



**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**  
*America's Volunteer Lifesavers<sup>sm</sup>*



## **NASSAU SOUNDINGS**

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



Volume 16, No. 06

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

June 2007

**FLOTILLA COMMANDER**

Tom Hayden

FC 14-1

(912) 674-2348

Our Flotilla meeting for April had two USCG officers from the Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) at Kings Nay, GA, LT Lingerfelt and LTJG Stanley, who gave us a great video and presentation on the MSST. Well received by all.

We have started a new procedure for our guest speakers where we will have a small replica of the Lighthouse with a small engraving: "In Appreciation: Flotilla 14-1, Amelia Island, FL."

Our social events continue to be a hit with the membership. We had another great turnout for The Down Under.

Our American Boating Course (ABC) had 11 personnel and we gathered up three new members. Our "Night Patrol" recertification's was a success with 10 Crew and three Coxswain recertified so for in 2007. An additional three Coxswain are planned for night check off on 5/25.

We now have newly assigned members for our Calling Tree which will be exercised in the near future.

Last but not least, we initiated contact with the Nassau Emergency Management Office and started participation in a state wide hurricane drill. Unfortunately, due to the large number of fires and the potential for subtropical storm Andrea, the governor called off the state wide exercise and the Nassau County Emergency Operations Center was activated for real world contingencies. The state wide and Nassau County hurricane drill was rescheduled for some time in June.

At the last Flotilla meeting we passed out the Presidential Unit Citation to all Flotilla members who were on the rolls during 2005. Will have more ribbons for those who are qualified and attend the next Flotilla meeting.

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

We had a good ShrimpFest. No shortage of volunteers. That speaks well for our flotilla. It is also an indication of the morale of our members in general. THANKS TO ALL!

Now we look forward to summer and hurricane season. Let's hope for a mild hurricane season while we prepare for the eventuality of a "bad season." We all have responsibilities as Coast Guard Auxiliary members that the general population doesn't. Let's live up to our reputation.

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

From our night ATON Patrol last month we reported two discrepancies:

1. Daymarker 14 on Amelia River, the number "1" on the North Side does not reflect properly at night.
2. Lighted buoy "3" on Amelia river is not flashing.

General Information –

1. NOAA has posted all of its U. S. nautical charts at a new location, <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/onLineViewer>.
2. Light List III, up-dated through LNTM 06-16, is available at [http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pubs/LightLists/V3Complete\(3\).pdf](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pubs/LightLists/V3Complete(3).pdf). Regular corrections are also available.
3. The most recent chart information, dated 1 April 2007, is available online at <http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/mcd/dole.htm>.
4. The U. S. Coastal Pilot 4 (38<sup>th</sup> edition) and other volumes may be downloaded, at no cost, from <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm>.

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

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

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

**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

The following web site information is provided for use when purchasing uniform items or uniform accessories.

The Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center Woodbine N.J. web address is

[www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/udc/](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/udc/),

The 7<sup>th</sup> District Store's web address is [www.cgau7.org/d7store/shop.asp](http://www.cgau7.org/d7store/shop.asp).

## MARINE SAFETY

Richard Trollope

FSO-MS 14-1

(904) 941-1403

1. An interesting story of an enterprising approach to controlling pollution follows. Donnie Brown started “pump-outs” with his own boat. He charged boat owners for this service and they complained. So Donnie worked for tips only and earned more money that way (darndest thing he ever heard of). Now Donnie builds “pump-out” boats for a living. (It is more convenient for the “pump-out” boat to go to the vessel to be serviced than have that vessel maneuver to a dockside pumping station). Under the Federal Clean Water act a marina can purchase a “pump-out” boat and be reimbursed up to 75% of its cost.
2. The EPA requirement of a permit for the millions of recreational boaters by September 2008 was on the agenda for the May 2007 American Boating Congress (ABC) meeting in Washington, D.C. Boat US and the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) have a website to help seek a fix to this at [www.boatblue.org](http://www.boatblue.org). (In the March 2007 issue (page 6) of the Boat U.S. Magazine, “Court Decision Could Require Pollution Permits” provides background.)
3. Going “foreign” with your boat i.e. to the Bahamas? The U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has a new service called the Local Boater Option (LBO). You register and receive a card with a code number. Upon return to the U.S., just call the number—no more going to the Customs Office. You can be the owner or just a guest; either way a phone call is all you need. (However anyone not notifying Customs is subject to fines and jail time).
4. Boat sale; failure to register by the new owner may be costly. A Tarpon Springs man sold his boat to another person who failed to reregister the vessel. When the boat sank, the new owner walked away. The previous owner (to whom the vessel was still registered) was arrested and faces a \$37,500.00 fine for failing to report and remove the sunken vessel. Moral: Ensure the new owner of a boat registers it in his/her name; otherwise you are still responsible for it.
5. Transport Workers ID Card (TWIC) – Mostly for Commercial facilities. There are about 150 marinas covered by this rule. If they fuel vessels with a capacity of 250 barrels or more (10,500 gallons) or have capacity of 42,000 gallons or more they also need a Facility Security Plan. (Marinas that have boats which carry passengers for hire would need one.)  
Who needs the TWIC? (ID Card)  
A person responsible for escorting others in a restricted area: YES  
A boat owner moving around in a marina not engaged in commercial use: NO  
A person responsible for monitoring the activity of the marina and (its) people: YES  
A vendor or repairman who doe not need access to restricted areas: NO

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

The two part GPS course will be held on Saturdays 9 June and 16 June at the lighthouse starting at 0900 each day. Each session will last about three hours and students are expected to bring their GPS units with batteries and instruction manual to each session.

The SPECIALITY course AUXWEA Weather will begin on 11 July and continue for 12 sessions. It is a revised course and will be usefull for all members even if they have already taken the course.

**MARINE PROGRAM VISITOR** (Vacant)                      FSO-PV 14-1

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

1. During the month of May we had 12 patrols which bring the YTD patrols to 48, two above plan. Four patrols were for Permitted Marine events in support of the Shrimp Festival and one was a Night ATON.
2. During May we had 6 facilities, 8 coxswains and 15 crew.
3. We checked off for night navigation on April27/28 six crew members and on May 25 three coxswains. We have now a total of six Coxswains and 10 crew members checked off for night navigation.
4. Actual fuel costs for the flotilla are on plan and in line with the approved budget.
5. We are planning 15 patrols for June including 8 Permitted Marine Events for several fishing tournaments and the Open Water Challenge. We are also planning 15 patrols for July including 7 Permitted Marine Events for fireworks and sail boat races. These will be two very busy months and we need the support of ALL facility owners, Coxswains and Crew.

**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

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

Our operations officer Heinz Fridrich has warned that we need more resources to fulfill our patrol missions. We need more boats, coxswains and crew members. The solution is to recruit more boat owners. As I walk the dock to Jim Armans boat at Tiger Point marina or come down the creek in Bill Williams boat I see 50 or more boats that would make great Coast Guard Facilities. Please make an effort to tell boat owners the advantages of becoming members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We have a brochure for recruiting titled "Prospective Member Information Booklet". I encourage Vessel Examiners and people who frequent marinas to pass these out to boat owners. I will have some at the flotilla meeting and will send a few to anyone who asks for them. Thanks for you help.

<b>SECRETARY</b>	Conrad Vaughn	FSO-SR 14-1	(912) 882-9453
<b>VESSEL EXAMANER</b>	Bob Tolg	FSO-VE 14-1	(904) 261-6149
	Richard Trollope	Acting for Bob	(904) 941-1403

The Vessel Safety Check Program (initiated originally as the Courtesy Motorboat Examination Program in 1947) is celebrating 60 years of critical one-on-one boater education. By providing free knowledge to boaters about Coast Guard requirements for operations and safety equipment, untold lives have been saved as a result of dedicated Vessel Examiners (VEs) .The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association has expressed BRAVO ZULU to all VEs for past and continuous performance in making recreational boating safer.

During this past month of May, the cities of St. Marys, Ga and Fernandina Beach, Fl issued Proclamations in support of Safe Boating Week (19-25 May). Safe Boating Week is the introduction to the most active period for recreational boating (kids out of school etc), transient “snowbirds” heading North, fishing tournaments, sailing regattas, and many other “water events” during summer.

For Flotilla 14-1, I particularly encourage our VEs to take on Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) at the various boat ramps of St. Marys and Dee Dee Bartels. Because these ramps are free (with relatively ample free parking) and are close to great fishing grounds, we see more “open” and smaller boats (25 feet or less) trailered to them. These smaller boats have more recently been joined by Personal Water Craft (PWCs); both these sizes and types of vessels are of “special interest” because of the significant percentages of accidents to people and property associated with them.

Although not directly part of a Vessel Safety Check, VEs are encouraged to take a look at the trailer used for the boat being inspected. Your experienced eyes may note a post for the winch needs rewelding, the owner may not be crossing the chains properly under the trailer tongue or ignoring the value of tie-down straps.

If any VE requires additional VSC report forms (ANSC 7012) or decals, please contact me ASAP. We have been requested to keep our Division updated monthly (by the 16<sup>th</sup>) on VSCs conducted as individuals and as a Flotilla.; please keep me advised as to the number you have done (by phone or e-mail) . However, it remains essential that VEs forward their Activity Report (of) Vessel Examinations, ANSC 7038 electronically (via Craig Bennett, FCO-IS) to the AUXDATA system. At the end of the year, if your VSCs are not on the AUXDATA system—they “did not happen”.

<b>HISTORIAN</b>	Robert Lauber	FSO-HN 14-1	(904) 277-4065
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The June 2<sup>nd</sup> day was cancelled due to heavy rain.  
The next work day will be **Friday** June 29<sup>th</sup> at 0900.  
We plan to clean the meeting room, bath rooms and the grounds as needed.

## ACTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR FLOTILLA

### ACTIVITIES

Elected Officers 2  
 Flotilla Staff Officers 22  
 Boat Crew 24 (Some need to re-qualify)  
 Instructors 15  
 Vessel Examiners 13  
 AUXOP qualified 9  
 Radio Watchstanders 6  
 Commercial Vessel Examiners 2  
 Coast Guard Unit or Cutter Volunteer 2  
 Lighthouse Maintenance 14  
 Work Day Participants 11

Members with doing multi activities

Members            # of Activities

1-----7  
 2-----6  
 8-----5  
 2-----5  
 2-----4  
 6-----3  
 15-----2  
 21-----1

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55-----Total

39-----0    You are encouraged to step over to the Active side.  
 See Tom Hayden for your Assignment.

<b>GROUNDS KEEPER</b>	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>	Mac McAllister	FSO-FL 14-1	(904) 227-0062
<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) 251-0725

## **MY OPINION: JIM ARMAN IPFC**

On the subject of Qualification Examiners (QEs), I know that no one has brought up the subject so I thought that I would.

With the recent changes in the recertification requirements, from every 5 years to 3 years and from 5 events to all certification events, the demand for QEs has increased significantly. As many of you know our Division has only one fully qualified QE and one in training. There may be more that I am not aware of at this time. I would like to comment on that training and our responsibility as crewpersons. I emphasize that this is just my opinion and those of you that know me, know that I sometimes have contrary opinions.

The requirements to be certified as a Coxswain or Crew person are demanding and require a lot of study, preparation and practice. We have all spent a lot of time preparing to pass our certification requirements. I think that we all take a great amount of pride in knowing that we have done something special.

The QEs that test us for certification and recertification have a difficult job in determining that we meet the standards for qualification. At times they must make subjective decisions when a candidate does not quite meet the given criteria.

Here comes my opinion. Let's make their job a whole lot easier. First by making sure that we do not forget why we originally became Coxswain or Crew. Let us not forget the skills that we learned to qualify and continue to practice and study those skills. It is our responsibility to be just as prepared to recertify as we were when we received our first qualification exam. I know that some say why I should do that, the Coast Guard never calls us out. Here is why you should. If I am out on the water and have a serious medical emergency or a serious boat problem, I want you as a trained crewperson come to my aid rather than some untrained boater. We could come upon a similar situation each time we are out on a "SAFETY" patrol. Think about it!

Second. I think that the QEs should be trained and encouraged to hold themselves and those that they test to the standards established for qualification. Each criterion is judged on the written standards. Make it a completely objective test, GO or NO GO. On a retest only those criteria not met would be evaluated. Retests should be delegated to a trained and trusted Coxswain relieving the QE of this chore.

I guess that all of this comes down to the fact that, in my opinion, what we are doing is important and if we are going to do it at all, WE SHOULD DO IT RIGHT.



# FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**June 7, 2007  
1900**

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

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