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# EIGHT



# BELLS

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

Volume XXXIX No. 1

January 2013

FLOTILLA COMMANDER  
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER  
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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John K. Hadley  
Carolyn G. Strong

## **14-8 Elected Leaders for 2013: Paul Burns and John Hadley**



**Paul Burns, Flotilla Commander and John Hadley, Flotilla Vice Commander.**  
**Paul and John will take the oath of office, along with all of our Flotilla Staff Officers,**  
**At our upcoming Change of Watch on 8 January at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club.**

**Please make your reservation with Bob Strong NOW!**

[restrong@comcast.net](mailto:restrong@comcast.net)

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

## FROM PAUL BURNS - YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



I'd like to thank Whit Vick for his guidance and support as our Immediate Past Flotilla Commander. Whit has made my job easier by leaving us with a strong and growing flotilla with many exciting prospects and opportunities. Of course those exciting prospects and opportunities reside in our members and their activities as volunteers for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I am seeing so much enthusiasm in the flotilla lately. I hope that we can continue the momentum in the coming year.

2012 was a great year for growth in our flotilla. Thanks to our Human Resources Officer, Becky Habermas, we have many new members, and what is even more exciting, we have been seeing impressive efforts in training and advancement among our new members. Our newly adopted mentoring program implemented by Becky and Marlene Koehl, has obviously made a difference in getting our new members through the BQ process, into uniform, and on to valuable training and accomplishment. This was Becky's first year in this position and her accomplishments have even been noticed outside of our flotilla.

Three of our new members, Whatley Law, Tom Edwards and David Fay have accepted staff officer positions. As a flotilla we need to strive to continue these efforts to grow and develop our membership, and hopefully we will look back on 2013 as one of our most successful years ever. As well, George Law, Tom Edwards and Whatley Law are participating in the division's Boat Crew Academy, and Kevin Koehl is well on his way to being qualified as Coxswain.

### **Goals for 2013:**

I started to write in detail about goals and thoughts that I had for the upcoming year. However, after my comments entered page 3 I realized that I couldn't even hold my own attention that long, so I promise to be brief now and will fill in details in upcoming reports. So here's my outline for 2013:

Membership:	Build on our recent success
Meeting Participation:	We grow through activity and participation not email
Operations:	Training, Qualification, and a new facility or two.
Public Education:	More instructors, more students,
Member Training:	Developing new members in the areas that interest them.
Reporting:	Not only your hours, but photograph our activities, write a short story about what you did during the month, contribute to our newsletter,
Fun and Fellowship:	Encourage others to come and share the activity

Bravo Zulu, for all your efforts in 2012! Let us push ahead for an even better 2013.

### **Flotilla 14-8 Staff Officers for 2013:**

A sincere thank you to all of our staff officers who agreed to continue in their current positions for 2013. Your experience will help our flotilla grow to new heights in the coming year.

And I especially would like to thank and congratulate David, Tom and Whatley for stepping up to the challenge of their new staff positions. Their rapid assent to flotilla leadership demonstrates their eagerness to grow their experience and serve their communities. I know that their enthusiasm will be contagious as new members join our flotilla and look for ways that their talents can be used as well.

Staff Officers should report monthly to their Division Staff Officers according to their schedule as well as sending their staff report to the Flotilla Vice Commander, John Hadley and to Carolyn Strong FSO-PB by the 20th of the month, for publishing in the Eight Bells.

*Paul Burns, Flotilla Commander*

## FLOTILLA 14-8 STAFF OFFICERS

Paul Burns - Communications Services (FSO-CS)  
Bob Strong – Finance (FSO-FN)  
Rebecca Habermas – Human Resources (FSO-HR)  
Marlene Koehl - Information Systems (FSO-IS)  
John Hadley – Materials (FSO-MA)  
Kyle George – Marine Safety (FSO-MS)  
John Hadley – Member Training (FSO-MT)  
Cris Vonderheide – Navigation Systems (FSO-NS)

Kevin Koehl – Public Affairs (FSO-PA)  
Carolyn Strong – Publications (FSO-PB)  
Bob Strong – Public Education (FSO-PE)  
David Fay – Program Visitor (FSO-PV)  
Whatley Law – Vessel Examination (FSO-VE)  
Whit Vick – Operations (FSO-OP)  
Tom Edwards – Secretary of Records (FSO-SR)

## FROM WHIT VICK – IMMEDIATE PAST FLOTILLA COMMANDER



### We Are Family

As you know, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, numbering about 30,000, is part of the US Coast Guard, which has about 42,000 active duty and 7500 reservists. Together, I envision we are like a family of brothers and sisters, bound by common goals and aspirations, similar interests, esprit de corps, and camaraderie.

