



# 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 17, No. 10

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

November 2008

**FLOTILLA COMMANDER**

Tom Hayden

FC

14-1

(912) 674-2348

Important reminder that this coming Flotilla meeting, Thurs. 6 Nov, will be the elections for a new FC and VFC. I'm sure that most voted on 4 Nov. now vote for FC and VFC. Anyone who is qualified may be nominated from the floor.

Of late I have been thinking of what our immediate past Coast Guard Commandant said about all of us being "life savers." By this he meant that all of the CGAUX members are life savers through just wearing the uniform and reminding people of what we stand for and our CGAUX activities. Life saving is not only our safety patrols on the water but also covers vessel safety exams, BS&S and ABC courses of instruction, youth programs, ATONS inspections, public affairs, program visitation, marine safety & marine environmental programs, etc. You get the point. Almost everything we do is "life saving" related in one way or the other. The best way you can contribute being a life saver is to be a Flotilla Staff Officer and work to help our members and the public

Some of our past Flotilla Staff Officers will not be returning in 2009. Also, we are looking for Assistant Flotilla Staff Officers in any of the FSO positions. All you have to do is express an interest to me, the VFC or the FSO who's area of responsibility interests you.

Last count we have 92 members and we have 17 Flotilla Staff Officers currently filling Flotilla positions. Additionally, we have six Special Staff Officers who are doing very important work for our Flotilla. We can have as many Special Staff Officers we want. If you have an area of interest in boating safety or on/around water activities or anything to do with life saving, let us know and maybe there is area we need to provide special attention in the future.

On Tue, 11 Nov, please do not forget Veterans' Day.

In the following I like to remind all coxswains, crew members and boat owners of some new OPFAC requirements as of October 2008. **These are all safety related requirements.**

### 1. NEW PFD REQUIREMENTS :

-A vessel capable of operating at speeds in excess of 30knots must carry sufficient PFD's that meet the 50 mph dynamic testing requirement for all crew and the extra PFD's required by the Offer to Use form.

-Auxiliarists utilizing an automatic/inflatable PFD must check before donning that the device is armed and packed in accordance with the owner's manual, and that a fully charged CO2 cylinder is in place. Scheduled maintenance recommendations in the owner's manual must be completed. Uncharged or manual only inflatable PFDs are not authorized for Auxiliary use while on orders.

### 2. MIN.CREW SIZE REQUIREMENTS

All vessels that do not have a direct access to the bow either by a walk around or have sufficient gunnels width with appropriate handrails to allow safe passage to and from the bow area of the vessel are required to carry a minimum of one additional crew person. This requirement shall be indicated on the POMs profile for the OPFAC.

### 3. ENDURANCE LIMITS **Max.8 Hours**

"Trailing hours shall be counted fully towards underway time for designated boat crews"

Previously trailing hours counted at 50% only( see M16798.3E Appendix E8)

### 4. OFF SHORE RESTRICTIONS

A vessel under 25 feet that the owner wishes to be used in off shore activities must have the vessel approved by an Active Duty member. No vessel under 25 feet can be checked off on ANSC 7003 by the Auxiliary VE for use on offshore or all waters.

- We are awaiting approval of a change renaming Aids to Navigation [AN] staff officers as Navigation Systems [NS] staff officers. (ref: DVC-MN memo dated 2 August 2008).
- Major changes to the Navigation System Program will be promulgated at N-Train in St. Louis, Mo, in January 2009.

Opportunities that should be reported to others:

The Aids to Navigation Team [ANT] Jacksonville Beach is in need of an Auxiliarist who is able to work with them on a regular basis, updating the IATONIS database. Contact Petty Officer Jack Yontz at ANT Jacksonville Beach if interested, 904-241-8401.

**ATON UPDATES:**

1. Cumberland Sound lower Range C #6885 daybeacon damaged.
2. Kings Bay Light 48 #7000 missing
3. Kings Bay Light 54 #7020 extinguished
4. St. Mary's Entrance Range Front Light 37920 low intensity

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

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

Please continue to check the Flotilla's website for news of social events and links to interesting and official information. If you have any suggestions for improvement and a need for additional information, please let me know. Web site <http://cgaux7-14-1.org/>

**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

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

1. The USCG is raising the person weight standards from 160 to 185 pounds for Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels ONLY because Americans have become heavier. For now, recreational boats will NOT be affected; the person weights will remain at 160 pounds. The Capacity Plates on boats under 20 feet will still reflect the same weight. (Caution: the Capacity Plate also reflects the TOTAL weight of passengers permitted AND the extra stuff carried such as bait, food, water, ETC. Exceeding that total will mean overloading)
2. The Boating Industry does not want to change the current 12-digit hull identification number (HIN) to 17 digits as proposed by the USCG. The proposed 17 digits would assist in the investigations of fraud, theft, and Homeland Security by providing info on length, hull material, main propulsion, and a fifth "check digit". The Boating Industry contends the costs would exceed the benefits.
3. Tougher Emissions Standards are scheduled for CY2010/2011. The new "Surf and Turf" law (standards) will reduce allowed emissions from all types of gasoline engines. The "Surf" part includes Marine gas engines for Inboards, PWCs, I/Os, and Outboards. The "Turf" part includes lawn mowers, weed whackers, and small gas engine type lawn care engines. A Catalytic Converter will meet these standards but will add to the cost while taking up space. Check: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), search surf and turf.
4. Looking for a good used boat? Liquidators are looking to sell repossessed boats at 10-15% less than market value. However, don't wait too long as a sitting/moored vessel still requires maintenance; without TLC, it will deteriorate quickly.

5. Boat Manufacturers planning to export U.S. boats to Europe need to follow the Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) (an owners manual) that includes boat specific data in the language of the country to which the vessel is to be shipped. The RDC must include data on the engine exhaust and sound emissions. Any omission in the RDC, even a minor one, means the boat will not be accepted and will be stuck in Customs and red tape. A new company provides manuals to prevent this problem; check: [www.boatpubs.com](http://www.boatpubs.com).
6. Anchoring Do's and Don'ts
  - A. The "Ankle Wrap": (most obvious) don't stand in the middle of a rapidly uncoiling line.
  - B. The "Thrown Anchor": Don't; if thrown, the anchor is not going to "dig in" better. Don't "Let Go" the anchor; instead do: "Lower the Anchor". (Controlling the rate of descent of the anchor can decidedly help prevent "Ankle Wrap"!)
  - C. Don't just "lower the anchor" straight down. With a small amount of "way" on the anchoring vessel you can prevent the chain and line from piling up on the anchor when it reaches the bottom.
  - D. Do use "Anchor Chain" which serves two purposes: weighs down the anchor for a better "hold" and prevents abrasion of the line. Several books state you need anywhere from half the length of the boat to 9 feet of chain. It varies with the SIZE of the chain. The larger the chain size, the better it helps dig in and you may be able to use a smaller anchor. A swivel will prevent twisting of the anchor line and help keep the anchor seated. The connection for the chain to the line needs to be as strong or stronger than the line itself. Periodically reversing the line will help it last longer
7. Aluminum versus Rubber: If considering insulating your (fixed) aluminum fuel tank from the area where it touches the boat, DO NOT use rubber that contains Carbon Black. Salt water in the boat will create an electrolytic solution and lead to galvanic corrosion of the fuel tank. Use a "rubber" that does NOT contain Carbon Black.
8. OPA 90 Changes:
 

Tank Vessel oil pollution insurance coverage will increase from between \$2000-\$3200 a ton with \$4-\$24 million as a minimum. The differences depend on vessel configuration, whether double or single bottom or sides or both. Freight vessel coverage will increase to \$1000 a ton with an \$848,000 minimum. (Why should you, as a recreational boater/USCG Auxiliary member care? These insurance and pollution cleanup costs get ultimately passed to you as a consumer. As part of our Water Ways Watch commitment we all have a financial stake in looking for means to prevent pollution)

<b>MEMBER TRAINER</b>	Bob Sperry	FSO-MT 14-1	(904) 277-7191
<b>MARINE PROGRAM VISITOR</b>	Pete Maye	FSO-PV 14-1	(912) 552-3350
<b>OPERATIONS</b>	Heinz Fridrick	FSO-OP 14-1	(904) 261-5844

During the month of October 2008 we had 11 patrols. This brings our YTD patrols to 109, two more than what we planned at the beginning of the year. During the month two patrols were canceled due to crew availability and weather.

As of the end of October 19 certified crewmembers, 11 coxswains and 10 facilities were available for patrols. Two members are in Crew Training.

During the weekend of September 27 four vessels participated in a sector wide initiative called "Operations Guardian Watch". The purpose was to survey our Area of Responsibility and get an understanding of the boat traffic on a weekend. All of our auxiliary vessels were requested to record the observed number of boats, their location, the vessel type, the vessel activity and the Persons on Board. A summary of the report was forwarded to Division and the Coast Guard.

The boat traffic in our AOR is quite high. Auxiliary vessel Topcat patrolled on Sunday, September 28 and recorded about 80 observations.

We should expect that based on the results of the survey we may get new directions from the CG for our weekly patrols.

During an anchoring drill on October 1, 2008 one of our crew trainees had a serious accident. This was probably caused by unsafe line handling. As a result we suspended all on the water training i.e Anchoring drill, MOB drill and Towing Evolution until we had reviewed safety of crew training. In meetings with FC Hayden, IPFC Arman, VFC/FSO-OPS Fridrich, FSO-MT Sperry and coxswains Durden and Lauber we reviewed our current crew training practices and procedures. We discussed how we can improve these practices and procedures to further improve safety and prevent similar accidents. During November 2008 revised 14-1 Crew Training Practices and Procedures will be issued.

<b>PUBLIC AFFAIRS</b>	Robert Conklin	FSO-PA	14-1	(912) 673-9678
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	Aaron Rawls	FSO-PB	14-1	(904) 225-0765
<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION</b>	Tom Pippin	FSO-PE	14-1	(904) 491-6285

We finished the second BS&S/10 on Thursday the 30th. This has been a good, attentive class and 15 students graduated. We should get at least two new members out of this class. We have conducted two BS&S and two ABC classes for this year. I would like to thank all of the great Instructors that have taught these classes. Flotilla 14-1 is very fortunate to have qualified and willing Instructors. I would also like to thank Sam Boyd for his help this year. I will not be serving as PE for this next year. I have enjoyed the classes for these two years and have met a lot of nice people that will be safer and better boaters. I look forward to training the new PE and helping as needed.

<b>PERSONEL SERVICE</b>	Sam Boyd	FSO-PS	14-1	(904) 277-6608
	Barbara Dunn	Assistant		(904) 261-1889

Any member that has a change of information such as e-mail address, phone number or home address needs to complete form #7028 "Change of member information". This is not an e form that you can complete on line. You need to print it out and mail it to our information officer Craig Bennett. Also call or e-mail the personnel services officer so he/she can make changes on our flotilla roster. The process for getting the form is simple and is as follows:

Go to our flotilla web-site [www.cgaux7-14-1.org](http://www.cgaux7-14-1.org)

In the left column click on "visit our new USCG Aux web site" at the web site click on members

In the right column click on forms at the top of that page click on the first item- "forms"  
Select form 7028 and print it out.

Fill out the form by hand and mail it to Craig Bennett

Put your name and member number on the first line and fill in (ONLY) the items being changed. Leave the rest blank.

I am still working with 5 member prospects. Hopefully we will bring them on board before the year ends.

Please make plans for our Change of Watch on Friday December 12. A fun filled evening is planned. Don't miss it.

**SECRETARY**

Conrad Vaughn  
Leanne Wolshin

FSO-SR 14-1  
Assistant

(912) 882-9453

**October 2008 Minutes**

- ❖ EOC LNO briefing 11 Oct at Stellar Bldg
- ❖ ICS 210 – changing manual – class TBD
- ❖ Change of Watch will be held on Dec. 12, 2008
- ❖ Light Parade will be held on Dec. 14, 2008
- ❖ All vessel examiners must have reflective stripe - Trollope
- ❖ Radio Watch standers will need to take the PQS. Will have a mentor and have 2 years to pass the test and will have to start over after that time has passed
- ❖ Electric motor is failing in Lighthouse and CG will be replacing it
- ❖ ATON reports were submitted to CG
- ❖ Reminder that all forms need to be reported in order for Aux. to receive credit
- ❖ 10 people have not paid dues – 75 have
- ❖ Suggestion to obtain charts and other information of other areas on hand for disaster activation calls.
- ❖ Many members responded to the email sent out for the activation list.
- ❖ Heinz has suggested the new crew trainees be categorized
  1. Those with boating exp.
  2. No exp.Then for OTWT - dry land exercises, dockside, final stage OTWT
- ❖ Add refresher courses after the monthly meetings for anyone interested

- ❖ CG rule states there is an 8 hour limit for being out on patrol – to trailer a boat counts for as least 1 hour
- ❖ Social is planned for Oct. 22 2008 at the Crab Trap - please let Steve Filcoff know by Oct 18 if you will be attending
- ❖ Lighthouse gate has been fixed , but other gate needs painting
- ❖ Coastie needs a battery change
- ❖ Work day is the last Sat. of the month @ 9:00 - Lawnmower needs maintenance
- ❖ Senior Chief Jeff Egelston, USCG, Maritime Security Force Unit, Naval Base Kings Bay – spoke about the unit and its mission and looks forward to working with the Aux.

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

1. As reported by Tom Hayden, St. Marys has a significant number of kayakers and Nassau County ramps at Dee Dee Bartels and others are attracting them as well. Kayaks (and canoes and Personal Watercraft (PWCs)) may be given Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) and issued decals and our VEs are encouraged to check them out. To assist the VE, the following points have been excepted from Federal and State Regulations by our DSO-MS, Marc Lang:
  - A. In Florida, vessels under 16 feet, only “motorized” vessels need to be registered. If the kayak (or canoe) has an electric motor it must be registered. If it is over 16 feet in length it must be registered. (Motorized or not)
  - B. The kayak need not be registered to be given a VSC decal. (VSC Manual, page 3)
  - C. Safety equipment:
    - (1). One CG approved life jacket for each person on board.
    - (2). Sound producing device (a whistle is OK)
    - (3). If the vessel is used at night: A white light (a flashlight is OK) to be used to let others know “I am Here” and (in “Coastal” waters), vessels under 16 feet must carry flares..
  - D. Overloading is illegal for all vessels. A two (2) person boat means just that, NOT 3. Having conducted a VSC on a kayak (or canoe), you should check the column for “High Focus” on your ANSC 7038 report.
2. The above vessel requirements are applicable as well to Personal Water Craft (PWCs) except as follows:
  - A. Registration is required because the vessel is motorized.
  - B. If the vessel was so equipped with an ignition safety switch (kill switch), the lanyard must be attached to the operator’s body, life jacket or clothing when operating the PWC.
  - C. The PFDs (life jackets) for the operator (and passengers) must be non-inflatable (and be worn during operations)
  - D. A fire extinguisher, fully charged, must be aboard.
  - E. Because PWCs are allowed to be operated only from sunrise to sunset, a white light (IE flashlight) and flares are not required. (My recommendation: Carry them anyway).
  - F. If planning to tow a skier or someone on a tube:
    - (1) Equip the PWC with a wide- angle rear view mirror

- (2) Have available the proper non-inflatable life jacket(s) for the skier(s) or tube rider(s).  
(Refer to the "Florida Personal Watercraft rules and safety tips" brochure for additional information)
3. A reminder again about reporting your VSCs on the USCG AUX ANSC 7038. Note that in a minor update of October 2008, an entry was added concerning a send to: addressee and a second addressee by using a comma (,) followed by the second e-mail address. (Just as before: send your email form 7038 to craig@aibeach.com,rtrollope@earthlink.net . ) Thanks to all you VEs for over145 VSCs conducted (and reported) so far in CY 2008.
4. The CY2008 year is not over yet, so as VEs you may find your neighbors willing to finally take the little time to have that small fishing boat checked. (Those smaller vessels are precisely in the group which the CG considers "High Focus".) If you have questions or need more materials (VSC forms , CY2008 Decals, etc) Email or call me at (904) 491-1403 (H) or (904) 557-6224 ©.

**HISTORIAN** Robert Lauber FSO-HN 14-1 (904) 277-4065

**The Election for the 2009 Flotilla Officers.**

**The election will be held on November 6th at the November Flotilla meeting.**

**Both candidates have met the Auxiliary requirements to be eligible to serve as Flotilla Elected Officers.**

**HEINZ FRIDRICH VFC - for Flotilla Commander**

**JOE BLANCHARD FSO - CS - for Vice Flotilla Commander.**

**Nominations from the floor for eligible candidates will be accepted. All members are encouraged to attend and vote.**

**The Confirmation Committee.**

**Bob Lauber**

**Sam Boyd**

**GROUND S KEEPER** Paul Clark FSO-GK 14-1 (904) 261-4041

The Lighthouse cottage and grounds clean up will be Saturday, November 29th at 0900. We will clean the interior of the cottage and work on the lawn and property as needed.

The City of Fernandina Beach gave us exclusive use of the property if we maintain it. All members are invited to help.

**LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER** Helen Sintes FSO-LK 14-1 (904) 261-4432

**FELLOWSHIP**

Steve Filkoff

FSO-FL 14-1

(904) 491-8629

If you weren't there, you missed a grand time at the Oct Social. We had twenty members, spouses and guests at The Crab Trap in Fernandina. Diane Williams won the door prize – a \$25.00 Crab Trap gift certificate (donated by the restaurant). Scott de Brauwere, Jerry Neal and their wives stayed to play the Crab Trap trivia game, I understand they won some prizes and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place! Congratulations to them! With the Change of Watch event being in early December, we're not planning a social for November. The Change of Watch will be Friday, 12 December at St. Peter's Hall, catered by Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q. As soon as more details are available, I'll have them posted on our Web site. Thanks again to all who attended the Oct Social and I look forward to seeing even more folks at the December event.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Gary Bong

FSO-YP 14-1

(904) 261-2006

**HEALTH and SATETY**

Deborah Rollins

FSO-HS 14-1

(904) 261-0725



## FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**November 6, 2008  
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 7<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Coast Guard*

***PRIVACY ACT:** Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization.*

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS