



NASSAU SOUNDINGS

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



Volume 18, No. 02

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

February 2009

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Helen Sintes

FSO-LK 14-1

(904) 261-4432

City to open Lighthouse grounds to the public

At the request of the city manager, the lighthouse grounds will be open to the public for photos and viewing of the lighthouse every Saturday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The city will open and close the gates

Calendar of Events

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| FEB | 04 | Operations Workshop – 1900 – Lighthouse |
| | 05 | Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse |
| | 09 | AUX Weather Course – 1900 – Lighthouse – 11 evenings Mon./Wed. |
| | 14 | Crew/Coxswain recertification |
| | 17 | BS&S public education– 1900 – Lighthouse – 13 evenings Tuesdays/Thursdays |
| | 25 | Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse |
| | 26 | Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date |
| | 28 | Work Day – 0900 – Lighthouse |
| Mar | 05 | Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse |
| | 07 | TCT one hour class-Lighthouse-0900 |
| | 26 | Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date |



By the time you read this the New Year 2009 is already a month old and we have been very active to put objectives and initiatives in place to meet our responsibilities and challenges for the year. In developing our plans for 2009 we were guided by the following:

The mission of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is to contribute to the safety and security of our citizens, ports, waterways and coastal regions.



Within our Flotilla we have three distinctive but interdependent functional groups or areas of responsibility to support these missions

1. Recreational Boating Safety. All efforts in this area are directed towards the outside of the flotilla. It ranges from education in public schools to public education. It includes vessel examination, marine program visitation and public affairs. To be successful we need a focused and strong marketing, sales and customer service effort and attitude. The Coast Guard has fully delegated Recreational Boating Safety to the Auxiliary.

2. Marine Safety and Security is to support the Coast Guard in Maritime Homeland Security efforts and in operational, administrative and logistical requirements. This ranges from Marine Domain Awareness patrols to Permitted Marine event patrols to safety patrols. This is the operational responsibility of the flotilla. It involves operations, member training, communication, marine safety and aids to navigation. It requires extensive training and certification for day and night operation and for new operational members.

Our Role in Marine Safety and Security has changed especially since 9/11. Part of the safety aspect has increasingly moved to commercial support like Boat US or to the local community like Sheriff or Florida Wildlife. Because there is a fine line between Marine Security and Law Enforcement, (which we cannot do) our role in security is still evolving and will have to be further strengthened.

3. Member services include all personnel, finance, information systems, materials and publication. In our flotilla there are others like Grounds Keeper, Historian, Social and Fellowship and Lighthouse Keeper, who play important roles in our flotilla. All these disciplines provide the glue for the flotilla and its member ship. Without them the flotilla cannot function effectively as an organizational unit.

These are very important and difficult areas of responsibilities. I like to invite all Flotilla members to get involved and support. We can use all the help we can get.

If you have any comments to this article please let me know. Do not wait until the next Nassau Sounding is published. My e mail address is hfridrich@aol.com

VICE COMMANDER

Joe Blanchard

VFC

14-1

(904) 277-8270

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our Flotilla Commander for moving up the January meeting time to 1800. He did this so that we could adjourn early and watch the BCS Championship football game. But on a more serious note, the Flotilla is planning three AUX OP classes this year, AUX Weather, AUX Seamanship, and AUX Patrol. These are great classes and should be of interest to all. The AUX Weather class starts on February 9th 1900 at the Lighthouse. I'll be teaching that class and I'm looking forward to a large turnout. Also, if anyone has a question about the Coast Guard, Auxiliary, or Flotilla please don't hesitate to contact me or any staff member. Always remember, we are here to help you feel comfortable and meet the expectations you had when you decided to join the Auxiliary.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

John Tatum

FSO-AN 14-1

(904) 491-7601

- The Aids to Navigation [AN] program has been re-designated as Navigation Systems [NS] at the beginning of 2009. Staff officers at flotilla, division and district levels have been re-designated as "NS" in lieu of "AN".
- In conjunction with Division 10 and the ADSO-NS (North), there will be an Aids Verifier training course and NS workshop at the Amelia Island Lighthouse on 7 February 2009, from 0900 to 1600.
- **Shoaling reported mid-channel in the vicinity of Fernandina Beach Buoy 1(LLNR 37985).** Fernandina Beach Temporary Buoy 1A has been disestablished. Water depth reported less than six feet at high tide. See LNTM 09-02 for details.
- The USCG has published a notice stating that a change to the printing cycle of the light lists will result in no publication of new light lists in 2008 [except Vol. 5, covering the Mississippi River]. New editions of the light lists will be published in early 2008. Current editions will be effective for about 14 months. (LNTM 08-33)

COMMUNICATIONS

Jerry Neal

FSO-CM 14-1

(904) 277-8270

The Watch Stander group has a new watch stander who can operate from his home. He is Jim Arman and his call sign is Amelia 9. His home station facility is NF7AQ. Congratulations, Jim.

The complete list of Watch Standers is as follows:

Bob Lauber, Amelia 1

Aaron Rawls, Amelia 3

Bob Macias, Amelia 4

Heinz Fridrich, Amelia 5

Roy Durden, and/or Linda Durden, Amelia 6

Jerry Neal, Amelia 8

Jim Arman, Amelia 9

We are all a dedicated crew and perform our duties well.

If you are not on this list and would like to be a Watch Stander, I will have a self-contained CD containing all the manuals and information you need to study. You will be assigned a mentor to help you through any or all the tasks you need. Please call me or see me at the

meetings to ask for a CD. It will be available soon. As for a VHF radio system, it would be best if you have one you have purchased yourself or you can operate from the Lighthouse Cottage Radio Room (as Amelia 7).

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

Remember to check our web site <http://cgaux7-14-1.org/>

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

Correction: In the January issue of “Soundings”, Marine Safety article, New Products: item B, a wrong website was given for Clamp Jackets; the correct site is <http://www.clampjacket.com/>

1. The 62nd Annual Jacksonville Boat Show will be held Friday to Sunday, 6-8 February at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street. Hours are: Friday and Saturday: 10AM to 7PM; Sunday: 10AM to 6PM. Contact: (904) 630-4000 or www.firstcoastboatshow.com. Members who help man the CGAUX booth IN UNIFORM are allowed in free.

2. Chapter 6 of Americas Boating Course states that Federal Law requires boat operators to assist others in trouble. What does the law (really) say and what if I damage the boat I am trying to assist?

U.S. Code 46USC2303-Relating to a Marine Casualty: A person in charge of a vessel involved in a marine casualty shall render necessary assistance to all involved.

46USC2304-Duty to provide assistance at sea: A person in charge shall render assistance to any person found at sea.

Both of these rules state “Provided they do so without serious danger to their vessel or individuals on board”.

An individual showing good faith assistance is not held liable when the individual acts as an ordinary, reasonable and prudent person would have acted under the same circumstances. Failure to do so (act) can result in fines up to \$1000 or 2 years in jail.

42USC14503-Limitations on liability for volunteers (I.E. USCG Auxiliarists on Patrol.)

They shall be liable for no harm “if” the harm was “not” caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence or indifference to the safety of the person being assisted. No punitive damages may be awarded against a volunteer belonging to a non-profit organization or government entity unless clear evidence that the harm was committed by the above actions.



MEMBER TRAINER

Bob Sperry

FSO-MT 14-1

(904) 277-7191

Our AUXWEA speciality course will begin on Monday, February 9th at 1900 at the lighthouse cottage. It will continue on the following Wednesdays and Mondays for 12 sessions. Joe Blanchard will be the instructor and it is recommended for all members and required for AUXOPS status. Call Joe or me if you are interested.

We continue our quiz to be discussed at the next general meeting. Examine the attached photo and be prepared to identify what and where it is. Also what hazards and cautions should we be aware of when near.



OPERATIONS

Heinz Fridrick

FSO-OP 14-1

(904) 261-5844

During the month of January we had 11 patrols three less than what we had planned. Due to very cold and windy weather we had to cancel some of our patrols.

In addition to our more regular patrol duties we included on the water training for those member that are scheduled for 3 year recertification on February 14. Seven crew members and one coxswain will be audited by QE.

During the last week of February and first week of January we have scheduled two operation workshops. These are mandatory for all operational members but all flotilla members are invited.

FIRST OPERATIONS WORKSHOP

Wednesday, January 28, 2009, Light House 1900-2100

1. Flotilla Operation Practices and Procedures (Fridrick)
2. Crew and Coxswain recertification (Fridrick)
3. Boat Crew Communication (Fridrick)
4. Annual Currency maintenance Flotilla 14-1 (Sperry)
5. Permitted Marine Events (Fridrick)
6. Uniforms (Fridrick)

SECOND OPERATIONS WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 4, 2009, Light House 1900-2100

1. Additional Training and Night Operation (Fridrick)
2. Come Upons, distress and non distress situations (Fridrick)
3. Auxiliary Operations policies and requirements (Fridrick)
-Requirements for Auxiliary Operations in Station Mayport AOR
4. Communication refresher (Neal)

In early April we are planning new Crew qualification, coxswain recertification and Additional Training Check rides at night for 4 boats, 6 coxswains and 12 crew. We plan to practice during March for these events.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Steve Filkoff

FSO-PE 14-1

(904) 491-8629

Our BS&S public education begins Feb. 17th at 1900 at the Lighthouse. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings for 13 weeks.

PERSONEL SERVICE

Barbara Dunn

FSO-PS 14-1

(904) 261-1889

Flotilla 14-1 currently has 4 new members who are ready to be sworn in. Perhaps this will happen at the Feb 5 meeting. They are:

Member

Gerard Zickmund 1230851

Bob Doyle 1230845

June Darby 1231144

Joan Blanchard 1230958

Mentor

Louie Casey

Sam Boyd

Barbara Dunn

Joe Blanchard

Flotilla 14-1 currently has 4 new member courses out and one is ready to set up an appointment for interview. They are:

Steve Mason

Dennis Murray

Sharon Kelly

Philip Moreau

Mentors will be assigned as soon as they complete their interview. If you would like to mentor one of these please contact FSP-PS above.

Please continue to keep bringing prospects to meetings so we can meet the goal of 10 new members for 2009.

Note from Sam Boyd

Some of you have had a problem inserting your photo when applying for a replacement ID card on line. When asked to name your photo you name it with your member ID number not your name. At the end of the number you put a dot and jpg with no spaces. Also you need to crop your photo so it is an approximate square.

VESSEL EXAMANER

Richard Trollope

FSO-VE 14-1

(904) 491-1403

1. CY 2009 decals have been received and distributed as “starter sets” of five to each of our 14-1 VEs who were “active” in CY2008. If you need more decals or VSC check-off forms, please let me know. (Kudos to Jim Arman, Tom Clare, and Tom Pippin for their VSCs conducted during chilly January).
2. As you conduct VSCs and find boater’s needing a Safety Course, give them a “handout” that lists the (CY) 2009 Boating Public Education Programs presented by the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary Division 14. Besides our own 14-1 BS&S-10, ABS-1, and GPS-2 courses offered at the Amelia Light house, courses are also given by other Flotillas in the greater Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Palatka areas. (Sorry, none are listed for the Georgia area).
3. Critical point for VEs with trainees: Your VSC report (ANSC 7038) provides for you to list them—but be advised that the AUXDATA system is NOT logging them. You (if certified) are getting the credit –but your trainee is not. As you submit electronically your report to craig@aibeach.com, ensure you send me a copy, rtrollope@earthlink.net so I can monitor the trainees’ necessary “quota” for their certification.

4. Safe Boating Week will run from 16-22 May; be thinking of VSC "blitzes" on all our Marinas and launch ramps during this period.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Gary Bong

FSO-YP 14-1

(904) 261-2006

FLOTILLA 14-1 AMELIA ISLAND-EDUCATING CHILDREN IN WATER SAFETY

For the past six years Flotilla 14-1 of the USCGAUX has devoted many volunteer hours in educating local school children in water safety. As we prepare for our first '09 session at St. Michael School February 9th, we look back at more than 4000 students in Nassau County, Florida that have attended interactive sessions now entitled "THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM".

Realizing Amelia Island's barrier island status and nearness of all Nassau County to marshes, ICW, rivers, or ocean, Flotilla 14-1 deemed it important to reach out to local youth and educate them not only in water safety but also in respect, care, and importance of our waterways.

Originally this program was designed to reach students in K through sixth grade. Through trial and error Flotilla instructors determined their best target audience was third graders, as their attention span was well suited to these 45 minute sessions. To quote one instructor, "the third grader's mind resembles a sponge". Consequently, throughout the school year volunteers periodically spend half days on site at elementary schools throughout the region teaching third grade classes.

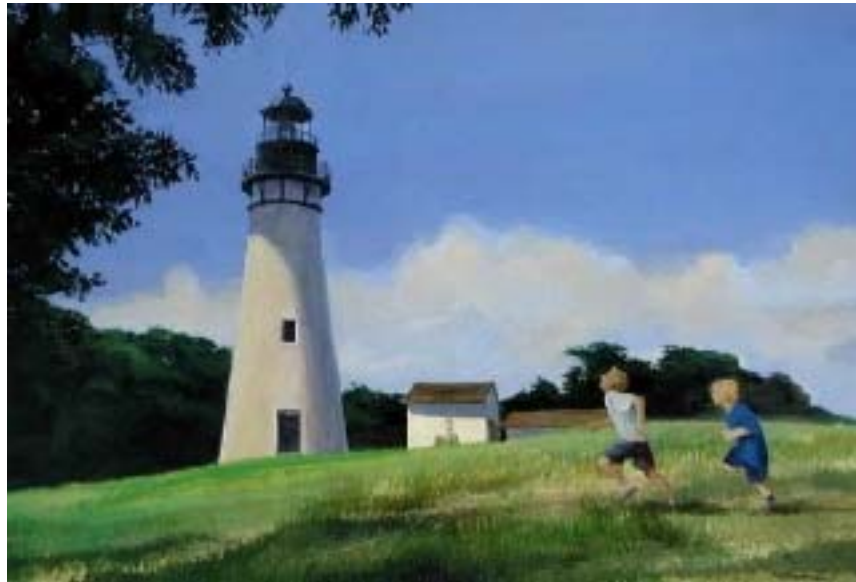
Each class includes a "show and tell" theme using life jackets and other boating safety equipment. Discussions include both fun and dangers associated with water use - whether wading, swimming, or boating. The students are exposed to narrations of local incidents of safe and poor boating practices. Demonstrations include survival needs, signaling equipment, safe boating procedures, safe wading and swimming practices, involving many aspects of water use.

Typically, in order to address water safety, the group discusses the importance of learning to swim, and ideas on where to obtain swim lessons. The discussion then expands to boating safety practices and ends with respect, importance and care of our coastal environment

Regarding care of environment, significant impact is made when a large collection of trash randomly garnered from our waterways is shown to these students. It is emphasized that this garbage came from THEIR waterways. The children are thus encouraged to jealously protect our natural environment

School personnel have been highly receptive of this program and feedback from the attendees and parents has been positive. "Water safety learned at a young age usually stay with us throughout our lives" says Dr. Gary Bong, retired pediatrician and Flotilla 14-1 youth courses co-coordinator. "So, we're hoping that our outreach efforts will pay off in the future, when these youngsters mature into owners and operators of boats on our waterways".

(Respectfully submitted, William Foster, Instructor.)



Did you know that if you google “Amelia Island Light House” there are 120,000 references. There are 10 or more sites devoted just to our beautiful light house. The painting attached was retrieved from one of those web-sites. Last week I was at the cottage and there was a lady hanging over the fence taking photos. I opened the gate and invited her and her husband in so they could get closer photos. You would have thought I had just handed her something valuable. I guess the invite was valuable to her. She could not stop thanking me and was as excited as a kid at Christmas. They were from south Florida and were spending a week visiting light houses in Florida and Georgia. The lady asked about Helen Sintes and seemed to know Helen better than I do. I asked her where she met Helen and she said that she hadn't. She only read about her on a light house web site. That's what prompted me to Google Amelia Island Light House. Try it. You will get a new appreciation of our Island home and our historic light house. *Contributed by Sam Boyd*





FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**February 5, 2009
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 7th District U.S. Coast Guard

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