

# THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Newsletter for Flotilla 14-2, Arlington

**Vol. L - No. 1**

**February 2025**

## **FROM THE PILOT HOUSE**

Last year was one of focus and spark. With exceptional effort from our long time members, transfers from other flotilla and new members I could feel the energy in all we planned to do – and what we accomplished. In the reports that follow you'll see that we are moving forward. And moving forward gives us the momentum to set our sights on higher levels of accomplishment – and pride – and fun.

Here's are just a few I'd like to see increases in 2025:

	2024	2025	% of Increase
Number of <u>new</u> members	5	8	60
Vessel Exams			
Examiners	2	8	300
Exams	16	130	713
Partner Visitations			
Partners	2	8	300
Visits	40 +/-	180	300
Public Education			
Students	-	80	
Public Affairs			
Events	5	7	40
Miscellaneous-			
Instruction for First Aid, AED, CPR			
Expand assistance to our Sea Scout ship			
Expand our assistance to our Coast Guard partners.			

As I review the numbers above- they are shocking. But they're just numbers. WE GOT THIS!

Bill Sekeres, FC

# Staff Officer Reports

## Aux Scout,

As most of you know, at our August 2024 meeting, it was voted on and passed that 14-2 charter a Sea Scout ship. Our ship is formally known as Ship 886. Ship Skipper Christina Thomas spoke to us about what was involved and highlighted some of the forward vision of Ship 886. The Auxiliary District 7 informally approved the chartering request in September 2024.

We had to hold the charter paperwork until December to allow us time to identify members of the ship Executive Committee and a minimum number of scouts. The chartering documents were filed with district in December 2024 making it official on the CG Auxiliary side.

At a dinner sponsored by the North Florida Chapter of Scouting America on February 6, 2025, Sea Scout Ship 886 will be fully recognized by Scouting America as a full fledged Sea Scout Ship. The ceremony will take place at the district scouting America dinner at Assumption Catholic Church on Atlantic Blvd. Bill Sekeres and Ed Washburn will be present to represent the CG Auxiliary.

Ed Washburn, FSO-AS

## Communication Services

In January we received a directive titled "By Order of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Commodore". The directive was to remove any references of Diversity & Inclusion from our flotilla websites and any social media accounts that we control. We have reviewed our web site and Facebook page. The Facebook URL/Link has been removed from the front page of the Flotilla website. We are now compliant with the Directive.

Our Flotilla website and calendar are up to date at the present time. If you would like something added to the calendar, feel free to contact me. After approval from the FC, I will add the information.

There are several items that have been added to the website; Signal Bridge and the Monthly Meeting Minutes (will be added after approved). Please review our site; comments are welcome.

Flotilla Website URL: [Welcome to the Flotilla 14-2, District 7 Web Site](#)

Tom Anderson, FSO-CS

## Finance

One transaction in January, a deposit for public education.

Bill Sekeres, FSO-FN

## Information Services

7029 spreadsheet and AUXDATA II instruction will be conducted at our February meeting.

Bill Sekeres, FSO-IS

## Marine Safety

### Ships Tonnage

A. Displacement Tonnage- Equal to the Weight of Water displaced by a ship, which is the actual weight of the ship. This is measured in Long Tons (2240pounds).

B. Dead weight Tonnage- The weight of cargo, fuel, stores and people the ship carries. This is also

measured in Long Tons.

C. Gross Tonnage- Measurement of a ships internal spaces. 100 cubic feet equals 1 Gross Ton.

Example: Engine Room, Pilothouse

D. Net Tonnage- Measurement of the cargo and passenger spaces; This is the money earning spaces.

Examples: Cargo Holds. Cargo Fuel Tanks, Passenger Staterooms.

### **VELS**

Volunteer Emissions Labeling Scheme started 1 Jan 2007. This is used to label Outboard Engines to comply with the CARB (Cal Air Resources Board) standard for air and water pollution.

0 Star High- most 2 stroke engines

1 Star Low- some older and newer 2 stroke engines

2 Star Very Low- some newer 2 stroke and some older 4 stroke engines

3 Star Ultra Low- newer 4 stroke and some direct injection 2 stroke engines

4 Star Super Ultra Low- Future Use

### **Waterproof**

An electrical device such as a VHF-FM Radio has a standard that is built into the unit. This determines how water resistant it is. There are Japanese and European codes that equate to how wet it gets and will still operate.

Japan Industrial Standard	European Standard
JIS 0 No Protection	0 Not Protected
JIS 1 Drip Resistant	1 Same
JIS 2 " " to Angle of 15 Degrees	2 Same
JIS 3 Rain of Angle of 60 Degrees	3 Spray Resistant
JIS 4 Splash Resistant	4 Same
JIS 5 Jetting Water Resistant	5 Water Jet Resistant
JIS 6 Water Shall Not Enter	6 Strong Water Jet Will Not Enter
JIS 7 Immersion Resistant	7 Immersion To 1 Meter Resistant
JIS 8 Submersible	8 Immersion Beyond 1 Meter For 30 Minutes
X Humidity Resistant up to 90%	X No Rating

### **Manatee Violations**

Florida State law for Manatee Violations is a maximum \$500 fine and up to 60 days jail time. Federal Law is up to a \$50,000 fine and/or 1 year prison time. The State of Florida can pursue prosecution under Federal Law if it results in an injury or death of a Manatee.

### **Federal Registers**

A. Dec 27th Friday USCG- Correction to the Merchant Mariners Credential.

B. Jan 2 2025 Wednesday USCG- Federal Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment Act Final Rule Effective 2JAN2025

Examples - Partial List

MSD Violations \$9956.

Failure to Stop Vessel after USCG order \$1000.

Negligent Operations Rec Vsl. \$8705.

Drug/Alcohol Use \$9624.

Maximum violations a Rec Vsl can receive \$413,388.

Rec Vsl violations for items IE: PFD, Fire Ext. \$3126.

C. Friday Jan 10th EPA- California Pollution Control Standards for Commercial Harbor Craft IE: tugs, ferries, passenger boats, fishing boats, barge engines.

D. Tuesday Jan 14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- Proposed Rule to change the status of the Manatee from Threatened to Endangered.

E. Thursday Jan 16 NOAA The Proposed rules for the Right Whale which include more speed

reductions, a larger area and more vessel types are withdrawn. The existing rule (10 mile speed etc) are still in effect.

F. Friday Jan 17 USCG Cyber Security in the Marine Transportation System.

### **New Products**

A. Skippers Swag- puts a chart showing your favorite marina on a cellphone case or a beach towel.

Visit [skipperswag.com](http://skipperswag.com)

B. Shield Trailers are enclosed trailers for boats. They have 2 sizes- boats as wide as 96" or 102" wide. You can launch and retrieve them with this trailer. [shieldtrailers.com](http://shieldtrailers.com)

C. Alarm for the trailer. Flashes Lights, Sounds a Siren and Locks up the Brakes. [Trailer-Alarms.com](http://Trailer-Alarms.com)

D. Patch Stops Pain. [thesignalpatch.com](http://thesignalpatch.com)

### **You Are Here ATON**

A diamond shaped dayboard either Red and White, Green and White or Black and White. These are used to determine location like the You Are Here sign at a shopping mall. There are 2 of these in this area. One is on the ICW north of Amelia Island near the Kings Bay Sub base. The other one is on the St Johns River near the Back River, east of Blount Island- This one is Black and White.

### **Navigation Rules**

When a vessel is being towed, these vessels are always the Stand On vessel.

When you approach them, you are the Give Way vessel.

### **Ethanol Fuel**

The alcohol in the fuel causes separation of the fuel hose inner liner. The hose then shrinks and closes up. Squeezing the fuel hose bulb will open the hose enough to allow a small amount of fuel to get by allowing the engine to run slow.

### **Manatee Zone Areas**

Go to [myfwc.com/media/19045/duvalmpz\\_maps.pdf](http://myfwc.com/media/19045/duvalmpz_maps.pdf). This shows the slow speed Manatee Protection Zones for Duval county.

### **Flotilla Events:**

Immediate Past- January 24-26 Prime Osborn Boat Show

Upcoming:

April 25-27 Metro Park Boat Show

April 27 Opening of the Jax Beach Parade

October 25-26 Jax Beach Air Show

**COMEDY CORNER**-On a cruise ship, the Captain made an announcement that they were 3 miles from land. The passengers looked out the windows but could not see any land. He then stated land was 3 miles straight down.

My Wife wanted to go someplace expensive for New Years Eve. I took her to the Marina Fuel Dock.

Mark Lang, FSO\_MS

### **Member Training**

Member Training

Last 30 days

-Ed Washburn officially completed AUXOP and is now AX

-Jeff Sandler completed all core training and BQC and is now BQ

Next 30 days

-to ensure compliance with Executive Orders various online training will be suspended to screen and remove all DEI references (BQC, Leadership courses)  
-on 15 Feb flotilla 14-1 will be holding a Finger Print and Citizenship Verifier class  
-Noah and Ed will work with Bill to complete VE qualification  
-Noah is scheduled to work with Sector Jacksonville 20 & 27 February to complete ICS 404 SOFR qualification.

Subject: USCG Auxiliary Annual Workshops for OP, TCO, IT, VE

Location: Amelia Island Lighthouse

Date: Saturday, 22 February, 2025

Time: 0900 – 1600 EST

Workshop start times:

0900 Operation

1030 Telecommunications Operator

1500 Vessel Examinations

Noah Kalemkiewicz, FSO-MT

## **Operations**

-NTR

## **Public Education**

- All Power Point slides for the Boat America course have been updated. Older versions of the slides are to be discarded.
- The Directorate Florida specific Boat America course exam has been updated to 75 questions. The exam materials are being updated to comply with this change.

Frank Samperisi, FSO-PE

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Monthly Social- FEB 18, 1800 hours

Milanos Italian Restaurant Pizza and Bar

12620 Beach Blvd

SE corner of Beach and Kernan Blvds