



NASSAU SOUNDINGS

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-1
Fernandina Beach, FL
Seventh Coast Guard District



Volume 17, No. 04

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

April 2008

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

Tom Hayden

FC 14-1

(912) 674-2348

Our FC Tom Hayden is still in the Hospital but is improving. Please continue to Pray for him for a quick and complete recovery.

VICE COMMANDER

Heinz Fridrich

VFC / OP 14-1

(904) 261-5844

Over the past few days some of us had the opportunity to talk to our FC Tom Hayden on the phone or visit him in the hospital. He sends his best regards to all of flotilla members but he may have to be in the hospital for a while. All of our best wishes and prayers for a fast recovery from a serious illness are with him, Thank you all for donating blood for Tom over the past weeks.

Over the past month we had several division meetings during which we discussed Capt. Thomas's Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville priorities for the Auxiliary. These are:

- Recreational Boating Safety – RBS
- Permitted Marine Events – PME
- Harbor Safety and Security patrols

We are very active in each of these areas of priority and we will discuss these in future Nassau Soundings.

Capt. Thomas would like to use primarily Commercial, Local or Coast Guard resources for Search and Rescue missions. So while we may not get callouts we should still be prepared to provide effective assistance in case of Come Upons during HARPAT patrols, safety patrols or Permitted Event Patrols.

There will be new and additional opportunities for the Auxiliary to support the Coast Guard in areas such as:

- Marine Inspection
- Watch Standing
- Contingency Planning

These are additional Coast Guard priorities for support from the auxiliary to Sector Jacksonville. Further work is required to define our possible role and training in these areas. We need to decide what skill is required in the auxiliary and how we can build a capable work force.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION John Tatum FSO-AN 14-1 (904) 491-7601

General Information – (repeated)

- Coast Pilot 4, 39th edition, covering Cape Henry to Key west, is available at “<http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/coastpilot4.htm>”.
- The 2007 edition of Light List 3, updated through LNTM 27-07, is available online at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pubs/lightlists/lightlists.htm>

A set of new PATONS (Private Aids to Navigation) at Soap Creek and Oyster Bay Yacht Club were checked for position, condition and pictures taken for Division records. A report will be sent to ANT Jax, etc.

Every Auxiliarist, while underway in an operational facility, should be checking every ATON, PATON and bridge encountered for discrepancies. If you spot one that is off-station, significantly damaged, sinking, or otherwise out-of-sorts, call it in by cell phone to the Sector Operations Duty Officer. Check the shoreline for charting errors, as well as recent changes. Following the patrol, contact me for assistance making a full report on the discrepancy or charting errors/changes.

Dredging –

Weeks Marine dredge “R.N. Weeks” will be working the St. Marys channel entrance and Fernandina Harbor from Fort Clinch to about 3.7 miles east of the jetties, through Feb 08. Spoil will be deposited off-shore initially, then on the left descending bank of the St. Marys River near Fort Clinch.

- St. Marys Entrance Lighted Buoys 10 (LLNR 6570), 12 (LLNR 6580), 13 (LLNR 6585), 14 (LLNR 6590) and 15 (LLNR 6595) have been temporarily relocated for dredging, as has St. Marys Entrance Turning Basin Lighted Buoy C (LLNR 6660), LNTM 05-08.

COMMUNICATIONS Jerry Neal FSO-CM 14-1 (904) 277-8270

COMPUTER SERVICE	Joe Blanchard	FSO-CS 14-1	(904) 277-4257
Remember to check our web site http://cgaux7-14-1.org/			
FINANCE	J. Sintes	FSO-FN 14-1	(904) 261-4432
INFORMATIONS	Craig Bennett	FSO-IS 14-1	(904) 261-7456
MATERIALS	Louis Fusco	FSO-MA 14-1	(912) 673-9470
MARINE SAFETY	Richard Trollope	FSO-MS 14-1	(904) 941-1403