Here are some of the attributes which make us like family: We rely on each other. We have each others' backs. We encourage one another to be our best. We are glad for one another's successes. We occasionally use tough love to make ourselves the best we can be. We know that to survive and thrive, we must be flexible, adapt, and occasionally improvise. We use each others' talents and interests synergistically, allowing the whole--the family---to be much more than any one individual could be alone.

I realize not all is perfect. Like a family, we occasionally have differences of opinions and periods of temporary disunity. There are occasional failures. But like a strong family, there remains a common and unbreakable cord binding us together.

Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of Auxiliarists and also a few of our active duty family. Herewith, I would like to recognize some of those who helped and/or influenced me in a positive way. Because of my painfully slow hunt-and-peck typing skills, this will not mention everyone who has helped me or contributed, but these are some stand outs.

Carolyn and Bob Strong: The "anchors" of our flotilla who keep all of us grounded with their years of experience, maturity, dedication, and commitment. Whenever and whatever I asked -- for advice, a favor, an assignment, they always responded positively without hesitation, without excuses, without complaining. They took their jobs seriously, including publication of our flotilla newsletter, public education, finance, mentoring, and fellowship.

Becky Habermas: Becky began as an understudy to Charlie Smith in human resources. Although Charlie had done strong work, he needed a change. Becky took the FSO-HR job and ran with it beyond any of our expectations. She spends countless hours contacting, meeting with, and guiding recruits through the application process. This job can be frustrating and thankless. Of the multiple contacts Becky made the past year, she indicates that only about 20% actually completed the application to become members. However, this did not deter Becky from the responsibility and duty for which she had volunteered. As a direct result of Becky's work, we now have seven new members in our flotilla in 2012, some of whom are exhibiting strong signs of being future flotilla and Auxiliary leaders. These new members are the future of our flotilla.

Marlene and Kevin Koehl: These two have become stalwarts and steady contributors to our flotilla. On multiple occasions the past two years, I asked Marlene and she responded without hesitation and with professionalism to fill an important flotilla job. Marlene led our "Recruitment and Retention Committee" which generated ideas that helped recruit new members and spark the interest of established members. Marlene volunteered to take on the FSO-Information Services job when our flotilla sorely needed this position filled. As FSO-Public Affairs, Kevin planned and coordinated our safe boating week activities, helped establish relationships with West Marine and NAS JAX, and created a flotilla facebook site. On several occasions when "issues" arose, I called on Kevin as VFC for advice. He always responded with mature, responsible, and reasonable ideas and alternatives.

John Hadley: John is a true workaholic who has put in, by a factor of about three, more hours than anyone else in our flotilla. He is a watchstander at Mayport 8 hours every week; he has done innumerable program visits and vessel exams. Through John's work as FSO-MT, we were able to enjoy and learn from a number of outstanding speakers at our flotilla meetings this past year. I believe this directly contributed to new members joining our flotilla this year.

Ralph Little: Ralph writes a monthly article about Auxiliary issues for a Mandarin newspaper. It takes considerable effort and creativity to come up with a new article every month, and Ralph has been doing this for years. Ralph's writing style is succinct, lucid, and his message covers topics that further Auxiliary goals. Ralph's articles reach a far wider audience with the Auxiliary message than we could without his contributions.

Paul Burns: Paul has been a loyal and dedicated Auxiliarist for over 20 years. The website he first proposed and then created for our flotilla ([safeboatingjax.com](http://safeboatingjax.com)) is one example of his excellent work. This website serves as an outstanding advertisement and source of information for our flotilla and the Auxiliary in general. He is also our 2013 flotilla commander and brings his considerable talents to this job.

Cris Vonderheide: for his friendship, dedication, encouragement, and humor.

