



# NASSAU SOUNDINGS

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



Volume 17, No. 08

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

August 2008

**FLOTILLA COMMANDER**

Tom Hayden

FC

14-1

(912) 674-2348

### *Life of a Flotilla Commander.*

With 93 members Flotilla 14-1 is very active and a pleasure to work with. E-mails are the most common means of communicating between members, particularly from Flotilla Staff Officers (FSO) an/or the Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC). Phone calls are very helpful to exchange information. The recent change to ID Cards processing is working. Also, the FSO-MS is just as busy with new ID Card applications and changes to AUXDATA. My monthly cycle starts with the Staff meeting on the last Wed of the month. I work with the VFC to establish an agenda which can cover anything from our Business Plan to a report on the latest Division 14 meeting. Then after determining what we think are the most important items that should be presented to the full Flotilla membership, I start work on the Flotilla Agenda for the Flotilla meeting on the 1st Thurs of the month..

I receive communications from District 7 Director of Auxiliary regularly. I am starting to receive ID Cards for members who have successfully negotiated the new computer system. I also receive certificates, letters of completions and awards for members. It's always a pleasure to see certificates of completion and/or awards for the members. Also, there are the communications from the Division Captain or Vice Captain, I work with the Sector Jacksonville, Contingency Plans and Readiness Office about once a week. We are busy preparing for Exercise Argus which will be a terrorist incident at Port of Jacksonville and Port Canaveral. Port Fernandina Beach will have play in the Exercise. As a boat owner that has a qualified USCG Facility, I offer my boat for Safety and Harbor Patrols. We are on patrol about once or twice a month.

I cannot emphasize enough the support the Flotilla staff provides in working with members. Each Flotilla Staff Officer and Special Staff Officer keeps his or her area of responsibility working. We are lucky to have the Lighthouse as our Flotilla headquarters and it is a very pleasant place to hold meetings. Additionally, our crew of volunteers work with the City of Fernandina Beach, who own the property, to give tours for visitors to the Lighthouse. Coming up in August we have opportunities to work with the Kids Night Out, a national program sponsored by local police departments, the National Marina Day, and of course Ex Argus.

Then on the 20th of the month I have to do a monthly report for the Division 14, Division Captain. This is easy because I use most of what the Staff provides me for the monthly news letter and what I do with Sector

That brings me to the end of the month in the life of a Flotilla Commander and that is the news letter - Nassau Soundings. Our recent survey indicated that the vast majority of the membership enjoy the news letter and look forward to receiving. I review all the Staff reports and I write a Flotilla Commander's report.

Many thanks to the VFC and Staff who make my job easy.

**VICE COMMANDER**                      Heinz Fridrich                      VFC / OP 14-1                      (904) 261-5844

In the January Nassau Sounding we highlighted the three missions of our flotilla and the three distinctive but interdependent functional groups or areas of responsibility within our flotilla

These three areas of responsibility are

- **Recreational Boating Safety**
- **Marine Safety and Security**
- **Flotilla Member Services.**

At the beginning of the year 2008 we developed a set of objectives for each of these areas of responsibilities .We then asked each functional group and discipline to respond with a detailed set of supporting objectives or initiatives. See also: <http://cgaux7-14-1.org/bp.htm>

In total we defined 18 area of responsibility objectives and 68 supporting objectives and initiatives. **These Objectives and Initiatives are the basis for our 2008 Business Plan.**

On a regular basis usually at staff meetings we review how we are doing in meeting these objectives and supporting initiatives. About once a quarter our flotilla commander reports to division how we are doing against our business plan.

As of the end of July we are essentially on track to meet most of our objectives with the exception of three.

1. **Recreational Boating Safety/Vessel Examinations** : Our plan called for 200 Vessel exams in 2008. At this time we have only achieved about 70 and our YE objective is

exposed. In the coming months we must try to come closer to our objective. Richard Trollope is leading this effort with the help of all VEs.

2. **Marine Safety and Security/Operations:** Our plan called for the recertification of 8 crew and 3 coxswains. At this time we have recertified 1 coxswain and 4 crew. Our plan also called for the qualification of at least six new crew members. At this time we have qualified three.

