

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

America's Volunteer Lifesavers sm



# **NASSAU SOUNDINGS**

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



Volume 15, No. 09

**Aaron Rawls** 

FSO-PB 14-1

September 2006

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

James Arman

FC

14-1

(904) 261-3804



As all of you I am sure know, in November you are going to be asked to elect new leaders for Flotilla 14-01. This will be my fifth election since I joined the Flotilla and it seems to me that the election of officers to represent you is not very important to the majority of our members. I think that this is so because many of you do not understand the importance of these offices.

They are your representatives through Division 14 and District 7 to the Coast Guard. Many of you think that being Flotilla Commander is basically an honorary position, but today with more and more Coast Guard, District and Division regulations, demands and requirements, your Flotilla Commander must be knowledgeable of these requirements and be able and willing to defend our membership when the demands become excessive or restrictive.

Times have changed and in order to keep current the Commander must be aware of all new procedures and directives. This means monitoring the Division 14, 7<sup>th</sup> District, DIRAUX and National websites and sorting out what is important and needs to be passed on to the membership. It is also imperative the Commander check the AUXDATA information at least weekly to insure that our member's information is correct and credit is given when due.

I did not realize the gravity of this position when I agreed to be your Flotilla Commander and I am sure that most members are also not aware of the how much time is required to do the job.

Bob Lauber tells me that he is not getting any requests from members to be placed on the ballot. I hear comments that some members do not like the way things are done in the Flotilla. If you are one of them, do something about it and run for election. The practice in the past has been for the Vice Flotilla Commander to accede to the Flotilla Commander position. Even though I strongly endorse Tom Hayden, remember that in order to have a horse race you must have at least two horses.

#### **VICE COMMANDER**

Tom Hayden

VFC 14-1

(912) 729-8195

Lessons Learned from U.S. Coast Guard casualty investigations indicate that the vast majority of the general boating public have never taken a boating safety class and have little knowledge about the federal and state boating rules and regulations. Statistics show that over 80% of those involved in fatal boating accidents have had no training in boat handling and safety. What are our coxswains and crews doing to help eliminate some of the potential hazards?

Too often when we are on patrol we spend most of or time cruising our patrol area looking for boaters in distress. How many of us take the time to look for unsafe boating? How many of us take the time to cruise slowly near the boaters who are anchored near Cumberland Island or fishermen near Nassau Sound A1A bridge just to show the flag? Be aware of your WAKE and their FISHING LINES.

Also, we have many members who no longer coxswain or crew our Operational Facilities but still go boating. You do not have to be on an Operational Facility to see unsafe boating and help a boater. Nothing is wrong with anyone who sees children dangling their feet over the bow or stern of a boat underway and politely tell the boat handler that this is unlawful and is something that the Coast Guard and law enforcement will most certainly give them a ticket. Most untrained people who do unsafe things with boats are not even aware that their is danger to themselves or someone else. And, how about seeing someone without proper crossed chains on their trailer when we stop at a gasoline filling station or see that the trailer tail light or brake light is not working?

As U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary men and women we have an obligation to be on the look out, at all times, for unsafe boating or unsafe trailering, any time we see it.

There is still a temporary lighted buoy for marker "7" in the Amelia River, just north of the Amelia Island Yacht Basin There is also a new daymarker "8" near it. The South turn on the ICW in Nassau Sound has a new marker structure there that will be much easier to see. There are 3 new Shoal warning signs (white sign on posts) near Kings Bay Sub Base. All lights are repaired in Cumberland Sound according to the Local Notice to Mariners. Nothing else to report.

COMMUNICATIONS	Jerry Neal	FSO-CM 14-1	(904) 277-8270
COMPUTER SERVICE	Joe Blanchard	FSO-CS 14-1	(904) 2774257
FINANCE	J. Sintes	FSO-FN 14-1	(904) 261-4432

You have or will soon be receiving the 2007 dues notice. Please respond to the FSO-FN by 9-15 in order for us to meet reporting deadlines by Division 14 and District 7. 2007 will be another interesting year for flotilla 14-1. We hope you will be part of it.

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

#### Marine Safety Issues September 2006

- 1. The U. S Coast Guard is in the process of enacting several boating safety laws as follows:
  - A. An engine cut-off switch requirement for boats as well as PWCs.
  - B. VHF-FM radios on recreational boats.
  - C. No less than a twenty- foot towline for water toys (Carbon Monoxide danger).
  - D. . Standardized boating safety class requirements. (Boaters can operate in several states in one day with each state having different laws; i.e. Michigan and Indiana, New York and New Jersey, Georgia and Florida. You can be "legal" in one state, cross the "border" and no longer be "legal")

### 2. Information provided to SO-MS from Sea Tow:

When towing an in-board engine boat:

Some propeller shafts are water cooled by the engine operation. They have a hose leading to the shaft seal that sends water through the seal cooling and lubricating the shaft when it turns.

If you tow a vessel with this system and let the shaft turn without running the engine you can burn up the seal. Therefore, you must lock the shaft to prevent it from turning when towing boats with this type of system, 3. Steven Craven of 14-7 has been assisting the Marine Safety Office with Finger-Printing. When Mariners need to renew or require an initial Coast Guard License, they must be fingerprinted. Previously this required going to Miami to get it done. Now they can make an appointment (some Tuesdays) and get it done locally. If you hear of anyone needing fingerprints or an OATH taken for a USCG License, contact the MSO at (904) 232-3287 ext. 178 for an appointment.

#### **MEMBER TRAINER**

**Bob Sperry** 

FSO-MT 14-1

(904) 277-7191

The formal crew and coxswain training will be completed with one more Qualification Examination early in October. Any other members interested in becoming qualified for crew or coxswain should contact me so we can plan for future sessions.

The AuxNav speciality course continues but no more speciality courses are scheduled this year.

The Coast Guard has been critical of the radio procedures of the Auxiliary so we need to attend a radio operations workshop to be scheduled in the near future.

All members concerned with operations are required to take a Team Coordination training session every five years. These sessions require a specially trained Instructor and at this time sessions are presented on a Division basis only. The next session is scheduled for October 14 and all new crew members are required to attend. Others may choose to attend to get the five year requirement satisfied. Further information will be forthcoming.

Personal reasons require me to cut back on my Auxiliary activities so I will need some help with training activities next year. If anyone is interested in conducting Member training please let me know.

MARINE DEALER VISITOR	Dallas Butcher David Johnson	FSO-PV 14-1	(904) 491-3854 (904) 491-6657
OPERATIONS	Heinz Fridrick	FSO-OP 14-1	(904) 261-5844

During the month of August we had 10 patrols, three of which were training missions. This brings our year to date patrols to 73 and right on plan.

In early August we had a QE mission with three crew trainees, two coxswain trainees two 5 year crew and two 5 year coxswain requalifications. All candidates did very well except one crew trainee must demonstrate better radio procedures and one coxswain trainee is required to show improved dead reckoning skills.

We have now 13 coxswains, 18 crew and 10 facilities available for operations.

All crew members and coxswains are current for 2006 except 3 coxswains that need 5 year requalification and one coxswain that needs annual currency maintenance.

We are planning 13 patrols for early September including a Night Aton with three vessels. This will be our third Night Aton this year. Crew members and coxswains who have not yet participated in a Night Aton this year should sign up for the September Night Aton.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS	Robert Conklin	FSO-PA 14-1	(912) 673-9678
PUBLICATIONS	Aaron Rawls	FSO-PB 14-1	(904) 225-0765
PUBLIC EDUCATION	Doug Auburn	FSO-PE 14-1	(904) 491-0042

September 12 through October 19 we shall be conducting our last boating safety course of 2006, "Boating Skills & Seamanship". (If you are a new member and have not had a boating safety class or could use a refresher course, you might want to consider this offering. Cost to a member is only \$15.00.) If you are aware of anyone else who might find this series of classes useful, please have them give me a call at 904-491-0042.

There is another call I would like to receive and that is one from someone in 14-1 volunteering to take over as Public Education Officer. V. C. Tom Hayden can certainly use the continued support of our membership as he leads our auxiliary for the coming year. As some of you are aware, the Commanders & Vice Commanders jobs have become more demanding over the last few years. They do not need the added headache of an empty staff position. Please give serious consideration to being the person who maintains our public safety boating classes by filling our need for a new P. E. Officer. Give me or Tom a call if you are willing to do this job.

Last month I published a list of all instructor assignments for our September-October BS&S classes. I had one session without an instructor printed "Instructor needed". That has been filled by Roger McNamara and P. C. Mike Owsley. Thanks guys for stepping-up.

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

You have or will soon be receiving the 2007 dues notice. Please respond to the FSO-FN by 9-15 in order for us to meet reporting deadlines by Division 14 and District 7. 2007 will be another interesting year for flotilla 14-1. We hope you will be part of it.

The FC will soon send us a description of the uniforms we wear. Until then, please refer to Chapter 10 in the Auxiliary Manual for a detailed description of uniforms and how to wear them. All members should have a printed copy or CD of the Auxiliary Manual. I have CD's for all of the new members who have received an ID card and confirmation of membership.

Uniforms for meeting or prescribed by the FC:

- 1. Tropical Blue Long with Garrison cap or Combination cap
- 2. Undress Blue summer Alpha with Garrison cap or Combination cap

Uniforms for patrol:

- 1. ODU (Operational Dress Uniform) with baseball cap
- 2. Working Blue with baseball cap
- 3. Hot weather outfit: dark blue shorts, white socks, dark blue t-shirt and dark brown boat shoes or white or black low top athletic shoes.

#### **VESSEL EXAMANER**

Jim Hiott

FSO-AN 14-1

(904) 261-4205

Greetings Everyone......Well its September and the boating season will start to slow down after labor day. But there will still be a lot of activity at our local boat ramps and marinas especially on pretty weekends. Our friends from up north will start coming back down soon. Fishing activity will go on. As far as our target at risk boats (boats under 25 ft.) we've only touched the tip of the iceberg. Even though 2006 is winding down it should not be as much about granting them a safety decal for their boat but rather about informing them of safety regulations. As VE's we should be out and about our boat ramps and marinas every chance we get.

On another note I've had several people ask questions about DSC radios. I personally know very little about them. DSC or digtal selective calling as with any new technology takes time to learn. This months BoatUS magagize has information about a tutorial funded by the US Coast Guard on DSC radios. It's free, easy and will teach you all you need to know about DSC, MMSI, VHF radios. To access the tutorial titled "can you hear me?" go to boatus.com/mmsi. We need to learn this ourselves so we won't be caught unprepared when asked.

HISTORIAN	Robert Lauber	FSO-HN 14-1	(904) 277-4065
GROUNDS KEEPER	Paul Clark	FSO-GK 14-1	(904) 261-4041

## To All Members,

Due to a very busy Saturday coming up, work day at the light house has been changed to Tuesday, 5 Sept.. We begin a new 10 lesson boating safety class on the 12th and would like to make a good first impression.

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

**FELLOWSHIP** Tom Pippin FSO-FL 14-1 (904) 491-6285

Summer is almost over so we need to get back to "fellowshipping"!!!

We are going to have a "Porch Party" at Barbara Jeans on Wednesday evening, Sept. 20. We will start at 1830 hours (6:30pm) and will have the entire porch to ourselves--weather permitting. this will be a good way to have a great meal and to fellowship with new and old members. I will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for reservations and you can call or e-mail me with your intentions. Let's have a great turnout for good food, fun and fellowship.

For October we are planning an unique social event. The movie "The Guardian" will be showing in October and this is the first movie devoted to the US COAST GUARD! It is about rescue swimmers and will feature Kevin Coster. Our plans are to view the film as a group at a matinee showing and then have a dinner function at a local restaurant. I will have more on this when I get the dates and times from the theater.

## SEE YOU AT BARBARA JEANS ON SEPTEMBER 20th 1830 hrs!!

**BOATS, WATER & KIDS** 

Gary Bong

FSO-WK 14-1

(904) 261-2006

### **Special Report from the Audit Committee**

James W. Arman, FC 14-1 USCGAUX

Jim:

Pursuant to your request, members Albertine, Butcher and Foster met with Member Sintes on 31 August, 2006, and concluded audit of funds of 14-1. We concerned ourselves with fiscal year (9-21-05 thru 8-25-06). In particular we reviewed deposit slips and deposit receipts for said period, ledgers for income and disbursements for like time, reviewed monthly bank statements for past year, studied check book of flotilla, and concluded by conferring with Mr. Sintes regarding our account. On behalf of this committee you are advised that we found income properly deposited, disbursements properly documented, and appropriate funds verified in flotilla account. Should you have any questions of committee, please advise.

Bill Foster Ch. Audit Comm.

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#### September 2006 SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY **SATURDAY** 1 3 5 6 **FLOTILLA MEETING** 1900 - 2100 **LABOR** $\mathbf{n} \mathbf{v}$ 10 12 BS&S L-13 14 BS&S L-2 16 **AUXNAV** 1900 1900 - 2100 1 - 2100 DISTRICT DISTRICT DISTRICT **MEETING MEETING MEETING** 17 19 BS&S L-20 21 BS&S L-4 22 STAFF 23 REPORT DUE **AUXNAV** 3 1900 -1900 - 2100 2100 24 26 BS&S L-27 STAFF 28 BS&S L-6 29 NASSAU **AUXNAV** 5 1900 -**MEETING** 1900 - 2100 **SOUNDINGS COTTAGE &** 1900 - 2000 2100 **ARTICLES GROUNDS** DUE **CLEAN UP** 0900



# FLOTILLA 14-1 MEETING

September 7, 2006 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.

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

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**