Top Ingram: a true gentleman with "old school" values such as integrity, honor, and sense of duty.

Jeff Blomgren: Jeff exudes a bulletproof optimism and a love of life and the Auxiliary that is infectious.

Jesse Stevens: A member of Flotilla 14-2, Jesse is a true friend of our flotilla and I consider him a friend of mine personally. On multiple occasions, Jesse has helped me out of jams, given me advice and guidance, always making time for whatever the occasion demanded. When we unexpectedly needed a new flotilla information services officer, Jesse personally trained Marlene Koehl for this critical position.

John and Judy Davis (Flotilla 14-4): Dedicated Auxiliarists and patriots of high moral standards and character--true role models whom I am fortunate to have as friends.

Captain Andy Blomme: He took a strong interest in the local Jacksonville Auxiliary flotillas while serving as Commander of Sector Jacksonville. At a division function when I first met Capt Blomme, he surprised me when he called me by name and said he felt like he already knew me from reading our Eight Bells.

Bob Weskerna: The 2012 District Captain - North from Charleston who regularly attended our division meetings. Bob is a positive and bright Auxiliary leader who on several occasions took the time to write notes to Carolyn Strong complimenting her on her excellent work on Eight Bells.

Dave Fuller: Dave was my flotilla commander when I was living near Atlanta and is the 2013 District Captain - North. He and another Auxiliarist friend, Bruce Lindsey, encouraged and mentored me in my early years in the Auxiliary. Dave and his wife, Nan Ellen, have become friends and we have stayed in touch since I left north Georgia five years ago. Both Dave and Nan Ellen have been Division Commanders in Atlanta. I could always call Dave with a question and usually get the answer due to his extensive knowledge about Auxiliary matters and his excellent judgment.

And to all our flotilla, Auxiliary, and active duty Coast Guard family of brothers and sisters, thank you for your service. See you on the high ground. Semper paratus.

*Whit Vick, IPFC*

## FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - RESPONSE

### OPERATIONS – WHIT VICK



On the water operations for our flotilla is quiet as winter arrives. The flotilla's lone facility, *Carlie II*, is in her berth (rack storage) at St Simons Island. Qualifying audits for crew and coxswains is also typically halted during the winter months and resumes in early spring.

Winter can be a good time to get squared away on dockside tasks for crew and coxswain trainees. Anyone currently crew or coxswain can potentially mentor a trainee and can sign off tasks for trainees. The stipulation is that the task has to be "mastered" to the satisfaction of the mentor prior to getting signed off. I guesstimate at least half the required tasks in the boat crew manual are off the water, i.e., dockside. I encourage trainees to get together with one of our qualified crew at a mutually agreeable time and place to sign off on these dockside tasks.

*Whit Vick, FSO-OP*

## FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - PREVENTION

### MEMBER TRAINING – JOHN HADLEY



#### **Training in Full Swing for Four of our New Members**

With the recent accession to BQ for new members David Fay, Whatley Law, George Law, and Tom Edwards we enter a new and exciting phase.

We have one new Vessel Examiner, and one new Program Visitor. Both are getting ready to step up to become Instructors. We will certainly see one more person slip into the Telecommunications Operator/ Watchstander role in the new year at Station Mayport, where open slots on the monthly calendars continue to appear.

For those members hoping to gain opportunities for more information and training, I wish to remind readers that - if memory serves - the Aids to Navigation verifier class may appear in the early weeks of 2013, as well as the later classes in Auxiliary Leadership and Management (AUXLAM) Parts A and B. These classes are important, and along with Auxiliary Procedures, Operations Policy, and many other courses you will hear about later will lead to increased capability to assume more and more senior positions in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

And last but not least is the District 7 conference DTrain which will be held in Orlando Florida in 2013. Every member is also encouraged to attend the various USCG and USCG Auxiliary functions, such as Changes of Command/Change of Watch, flotilla meetings, memorial services, and appointments and award ceremonies to gain a sense and an appreciation of the richness and history embodied in our traditions. This is training, too. You never know who will be participating in them - it might be YOU.

