDF version and submit it by e-mail.
- For the E-form, go to <http://webforms.cgaux.org/forms/7029/index.php>
- Follow instructions on the 7029 home page as to How do I get started? Check out the Questions and Answers section.
- The 7029 "Field Guide" on the left of page will give you category explanations.
- Always "SAVE" your data before exiting. Save often if entering a large amount of data. The 7029 E-form allows you to submit your report directly to the FSO-IS. Make sure the box next to "FSO-IS: Marlene Koehl" is checked. Do not check the box next to the SO-IS.
- Print a copy for your records before submitting.

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IS continued from page 3:

Good news regarding form 7030. The problems we were experiencing with the electronic form have been resolved and it is now much faster to complete and submit. Before submitting, be sure to enter my email address where indicated (mekoehl@gmail.com) and print a copy for your records. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need help getting started using any report form.

Annual Member Letters summarizing member activity for 2011 will be emailed by the end of January. Please let me know if you did not receive it or have questions regarding its content.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS

MATERIALS – BOB FLAIGE



Two items of interest:

1 - US postage rates increase as of 1/21/12: Letters increase from \$.44 to \$.45, however, each additional ounce will continue at the rate of \$.20 and post cards increase \$.03 to \$.32 each.

2 - Mustang survival PFDs models MD 2010 (manually inflated) and MD 2012 (automatically inflated) are being recalled. All PFDs that do not have the letters M I T on the inside the right bladder, just above the CO 2 cartridges, are to be returned to Mustang. All members need to inspect their PFDs and as soon as all the affected PFDs are turned in I will send them for whatever Mustang intends to do, replacement or

repair. I have the shipping instructions and mailing label for their prepaid return. All PFDs, either USCG AUX issued or owned personally may be returned during this recall.

Bob Flaige, FSO-MA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL



Charlie Smith and John Hadley's proactive efforts with West Marine have already initiated planning for 2012 National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). Jim Daniel, store manager at West Marine's flagship St. Johns Town Center store contacted me with interest in working with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to maximize boating safety with West Marine customers. Initial plans include an Auxiliary boating safety information table in the main entry isle at the store, a training class on safety requirements at a special evening customer event, and a VSC day. The VSC day is contingent on St. Johns Town Center approval.

Jim Daniel has expressed a strong desire to use West Marine's promotional capabilities to publicize National Safe Boating Week and make our joint efforts a great success. Thanks again to Ralph Little for contributing an article on our boating safety classes in the *Mandarin Newline*.

Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - PREVENTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



Our first course on 14 January was a success and brought to our meeting a very interesting man. Peter Ten Haagan, a boater with over 40 years experience attended our course as a refresher. Peter's current vessel is a 42' single engine 7 knot trawler in which he has traveled the East Coast, Florida Keys, Gulf Coast, Mississippi and parts of the Caribbean. Peter is giving us a picture of his vessel and is allowing us to include it in our course as an example of a trawler hauled out of the water.

Paul Burns, my right hand man, will be working out of town for several months, so we need more instructors to step up and replace Paul on the schedule. Over the last couple of years Paul and I have added many new slides to our course in order to better explain safe boating to our students. In order to better prepare instructors to work with this new material I would like to hold a special course on a week day evening at Stellar just for instructors. Please let me know if and when you would be interested in attending this session.

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PE continued from page 4:

Our next *About Boating Safely* course is scheduled for 11 February 2012.

The District 7 Public Education course finder has been replaced by a National course finder system that allows anyone to find courses within a distance they would be willing to travel just by entering their current ZIP code and the distance in miles. Try it, you'll like it.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE

MARINE SAFETY – KYLE GEORGE



Division 14 has found a new Marine Safety Staff Officer. His name is Willem Loupatty and he is currently the Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 14-5 in Green Cove Springs. The person in this position oversees all marine safety activities in the Jacksonville area and the work of six flotilla staff officers. The SO-MS is responsible for doing research and writing a monthly report on MS activities which is distributed to other division officers and individual flotillas.

I spoke at the November meeting about Jaxport being awarded a \$20 million federal grant. Unfortunately, Jaxport did not receive the "Big" federal grant in December as planned. They have used about \$4 million to add new cargo ship docks as planned last year. The port authority is still operating under the past and current "security" department. The Jaxport police department that was scheduled to be annexed in December due to budget availability, has been put off due to budget constraints. There is another board meeting scheduled in June where they will vote on this matter. Currently Jaxport spends \$6 million annually on security through private contractors and the Jacksonville sheriff's office. The Jaxport police department, as currently planned, will save the port authority \$5 million annually, take in \$1 million annually as revenue from tickets/fines and employ 120 full, part time, and reserve police officers. I will keep you updated on any new developments.

Kyle J George, FSO-MS

MEMBER TRAINING – JOHN HADLEY



Member Training in January has already begun to rev up. This has been a mild winter, and some encouraging behavior has been seen in the economy. This has been the time for the Retention and Recruiting Committee to begin making its moves.

Since its last meeting 21 DEC 2011, some action, plans, and policy has begun to take shape. As an outgrowth of the report given at the 3 JAN meeting, Member Training has been assigned activities which will start the newly-joined member on the path to informed membership activity. One of these is to begin composing a document which will contain bits of advice, handy websites to access for additional start-up information, including uniform procurement, telephone numbers of members to call for advice, and so on.

Reportable activities by Member Training include a formal class for credit and qualification, the Master Aid to Navigation Verifier Class, given by Chuck Farmer, SO-NS on Sunday 29 January 2012.

Flotilla training at the 7 February meeting will include presentations by John Fields, SO-MT 14 on the training and award requirements for the Trident (M-Pro) badge and for the Auxiliary Boat Force badge, which is earned by serving on USCG regular boats.

Mike Owsley, last year's SO-OP for Division 14, will also give a talk on the need for the Welaka Detachment, which employs a USCG boat in maintaining a USCG presence in Lake George, south of Palatka, Florida on the St. Johns River.

This concludes this month's report. I am pleased to have been appointed to the Flotilla 14-8 staff in this billet. I look forward to serving with you as well as providing a needed service.

Respectfully, John Hadley FSO-MT

PROGRAM VISITATION – MARLENE KOEHL



2011 showed marked improvement in the flotilla’s Recreational Boating Safety-Visitation Program (RBS-VP) over the previous year. As we begin 2012, I look forward to working with our five certified Program Visitors (PVs) to make even greater strides in reaching out to the boating public and our program partners by providing safety literature as well as vessel safety examination and boating safety course schedules. I will be working closely with the Flotilla Staff Officer–Public Education (FSO-PE) and the Flotilla Staff Officer–Vessel Examination (FSO-VE) to promote their missions and coordinate partner events.

Our PVs are continuing their partner contacts and as of 17 January, we have made 23 partner visits for the month. We have already had initial discussions regarding vessel safety check days in the spring with two area marinas. Details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. In January, two new partner locations were added to our list. For more information about RBS-VP, please contact me at mekoehl@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining our team of qualified program visitors, contact John Hadley, FSO-Member Training.

Marlene Koehl, FSO-PV

VESSEL EXAMINER – CHARLES SMITH



As this is written we are still awaiting the flotilla's allotment of Vessel Safety Check (VSC) decals. Initial issue is based upon the number of VSCs conducted in 2011 and has been calculated to equal ninety. My plan is to issue 5 decals each to current vessel examiners. Re-supply to individual examiners will be made upon request when 4 decals have been awarded. Keep in mind the lead time required to garner a re-supply from the division.

Flotilla members who complete the on-line VSC exam requirement should notify me so their 5 supervised exams can be scheduled with a qualified examiner.

Scheduled VSC marina and boat ramp exams will commence in March and will be published in Eight Bells. This is not intended to discourage individual VSC efforts in the interim.

Charlie Smith, FSO-VE 2012

FLOTILLA STAFF REPORTS - RESPONSE

OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



The winter can be slow for on the water operations due to the small (16 ft) open boat we have available. Also, currently the boat is in dry storage in Georgia, but I hope to move it back to Jacksonville in the next month or so to allow 14-8 patrols to resume.

Despite the reduced on the water activity, there are opportunities in operations in the winter. Dockside activities preparing for becoming crew qualified such as getting qualifications checked off are available. Becoming crew qualified is involved but very achievable by motivated individuals looking for a personal challenge involving boating education the Coast Guard way. Please contact me if you are interested in what I believe is the most fun part of being in the Auxiliary—Operations.

Whit Vick, FSO-OP



Sketch by Wilson Robertson, used on cover of Eight Bells January 1995

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

NEW DISPLAY CABINET FOR FLOTILLA AWARDS – 03 JANUARY 2012



Kevin Koehl takes some final measurements while installing our new awards cabinet at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club. Kevin made and mounted the cabinet for the flotilla, with permission from club officers.



Kevin proudly reveals the final result of his work to all who attended the flotilla meeting. "Bravo Zulu" Kevin.



Kevin mounting the awards. This was all done before the flotilla meeting in time to unveil it at the meeting.



Kevin shows how the cabinet blends into the wall when it is closed and locked.



Time for the "Unveiling" on 03 January 2011.



Whit Vick, FC and Kevin Koehl, VFC stand proudly next to the new cabinet, which will now be the home for all of our Flotilla Awards. It will stand open for our meetings, closed and locked the rest of the time.

Photos by Carolyn Strong

FLOTILLA MEETING 03 JANUARY 2012

Whit Vick, FC presents awards:



Sustained Service Award to Kevin Koehl, VFC



Auxiliary Performance Award for Public Education
To Paul Burns, FSO-CS



2nd Auxiliary Performance Award for Public Education
To Bob Strong, FSO-PE/FN

DIVISION 14 SWEARS IN STAFF OFFICERS 21 JANUARY 2012



Eleven Staff Officers took the Oath of Office with
Tom Hayden, DCDR 14 swearing them in at the
January Division Meeting, hosted by Flotilla 14-8



Division 14 held its quarterly meeting on 21 January at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club. The meeting was hosted by Flotilla 14-8. Five of the eleven Staff Officers who took the Oath of Office that day are members of 14-8 (See photo on page 1).

**Congratulations and thanks for all the
work you are doing!**

Photos by Carolyn Strong & Kevin Koehl

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## DIVISION 14 STAFF OFFICERS FOR 2012

|                        |              |                       |              |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Paul Burns*</b>     | <b>SO-CS</b> | <b>Bob Cook</b>       | <b>SO-IS</b> |
| <b>Willem Loupatty</b> | <b>SO-CM</b> | <b>John Hadley*</b>   | <b>SO-MA</b> |
| <b>Joe Blanchard</b>   | <b>SO-FN</b> | <b>Neil Rattrie</b>   | <b>SO-MS</b> |
| <b>Don Mooers</b>      | <b>SO-HR</b> | <b>John Fields</b>    | <b>SO-MT</b> |
| <b>Chuck Farmer</b>    | <b>SO-NS</b> | <b>Bob Strong*</b>    | <b>SO-PE</b> |
| <b>Jesse Stevens</b>   | <b>SO-OP</b> | <b>Marlene Koehl*</b> | <b>SO-PV</b> |
| <b>Kevin Koehl*</b>    | <b>SO-PA</b> | <b>Claire Bailey</b>  | <b>SO-SR</b> |
| <b>Kirk Altman</b>     | <b>SO-PB</b> | <b>Phil Tallon</b>    | <b>SO-VE</b> |

These officers coordinate activities for the entire division in their particular job. For example the "SO-MT" or "Division Staff Officer-Member Training" would be in charge of overall supervision of member training for the division. These division officers parallel the same appointed positions in the flotilla ("parallel staffing"). Generally, each Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) makes a written report to their respective division officer once a month.

\*Note that five of the new Division Staff Officers are from Flotilla 14-8, indicating these individuals have been recognized at the division level for their outstanding work in our flotilla. And now, each of these individuals has stepped up to take on the challenge and responsibility of being a Division Staff Officer. **"8 IS GREAT!!"**

If you have an interest in any of our various jobs in the flotilla, I encourage you to contact any of our flotilla staff officers, Kevin Koehl, Flotilla Vice Commander or myself to get started.

Whit Vick, Flotilla Commander, 14-8

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### POSTAGE INCREASES:

Prices for most U. S. Postal Service mailing changed on January 21, 2012. The increase affects letters and postcards. Increases are as follows:

Cards: Between 3½" x 5" x 0.007" and 4¼" x 6" x 0.016"

Postage: 32¢ - Requires card stock quality paper

Letters: No greater than 6⅛" x 11½" x ¼" & 3.5 oz. (#10 envelope)

Postage: 1 oz. = 45¢ (Add 20¢ for each additional ounce)

Flats: Between 6⅛" x 11½" x ¼" and 12" x 15" x ¾" (i.e. our 9 x 12 manila envelopes)

Postage: 1 oz. = 90¢ Add 20¢ for each additional ounce

Parcels: No greater than 108" in length and girth

Postage: Up to 3 oz. = \$1.95 Add 17¢ for each additional ounce

Three-cent stamps will be available through ANSC for use on postcards that have the 29 cent stamps currently on them.

Submitted by John Hadley, SO-MA 14



## FLOTILLA 14-8 MEETING

Tuesday 7 February 2012

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

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- FEB 07 Flotilla Meeting – 1900 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 07 January 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 11 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 15 Division Staff Officers' Reports due
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- MAR 03 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 07 Flotilla Meeting – 1900 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 07 February 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 11 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 15 Division Staff Officers' Reports due
- 17 River City Regatta
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- 24 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 24 Division Meeting – Queen's Harbor
- APR 01 Blessing of the Fleet – Jacksonville Landing
- 03 Flotilla Meeting – 1900 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 07 March 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 14 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Stellar Building
- 15 Division Staff Officers' Reports due
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB

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# 8 IS GREAT !



Visit our award winning website at [www.SafeBoatingJax.com](http://www.SafeBoatingJax.com)

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