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# EIGHT



# BELLS

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

Volume XLII No. 5

July /August 2016

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### IMMEDIATE PAST FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT



It's the beginning of the second half of our year. We have tasks to work on goals to complete before we find out how fast time is catching up on our duties and requirements for the year.

- Mandated Training for those who have not completed all 10 courses. If you have a member number you need to get this done before Christmas.

- If you have completed Mandated Training, the next step is the APC, **Administrative Procedures Course**. This course gives you insight into how the flotilla operates and communicates up and down the chain of leadership. It is required for elected leaders and highly recommended for

any Flotilla Staff Officer.

- Our required qualifications as Instructors, Vessel Examiners, Boat Crew, and Program Visitors,

- Look forward to your place in the flotilla next year. We will need new leaders and new Staff Officers. If you have an interest or area that you would like to venture into. Let me know and I can be your guide.

- Catch up on your time reporting.

*Paul Burns, IPFC 14-8 2016*

#### **Mandated Training**

- **Civil Rights Awareness**

- **Ethics Training**

- **Influenza Training**

- **Prevention of Sexual Harrassment**

- **Privacy Awareness**

- **Security Education Training**

- **Sexual Assault Prevention**

- **Suicide Prevention**

- **FEMA ICS 700**

- **FEMA ISA 100**

# FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICER'S REPORTS

## MARINE SAFETY - PAUL TYNDA



### ST JOHNS RIVER CLEANUP

Photos By Paul Tynda

On Saturday July 16th I participated in a river cleanup at Joe Carlucci Sisters Creek Park and Boat Ramp. This two hour event was hosted by a local radio station (X102.9) to promote a concert the following weekend. The event was successful as approximately 45 volunteers showed up and many harmful items were removed from the ground, ramp, and river bank. Each volunteer picked up about two large garbage bags each and even removed two tires. The majority of the trash was plastic items (bags, straws, bottles, etc.), Styrofoam items, and discarded fishing gear.



Discarded fishing line that was tangled up under the dock and part of a fishing net found along the river bank.

All trash can cause a problem for marine life and the environment. Fishing line can trap and tangle animals, possibly killing them. Other items that are a similar hazard to marine life are fishing nets. Similar to the plastic six-pack holders, fishing nets easily trap fish and other marine life. Luckily no dead or distressed animals were discovered during the cleanup. Fiddler crabs did make a home out of



the tire, but were able to escape to other shelter as it was removed. Trapping the marine life in the debris is not the only concern. Some things can be broken or crushed down to smaller pieces and be consumed by various animals. Styrofoam products and some plastics are the usual items.

This was inside of my bag. The majority was foam and plastic.



For a lot of animals, if it looks like it could be food, it probably is. As foam cups and other debris get smashed and become smaller pieces, it starts to look like it can fit in the mouths of fish, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. This makes them curious and then they will try to eat it. It's not necessarily on purpose. For example, sea turtles will eat jellyfish. A plastic shopping bag moving along in the water can mimic the movements of a jellyfish, causing a sea turtle to mistake this for something it can eat. The turtle will then attempt to eat it where it becomes stuck in the turtle's stomach and blocks food from entering or releases gasses

from digestion that are toxic and disrupt normal swimming. Other plastics and foam packing materials can be ingested by other marine life causing similar problems.



Staff and volunteers working during the cleanup event both around the park and at the check in station.

At the end of the event you could see a difference in some of the areas and trash that was hidden from view was removed from the park. The area is known for having manatees, which are protected, and is frequented by recreational boaters and fisherman.





Sign at the park entrance. Some of the volunteers made their way down the road leading to the park, removing the trash along the way.

Cleanup events like this can be a big help to the environment and the community. Supporting an event like this can also help you complete task 5.2 in the Auxiliary Prevention Outreach Specialist (AUX-MEES) PQS. The task is “Participate in, or otherwise support, a shoreline debris cleanup. Alternatively, visit a local marina to identify Best Management Practices and the environmental impacts from poor practices for fueling, sewage handling, potable water systems, vessel repair and safety using a clean marina checklist”. Even if not pursuing the AUX-MEES PQS, participation in various cleanup events can still be reported and gives you a hands on and close up experience with the local environment. If you are interested in supporting and/or participating in a shoreline cleanup you can go to the Ocean Conservancy website for the international coastal cleanup being held on September 17th. The Ocean Conservancy is the organization that has developed the Good Mate manual that we use for the Good Mate’s Course that is required for the Marine Safety Training Ribbon, Marine Safety (M Pro) Trident Badge, and a prerequisite for many of the Marine Safety PQSs. The website for the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup is below.

<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/clean-up-locations.html>

*Paul Tynda FSO-MS 2016*

**FINANCE – BOB STRONG**



Flotilla dues for 2017 remain the same as for 2016, at \$40.00. Please bring your check to the flotilla meeting on August 9 or mail to my home address: 923 Parkridge Circle East, Jacksonville, FL. 32211. Check payable to: “USCG Auxiliary 14-8” for \$40.00. The flotilla is required to maintain a commercial account that charges a \$20.00 fee for a check that is returned for insufficient funds, please make sure that doesn’t happen or your dues could cost you \$60.00 for 2017.