As 2013 comes upon us, we have the chance to perform in roles that the flotilla needs. As new members take on the exciting opportunities in flotilla life, more and more offices will open up. Training anyone in the flotilla staff offices I have experienced, and in my qualifications as well, is part of my Member Training duty.

Anyone who needs assistance in getting trained, or needs a reservation for afloat training, or an opportunity to meet anyone on the gold side only needs to speak to me at the meetings, call me at 904-626-3772/904-519-0481 or use [john.hadley83@yahoo.com](mailto:john.hadley83@yahoo.com). I am available to help at any time.

*John Hadley, FSO-MT*

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



Thanks to Jeff Blomgren, Past Flotilla Commander we have a rare opportunity to hold almost as many one day courses on Saturdays as we can find instructors to handle the job. Jeff's company, Petticoat-Schmitt, a Civil Contractor, just bought a Warehouse/Office building located on the West side of Phillips Highway about one mile south of its intersection with University Blvd. Jeff is the Director of Safety and Cultural Development at Petticoat-Schmitt. He has made arrangements with his company for the CG Auxiliary to use their training room on Saturdays for Public Education Courses.

So if you have ever considered teaching Safe Boating to the public now is your time to act. To become an instructor for the Auxiliary go to: <http://ntc.cgaux.org/TrainingCourses.php> and open the "IDC Instructor Development Course". Download Appendices A, B, C and the "Student Course Book". Study the material and follow instructions. Take and pass the on-line test. Print all applicable materials and then contact me for the practical demo part of the qualification. Upon completion a qualified instructor will certify your position as an Auxiliary Instructor.

I am currently working on scheduling our Public Education Courses for 2013. Please let me know if you plan to become an instructor in 2013.

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE*

## **PROGRAM VISITOR – MARLENE KOEHL**



The 2012 Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visitor (RBS-PV) mission had a very impressive year with four program visitors (PVs) reporting 569 partner visits as of 16 December compared to 217 visits reported in 2011. Most of these were through the efforts of John Hadley who visited 14 + partners on a weekly basis. We certainly appreciate John's dedication to the Auxiliary mission of providing boating safety literature to the public through our partner locations. In addition, we added ten new partners to our list. But unfortunately, had to delete three for various reasons. During the year our PVs participated in six partner events and assisted in two Public Affairs missions at NAS JAX.

I am very pleased to announce that David Fay recently qualified as a program visitor. David will be an asset to the program and I look forward to working with him as we continue to increase public awareness of boating safety in the coming New Year. I would like to thank the active PVs (John Hadley, Kevin Koehl and Charlie Smith) for assisting me by taking the time to call on our partner locations and keep the RBS-PV mission alive and well. I wish all the members of the flotilla a Very Happy New Year!

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS*

# **FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS REPORTS - LOGISTICS**

## **COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS**



In addition to being our flotilla's Staff Officer for Communication Services (FSO-CS), I also hold the responsibility as Division 14's staff officer for Communication Services. (For those readers who are just being introduced to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, that's the Webmaster and Go-To-Guy for all things on the Internet). I spend a lot of time looking at other flotilla websites both in our district and around the country to see what other flotillas are doing. I especially look at members of other flotillas who hold the same office and duties that I have, looking for tips and tricks I can adopt to make my efforts more effective for both our membership and the community that we serve.

*CS Report continued on page 7...*

*CS Report continued...*

Our flotilla has a resource on our website that I have found unique compared to other flotilla websites. That is our archive of newsletters currently going back thru 2009. I will plan on expanding this archive as much as I can in the near future. This is one of my goals as FSO-CS for 2013.

Our newsletter, EIGHT BELLS, which has been published so professionally by Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB, is a month to month documentary of how we function as a flotilla and what we have accomplished. It literally shows Flotilla 14-8 in motion, and the ability to view an entire year or several years' worth of newsletters makes it an even more valuable tool for Flotilla Staff Officers and for new members to see how the Coast Guard Auxiliary functions.

Flotilla Staff Officers new to their position in 2013 (David, Whatley, Tom) can use this valuable resource to see how their predecessors in the same position have executed their duties and reported their accomplishments to the flotilla. Believe me, in my new and challenging roll as Flotilla Commander, I will be using this archive extensively, to learn from those who led this flotilla before me. As well, you can see the value to the flotilla that your monthly reporting has.

To new members, this archive will show you what the Coast Guard Auxiliary does monthly, what a year in the Auxiliary looks like, and what the Coast Guard Auxiliary does in public, and behind the scenes. Hopefully reading past newsletters will give you insight to what you want to accomplish in your valuable volunteer service to the Auxiliary and our community.

To the public and members of other flotillas, this is what we do, this is our history, and we are proud of it!

Our newsletter archive is found on our website. You can access the archive from our website's home page, [www.SafeBoatingJax.com](http://www.SafeBoatingJax.com) , from the left column menu under "Coast Guard Auxiliary Publications" then look for "Eight-Bells".

One final note: Our flotilla website, improves every time that one of our members sends me a suggestion, an important Internet link that they use, a story to publish, a photo of themselves or other Auxiliarists in action. Even questions and criticisms help make SafeBoatingJax.com a more useful tool for us all.

*Paul Burns, FSO-CS*

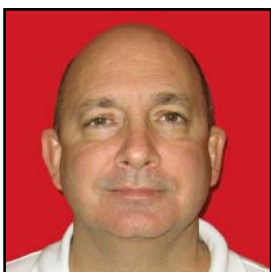
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## **HUMAN RESOURCES – REBECCA HABERMAS**



**I received three more applications this month.  
Our newest members include Corey Bridges, Evan Pilling and Raul Machin.**

Corey Bridges (right), who was at our November meeting, was on the waiting list for a ship out date for the Active Duty Coast Guard. He has since found out that he has been called to report for boot camp in March. Congratulations Corey. We look forward to hearing about your experiences and adventures in the Coast Guard.



Evan Pilling (left) came to his first meeting in December. He is retired from the Navy, was a licensed Pilot, served as a Deck Officer, and also worked in Intelligence. Evan comes to us with extensive on the water experience and he previously owned a sailboat. Evan recently moved back to the states from overseas and works for a Health Care company in the area. His interests in the Auxiliary include, Boat Crew, Vessel Examiner, and in eventually becoming a Staff officer.

*HR Report continued on page 8...*

*HR Report continued...*

Raul Machin (right) who was at our September meeting, has decided to join our ranks. Raul works at NAS JAX as the Naval Hospital Information Assurance Manager, skilled in the area of Cyber security. He is a retired Navy Corpsman who served around the world. Raul is anxious to become an active member of the Auxiliary.



We also had a two potential recruits at the December meeting. They are Todd Thomsen and Daniel Rosado.



Todd Thomsen (left) works as a corporate IT consultant. He also has a 14 year old son in Sea Cadets. Todd is planning on taking Boat Crew Academy training as time permits and plans to apply after the holidays.

Daniel Rosado (right) works at NAS JAX at the 24/7 help desk for the Naval Hospital. He is a former Marine trained in Aviation Mechanics. Daniel recently relocated from Chicago where he was responsible for managing Video Teleconferencing equipment for the Pepsi Company. He looks forward to learning all he can about the Auxiliary.



It's been a busy year for Human Resources. We've been lucky to be able to recruit so many talented people. Our new members for this year include: Charles White, Tim Hansen, George Law, Whatley Law, Tom Edwards, Michael Daniels, David Fay, Corey Bridges, Evan Pilling and Raul Machin. I want to thank all of them for their interest and for the valuable time and hard work they've already brought to our flotilla. Several of our new members who have recently received BQ status have also taken FSO positions for next year. Congratulations to all of them.

*Becky Habermas, FSO-HR*

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## **INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARLENE KOEHL**



Thank you to all who have taken the time to submit mission reports throughout the year. As of 16 December, 21 members have reported 6631.5 volunteer hours. This exceeds last year's total of 6164.5 hours. As we have heard many times over, reporting your hours is an important responsibility of membership. It is these reports that help the Coast Guard obtain federal funding each year. With all the budget cuts being forecast, it is even more important than ever that the USCG has this data.

This year Information Services has seen several improvements in the reporting system including more efficient electronic forms, change of information reporting through AuxDirectory's Master Dashboard and its 7028 access and the AIMS (Auxiliary Incident Management System) emergency calling list.

