



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

America's Volunteer LifesaversSM



NASSAU SOUNDINGS

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



Volume 18, No. 03

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

March 2009

Calendar of Events

- Mar 05 Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse**
07 TCT one hour class-Lighthouse-0900
26 Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date
25 Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse
28 Work Day – 0900 – Lighthouse
- Apr 02 Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse**
14 AUXSEA Course, Tuesdays and Thursdays until 30 April.
25 GPS course the last Saturday of April and the first Saturday of May
29 Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse
30 Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date



Bob Lauber presents a miniature copy of the Light House to Bob Funk

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

Heinz Fridrich

FC

14-1

(904) 261-5844

At our last flotilla meeting on February 5, 2009 we had Bob Funk as our guest speaker. Bob is Auxiliary Sector coordinator for Division 14 and 4, Division 14 operations officer and head qualification examiner Area North. These are some of the highlights of Bob's presentation:

In his role as sector coordinator his major objective is to integrate the Auxiliary into the Coast Guard. He attends bi weekly leadership meetings with all department heads of sector Jacksonville. For the first time there is an Auxiliary section in the Sector business plan. This should be posted by now on the sector Web site. It defines our role in boating safety and operations and how we can support the Coast Guard.

In discussing Qualification examinations we learned that we can expect active duty QEs participating in recertification and first time qualifications. We just did a recertification on February 22 and BM1 Erik Hayes who is also the operations officer at station was one of the QEs. The certification standards we apply in the Auxiliary are essentially the same as those the CG uses although with tougher criteria.

In the next month we will be asked during regular patrols to report vessel concentrations in specific areas. This is in addition to Harbor Reports and Foreign vessel reports. It will be a small vessel report which will be used to improve security in our Area of Responsibility.

We will also implement a tracking system that that allows the Coast Guard to know exactly where we are during a patrol.

This was a very informative and important presentation and we want to thank Bob for coming to our Flotilla meeting and talk to us.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

John Tatum

FSO-AN 14-1

(904) 491-7601

We had a successful Aids Verifier Course at the Lighthouse Cottage Feb. 7, with full attendance, some 14-1 members and lots of compliments about the great facility we have.

ATON PROBLEMS:

LNTM reports Daybeacon 16 on Amelia River is destroyed.

Cumberland Sound light B is extinguished.

Cumberland Sound Shoal lights A, D, and E are extinguished and "E" is damaged.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Shoaling reported mid-channel in the vicinity of Fernandina Beach Buoy 1. Again, Buoy 1A has been disestablished. Water depth reported less than six feet at high tide.
- NOAA is considering removal of both tide tables and small craft facility tables from charts such as 11485, 11489, 11491 and 11507.

**COMMUNICATIONS
Assistant**

Jerry Neal
Scott De Brauwere

FSO-CM 14-1

(904) 277-8270
(904) 261-6034

Our flotilla is in need of a few non-crew and non-coxswain people to be radio Watch Standers (WS). It has been apparent that many times throughout the year we are busy with many OPFACS (our certified boats) out on the water at one time. This leaves very few WS available for radio duty. We presently have only one WS who is not a crewmember or coxswain.

Due to the need for more WS, Scott and I are developing a CD with most all the documents for studying the course material. In addition, we will be designing a course for WS classroom teaching. Of course, anyone can start immediately to learn on his or her own. It's not hard and can easily be done for those who are self-starters and have some self-discipline. .

In short, one has to become an "operations" (OPS) member to become a WS, a crewmember or a coxswain. Your CD contains the TC PQS document containing study material. It has tasks to study and perform for a mentor (which each trainee will have one of their own). Then, a Qualifying Examiner will test you. In addition, you will (if not already in OPS) need to study and pass two Incident Command System, ICS, tests (easy to do) and submit some personal data for security purposes. Your mentor will be of great help to get you through all of this.

Please contact me or Scott at the above phone numbers. We'll be glad to get you started.

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

1. The Jacksonville Boat Show (6-8 February) had two special Marine Safety items of special interest: First, the Duval County Sheriff's booth was pushing the Distress Signal (DSC) feature on most recently purchased radios that helps take the "search" out of SAR. (This feature will work best if the vessel owner registers through Boat U.S./--for free) Secondly, our own Commander Div 14 was particularly interested in the displays of Personal Water Craft (PWCs) as Sector Jax is wanting to know the Auxiliary's ability to go into waters shallower than the CG boats can go
2. Some critical equipment on your vessel that needs attention:
 - A. Bilge pumps are usually designed for maintenance water removal i.e. rain, spray and minor drips—and can't handle large leaks below the water line. Better to use a couple of smaller pumps instead of one big one with the proper size marine grade wire to drain less battery. If you want a larger pump, use it for emergency use and the smaller one for normal everyday needs.

- B. Bilge Blowers do not run at the capacity the manufacturer claims. Problems:
The wire to the blower may be too small (in gauge), or have too long a “run”; hoses, bends, clamshell and louver vents, and screens create resistance. Added together these may make your blower half as efficient.
- 3. Another Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) creature may be coming to our waters. The lionfish is native to the Pacific Ocean but home aquarium owners have been releasing them into the Atlantic. The lionfish eats the same food that snapper, grouper and other fish eat-- and are taking over. Their appetites are impressive, consuming more bait fish than can be replenished. Beware: they can sting: ammonia in the wound helps relieve the excruciating pain.

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

The AUXSEA classes are underway with ten students. We have two more courses coming up in April -Seamanship and GPS for Mariners. AUXSEA begins Tuesday 14 April and continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 30 April. GPS will be held on the last Saturday of April and the first Saturday of May. Contact me if you are interested.

Bob Sperry 904 277-7191 bcdsp@netscape.net

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

During the month of February we had 8 patrols three less than what we had planned. Due to very cold and windy weather we had to cancel some of our patrols. This brings our year to date patrols to 19, six less than planned.
 Due to heavy rain and thunderstorms we had to reschedule the recertification QE mission from February 14 to Sunday February 22.
 Unfortunately, on February 22 due to strong winds in excess of 25 KTS we had to break off the recertification mission for Pier Pressure and Swabia in the early afternoon.
 We were able however to recertify during the morning crew – Jay Harper, Sam Boyd and Howard Crews- and coxswain Roy Durden. Thank you and congratulations. Thank you also to LuLu Too with coxswain Arman and crew Jerry Neal on Treasure Hunter for continuing with the mission in spite of rapidly deteriorating weather conditions.
 As expected not everything went perfect during recertification some because of the weather conditions but also some because we need to improve line handling, communication, and situational awareness.
 We are now in the process to reschedule the recertification of four additional crew and one coxswain for March 28 in Mayport.



LuLu Too with Coxswain Arman, Crew Harper and Boyd

Recertification Mission February 22, 2009

During the last week of January and first week of February we had two operational workshops with 25 to 30 members attending. We discussed flotilla operation practices and procedures, recertification and qualification, communication and additional training at night.

In early April we are planning Additional Training QE check rides at night for 4 boats, 6 coxswains and 15 crew. We plan to practice during March for these events.

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

The Boating Safety class is progressing well with four attentive students.

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

Our Flotilla currently has 4 new members. They were sworn in on Feb 5. When you see them make them welcome and involve them in USCGA activities. They are Gerard Zickmund, Bob Doyle, June Darby, and John Voltmer.

Also we currently have 4 new member courses out and three candidates have set up appointments for interview. We have one new member who has been interviewed and is waiting for his identification number.

After the interview process each prospect is assigned a mentor to encourage them to attend meetings and get involved in classes and other activities. But we all can help any new member keep interested and involved.

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

1. Results of VSCs conducted are trickling in. As the weather improves, check out the several boat ramps and note the increasing quantity of fishermen (and ladies) using them. For those VEs with a trainee, please ensure you not only list the person(s) but also note in the comments if this is a new trainee needing five VSCs or a re-certification needing only two.
2. Our Division 14 Vice Commander, David Green, put out two notices of interest in February. The first noted that West Marine is providing down-loadable coupons worth 10% off (discount) for all safety items. (Not stated, but likely includes catalog orders as the West Marine Stores are distant from Fernandina Beach and St. Mary's.) Bring this to the attention of boaters you visit. The second notice concerned a request for recommendations to update and improve the Vessel Examiner –VSC Manual (and the related testing program). This request with sample recommendations was forwarded to all active 14-01 VEs for comment. If you have recommendations, please forward them to me by 16 March for a consolidated response up the line.
3. Our perennial number one VE in VSCs conducted, Tom Hayden, has noted that a National web site has been established that basically allows a boater to go on-line requesting a VSC and is lead to a VE who can perform the task. The visitor to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Vessel Examiner website sends an automated form mail tool at <http://safetysal.net> requesting a Vessel Safety Check by using the “I want a VSC” system. Any questions may be sent to the webmaster@safetysal.net



Remember this Vessel?



FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**March 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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