*Bob Strong, FSO-FN 2016*

## VESSEL EXAMINATION –DAN HESS



The month of June was a little slow for vessel exams, but were conducted both locally (St. Johns and Clay counties) and also in Lee County, FL. While on vacation in Sanibel Island, Dan Hess conducted VSCs there after getting permission from the local Flotilla (FL 09-01)

To date we have conducted just under 90 VSCs. I am hoping that our Vessel Examiners will get out for the 4th of July weekend and conduct vessel inspections at our local boat ramps. If so, please let me know when and where you are going so I can officially assign you to duty and then let me know how many VSCs you performed and how many "Decals" you awarded. I need this information for my monthly report to Division. Thanks for all you do for the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.

### June Report Details

\*Vessel Safety Checks were conducted on four (4) different dates in Clay, St. John's and Lee counties by VE, D. Hess, to wit: 03JUN, 05JUN, 22JUN & 28JUN. Some were performed at the boat owner's residences and some were performed at the Doctors Lake ramp located at the end of Lakeshore Drive in Fleming Island. One VSC was performed while Mr. Hess was on vacation in Sanibel Island (Lee County, FL) after first obtaining permission from the local Flotilla 9-01 to conduct said VSC.

\*Above VSCs were coordinated with the FSO-PA, FSO-PB and with the FSO-VE from Flotilla 9-01;

\*Number of VSCs completed this month by the Flotilla= 9 (with 4 passing/Decals being issued and 7 of the 9 being

'first time" inspections);

\*Scheduled the next VE "blitz" for the weekend of 4th of July.

### July Report Details

A minimum of 14 VEs were performed this month (as of 28JUL). Five (5) of them were completed on 02JUL16 by member, Zachary Kelly, under my supervision, as his initial five vessel checks required to become a certified Vessel Examiner. (Zack had already taken and passed his on-line VE test.) Three of the five vessels examined were issued safety decals. These VSCs were performed at the Lakeshore Drive boat ramp on Doctors Lake in Fleming Island. The other eight (8) VSCs were performed by member, Paul Thomas, up in Georgia. On 21JUL16, Paul did 2 VSCs on Lake Chatuge, Ga. where he awarded both vessels the safety decal. On 25JUL16, Paul also performed six (6) VSCs (one of which was a 14 ft. canoe) at Lake Blue Ridge, Ga. where all 6 vessels were awarded safety decals. Paul performed all of these vessel safety checks with the permission of, and by working with, members of Flotilla 2-23 out of Young Harris, Ga.

At the July Division meeting, I was given 50 extra safety "decals" by SO-VE, Phil Tallon, and Paul Thomas ordered 50 more Vessel Safety Check Forms 7012, which I have received. If any Flotilla VEs need any decals or inspection forms, please let me know. I will be out of the country from 22AUG through 12SEP. I am hoping that some of the other Flotilla vessel examiners will be able to perform some VSCs in my absence. The first weekend in September is Labor Day weekend and that would be an excellent time to get out and do some vessel safety checks if you are in town. Please contact Whatley in my absence to let him know if, and when, you will be doing boat examinations. "Bravo Zulu" to our VEs for all they do for the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.

*Dan Hess, FSO-VE 2016*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS - DAVID HOWELS**



Coming up on Saturday, September 24th from 1000-1500 hours, will be the NAS JAX Riverfest showing appreciation for all military services. We will be manning a PA table with boating safety literature and performing vessel exams. Let me know if you are interested so we can get the security forms filled out in time. Thanks so much...

*David Howells, FSO-PA 2016*

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS – MARION LINDA**



There are members who have had problems sending electronic reports and additional problems with my receiving the reports. And it most likely has to do with the Browser you are using to access and send the forms.

After a little research, I am finding the best browser for entering reports is FIREFOX. For some reason, Explorer, Edge, Safari, Google Chrome, and others do not work as well as Firefox. And if you are using Firefox and are still having some problem, make sure that Java Script and Adobe are up to date and enabled-especially if you are using Windows 10. Additionally, be sure that the necessary “add-ons” & plug-in” are enabled. In some of the reports, a yellow page will appear and not go away. If that is happening, you are missing 1 or more Programs, Plug-in or Add-on required to "work the system”

If you still have problems, please contact me and I will try to help. PLEASE remember to watch for my confirmation. I will always send one.

*Marion Linda, FSO-IS 2016*

**HUMAN RESOURCES – PAUL BURNS**



I'm working with several potential Auxiliary Candidates. We hope to see some at our upcoming flotilla meeting.

*Paul Burns, FSO-HR 2016*

**PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG**



Our next safe boating class is August 20th. This is a great opportunity for those wanting to become a certified instructor to perform their qualifying practical chapters.

To become an IT certified instructor, you will need to take the Instructor's Course online and teach one 30 minute class and teach an additional one to two hour chapter.

Consider becoming an Instructor, there are more opportunities than public classes, your qualification also applies to instructing courses and seminars to Auxiliarists.

*Bob Strong, FSO-PE 2016*

**MEMBER TRAINING – CRIS VONDERHEIDE**



The The St. Augustine flotilla 14-7 will be offering two half-day Mandatory Training Workshops.

The workshops will be held from 0800 hours to 1200 hours on August 13 and August 20 at the St. Augustine Airport Conference Center.

The modules to be offered on August 13 are Sexual Harassment Prevention, Sexual Assault Prevention, Civil Rights Awareness, and Ethics.

The modules to be offered on August 20 are Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide, Security Fundamentals, Privacy at DHS / Protecting Information, and Influenza.

If you are interested in attending either one or both of these workshops, please email me at <wltrahman@gmail.com> and I will put you on the list. The uniform for the workshop will be civvies. Thanks,

*Cris Vonderheide, FSO-MT 2016*

**OPERATIONS – CRIS VONDERHEIDE**



David Howells continues to take patrols with flotilla 14-1 in Fernandina.

Here are some pictures of a recent patrol at Cumberland Island, including a shot of the wild horses that live there.

*Cris Vonderheide, FSO-OP 2016*

Patrol Photos By David Howells



## A Real Coast Guard Experience

Flotilla 14-8 member Zach Kelly, Senior Class student at Bartram Trail High school has a goal to attend the Coast Guard Academy after his high school graduation in 2017 In June, Zach was invited to tour the Jacksonville based Coast Guard Cutter Ridley by the Ridley's Commanding Officer, Josh Schwartz, a friend and partner with our flotilla. This day aboard the cutter offers another valuable experience and insight for Zach in his future career in the United States Coast Guard.

The Ridley (and former Jacksonville based Cutter Diamondback) are a valuable outreach connection between Flotilla 14-8 and the active duty Coast Guard.

Josh and Zach are destined to meet again in the near future, as Commander Schwartz prepares to embark on his upcoming assignment at the Coast Guard Academy in Cape May, New Jersey.



Flotilla 14-8 Member Zach Kelly aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Ridley with Commanding Officer Josh Schwartz. Photo by Whatley Law



## Mandarin News

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update

Legislating Away from Safety

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

Pardon me for having to deal with an issue that is not in the interest of reasonable boating. On July 1<sup>st</sup> Florida House Bill 703 became law, taking a step back and complicating boating safety. There is now another divergence between State and Federal law, with the State version being the poorer. The law directs two changes. The first is to Statute 327.33 and concerns reckless operation of a vessel. While it sounds favorable, it is not. That it stipulates against endangerment of persons outside the vessel is okay, but then it specifies that only vessel overloading or excessive speed endangers persons (apparently) inside the vessel. For those of you intending to go crazy, you might read that the State says things like bowriding are okay.

The problem is bow, stern or gunwale riding is NOT okay. It remains a federal violation and should you practice it, the person doing the riding is in danger of being bounced into the water and struck by a propeller. There is not a groundswell of States' Rights folks arguing for this change.

The other change alters Statute 327.70 on enforcement. It basically says if a State or local officer issues you a safety decal you must attach it within 6" of the vessel's registration decal. That's a practical problem since some boats don't have a 6" space by their existing decal. Worse, the law also specifies that a (State and local) law enforcement officer can't stop a vessel with a valid safety decal just to check safety compliance unless a safety violation is suspected.



Again, this does not affect federal regulations. The active U.S. Coast Guard continues to be able to check vessel's for safety. Vessel Safety exams done by them, the Auxiliary or the Power Squadron remain valid. Our decals are mounted in the forward part of the vessel on the port side. Ours clearly require annual re-inspection to catch things that expire and go missing.

member allowed his daughter to bowride and was rightfully stopped by a Florida Fish & Wildlife officer.

This law came about because a Florida House

Sign up for our Boating Safely class on September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Florida Gun & Tackle Club on Goodby's Creek at San Jose Blvd. Contact us through our website, <http://www.SafeBoatingJacksonville.com> or call Bob at 904-721-1346 for class information.



# Don't Forget our Flotilla Meeting Tuesday, August 9th, Fellowship - 7:00pm

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- AUG 9 Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club
- AUG 20 Safe Boating Class - 0730 Florida Tackle and Gun Club
- AUG 28 *Eight Bells* Newsletter Deadline for Staff Reports, Pictures, and Articles
- SEPT 13 Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club

## Celebrity Coast Guard / Coast Guard Reserve / Coast Guard Auxiliary

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patricia Kestey



Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp presents Al Roker the Meritorious Public Service Medal at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington Aug. 21, 2012, Roker and staff members of Al Roker Entertainment received the award for exceptional advocacy of the Coast Guard through broadcasts of The Weather Channel's popular primetime series "Coast Guard Alaska."

On The Weather Channel. Roker was presented with a plaque and an embroidered badge and Coast Guard Auxiliary cover to wear.

(U.S. Coast Guard photo Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary recognized Al Roker as Honorary Commodore during "The Today Show" at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, May 19, 2014. Roker has a long-standing relationship with the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary including working together on the Coast Guard series



by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jetta H. Disco)

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



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