As we begin a new year, please remember the following: 7029 reports are due once a month. All other mission reports should be submitted as missions are completed. All certifications require a minimum number of reported hours. Always print a copy for your records of the Certification of Course Completion for any on-line test you take. Courses completed on the National Training Center website will automatically be inserted into your Auxiliary Database (AUXDATA) training record. However, all IS/ICS certificates of completion must be submitted to me to be inserted AUXDATA.

I appreciate the opportunity to act as your FSO-IS. As always, please feel free to contact me with any IS questions or concerns. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

*Marlene Koehl, FSO-IS*

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## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS – KEVIN KOEHL**



Much of the country's boating activities are in hibernation for the winter, but Florida's boating community remains active as many northern boaters migrate to the warmer waters of Florida for cruising adventures. The Auxiliary in Florida also remains active on the ground and on the water 12 months of the year.

Public Affairs activities for Flotilla 14-8 in 2012 included a renewed relationship with West Marine in Jacksonville as we participated in multiple events with the flagship St. Johns Town Center Store. The flotilla participated in National Safe Boating week with a special evening boating safety class and information table at West Marine Town Center as well as a safety information table and free vessel safety checks at the Mandarin Park ramp. Our relationship with NAS JAX remained strong, participating in two safety stand down events as well as boating safety events at Mulberry Cove Marina. Our flotilla members also participated with marine safety information tables at events at the Marina at Julington Creek, Pier 17 and Sailors Exchange in Jacksonville.

Ralph Little wrote monthly stories for the Mandarin Newslines promoting the activities of our flotilla. We also used electronic media with our Coast Guard Auxiliary Jacksonville Facebook page and articles on activities in the online First Coast News community pages. In addition, I worked with Mike Owsley, Flotilla 14-1 to develop a presentation on the Welaka detachment to promote participation by area Auxiliary crew and coxswains to participate in the patrols out of Welaka.

Thanks to our flotilla members for their support of our activities over the past year.

*Kevin Koehl, FSO-PA*

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## **PUBLICATIONS – CAROLYN STRONG**



Flotilla Staff Officers are reminded to forward their reports to the Publications Officer by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you have accepted a new office for 2013 and don't know what to report, please write your first report about goals you hope to achieve for that office in the New Year. Thanks to all who have submitted reports, stories and pictures throughout the year. Remember, you make *Eight Bells* a prize winning newsletter.

I would like to start training someone to take on the job of Flotilla Staff Officer – Publications. I am also hoping to take *Eight Bells* to a new level in 2013. Because so many members now read their email on a smart phone, i-pad or other device I need someone to help me create a newsletter that can be easily read on such devices. Will some of you "techies" step forward to help?

*Carolyn Strong, FSO-PB*

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# **FLOTILLA 14-8 PHOTO ALBUM**



**Tom and Whatley on crew training patrol in December**

## DECEMBER 4 FLOTILLA MEETING



Whit and David

New members David Fay and Corey Bridges both received certificates of completion for the About Boating Safety course with congratulations from Whit Vick, FC at the December meeting.



Whit and Corey



Bob and Whit

Whit congratulates Bob Strong, Paul Burns and John Hadley while presenting each an Auxiliary Performance Award for Public Education. Paul also received a Certificate for successfully completing the Administrative Procedures Course.