1. Boaters using marinas need to check their insurance policies. Many marinas are inserting language in THEIR policies that shift the legal liability to the slip holder. If a boater's guest is injured, the boat owner would be liable—not the marina. It is called contractual liability and has terms such as “hold harmless”, “indemnify”(reimburse or repay), and “defend”. Make sure your policy provides coverage for you. For more info, go to www.Boatus.com/insurance or 1 (800) 283-2883.
2. Large commercial ships transiting the St. Johns (or Amelia) River have a blind spot directly in front of the Pilot House. The Federal rule, 46CFR92.03-1 “ reads: Navigation Bridge Visibility: vessels over 100 meters (328 feet) must have a sea surface forward of the bow which cannot be obscured (hidden) by “more” than 2 ship lengths or 500 meters (1640 ft) from dead ahead”. Problem: If you are in that area, they cannot see you. A recreational boat crossing too close will be “invisible” to them. Even if you are seen, these ships will not use “Reverse Engines” to stop in a crowded channel; if reverse is used the water flow across the rudder is ineffective and they lose steering control. Instead, these ships will stop the propeller and coast to a stop –which could take a ½ mile to a mile to happen.
3. The USCG recommends that you do not let anyone” Teak Surf” (using the swim platform to surf behind the vessel when the engine is running and the boat is underway). Three states (California, Oregon, and Washington) have made this practice illegal.
4. The Jeppesen Co., maker of the “C-Map”, has a problem with some of its equipment; its system shows defects dealing with the safe navigation part. If you own this equipment, contact Jeppesen to see if yours is affected.
5. A mandatory Automatic Identification System (AIS) and Boat (operator) Licensing has been scratched for now for recreational boats. (It was determined that) “AIS would be too costly and that controllers could not keep track of “all” those radar blips of recreational boats”. Other ways to finger terrorist vessels are being researched. Examples: Smart Chips as used on animals and cars. The USCG has in place as part of the Marine Info system (MISLE) a way to “pull” information on recreational boats. The USCG, Police, and Ports can use detectors to scan for explosives, nuclear, and radiological matter. The USCG is not pursuing Boater Licensing but does want Mandatory (boating) Education that puts an ID card in the boater's hands. Another possibility is an endorsement for Boat Operator on the (state) Drivers License as is currently done for Motorcyclists and Truck Drivers.
6. Scary situation: Just before dawn, an off shore sailor spotted a foreign flagged freighter by its lights through the slight fog left by a recent squall. He hailed the freighter to see if his radar reflector actually worked. After 4 calls, he finally received a reply in heavily accented English: “Wait while we turn the radar on”.

In a few minutes the freighter answered that they had him on the scope.
Do Not Count on Them Seeing You!!

MEMBER TRAINER Bob Sperry FSO-MT 14-1 (904) 277-7191

Two training opportunities for all members.

The first opportunity is the AUXNAV specialty course now scheduled to begin May 7 and continue each Wednesday evening for 12 sessions. This is an excellent in-depth excursion into Coastal navigation that anyone who might operate a boat in an unfamiliar area will find invaluable. It also is one of the required courses for attaining AUXOP status.

Second, the GPS course has been rescheduled for June 14 and 21. This is an opportunity for hands on training on your handheld GPS. It will help you understand that confusing operations manual that came with the unit and you have been struggling with. It consists of a first session to get familiar with GPS terms and initial setup. Then you have a few days to practice entering waypoints and reviewing your GPS operations at home. The second session continues with more advanced concepts of navigation and an exercise of following a route demonstrating how the ideas are actually used.

Let me know if you are interested in either and haven't already done so. 904 277-7191 or email bcdsp@netscape.net

MARINE PROGRAM VISITOR Pete Maye FSO-PV 14-1 (912) 552-3350

OPERATIONS Heinz Fridrick FSO-OP 14-1 (904) 261-5844

During the month of March 2008 we had 8 patrols, one less than planned. This brings our YTD patrols to 18, seven less than planned.

For April 2008 we are currently scheduling 15 patrols. This will be a very challenging month for Operations and our Watch Standers.

In early April we are planning check rides for four teams with 8 coxswains and 7 crew in additional training which includes:

- Navigation and Piloting at night
- MOB drill at night
- Towing evolution at night

We need these check rides to qualify for PME night patrols. The first night patrol will be the fireworks for the Shrimp Festival on May 2 with two vessels.

During the rest of the month we are planning three major on the water training patrols for crew trainees including MOB drills, Navigation and Piloting and Towing evolutions during daylight. We plan to have some night training for Crew trainees as part of the Fireworks event.

We like to get at least 4 to 6 crew trainees prepared for crew qualification in May or June.

We are still in the process to get 9 of our members out of REYR status. So far we have not been successful even though six of nine members have now met the TCT and ICS requirements as reflected in AuxData. Three of the 9 members require a QE check ride.

9 members or 30% of qualified crew in REYR is having a serious impact on our operations and it has to be a top priority to correct this.

We need to recertify 3 coxswains and 7 crew members this year and we are planning QE check rides in May or June.

This will be a very challenging quarter and it requires the support of all boat owners, coxswains, crew members and crew trainees.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Robert Conklin

FSO-PA 14-1

(912) 673-9678

Now is your time to volunteer to help the Flotilla and to have some fun at the same time. We need members to help us with the 2 main events taking place on the first weekend of May:

Shrimp Festival Parade- Starting at 6pm on Thursday, May 1st, it is a short parade, but lots of attendees, we will have a boat and a banner.

Saturday May 3rd. Need volunteers to work on the boat dock to help with coastie, hand out pamphlets and to staff the Coast Guard Cutter giving visitors a tour of the cutter. We will need a four hour shift either morning or afternoon.

Please respond back to me, either at the next flotilla meeting, call me 912-673-9678, or email me back. Thanks in advance for your help

Global Positioning System (GPS), GPS For Mariners Class

Whether you are a complete novice just thinking about that GPS may be a useful navigation tool, someone who has never managed to get a grip on the technology, or a GPS user who wants to learn more, this program conducted by Flotilla 14-1 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary could be for you. It is a hands on course, and it is preferable that all participants bring their transportable GPS with spare batteries and users manual to the sessions.

The program is conducted in two sessions on successive Saturdays, June 14 and 21. Each session will begin at 0900 at the Lighthouse facility on Amelia Island, Florida and last about three hours. So sign up and improve your GPS skills. There is a \$25 dollar charge for course materials.

BOSTON LAWYERS ON FICTIONAL T.V. SHOW JOIN U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY?

Since mid-December viewers of a television series based on a fictional Boston law firm have heard mention of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. In fact two of the main characters in one of the most recent episodes were preparing to take the Coast Guard swim test.

Unlike this fictional T.V. show, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is real and no you don't have to take a swim test to join. U.S. citizens who are at least 17 years or older are eligible to "sign up" and serve in what is regarded as the premier all volunteer force in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

So who are these volunteers in the Coast Guard Auxiliary?

They come from all walks of life; they are students, teachers, businessmen and women, retirees, aviators, police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, health care professionals, carpenters, IT professionals, and yes just like the fictional Boston T.V. show, lawyers.

What can I do in the Coast Guard Auxiliary?

You can use skills you have already developed in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. For example, a teacher may teach safe boating classes, or an aviator may become part of the Auxiliary Air program . Auxiliarists may choose to learn how to become a Boat Crew Member or Coxswain (which does require a swim test), a Public Affairs Specialist, an Air Observer or an Assistant Pollution Investigator. Auxiliary Coast Guard Members, after training and qualifying, may choose to augment an Active Duty Coast Guard unit.

So what is the Coast Guard Auxiliary?

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard. Created by an Act of Congress in 1939, the Auxiliary directly supports the Coast Guard in all missions, except military and law enforcement actions. The Coast Guard's motto is SEMPER PARATUS (ALWAYS READY). The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an integral part the United States Coast Guard. Locally, Auxiliary Flotilla 14-1, located on Amelia Island in the city of Fernandina Beach serves Nassau county in Florida and lower Camden county for Georgia. Our members attend many local events in both counties, teach boating safety in local classes, and patrol our waters from Kings Bay Submarine base to the lower end of Amelia Island providing assistance to all boaters.

This picture shows four of our members Tom Pippin, Bob Sperry, Jerry Neat and Richard Trollope working with the active Coast Guard on helicopter rescue training. For more information on Flotilla 14-1 and the process for becoming an auxiliary member, contact Tom Basore at 904-321-0645 and visit our Flotilla web site at <http://cguax7-14-1.org>



PUBLICATIONS	Aaron Rawls	FSO-PB	14-1	(904) 225-0765
PUBLIC EDUCATION	Tom Pippin	FSO-PE	14-1	(904) 491-6285
PERSONEL SERVICE	Tom Basore	FSO-PS	14-1	(904) 321-0645
	Sam Boyd	FSO-PS	14-1	(904) 277-6608
SECRETARY	Conrad Vaughn	FSO-SR	14-1	(912) 882-9453
VESSEL EXAMANER	Richard Trollope	FSO-VE	14-1	(904) 491-1403

1. The USCG requests comments on expanding the Hull Identification Number (HIN) from 12 to 17 characters. Four of these would indicate length, hull material, propulsion type, and vessel type. The fifth would be a “check” digit useful to Law Enforcement, marine bankers, insurers, and accident investigators. This would be a useful tool for identifying vessels in the (new) Vessel ID System.

The Dept of Homeland Security was required to establish the VIS as a nationwide system of owner ID to help in the recovery of stolen vessels, reduce fraud, improve accuracy of accident data, and help in the remote ID of a suspect vessel. This would improve the personal safety of Law Enforcement Officers with an accurate description of a vessel and alert them to approach with caution if the description does not match the vessel they are planning to board.

You may submit comments online to <http://www.regulation.gov> under docket #USCG-2007-29236 or Fax (202) 493-2251.

Include in your answers: Expected Benefits if 5 numbers (characters?) added, thefts reduced, lost or stolen boats recovered, better accident data, cost of affixing a 17 digit plate

to the hull, any exceptions based on power, boat cost (only expensive boats would have it versus all boats?), what time frame to make it a requirement, any alternatives (add a HIN that is tamper resistant, barcodes added, electronic chips to track the boat, radio tags, etc)

2. Although we are “between” the best fishing seasons, the warming weather is attracting boaters, kayakers, and canoeists. (Yes, kayaks, canoes, and Personal Water Craft (PWCs)) may be given VSCs (and decals) by our VEs. The main points are: life jackets and required safety items for the particular craft per Federal Requirements.
3. Remember to make me a “copy to“ addee on your 7038 submission of VSCs conducted to the AUXDATA.
 . All you need to do is send it to: craig@aibeach.com, rtrollope@earthlink.net

HISTORIAN	Robert Lauber	FSO-HN 14-1	(904) 277-4065
GROUNDS KEEPER	Paul Clark	FSO-GK 14-1	(904) 261-4041
LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER	Helen Sintes	FSO-LK 14-1	(904) 261-4432
FELLOWSHIP	(Vacant)	FSO-FL 14-1	
YOUTH PROGRAMS	Gary Bong	FSO-YP 14-1	(904) 261-2006
HEALTH and SATETY	Deborah Rollins	FSO-HS 14-1	(904) 261-0725



FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**April 3, 2008
1900**

**Amelia Island Lighthouse
100 O'Hagan Lane
Fernandina Beach, FL**

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS