



NASSAU SOUNDINGS

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



Volume 18, No. 08

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

August 2009

Calendar of Events

- Aug 06** Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse
07-09 Jacksonville Fall Boat Show
08 Marina Day
15 Flotilla Training - Search & Rescue Procedures
26 Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse
27 Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date
29 Work Day
Sep 03 Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse
08 BS & S Classes (Tuesdays and Thursdays until October 20th)
09 AUXPAT Classes (Wednesdays until October 21st).
19 Flotilla Training - Man Overboard Procedures
24 Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date
26 Work Day
30 Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse

On March 15, 2009 Frank did 12 Vessel exams **None Passed**. The boat shown is a 12 foot vessel, has a capacity of 400 lbs, but with 3 adults, 1 child, and a 30 gallon gas tank was about 130 lbs overloaded. In the vessel safety check form Capacity/Certificate of compliance is recommended for discussion only. WE NEED TO **DO** MORE.



We have just started the second half of the year 2009 and it is time to take inventory of what we have achieved as a Flotilla, but also to think about our key challenges for the remainder of the year.

Over the last six months all Flotilla Staff officers and their teams have worked very hard to meet our 2009 objectives and initiatives.

Some of the highlights are:

We met our public education plans. We ramped up our Marine Program Visitor activities and are close to set a record year for vessel safety exams. Thank you: Steve Filkoff, Pete Maye and Richard Trollope and your teams.

Thank you also Bob Conklin for organizing our participation in the Shrimp festival and your publications about the flotilla and the Auxiliary.

We offered our members two specialty courses, a GPS course (also open for the public) and at the present 8 new member are in crew training. Bob Sperry our member trainer has been very busy and deserves a special thank you.

Our new FSO-PS Barbara Dunn under the mentorship of Sam Boyd increased our recruiting effort and we are on our way to set a new record. (*And we thought Sam was a difficult act to follow*)

Joe Blanchard among many other initiatives as VFC developed an excellent heavy weather plan while keeping our website up to date. Joan Blanchard our secretary introduced improved minutes of our meeting and took on the responsibility to maintain the flotilla directory.

All coxswains and crew except one are recertified and all five coxswains are qualified for night operations. This was rather challenging considering the poor weather during spring.

Jay Sintes kept our finances straight. Our Lighthouse Keeper Helen Sintes through frequent public light house tours contributes significantly to our image and of course our wallet.

Our Youth program under the leadership of Gary Bong and his team continues to be one of the finest and perhaps most effective effort presenting boating safety to third and fourth graders.

We cannot forget our Ground Keepers Paul Clark and Roger Fowler who work very hard to maintain the lighthouse grounds and of course the teams that regularly maintain the light house light.

Finally we asked Aaron Rawls our publication officer every month to pull all these activities together in the Nassau Sounding so that it makes sense and is also interesting to read. Thank you Aaron.

What a great team. Thank you all very much including those I did not mention specifically. Of course as always we expect the same or even better performance in the second half of this year. So do not relax too much.

We are now starting the second half of the year and it is time to start thinking about next year's leadership. We need members to step up and run for the two elected positions: VFC (*Vice Flotilla Commander*) and FC (*Flotilla Commander*). In addition we probably will require some new flotilla staff officers. I would like everyone to give this some serious thought. Joe Blanchard will name a nominating committee to identify candidates.

One of our greatest concern and challenge is the future of operations. Compared to the past few years we project over the next two years significant attrition in coxswains and crew. Unless we do something about this NOW our flotilla and ability for Marine Safety and Security will diminish. We need to continue recruiting new members that are willing to train as crew and become coxswains. We need all Flotilla members to support Barbara Dunn our FSO-PS in identifying and recruiting individuals that have interest in boating or if possible have boating experience.

I intend to discuss this further at the next Flotilla meeting.

VICE COMMANDER Joe Blanchard VFC 14-1 (904) 277-4257

This year's first Flotilla 14-1 was held at Murray's Grill and about 30 members attended. Everyone really enjoyed the food and fellowship. The next social is planned for 5:30 PM, Tuesday, Aug 18th at Applebee's on the corner of 8th Street and Sadler in Fernandina Beach. Please RSVP to FSO-FL Micki Beberman and we will look forward to your company. The guest speaker at our August meeting will be Brian Patterson from the Northeast Florida Council of Boy Scouts. He will discuss their activities on the water. It should be very interesting. The staff is trying to correct the mildew issue at the cottage and we expect a great deal of improvement within the next 2 months. See you at the August meeting.

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

ATON PROBLEMS: (per Local Notice to Mariners, District 7 29-09)

- LLNR 37980 Amelia River Daybeacon 16 destroyed
- LLNR 6790 St. Mary's River Light 2 Improper Characteristic
- LLNR 6995 Kings Bay Light 46 Destroyed
- LLNR 7020 Kings Bay Light 54, Extinguished
- LLNR 7035 Kings Bay Light 60 Destroyed
- LLNR 7000 Kings Bay Light 48 Discontinued for dredging

Extensive shoaling reported South Amelia River Daybeacon 34 (LLNR 38100)
Shoaling reported in the vicinity of Fernandina Beach LT 1 and LT 3

No new reports from our patrols.

COMMUNICATIONS Jerry Neal FSO-CM 14-1 (904) 277-8270
 Assistant Scott De Brauwere (904) 261-6034

Flotilla Radio Systems Inventory: Months ago our flotilla was asked to submit an AF-538 "Personal Clothing and Equipment Records" for items we were loaned from the

USCG. As it turns out, this did not include "Flotilla Owned" equipment you may have. If you are one of those who submitted the above-mentioned form, you may have entered your "flotilla-loaned" radio and/or power supply and/or antenna. If you did, those items have been removed from your submission. However, I prepared said forms for those items complete with serial numbers, where applicable. Upon receipt, please sign these and send them back to me, Jerry Neal, as soon as possible.

Receipt of Radio Watchstander 7030 reports: I have received all 7 (seven) 7030 reports for June and all 8 (eight) reports for July. All 8 (eight) RWS have become very proficient in getting 7030s completed and submitted to the FSO-IS and me in a timely manner.

Telecommunications PQS: The Auxiliary National website for Response/Telecom/TelecomNew states the following:

April 9, 2009 - A new CD is available from the ANSC on training for the Telecommunications Operator PQS (Personal Qualification). This CD contains the PQS, all the reference documents, and a new Interactive Mentoring Guide to provide everything needed for radio qualification on one CD. Order CD 2015A from the ANSC.

This CD has a Mentors/Mentees version of the PQS in addition to most all it's references. Our Materials Officer ordered a few of them for me. I'll distribute them to my assistant and our Member Trainer for review. You can download the Mentoring Guide, itself, at:

<http://www.cgau.org/response/Telecom/TelecomNews.htm> See the March notice.

I suspect that I and my assistant will prefer to add a few items of our own to the CD since we have spent a lot of time perfecting our own. We will review the CD very soon and keep you posted.

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

Remember to check our web site <http://cgau7-14-1.org/>

MARINE SAFETY Richard Trollope FSO-MS 14-1 (904) 941-1403

- Marine Fires: During this summer (CY 2009) two recreational boats have been totally destroyed by fire in our Area of Responsibility (AOR). The cause of these fires is not the only issue; prevention and damage control are vital. With the advent of volatile alcohol/ethanol as an additive to gasoline, the rubber/synthetic fuel lines, fiberglass tanks, and various gaskets (as in carburetors for example) are subjected to chemical deterioration. Are your fuel hoses double clamped? Have they swollen or become brittle or softened? Are your fire extinguishers "good" for a fuel fire? Are they mounted so that all passengers/crew can readily access them? Are they in reliable condition? Do you have enough of them? (A standard 5 lb extinguisher is only useful for about 3 minutes.) Do you know how to use them?

For those vessels using diesel fuel, the danger of a marine fire is lessened but still exists. Aside from the fuel used for propulsion, consider checking for leaks of propane or other fuel sources for stoves and topside grills. Bottom Line: Once a marine fire gets hot enough to use a fiberglass hull for ITS fuel that vessel is likely to “go up in smoke”.

- RADAR Antenna safety: The RADAR emits radio frequency (RF) in a searchlight pattern; the antenna should be at least five feet above the operator’s head. (Think of the instructions about your kitchen micro-wave oven!) If the antenna is too high, it will not provide a close-in “picture”; placed too low, the antenna becomes a personnel hazard.
- Electric Trolling Motor: How big should it be for your fishing boat? To move the vessel at a fast walking speed, figure 2.5 lbs of thrust for every 100 lbs of (loaded *) boat. A 1200 lb boat would need a motor producing 30 pounds of thrust. * Loaded means accounting for anglers, gear, food/water, and fuel.

MEMBER TRAINER

Bob Sperry

FSO-MT 14-1

(904) 277-7191

Training opportunities continue. On 15 August our third training session with the Coast Guard at Mayport will begin at 0900. This session will be about Search and Rescue Procedures and should be of interest to all our member involved in operations. If you want to attend contact me by 7 August. Also our third specialty course of 2009 AUXPAT will begin on Wednesday 9 September at 1900 at the Lighthouse. PC Roy Durden will lead the sessions which continue on Wednesdays until mid October. This course discusses the types of Patrols and activities performed while on our scheduled patrols. Call me if you wish to attend.

OPERATIONS

Heinz Fridrick

FSO-OP 14-1

(904) 261-5844

During the month of July we had 13 patrols two less than our plan. This brings our year to date patrols to 74, fourteen less than planned.

On July fourth we supported the Fireworks at St.Mary’s and Fernandina Beach Harbor with three boats.

On Saturday July 11, nineteen members attended the piloting and day/night navigation training at Mayport. The next Mayport training will be on Saturday, August 15 on SAR execution.

On Saturday, July 18 we supported the annual Ed GAW Open Water challenge. This is an offshore swim event with a 1 mile and 5 K race. About 70 swimmers participated, 37 in the 5 K race and 33 in the 1 mile race. Ages were less than 18 to 70.

This was a very early and also very long day for the three boat crews supporting the event. We left our docks around 0530 and placed the event markers for the 5 K start, the 1 mile start and the finish around 0730. Our role during the event was to screen boats from entering the swim area. Subsequent to the swim event we practiced search patterns and returned to base at 1400.



The 1 mile race was decided by a sprint

For more pictures of the swim event use the following web site

<http://photos.jacksonville.com/mycapture/enlarge.asp?image=24792613&event=802397&CategoryID=14301>

We kept our radio guard A9 Jim Arman rather busy. Over 8 hours every boat called in at least twice per hour reporting status of operation and position. Thank you Jim.

During the greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament Treasure Hunter and Marie Louise had two very early missions from about 0400 to 0800 monitoring the outgoing fishing boats in the Cumberland Sound.

August will be another busy month. Early in the month we plan to support the St. Mary Saltwater classics a fishing event. In the middle of the month we have been asked by CG Kingsbay to support a submarine escort training event.

PUBLIC EDUCATION Steve Filkoff FSO-PE 14-1 (904) 491-8629

Our Fall BS&S course starts 8 Sep. We are also putting together a special Saturday version of BS&S to be held on three consecutive Saturdays, starting 31 Oct. The classes will begin at 0900 and run to about 1700. We're doing this, primarily to accommodate some people from FWC and NOAA that want to take the class but, due to work, could not commit to attending two nights a week for 6 weeks. I believe there are about 6 people interested from those two organizations. I'll also publicize this class.

PERSONEL SERVICE Barbara Dunn FSO-PS 14-1 (904) 261-1889

FLOTILLA 14-1 -**Six** new members have been sworn in so far this year. **Two** more can be sworn in at the August meeting. They are Chris Belcher and Reid Hanson. Help all of these new members find their interests and use their talents.



Chris Belcher



Reid Hanson

FLOTILLA 14-1 currently has 12 new recruits who are studying to become members. It is exciting that there is so much interest in joining our flotilla.

Thanks to all members who have been recruiting. Keep encouraging new recruits. And when new members are sworn in greet them and help them get involved.

FLOTILLA 14-1 - Has one candidate who is transferring from Michigan auxiliary. Her name is Sondra Shepherd. Some of you met her at our social this month. She will probably be at our meeting on Thursday, Aug 6. Make her welcome.

VESSEL EXAMINER Richard Trollope FSO-VE 14-1 (904) 491-1403

1 .National Marina Day arrives on Saturday 8 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. Heinz Fridrich and Sam Boyd will cover the Amelia Island Yacht Basin (AIYB); Tom Hayden and Peter Maye are requested to cover St. Mary's. Tom Pippin and Anthony Giannetti are requested to take care of Oyster Bay. If you need more decals, ask!
2. As VEs, we emphasize that our Auxiliary (recreational) Vessel Safety Checks are FREE. However, as you contact boat owners, have them “compare and save” the following costs for violations of Federal/State requirements:

Selected requirements	Violation: Average Fine Imposed			
	Coast Guard	Marine Patrol	Sheriff	USCG Auxiliary
Life Jackets (each)	\$150	\$35	\$35+	\$0
Fire Extinguisher	\$150	\$35	\$35+	\$0
Visual Distress Signals	\$100	\$35	\$35+	\$0
Numbering	\$50	\$35	\$35+	\$0
Horn/whistle	\$50	\$35	\$35+	\$0
Bell (Boats >39')	\$50	\$35	\$35+	\$0
Navigation Lights	\$100	\$35	\$35+	\$0

3. As you examine “Personal Water Craft” (PWCs), note that some dealers have NOT been following the Federal/State requirements for separation of the numbers (they have “run” them together IE:” GA1234FL” instead of “GA 1234 FL”). Your advice (and the PWC owner’s follow-up) might save him/her a violation cost of \$35-\$50.

FELLOWSHIP

Micki Beberman

FSO-FL 14-1

(904) 261-7672

The next Flotilla 14-1 social is scheduled for August 18,2009 which is a Tuesday starting 5:30 pm at Applebee's. Lunch special will be available through the dinner hour at 5.99 or we can order from the dinner menu @ 2 for \$20.00 the choice is up to each individual member. **Hope we have a full house-**

Please RSVP to Micki or VFC Joe Blanchard, 277-4257. Some of us will have a full day of patrol before the social but that will give us something else to talk about.

**If I had a good picture of our last Fellowship dinner
I would put it here.**



FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**August 6, 2009
1900**

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

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