Paul and Whit



John and Whit

# Congratulations!

*Photos by Carolyn Strong*

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# Flotilla News

**Flotilla Holiday Dinner December 20**

**The Mediterrania Restaurant**

**We all had a  
“Merry Olde Tyme”**

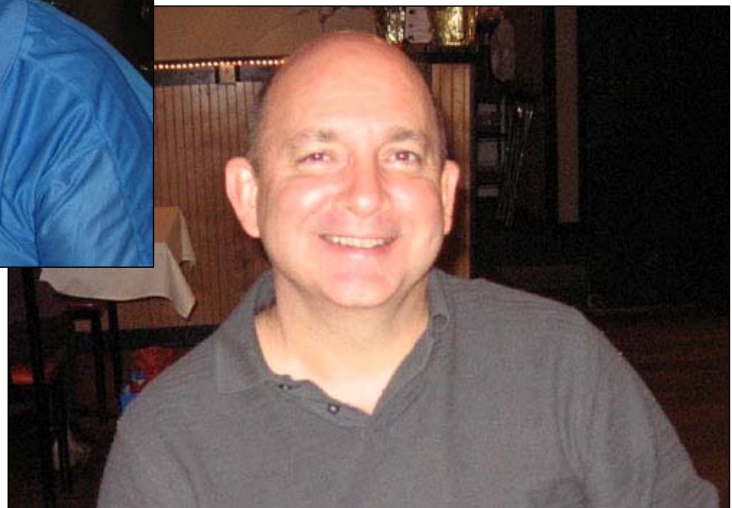
**Left: Iris and Donald Rodely**

**Below: Cris & Carol Vonderheide**

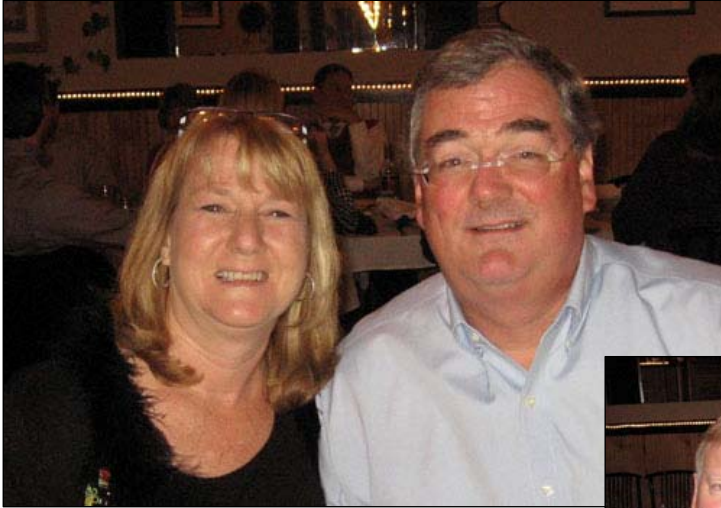


**Above: Marsha & Bob Flaige**

**Right: Evan Pilling**



## December Holiday Dinner



**Left: Julie and Tom Edwards**

**Below: George Law,  
Carol and Paul Burns**



**Above: Beverly and John Hadley**

**Right: Becky and Ron Habermas**



## December Holiday Dinner



Left: Polly and Whatley Law

Below: Carolyn and Bob Strong



*Dinner photos by Carolyn Strong  
(with a little help from my friends)*



## Flotilla 14-8 Change of Watch

Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club  
Fellowship starting at 6:30 and Dinner at 7

Uniform: Tropical Blue or Appropriate Civilian Attire

**Flotilla Staff Officers will be sworn into office**

*Cost is \$16.00 per person*

### MENU

**Turkey w/dressing & cranberry relish**

**Mashed potatoes w/gravy**

**Garden Salad w/choice of dressing**

**Green beans with ham**

**Freshly baked rolls, butter**

**Chocolate chunk cookies,**

**Home made desserts**

**coffee / tea / water**

**SPOUSES AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TOO**

**Please make your reservations NOW with Bob Strong at [restrong@comcast.net](mailto:restrong@comcast.net) or 904-721-1346**

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## Mandarin Newsline – November Edition

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### United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update Keeping Your Paddlecraft - And Life

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

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This month I've borrowed an Auxiliary article from our Recreational Boating Safety division that covers an important issue for both safety and retention of your property. You may be the involved party or else discover an adrift craft.

When a paddlecraft - canoe, kayak, or paddleboard - is found adrift, the first question is whether someone was aboard or whether it simply blew away or floated off. Until the latter is confirmed, it must be assumed that someone was aboard and is in trouble. A Search and Rescue (SAR) mission must go out and search until the owner/operator can be contacted and confirms that the craft was merely adrift and that everyone is safe.

The problem is that, unlike sail and power boats, most jurisdictions do not require registration numbers on all paddle craft. Without the familiar State coded numbers and letters on the bow, it is difficult to determine who the owner is and call them, unless they have taken action to identify themselves by putting their name and a telephone number on the craft. Few do.

