



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. 05

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

May 2009

Calendar of Events

- May** 01-03 Fernandina Beach Shrimp Festival
02 GPS Course
06 Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse
07 Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse
09 ABS Class
16-22 National Safe Boating Week
23 Open Water Challenge
27 Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse
28 Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date
30 Work Day
- Jun** 04 Monthly Flotilla 14-1 meeting.-All Members – 1900 – Lighthouse
09 AUXPAT Course, Tuesdays and Thursdays until June 23rd.
17-19 Jacksonville International Boat Show
24 Flotilla Staff Officer Meeting – 1900 – Lighthouse
25 Nassau Soundings Article Submission Date
27 Work Day



FLOTILLA COMMANDER Heinz Fridrich FC 14-1 (904) 261-5844

At our last flotilla meeting we briefly discussed priorities for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Let me summarize our discussion:

These Auxiliary priorities are now part of the CG Sector Jacksonville 2009 business plan. The priorities identify areas where the Coast Guard Auxiliary can facilitate the Sector's strategic goals and initiatives but also where the Sector can better support the Auxiliary

The **three primary priorities** for the Auxiliary are

1. **Recreational Boating Safety** including Public Education, Program visitation, Vessel Safety Exams and Public Affairs.
2. **Permitted Marine Event Patrols.** Like the Fireworks at the Shrimp Festival or the Fourth of July Fireworks. We plan usually about 22 event patrols/year in our AOR half of them at night.
3. **Multi Mission patrols.** We plan annually about 115 safety, security, night ATON and OPS training patrols in our AOR.

As recommended in the 2009 business plan the Auxiliary and Sector units will work toward the following additional initiatives:

1. Building the Workforce including training opportunities for Auxiliary personnel at active duty Sector units, adding active duty Auxiliary QE's, offering annual Station/ Division workshops and conducting joint drills and assignments.

2. Increased Maritime Awareness including increased promotion of America's Waterway Watch and joint Station and Auxiliary efforts to promote boating safety.

3. Embrace Partnership and Unity Effort including Auxiliary liaisons to County emergency operation centers, joint active duty /auxiliary safety exhibits at marine events and support active duty outreach campaigns e.g. Right Whales, DSC usage.

4. Capable of Operating in a Dynamic Environment including contingency plans for pre storms ,post storm, MARSEC 2 & 3 and back up to VHF/UHF grid

These are very challenging initiatives and we will discuss further how to implement them. It is the first time I remember that we are an important and integral part of the Coast Guard strategic goals and initiatives. It is now up to us to implement meet some of the expectations.

VICE COMMANDER Joe Blanchard VFC 14-1 (904) 277-8270

We are five months into this year's activities and a few things need our attention. They are:

Getting our message out to the public on boating safety, especially in light of the high visibility accidents of late. Public service announcements on the radio and TV as well as

newspaper articles are needed to get our message out. The information provided in a boating safety course could have prevented some of the recent tragic boating accidents.

The need to have social events. When we have social events they are well attended but no one is willing to be in charge of setting them up. The Flotilla Staff Officers are doing a great job and by and large they are the same members year after year. It is long overdue for other members to step forward and take some of the load.

And last is the membership's non-response to e-mails sent out to the group. Flotilla 14-1 has 95 members but other than the members involved in operations and those attending the monthly meetings (on average 27 members), the rest don't appear to be involved. E mails and mail outs are sent to all the membership, and if we can get a response from a third, we are doing great. This is your Flotilla, how are we going to meet your expectations, if we have no idea what they are.

I would welcome any input that would provide viable solutions to these issues.

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

ATON PROBLEMS:

- **Amelia River Daybeacon 16** (LLNR 7100/37980), Daybeacon destroyed, replaced with a temporary unlighted buoy, LNTM 09-06.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- The 2009 edition of Light List 3 [and all other areas] was promulgated. It is available online at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pubs/LightLists/V3.2009.pdf>
Information from the Local Notices to Mariners 08-53 and earlier are included in the new edition. I will continue to try to extract our portion of it.
- Tying up to federal Aids to Navigation, or otherwise damaging one, is a violation of 33 CFR 70.01 and may earn a fine of \$500.00 per offense. (LNTM 08-51 and following)
- **Previously reported discrepant, now reported Watching Properly**
- Amelia River Lighted Buoy 8 (LLNR 7080/37960), LNTM 09-15.

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. National Safe Boating Week is scheduled Sat-Fri, 16-22 May 2009. All 14-1 members are requested to steer your neighbors to our Vessel Examiners (VEs) for FREE Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) at any time but particularly during this period.
2. Life jackets are vital for safety. The facts bear this out: 90% of drowning deaths in boating accidents are victims NOT wearing life jackets—and 90% of those were within reach of one. The life jacket will NOT work unless worn. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering making the wearing of life jackets mandatory on the Great Lakes and “Western Rivers”. Florida has a pending bill (HB1423.) that, if passed, will raise the mandatory use of lifejackets for children from 6 to 10 years of age (and under) as it is now in Georgia.

3. The Florida HB 1423 also proposes phased- in boater education requirements and changes to fishing license, anchoring, mooring, and registration requirements. Your comments on this pending bill (favorable or not) should be sent to your Florida State Representative.
4. Need conversions and calculations? Click on www.csgnetwork.com for Calculators and Converters—and then Marine. Find conversions and calculations for Propellers, O. B. Gas-Oil ratios, Miles to Knots, Speed, Charts, Fish, and more.

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

The economy has taken its toll on our Boating Partners. In the past 6 months we have lost one of our most visible partners when West Marine closed in Fernandina. Now Boaters World is on the way out. However during the same period we added six new business partners. Many thanks to Sam Boyd for his efforts on Amelia Island.

The St. Marys Yacht Club has become one of our most valuable boating safety resources. The Club has taken over the operation of the Bait Shop located at the St. Marys Waterfront Park adjacent to the downtown boat ramp. Selling a full array of live and frozen bait, business has been brisk and the Yacht Club volunteers who man the shop never miss and opportunity to emphasize boating safety, boating education and the value of a VSC. In addition to the fishermen they often interact with transient cruisers that frequent St. Marys harbor.



We are still looking for more certified Program Visitors, Certification is easy to obtain so if you are interested in partnering with our marine dealers and other boating related businesses to promote boating safety, please get in touch with me.

“Be Safe on the Water”

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

During the month of April we had 10 patrols, two less then what we had planned. Due to weather we had to cancel some of our patrols. This brings our year to date patrols to 39, ten less than planned.

Out of seven planned Night OPS patrols at the beginning of April we were able to finally do three. We practiced at night Mob, Towing Evolution and Navigating and Piloting.

It was quite an experience.

This is what we learned

1. Additional Night OPS training is essential for all coxswain and crew assigned for night missions. We experienced loosing orientation, misjudging distances and identifying proper markers at night.

2. We need to be more cognizant of where and what currents to expect, i.e. we experienced difficulties during an evolution from stern to site tow in the area where the Bell River empties into the Amelia river. Both boats drifted faster than expected towards the Nassau terminal dock and we had to correct this. Also we experienced very strong currents in the Cumberland Sound at mid tide when the flooded rivers emptied and wind increased.

3. We think that Dead Reckoning without frequent position fixes is risky and not safe in our inland waters. When navigating at night in our waters we should use markers, DR techniques and electronic navigational equipment for position fixes.

4. COX- 09-04 Navigating and Piloting at night should be done off shore only.

5. Up to two years ago we had quarterly night patrols covering our total AOR. We abandoned this when we implemented the additional night training requirements. We intend to establish this again. We need crew and coxswain who are familiar with our AOR at night.

The month of May will be very active with 15 patrols planned. We intend to support the Shrimp Festival fireworks and Blessing and the Open Water Challenge an offshore swim competition.

We also plan to recertify three crew and one coxswain at Mayport. We have also scheduled another Night OPS exercise this time offshore with QEs.

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

Our ABS course had to be cancelled – we had only two people signed up. There is another class scheduled for 9 May, hopefully, we’ll get more public participation.

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

Three new members were sworn in at the last Flotilla meeting. The new members are Miriam (Micki), Richard (Dick) Beberman, and Philip Moreau. Please welcome them when you see them.

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

1. The National Safe Boating Week (NSBW), Sat-Fri 16-22 May 2009 focuses on getting the attention of owners/operators on safety. This focus provides our VEs an opportunity to stress two extremely important aspects: life jackets (wear them) and don’t overload the boat. When inspecting most vessels constructed in 1985 or later, look for the “ Capacity Plate” which will state the number of persons and a maximum of net weight allowed for the vessel. Recognize and caution the boater that when the original “standards” were formulated, the USCG figured the average weight of persons to be 150 pounds. That value has since been raised to 180 pounds (still too low). Regardless, two considerations: use the net weight allowed to account for ice chests full of food and drinks and fishing gear. Further, there should be a seat for every boat occupant; if not the vessel should be considered overloaded.

2. Our Fernandina Beach and St. Marys areas have many ramps providing access to our local waterways—with an updated one recently added as the “Wilson Neck” in Hedges, FL. (Provides access to the Nassau River west of Nassauville). When determining where to “be” for VSCs, take into account that these public ramps off the “beaten path” often are the “water way” entrance points for the “high interest” vessels for security as well as safety. Obviously, most boats using these facilities will be trailered, usually 23 feet or less and used primarily for fishing. Among these ramps in Nassau County are: Lofton Creek, Nassauville, and Egan’s Creek.
3. The increase in Personal Water Crafts (PWCs) and kayaks in our Area of Responsibility (AOR) must be recognized as a safety issue. Their “requirements” for issue of a “decal” are relatively few. However note that PWC operators AND passengers MUST wear life jackets. If they are towing (IE a skier or a tube) there must be a life jacket for each towed person and space aboard the PWC for the skier or tube occupants. For kayaks (and canoes) the LAW does not require the life jacket to be worn---but “common sense” says they should be. Emphasize that in our area kayaks (and canoes) can float away (at speeds of 3 knots or more)-- far faster than any former “operator” –now swimmer –can catch them.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Gary Bong

FSO-YP 14-1

(904) 261-2006

We have scheduled the 2009 Youth Programs as follows:

The 3rd Grade Children’s Program:

Winter – Catholic School, 1 class completed

Spring – Yulee Elementary, expect 10-12 classes, later in April.

Fall – Atlantic Elementary, 7 classes completed





FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**May 7, 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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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
588 LITTLE PINEY ISLAND POINT
FERNANDINA BEACH FL 32034

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