



# NASSAU SOUNDINGS

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



Volume 17, No. 05

Aaron Rawls

FSO-PB 14-1

May 2008

**FLOTILLA COMMANDER** Tom Hayden FC 14-1 (912) 674-2348

Many of you know that our Flotilla Commander Tom Hayden has been released from the hospital and is home since several weeks. Tom sends his best regards to all flotilla members. He is recovering from a very serious illness and this may take a while. All of our best wishes and prayers for a faster recovery are with him. (Report from Heinz Frifrich)

**VICE COMMANDER** Heinz Fridrich VFC / OP 14-1 (904) 261-5844

## **Notice!! Meeting Time Change! 1915**

At the last flotilla meeting and also in the April 2008 Nassau Sounding I informed you about joint discussions between the Active Duty Coast Guard and the Auxiliary how to integrate the Auxiliary into Active Duty missions. I reported about Captain Thomas's Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville priorities for the Auxiliary.

I indicated that further work was required to define our possible role and training for these additional opportunities, what skill is required and how we can build a workforce.

Following is a letter from our Division Captain Bob Funk to all flotilla members. With this letter he informs us about the additional opportunities of the Auxiliary to support the Coast Guard. He also invites all Flotilla members to participate in the Spring Division meeting on May 10, 0900 at the Stellar Building in Jacksonville.

Please let me know whether you plan to attend the meeting no later than May 2.

### **LETTER FROM BOB FUNK DCP 14 TO ALL FLOTILLAS**

Recently a Joint Planning Meeting was held between the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard Sectors within District 7. One of the primary objectives of the meeting was to

more fully integrate the Auxiliary into the active duty missions by providing specific and meaningful opportunities for the Auxiliary membership. This objective was strongly supported at the highest levels of the Coast Guard and comes as the result of the leadership in the District listening to the membership asking for a greater and more meaningful involvement.

Captain Thomas at Sector Jacksonville has described several important and significant opportunities open to our membership for 2008 and 2009. These should have been briefed for you by your FC. On **10May, 0900** at the **Stellar Building**, we will be holding our Spring Division Meeting, and at that meeting the Active Duty for Sector will discuss in some detail these jobs. They will describe the scope, the training and qualification requirements, and the commitment expected by both parties for the following:

- ❖ Contingency Planning Specialists
- ❖ Radio Watch Standers at Station
- ❖ Communication Watch Standers at the Sector Command Center
  - Radio
  - Rescue 21
- ❖ MDA Coordinators at SCC-J
- ❖ Commercial Vessel Examiners
- ❖ Assistant Pollution Investigators
- ❖ Force Building (Matching of specific member skills to other needs at Sector)

In addition there will be a discussion of the three priorities the Sector envisions for our Division:

- Recreational Boating Safety
- Permitted Marine Events Support
- Multi-Mission Harbor Security Patrols

This is the beginning of a continuous dialogue between the Active Duty and the Auxiliary to better and more fully use us in support of the jointly held purposes and missions. As members we all took an oath to support the Coast Guard. We now are given the opportunity to more fully realize that oath and we strongly encourage your attendance at the 10May meeting.

Your Flotilla will be contacting you to learn of your plans to attend.

RMFunk DCP14

**The Stellar Building is located On Hartey Rd. off San Jose Blvd in Manderan. All who plan to attend should contact VFC Heinz Fridrich for time and Direction.**

<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Jerry Neal	FSO-CM 14-1	(904) 277-8270
<b>COMPUTER SERVICE</b>	Joe Blanchard	FSO-CS 14-1	(904) 277-4257
Remember to check our web site <a href="http://cgaux7-14-1.org/">http://cgaux7-14-1.org/</a>			
<b>FINANCE</b>	J. Sintes	FSO-FN 14-1	(904) 261-4432
<b>INFORMATIONS</b>	Craig Bennett	FSO-IS 14-1	(904) 261-7456
<b>MATERIALS</b>	Louis Fusco	FSO-MA 14-1	(912) 673-9470
<b>MARINE SAFETY</b>	Richard Trollope	FSO-MS 14-1	(904) 941-1403

1. In March, our own auxiliarist Joe Blanchard followed up on an oil spill polluting Egan's Creek and determined it was diesel fuel being pumped overboard (from a leaking fuel line by an automatic bilge pump). Sector JAX had known of the pollution for two days but had not found the source earlier. KUDOS to Joe.
2. Being on a boat during a lightning storm is dangerous enough Fishing with a graphite rod (good electrical conductor) during such a storm adds to that danger.
3. Virginia, in the interest of Boating Safety, has proposed mandating educational requirements with the following exception to other states: Take an open book test on-line, achieve 90% and you pass. With a closed book, proctored test (IE by USCG Aux), the required passing grade is only 70%.
4. Mustang Survival, manufacturer of inflatable life jackets, has developed the Damage Tolerant Life Preserver (DTLP) for Law Enforcement or Military Personnel. Even if struck by a bullet the DTLP will still inflate and provide 65 pounds of buoyancy
5. A new kind of non-lethal bullet has been devised for USCG Hitron or Law Enforcement to fire into outboard motors of boats being chased. The bullet enters the engine cowling and emits silica carbide, which clogs the engine to stop it. The engine can be cleaned and be reused. [www.alslesslethal.com](http://www.alslesslethal.com).
6. If you scuba dive and cut yourself below 33 feet (1 atmosphere), your blood will appear as green or blue. (The color Red does not "exist" below 33 feet: Blue light is the best penetrator down to 3000 feet.
7. Float Plans: Use Them. The USCG calls them the world's only lifesaving device on paper. [www.floatplancentral.org](http://www.floatplancentral.org).
8. Paint the bottom of your boat with a viscoelastic polymer chemical composition designed to eliminate sound and vibration. Developed as Silent Running Paint, it absorbs noise, weighs less, and is water based. Mascoat developed Delta T and Delta db to form Stingray. This company and others were under extreme pressure to get rid of copper and tin based paint because of environmental problems.
9. Enhanced Loran (E Loran) is a better version of Loran C using high-powered transmitters and low frequency signals, which are unlikely to be jammed or disrupted. E Loran will back up GPS, which can be affected by abnormalities. The USCG operates 24 Loran Stations nationwide.
10. Too many boaters are relying (solely) on "electronics" to navigate safely. One boater had his focus on the icon keeping it on the magenta line on the chart plotter "rather" than looking ahead. The screen did not refresh (change) fast enough and the boater missed the channel and ran up on an identifiable hard sand shoal.

11. At night, you need to be seen. Wearing Red (which becomes Black at night) Dark Blue or other dark colors lessens your chances of being seen. If you are the Man OverBoard (MOB), your best choices of colors are: Green, Yellow, or Orange.
12. Digital Selective Calling (DSC); Sector JAX has had Rescue 21 since January 2008 .A major problem here and in other areas is that boaters with DSC equipped VHF-FM radios do not “register” the radio to receive an MMSI number. To check, lift the plastic cover and push the button for 5 seconds and if the radio screen “says” NO MMSI, it is not registered. If in distress you may think the USCG is coming but they not only won’t know it is you who is in trouble but where you are if the GPS is not also connected. (The GPS feature is not just a “plug-in”). See further comments in the Vessel Examiner article.

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

Two are courses scheduled in the near future. First the AUXNAV speciality course will begin on Wed May 7 at 7 PM at the lighthouse cottage. We have 11 signed up and can handle a few more. Classes will continue for about 12 sessions held on following Wednesday evenings. This is a very worthwhile course but requires a lot of homework.

The second course is a marine GPS course to be held on consecutive Saturday Mornings in June.14 June and 21 June. This is a hands on course which requires each student to bring their GPS to the classes where details of operation will be demonstrated as each student follows using their own unit.

Our crew trainees are making progress with QE sessions being scheduled and On the Water Training continuing.

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

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

During the month of April 2008 we had 11 patrols three more than planned. This brings our YTD patrols to 29, four less than planned.

During April we checked off four teams with 8 coxswains and 7 crew in additional training which includes:

- Navigating and Piloting at night
- MOB drill at night
- Towing evolution at night

We need these check offs to qualify for night PME patrols. The first night patrol will be the fireworks for the Shrimp Festival on May 2 with two vessels.

During April we also increased the on the water training for three crew trainees. The three trainees passed an on shore qualification test on April 21 and they are scheduled for the on the water qualification on May 12.

In addition to these QE missions for crew trainees we are planning the recertification of one coxswain and seven crew members during May.



<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION</b>	Tom Pippin	FSO-PE 14-1	(904) 491-6285
<b>PERSONEL SERVICE</b>	Tom Basore	FSO-PS 14-1	(904) 321-0645
	Sam Boyd	FSO-PS 14-1	(904) 277-6608
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Conrad Vaughn	FSO-SR 14-1	(912) 882-9453
<b>VESSEL EXAMANER</b>	Richard Trollope	FSO-VE 14-1	(904) 491-1403

1. Our ranks of qualified Vessel Examiners (VEs) have grown with the addition of Anthony Giannetti and recert of Bob Tolg.
2. Safe Boating Week runs this year from 17-23 May and will provide ample opportunities for a “blitz” of free Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs). All VEs are specifically requested to stress to boat owners/operators the necessity of having “readily accessible” life jackets for each and every person on board.
3. With the warm weather (in the 80s already out on the water), remember as VEs you may offer to conduct VSCs for kayaks, canoes and Personal Water Craft (PWCs). Obviously none of these types of craft are required to carry all the prescribed safety equipment of larger powered and sail boats, but a predominant requirement is for a lifejacket (Which should be worn). Advise them that a “float plan” left either with a friend or the vehicle used to get their craft to the launch site may be of great help in finding them in the event a SAR becomes necessary. (Why? Because most will not have a radio and perhaps not even a cell phone to request help if stranded on a sand/oyster bar or worn out competing with a fast ebbing tide. Further it is estimated that their average speed is perhaps 3 knots; our ebbing tide often exceeds that!!)
4. Advise boaters whose vessels pass the VSC that they are eligible for 10% discount on any safety item at West Marine. The boater need only bring in the signed VSC check-off sheet.
5. A reminder for all VEs: Please send the ANSC 7038s on the VSCs conducted (even if the vessel “failed”) to [craig@aibeach.com](mailto:craig@aibeach.com), [rtrollope@earthlink.net](mailto:rtrollope@earthlink.net).  
If you need more check-off forms or decals, please let me know by telephone or email at: (904) 491-1403 or [rtrollope@earthlink.net](mailto:rtrollope@earthlink.net).
6. For vessels with Digital Selective Calling (DSC), a feature found in most recently available VHF-FM radios, ensure the owner /operator understands that it must be “registered” to receive an MMSI number. If it is not “registered”, trying to activate the DSC feature in an emergency will be a waste of time: the USCG won’t have a description of the vessel and, if the GPS has not been properly integrated with the DSC equipped radio, the USCG won’t know where it is.

<b>HISTORIAN</b>	Robert Lauber	FSO-HN 14-1	(904) 277-4065
<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>	<b>(Vacant)</b>	FSO-FL 14-1	
<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) 261-0725



# FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

**May 1, 2008  
1915**

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

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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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