We encourage paddle craft owners to permanently affix their name to their craft in a visible place that has a cell phone number and the cell phone number of a family member or someone else knowledgeable of your whereabouts. It doesn't have to be large, just legible. An orange self-adhesive label with spaces for contact information may be available from the Coast Guard. In the future, we hope to provide them to our Auxiliary vessel examiners to hand out. These stickers can be filled in using a magic marker, paint stick, or nail polish and applied to the hull or deck of the paddle craft.

With this identification aboard, a boater, law enforcement or Auxiliary crew finding the craft can immediately call and determine the status of the owner. If they get no answer, boaters should notify authorities and they will perform a standard search, according to conditions. But when the owner is found to be safe, the Coast Guard can save time and fuel, and remain available for true distress situations.

For their own sake, solitary paddlers especially need to adopt such good practices. Thinking ahead will reduce either the occurrence of rescue situations or increase the odds of successful recovery. Establishing a Float Plan to be left with a contact person and considering weather and water-caused hypothermia are other key issues. Float Plan forms are on the Flotilla 14-8 website under Local Boating Info at <http://www.safeboatingjax.com/> or in your "Federal Boaters Guide" available from our Vessel Examiners or marine dealers.

***Always remember that people are not suspicious, behavior is!***

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In the news:

## Yacht runs aground in St. Augustine inlet

Not sure if you saw this article in *The St. Augustine Record*, Printed December 16, 2012:

“Emergency responders rescued two people who were aboard a 65-foot Hatteras yacht when it hit the north sandbar in the St. Augustine inlet on Saturday and was later beached at Vilano Beach. Fog played a role in the incident. One person was taken to the hospital.” Read the complete story at:

<http://staugustine.com/news/local-news/2012-12-15/yacht-runs-aground-st-augustine-inlet#.UM3UJaUryUM>

Submitted by

Rusty Gardner

Florida By Water

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



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The following is a message from our National Commodore (NACO):



To All Auxiliarists:

As we gather to celebrate the holidays, Wanda and I would like to offer our wishes for a happy and peaceful season and the best of all good things in the coming New Year.

The glue that binds the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary into the world's foremost volunteer maritime organization is the fellowship we share as we observe the diverse celebrations of the several holidays held at this time of year. We share a universal sentiment of goodwill to our fellow man. We demonstrate our care and compassion through our faithful service to the recreational boating community, our support of the U.S. Coast Guard, and in our sympathy for all who sorrow and suffer.

During the holidays, we will gather with family, friends, shut-ins, Coastguardsmen or others with whom we especially want to celebrate. Some will thank you for your presents or for your presence. Some will thank you for your service. Wanda and I are among those who Sincerely thank you for all you do for the USCG Auxiliary. Giving of one's self is the greatest gift of all. It is truly a pleasure to serve by your side.

Many of us will be traveling to be with those we care about during The holiday season. Wanda and I wish one and all Godspeed as you make your holiday rounds. We look forward to your safe return and to your continuing service in 2013 and beyond.

Very respectfully,

Thomas C. Mallison / s / National Commodore

Patricia P Fritchie

Deputy Director Public Affairs - A Directorate

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

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## FLOTILLA 14-8 CHANGE OF WATCH

Tuesday 8 January 2013

1830 - Fellowship & Refreshments    1900 - Dinner

Change of Watch to follow Dinner

Florida Tackle and Gun Club

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## DIVISION 14 CHANGE OF WATCH

Saturday 12 January 2013

1800 – Social Hour    1900 - Dinner

Embassy Suites, 9300 Baymeadows Rd.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- JAN 01 HAPPY NEW YEAR! No meeting
- 07 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 08 Flotilla Change of Watch Dinner – 1830 - Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 12 Division 14 Change of Watch Dinner – 1800 - Embassy Suites
- 19 Division Meeting – St Augustine Airport - 0900
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- 25-27 Jacksonville Boat Show – Prime Osborn Convention Center
- FEB 05 Flotilla Meeting – Florida Tackle & Gun Club – 1900
- 07 7029 Reports due to FSO-IS
- 09 ABS Class – 0730 to 1700 – Florida Tackle & Gun Club
- 20 Eight Bells Deadline: Reports due to VFC & FSO-PB
- 21 Flotilla "Night Out" – location to be determined

## 8 IS GREAT !

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



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