



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
America's Volunteer Lifesaverssm



NASSAU SOUNDINGS

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



Volume 16, No. 08

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

August 2007

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

Tom Hayden

FC

14-1

(912) 674-2348

Lightening strikes are a serious concern to boaters and others on the water alike. Recently in Florida authorities reported a diver was killed after lightning struck his breathing air tank in Deerfield Beach. Fire rescue officials said the victim had been diving with three others off a boat. When he surfaced, lighting struck his tank and he was near the boat. The man was rushed to the beach where an EMT was waiting. He was given CPR and quickly taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. There are many myths about lightening strikes and Deborah Rollins sent us a review of the facts. I will post it at the Lighthouse.

We have a new Coast Guard unit in Kings Bay. It is called the Maritime Force Protection Unit (MFPU). This unit has the sole mission of protecting the submarines and any other HVA - high value asset. They are scheduled to get two large cutters and the 25' DHS boats used by the Station and the MSST. The MSST unit at St Mary's will now be able to devote their full time to anti/counter-terrorism missions all over the Land Area.

We are planning a New Members Class sometime in the Fall. Anyone may come who wants to brush up on the CGAUX mission and protocols. More info to come as soon as we have scheduled a class.

We are working on getting pictures of our staff to go with the Nassau Soundings newsletter. This way our new members and some old ones - time in CGAUX not age - will see who's who.

We will start a new Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) class on Tue, 4 Sept 2007, at 1900 (7 PM) at the Lighthouse. Let all know who may have a need for crew qual or any interested boater or even just general public. Contact Tom Pippin, FSO-PE, for more info.

Last but not least, the Nassau Sun, formerly Nassau Neighbors, (Florida Times-Union) newspaper has asked us to do a monthly article on Recreational Boating Safety. I wrote the

first introductory article and starting this month one of our Flotilla Staff members will write an article for each month. It is due to the paper on the last Fri of the month so look for it in the first week of the next month. Actually, any member could write an article on boating safety if you have a great subject. Just let me know.

VICE COMMANDER Bill Williams VFC 14-1 (904) 261-9511

We seem to have a growing problem getting crewmembers and retaining them. If we have a healthy and growing membership this shouldn't be a problem, but it seems to be looming in the background.

We have important missions to perform and we need qualified checked out people to perform them. I think Fellowship is a large part of appealing to and retaining our people. We should all heartily welcome new and prospective members. We should encourage them to be a staff officer or crewmember, but if they don't feel welcome or come to our meetings this will be to no avail.

Those who know me and have crewed with me know that I put a high value on fellowship. We can do the job and enjoy ourselves at the same time. If I'm in town, I'll never miss a get-together at a local eatery.

Anyway, I think we can all help by consciously interacting with our new members (and old ones!) in an outgoing and friendly way, making them feel more than welcome to our team.

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

There are no new ATON discrepancies in our area to report.

General Information –

INSTALLATION OF LED LANTERNS ON AIDS TO NAVIGATION: SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT

The U. S. Coast Guard will be installing state of art LED lanterns on aids to navigation through out the Seventh Coast Guard District. The only change to published characteristics will be an increase or decrease in nominal range. As a rule, the change will be an increase in nominal range. On those occasions where a decrease in nominal range may occur, and this reduction in service to the mariner is greater than one nautical mile. The Coast Guard will publish a proposed change and/or an advance notice in this publication. Mariners are requested to review the District Local Notice to Marine closely for changes in their area.

These are still listed in the Local Notice to Mariners:

FL East Coast Amelia River Extensive shoaling reported in the vicinity of South Amelia River DBN 34 (LLNR 38100) 11489 34-01

FL East Coast Amelia Island An unlit pier extends into the South Amelia River at LIGHT 29 (LLNR 38080) in approx 11489 04-03 position 30-35-09N 081-27-18W

Radio Watch:

All six radio watch standers were available for assignments during July.

There were nine patrols, all requiring radio watch standers.

All radio watch standers submitted their nine 7030s for their work. It's nice to get credit for work done. It shows the Coast Guard that we are on duty helping them to do their job.

We were busy with assisting the 4th of July fireworks, the Thistle Race, the Kingfish Tournament, and our normal patrols, including a few Wednesday harbor patrols.

I, again, congratulate all our Radio Watch Standers who are always ready to serve.

Becoming a Radio Watch Stander (RWS):

This article is a repeat from last month's Nassau Soundings. I think it is so important for many of you to understand that I am repeating it again, but with some revisions.

There are 20 Auxiliary members from flotilla 14-01 that have passed the Auxiliary Communications course and are now a Communications Specialist. There are a few who are still in the process of studying to take the test. There may be some who would like to study and take the test for Aux Comm. After this large hurdle, all it takes to be a RWStander is to perform 8 hours of radio watch under the supervision of a certified RWStander and study two documents. The radio watch training should take two sessions of 4 hours each. You could, also, do this in two sessions of 3 hours plus one session of 2 hours, or any other combination – your choice. Then the certified RWS will report to me of your completion of the successful 8 hours. The next step is to study, on your own, Chapter 9 of the Operations Policy Manual. This is available on line and retrievable from our flotilla's web site www.cgaux7-14-1.org. Also, you are to study Aux Comm Procedures CGD SEVENINST 16798.3 (series) which is available from me, Jerry Neal, FSO-CM at jerdadgman@aol.com. I'll send you a copy via USPS mail. After you have told me in writing that you have studied and understand them, I will inform the FC that you have completed your fulfillment. The FC then fills out the paperwork and sends it to Diraux West. Diraux West will then send a certificate to the FC who will present it to you at the next flotilla meeting. Then, you will be in a very select and proud group.

You can get your RWStander training from any of the following: Bob Lauber, Aaron Rawls, Bob Macias, Roy or Linda Durden, or Jerry Neal. You don't have to stick to just one RWStander for your 8 hours. I would encourage you to get training from at least two of the above people to see how we each do our tasks.

You then have the option of operating from a VHF radio in several ways: from your home, from your boat, from your truck or car, or from the Amelia Lighthouse cottage radio room. You will receive keys to the gate and the cottage door. If you prefer any of the first three, you will have to provide your own VHF radio, coax, VHF antenna and antenna mast system. Also, you will have to operate from a location that will communicate to Nassau Sound, St. Mary's, the end of the Cumberland Sound jetties, and marker 71 in Georgia. My location in the city of Fernandina Beach provides me with a mast height that puts my antenna at about 50 feet above mean high tide. I can reach our vessels from all the above locations. I can't reach a vessel at the Jekyll Island marina. However, I can hear the CG station in Brunswick, GA.

If you choose to operate from your vessel or wheeled vehicle, you must be able to reach the above locations. It may be difficult unless you locate your vessel or vehicle properly. Or I may have to only assign you radio watch only for patrols or regattas in the Fernandina Beach harbor area. This is acceptable to me.

After you have gotten your radio system up and running, I will inspect your system for proper operation and range. If it passes, I will fill out and send in ANSC-7004. You will then receive your own facility number and a call sign (e.g., NF7NJ for my facility and Amelia 8 for my callsign)

If you decide to operate from the lighthouse cottage, which can reach all the above locations, you will receive a set of qkeys to the gate and the cottage door. It can get a little lonely working there, however, it's a good place to get some other work done without being bothered. You will need a cell phone as backup as there is no landline available from the cottage.

I wish all you desiring to be a RWStander good luck and successful studying. The other five RWStanders and I will welcome you with open arms. Your assignment of one or two 4-5 duty hours a month will be mightily welcome.

COMPUTER SERVICE	Joe Blanchard	FSO-CS 14-1	(904) 277-4257
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Remember to check our web site <http://cgaux7-14-1.org/>

FINANCE	J. Sintes	FSO-FN 14-1	(904) 261-4432
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INFORMATIONS	Craig Bennett	FSO-IS 14-1	(904) 261-7456
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MATERIALS	Louis Fusco	FSO-MA 14-1	(912) 673-9470
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Ordered and received youth books. We now have on-hand at least 300 Inky the Whale Coloring Books and 250 Adventure On The Water-Coastie books. Continuing to order until 500 each of these books are on-hand. Also ordered 50 booklets of Keep your Boat Afloat, 100 of the pamphlet Volunteer To Make The Difference-Join The CG AUX.

MARINE SAFETY	Richard Trollope	FSO-MS 14-1	(904) 941-1403
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1. The 2007 Edition of the Coast Pilot is now available.
2. The U. S. Coast Guard has revived the storm flag program. These flags display small craft advisories, gales and hurricanes. They will be posted at selected USCG stations. At present 37 stations will be displaying the Coastal Warnings. In our "area" these will be at Tybee Island and Brunswick, Ga., Mayport, Ponce Inlet, Port Canaveral, Fort Pierce, Lake Worth, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami, Fl.
3. Since the "year of the hurricanes", many boat insurance companies have refused to write or renew policies. But with last year hurricane free, those companies had a chance to rebuild and realized that if they did not write policies, some other company would intervene. Without insurance, a potential buyer could not purchase a boat as there was no way a finance company would lend money for an unsecured asset. Result: slowed boat sales because of the insurance freeze and operators of marinas, docks, and piers lost business. Insurance companies recognized they had to start writing policies ==again.
4. Lights and Flares- : Coast Pilot Reference:

Submarines operate in our area (including those based at Kings Bay and coming to Mayport). Flares used by these submarines (and their meanings) follow:

Black or Green-Simulated torpedo firing

Yellow-Coming to periscope depth

Red-Emergency

White-Submarine is surfacing

Additional Lights –32 CFR707 Inland and International Waters: used by military and Government Contract Ships

707.2 –MOB (Man Overboard) light_2 Flashing Red Vertical Lights

707.5-Red or Blue on Deck Edge _Doing Underway Replenishment

707.7_Amber (flashing) Light-Submarine on the Surface

707.8_Special Operations-Revolving Red Green Amber Light on Forward Mast

707.9_Convoy-Blue Light on Stern (instead of normal White Light)

707.10_White Spot Light on the Stern (to Illuminate the Wake)

707.11_Flight Operations: Various Lights to Launch and Recover Aircraft

707.12_Amphibious Operations: Various Lights (like 707.11) to use Beach Assault Craft

5. www.cruisersnet.net A web site that lists (among other things) all bridges and locks in the Southeast U.S. is available online.

6. NMMA Certification Safety Labels: Two (2) new safety labels are required to be placed on all new boats manufactured in the U.S. They are: Prop Helm Label (NW 207-07) –“Rotating propeller may cause serious injury or death. Shut off engine when near persons in the water” and Prop Transom Label (NW 208-07) –“Rotating propeller may cause serious injury or death. Do not approach or use ladder when engine is running.” Both labels are available from the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)

MEMBER TRAINER	Bob Sperry	FSO-MT 14-1	(904) 277-7191
MARINE PROGRAM VISITOR	(Vacant)	FSO-PV 14-1	
OPERATIONS	Heinz Fridrick	FSO-OP 14-1	(904) 261-5844

1. During the month of July we had 15 patrols which bring the YTD patrols to 79, five above plan. Nine patrols were for Permitted Marine Events in support of Fourth of July Fireworks in St.Mary and Fernandina Beach, the annual Thistle Sailboat Races and the Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament

2. Available for patrols were: 9 facilities, 12 coxswains and 15 crew

3. Actual fuel costs are on Plan and in line with the approved budget.

4. Starting in August we plan to have one additional patrol/week for a total of three patrols/week. Two of the weekly patrols will be Harbor Safety and Security missions.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS	Robert Conklin	FSO-PA 14-1	(912) 673-9678
PUBLICATIONS	Aaron Rawls	FSO-PB 14-1	(904) 225-0765

PUBLIC EDUCATION Tom Pippin FSO-PE 14-1 (904) 491-6285

The fall issue of the Boating Skills and Seamanship Course is organized and staffed with instructors. This course is offered to the public and the Flotilla Members. Cost to the Flotilla Members is \$15.00 and this course can be use to fulfill the requirement for Crew status. BS&S starts on September 4, 2007 and will end on October 16, 2007, with the final exam. Subjects taught are geared toward equipping any boater to handle the various issues facing the boater. You will be instructed in Trailing, Highway Signs, Weather, Navigation, Boating Laws and other subjects. To enroll call me (491-6285) or e-mail me at: gpippin42@bellsouth.net. See you in class!!

PERSONEL SERVICE Sam Boyd FSO-PS 14-1 (904) 277-6608

Not much to report from Personnel services this month. We have 2 prospect members waiting for the final session to take the new member test, and the new member briefing. Just trying to find a convenient date for all of us. A couple other people in the pipe line. 3 of our new members have finally been cleared thru the personal security investigation and we are awaiting confirmation from DIRAUX (director of auxiliary) for confirmation so the FC and VFC can swear them in. This has been a slow process taking 4 months from the date we submit a new members paper work. It must be frustrating for our new members.

SECRETARY Conrad Vaughn FSO-SR 14-1 (912) 882-9453

VESSEL EXAMANER Bob Tolg FSO-VE 14-1 (904) 261-6149
Richard Trollope FSO-VE 14-1 (904) 941-1403

As noted previously, the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Program is in its 60th year. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has invited Richard Schwartz, founder and chairman of BoatU.S. (And an Honorary USCG Auxiliary Commodore) to be their spokesperson for the free VSC program. In this role, Schwartz will appear in public service announcements and a media campaign this summer to educate boaters about the need for a free VSC. Quoting Schwartz “Problems can crop up even on the best- maintained boatIt’s also your best way to learn about problems that might put you in violation of state or federal laws or worse, create danger for you or your passengers on the water”.

With the above publicity, additional boaters may be requesting VSCs. The key operative words are: “ free ... Check”. Example: there may be an expense for the vessel owner to replace flares found outdated during the “check” but the purpose is to save lives (and vessels). You VEs are providing a vital service for the boaters and are doing well.

If you need more forms, decals, or pamphlets please call (904) 491-1403 or e-mail me at rtrollope@earthlink.net

HISTORIAN Robert Lauber FSO-HN 14-1 (904) 277-4065

GROUNDS KEEPER Paul Clark FSO-GK 14-1 (904) 261-4041

Workday on Sat., July 28th at 0900. **All members are invited.**

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER	Helen Sintes	FSO-LK 14-1	(904) 261-4432
FELLOWSHIP	Mac McAllister	FSO-FL 14-1	(904) 227-0062
YOUTH PROGRAMS	Gary Bong	FSO-YP 14-1	(904) 261-2006
HEALTH and SATETY	Deborah Rollins	FSO-HS 14-1	(904) 251-0725



FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**August 2, 2007
1900**

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

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