We are now planning for a QE mission in October to meet our annual targets but we are exposed. Heinz Fridrich is leading the recovery effort with all operational members and our Member trainer.

3. **Flotilla member services/Personnel services:** Our plan called to recruit 10 new members. At this time we **may** have identified three potentials and the YE objective is exposed. Sam Boyd and Barbara Dunn are leading the recovery plan and need the help of all flotilla members.

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

- The National Ocean Service has announced that the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of U. S. Coast Pilot 5, covering the Gulf of Mexico, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico is ready for issue.  
**Previously reported discrepant, now reported Watching Properly**
- Amelia River Daybeacon 18 (LLNR 7103/37983), LNTM 08-28.

**Status of Charts** (<http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/mcd/dole.htm>)

| <u>Chart Nr.</u> | <u>Chart Title</u>   | <u>Ed/Date</u>   | <u>LNTM</u>  |
|------------------|--|------------------|--------------|
| 11488            | Amelia Island to St. Augustine                             | 26/Dec 06        | 19-08        |
| <b>11489</b>     | <b>ICW – St. Simons Island to Tolomato River</b>           | <b>37/May 07</b> | <b>28-08</b> |
| 11490            | Approaches to St. Johns River;<br>St. Johns River Entrance | 19/Dec 06        | 16-08        |
| <b>11491</b>     | <b>St. Johns River – Atlantic Ocean to Jacksonville</b>    | <b>36/Jan 07</b> | <b>28-08</b> |

Weeks Marine, with dredge R. S Weeks, will be dredging in the vicinity of the St. Marys Entrance, outside navigable waters, with floating and submerged pipelines renourishing th beach at Fernandina Beach, FL. ETC is 10 August 2008..

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

I have all 11 7030 reports from radio watch standers, so far for the month of July.

Radio Watch Stander Bob Macias has told me he is ready to be assigned a few radio watches. I'll assign him a watch, or two, with his prior approval.

We haven't received, as yet, the signed-off ANSC 2004 Radio Inspection & Offer For Use Form papers for Heinz Fridrich to operate as a RWS from his boat. I sent and email to SO-CM Tom Sorensen to look into this matter. He reported to me that he is now researching it's status.

I recently read an article from the August 2008 issue of WORLDRADIO on page 32, written by Bill Sexton, N1IN/AAA9PC. N1IN is his amateur FCC license. AAA9PC is his MARS radio license. (MARS is Military Affiliate Radio System -- sponsored by US DOD.) The article discusses the renewed spirit in Emergency Communications cooperation between the Amateur Radio community, Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS, TSA (Transportation Security Administration) and USCG. It took hurricane Katrina to reveal the gross ineffectiveness of public safety communications systems. Now, many TSA personnel have been trained and have their FCC amateur radio licenses. There are, so far, six Florida airports with backup HF stations up and running, plus coastal Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana with one each. Nationally, the total is 16 and eight more on the way. They are using the Army MARS WinLink2000 HF E-mail-over-HF system. They are up, trained, and running just in time for the 2008 hurricane season.

Many government entities can now all work together to provide emergency communications interoperability in cases of disaster.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has three courses in emergency communications (EMCOMM). These courses can be taken online by going to the ARRL web site [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). They have a small cost associated with them. The reason I bring this up is EMCOMM fits in with ICS, Incident Command System, that all of us in operations have had to learn about.

MARS, incidently, is a separately managed and operated program by the Army, Navy and Air Force. The program is a civilian auxiliary consisting primarily of licensed radio operators who are interested in assisting the military with communications.

**COMPUTER SERVICE**                      Joe Blanchard                      FSO-CS 14-1                      (904) 277-4257

The Flotilla 14-1 website has been updated with links to the: Coastal Pilot, Light List, Notice to Mariners, and Local Notice to Mariners. These links are located by selecting "Links of Interest" in the top section of the website. They provide free copies of important publications. Don't forget to visit our website at <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

All Members,

Please remember to forward a copy of either the FEMA Online Passing Letter or the FEMA Certificate for each ICS Course, completion, so that I can forward them up the IS Chain for inputting.

The same is required for a change of member status to BQ, after completing a Boating Course, I must have a copy of the Certificate to also forward up the IS Chain.

**MATERIALS**                                      Louis Fusco                                      FSO-MA 14-1                      (912) 673-9470

**Flash:** Clean Boating Act of 2008... The House and Senate have both signed an exemption bill and sent it to the President for signature approval. If President Bush signs it, then all recreational boaters in the U.S. do NOT have to get a permit for any water discharges normal for their vessels.

Many thanks to you and other recreational boaters, who wrote, faxed, emailed or otherwise contacted their representatives to support this bill.

General:

1. Burial At Sea –Ref: 40CFR229-Protection of environment

A general permit is granted to transport human remains.

A. Remains which are “Not cremated may not be placed “closer” than 3 nautical miles from land and in water no less than 100 fathoms deep (600 feet). If the area is between Cape Canaveral and St. Augustine (as well as some other areas), then the depth must be 300 fathoms (1800 feet). All measures must be taken to ensure that the remains sink to the bottom rapidly and Permanently.!

B Cremated remains may be “buried “ in Ocean” waters without regard to the Depth limitations but “no closer” than 3 nautical miles from land

C. Flowers and Wreaths consisting of readily disposable materials are authorized.

D. All burials so conducted must be reported within 30 days to the EPA regional Administrator.

If you want the USCG to provide burial at sea services, contact the SECTOR JAX Burial at Sea Coordinator. For these services, the following are required: Death Certificate, Proof of Military Service, Transit Permit, and Cremation Certificate.

2. Piracy still exists—In CY2008, there have been 49 attacks; 36 vessels were boarded and 1 vessel was hijacked. Nigeria and Somalia are the hot spots this year. For more information, on piracy, go to [www.icc-ccs.org](http://www.icc-ccs.org)

3. The EPA, in seeking to further prevent pollution, wants new boats to have an Evaporative Fuel Canister in the vent lines of Gas Powered Boat Fuel Tanks by CY2012 (An open vent system allows fumes to be emitted directly into the atmosphere). The USCG rules “require” unobstructed vents for safety reasons.

Boat Builders would have to totally redesign the fuel systems as the carbon canisters used on (automobile) vehicles is currently 14” long and would create a space/maintenance problem.

Also Fuel hoses and Fuel Tanks would need less Permeation (fumes through the layers)

These changes proposed by the EPA are doable but costs for new vessels would rise accordingly.

4. Mitten Crab---A Harmful Invasive Species

These crabs are called this because of the setae (bristles) on their claws, which look like fur and give them the appearance of wearing “mittens”. These critters clog intake valves and cause severe shoreline erosion.

If you see them, contact the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) at (443) 482-2222 or at (443) 482-2222 or [SERCMittenCrab@si.edu](mailto:SERCMittenCrab@si.edu) Photos and other info can be found at [www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine-invasions](http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine-invasions). This is also the web site for Marine Invasive Species. Identifying photos and locations are needed. This is NOT Catch and Release!! Don't throw these critters back alive!!!!

5. Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD):

The FWC has been ticketing boat owners under the "Houseboat" rule. Under Florida law a houseboat is a vessel that is not normally used for transportation "OR" sits in port "longer" than 21 days out of 30. Houseboats must have a Type III MSD.

If such a vessel has a Type I or Type II (or nothing at all), they are illegal! A boat owner with a disabled engine (making the vessel not used for transportation) now becomes the owner of a Houseboat and needs the Type III.

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

Our AUXNAV speciality course continues and is expected to be completed in August.

Continuing the Member Training quiz for our monthly meeting be prepared to discuss the following at Thursday's meeting.

What is the height of Amelia Island Light House and how far can the light be seen?

When is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary authorized to fly the Blue and White Auxiliary flag?

You have a boat with a dark blue hull, What color and size should the registration letters and numbers be? How should they be spaced?

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

After a couple of frustrating months, it looks like we may have a source of display racks. With that and the new literature just received, we can expand our efforts and develop new partners. Sam Boyd has agreed to be a PV and states that he can handle all of Nassau County. Thanks, Sam. Sam and I should be able to service both sides of the river pretty effectively. However it really would be nice to have more volunteers.

It has been brought to my attention that a number of boats are failing VSE due to way the registration numbers are applied to the hull. In several cases the boat owner has blamed the boat dealer for putting the numbers on wrong. Kind of hard to believe but, during the next visits, we will be making a special effort to inform dealers the proper way to apply the numbers. Remember, in both Georgia and Florida, the letters must be separated from the numbers by a space (or hyphen). Wrong: FL3456AB ; Correct: FL 3456 AB.

During the month of July 2008 we had 22 patrols four more than planned. This brings our YTD patrols to 76, three less than planned.

As of the end of July we have 13 certified crew available for patrol, about one third less than what we had at the beginning of the year. During the month we added one new crew member, Steve Filkoff. Congratulations to Steve for passing the Qualification exam.

Also at the end of July ten coxswains out of 12 and seven out of 10 facilities were available for patrol.

July has been a very busy and challenging month for all boats, coxswains, crew and radio watch standers

Highlights of the month in addition to regular marine safety patrols have been

- County support for an emergency rehearsal with 3 boats
- Fireworks support Fernandina Beach and St. Mary's on July 4 with 3 boats
- Thistle Sail Boat Race support on two days with 4 boats
- Jacksonville Kingfish tournament support on two days with 2 boats
- QE mission to qualify two new crew and recertify one crew with 3 boats.

On July 28 the two new crew members qualified .Congratulations to Chuck Molnar and Scott Debrauwere. Congratulations also to Linda Durden who recertified as crew.

I want to especially thank Bob Sperry, Jim Arman and Roy Durden who spent many hours with our new crew members Steve, Chuck and Scott either in the classroom or on the water. It worked and they are qualified.

Now let us try to do the same for three additional crew members in the fall.

Our proud new crew members left to right Steve, Scott and Chuck



## The “Don and Corky” Our Newest Facility



|                         |                |        |      |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------|------|----------------|
| <b>PUBLIC AFFAIRS</b>   | Robert Conklin | FSO-PA | 14-1 | (912) 673-9678 |
| <b>PUBLICATIONS</b>     | Aaron Rawls    | FSO-PB | 14-1 | (904) 225-0765 |
| <b>PUBLIC EDUCATION</b> | Tom Pippin     | FSO-PE | 14-1 | (904) 491-6285 |

**Flotilla Members!!** We need your help to solicit students for the BS&S/10 Class that starts September 23. The class will be taught at the Cottage and starts each Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 1900 hours. We will be advertising in the local papers and have posters at all the boating businesses. The success of the course will greatly depend on your help and interest. To enroll someone, call me at 904-491-6285 or Jim Arman at 904-261-3804. Thanks for you help.

|                         |              |           |      |                |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|------|----------------|
| <b>PERSONEL SERVICE</b> | Sam Boyd     | FSO-PS    | 14-1 | (904) 277-6608 |
|                         | Barbara Dunn | Assistant |      | (904) 261-1889 |

Division 14 will break a record for recruiting this year. Unfortunately we have not contributed much. We are having a tough time bringing in new members this year. flotilla 14-4 has recruited 24 new members. 14-1 has no new members. We have 3 good prospects, but not a commitment yet from any of them. Please grab some recruitment brochures from the literature room and pass them out to friends, fellow boaters, family and in-laws. Especially you vessel examiners when doing Safety Checks.. The literature is on the personnel services shelf on the left side, in the literature room. The room is always open.

Division 14 has a goal this year to encourage all new members to take the auxiliary administrative course. This would be a good course for all of us to take. Perhaps we can find someone to be an instructor for a few classes. I will bring it up at the next staff meeting.

|                  |               |        |      |                |
|------------------|---------------|--------|------|----------------|
| <b>SECRETARY</b> | Conrad Vaughn | FSO-SR | 14-1 | (912) 882-9453 |
|------------------|---------------|--------|------|----------------|

**VESSEL EXAMANER**

Richard Trollope

FSO-VE 14-1

(904) 491-1403

1. National Marina Day arrives on Saturday 9 August. All local Marinas are encouraged to participate and all 14-01 Vessel Examiners (VEs) are requested to blitz in port vessels for safety checks. Tom Hayden and Peter Maye will be at St. Marys, Heinz Fridrich and Rick Trollope will be at the Amelia Island Yacht Basin. Coverage of the Fernandina Marina is expected from Sam Boyd and Jim Arman will cover Egans Creek, Tom Pippin and Anthony Giannetti are taking care of Oyster Bay. Any and all other volunteers are welcome; just let me know where you will be.
2. The commercial manufacturer of flares and other safety devices, ORION, in conjunction with the USCG Auxiliary has developed a Safety Awareness program for Auxiliary VEs. An on-line visual distress (VDS) training program is available at the SHOP AUXILIARY, member's only web site, <http://shopauxiliary.com>. A VE is eligible to receive a free kit containing VSC event posters, brochures, a VDS training card and discount coupons for each VSC "customer". To do this, go to the web site, click "Members Only" & log on using your edirectory password. Click on the ORION logo, view the ORION Demo Training Video, & take the quiz Be sure to complete your full contact info on the quiz form. For a color brochure on this item, go to <http://safetyseal.net/pdf-files/ORION-Announcement.pdf>.
3. Boat US has reached the milestone of 50,000 radios registered with an enhanced VHF Distress Signal Capability. (DSC). Having the DSC on the radio is not enough; the registration is a necessary process to obtain a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number. By registering a DSC VHF with BoatUS, key information such as a boat description and owner contact phone numbers is logged into the Coast Guard's national MMSI database (Rescue 21) used by search and rescue personnel. The greatest benefit of a DSC radio is the ability to connect it to a GPS or Loran receiver and automatically transmit the position of the vessel in distress along with the MMSI number, all with a push of one "mayday" button.

The mayday transmission would ideally be picked up by the Rescue 21 system that now covers over 15,000 miles of (U.S.) coastline. Having a DSC equipped radio is not a requirement (yet) for recreational boats but VEs are requested to bring this system to the attention of boat owners during their VSCs. (Virtually all new VHF radios will have the DSC feature) To register the DSC radio and get the MMSI number or to see a schedule of Rescue 21 installations, go to <http://www.BoatUS.com/MMSI>. Also at this site is a BoatUS DSC VHF tutorial, "Can You Hear Me?" which is free

The DSO-MS has noted that some new boats being sold in our Fernandina Beach area are failing VSCs by Jacksonville VEs. Reason: The dealer installed "letters and numbers" ("numbers") are run together with out the required separation. For this numbering offense, the owner faces a violation charge of \$50 from the USCG, \$35 from either the Marine Patrol or the Sheriff. The VE charge to bring this to the owner's attention: FREE.

**HISTORIAN**

Robert Lauber

FSO-HN 14-1

(904) 277-4065

**GROUND S KEEPER**

Paul Clark

FSO-GK 14-1

(904) 261-4041

|                          |                 |             |                |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER</b> | Helen Sintes    | FSO-LK 14-1 | (904) 261-4432 |
| <b>FELLOWSHIP</b>        | <b>(Vacant)</b> | FSO-FL 14-1 |                |
| <b>YOUTH PROGRAMS</b>    | Gary Bong       | FSO-YP 14-1 | (904) 261-2006 |
| <b>HEALTH and SATETY</b> | Deborah Rollins | FSO-HS 14-1 | (904) 261-0725 |



## FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**August 7, 2008  
1900**

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

*NASSAU SOUNDINGS is published at no expense to the government. Cost of its publication is borne by the dues paying members of Flotilla 14-1 of the 7<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Coast Guard*

***PRIVACY ACT:** Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization.*

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS