

# THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Newsletter for Flotilla 14-2, Arlington

**Vol. L - No. 2    February 2025**

## **FROM THE PILOT HOUSE**

YTD numbers compared to 2024. In future editions of the Signal Bridge this will appear as a spreadsheet at the end of the publication.

	2024	Goal 2025	YTD 2025
Number of <u>new</u> members	5	8	0
Vessel Exams			
Examiners	2	8	
Exams	16	130	18
Partner Visitations			
Partners	2	8	2
Visits	40 +/-	180	0
Public Education			
Students	-	80	8
Public Affairs			
Events	5	7	1

Miscellaneous-

Instruction for First Aid, AED, CPR

Expand assistance to our Sea Scout ship

Expand our assistance to our Coast Guard partners.

Bill Sekeres, FC

## Staff Officer Reports

### Aux Scout,

It is reported that ship 886 now has 5 youth listed as members of the ships company. The following youth are now listed on the current roster as of February 23, 2025. They are, by first name: Georgia, Emmalyn, Leighann, Lara, Wilson

A great round of congratulations goes out to our Sea Scouts on reaching this milestone. We look forward to moving ahead for the remainder of the 2025 year.

Ed Washburn and Bill Sekeres attended a North Florida Council volunteer recognition awards dinner attended by nearly 200 from the local scouting community.

Ed Washburn, FSO-AS

### Communication Services

Our flotilla website and calendar are up to date and in compliance. If you would like something added to the calendar, feel free to contact me. After approval from the FC, we 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; any comments are welcome. Flotilla Website URL:

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

Tom Anderson, FSO-CS

### Finance

Transactions for February included 180.00 for 2025 dues, 134.00 to purchase Boat America books, 0.12 interest. Account balance will be detailed at our March meeting.

We should received our 2025 dues billing statement from Division 14 this month; ur expected dues expense is \$840.00

Bill Sekeres, FSO-FN

### Materials

The new edition of the Auxiliary National Supply Center Catalog, dated January 2025, contains one new item - #3023A Join the Auxiliary- f or those with prior military service.

Marc Lang, FSO-MA.

### Marine Safety

Proposed Events

April 13 St Johns River Blessing of the Fleet

April 25-27 Metro Park Boat Show

April 27 Jax Opening of the Beaches Parade (flotilla participation canceled due to parade and the boat show happening on the same day.

Oct 25-26 Jax Beach Air Show

Completed Events- Jan 24-26 Prime Osborn Boat Show

### 1. Private ATON

A Private Aid that is no longer there was brought to the attention of the SO-NS by the FSO-MS. The SO-NS contacted Ant Jax and this aid was removed from the 2025 Light List.

### 2. Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987

This act gives Federal ownership of abandoned wrecks and provides the public access for recreational and educational purposes.

### 3. DAN Divers Alert Network

This is a membership of individuals and organizations sharing an interest in diver safety. DAN operates a 24 hour national hot-line to provide advice, early treatment and hyper-bardic treatment for persons suffering from diving related injuries. Emergency calls 919 684 8111 or non emergency calls 919 684 2948.

### 4. Marine Safety Alerts

A. LED Lighting may effect your VHF Radio and AIS system. It has caused interference with the DSC part of the VHF also. If you are having problems, turn off your LED lighting and use the radio. If the problem goes away, then that is it.

Do not place LED lighting, including spot lights, near your radio's antenna.

### B. MS Alert 06-25

Bow seating type boats have been dangerous when encountering large waves. In the Charleston S. C. area and the Hudson River in Manhattan N. Y. C., bow seating caused 9 passengers to be ejected when the boat hit a large wave. 1 person was killed by the boat's propeller.

### 5. Automatic Identification System (AIS)

AIS shows a picture of other vessels in your area by displaying and identifying them on a screen. This helps you to navigate more safely.

Required Vessels to have AIS include- 65' and up commercial vessels, passenger ships, fishing vessels over 65', towboats over 26' and 600 HP, vessels over 300 GT and on an international voyage. 150 passenger capacity and up vessels.

Three classes of AIS are A, B and C. A having the most features. Recreational boats wanting AIS usually get a Class B to suit there needs.

When you get a VHF radio, get the MMSI number, you then add AIS to that through the BoatUS register form.

If you sell your boat with the VHF radio, the new owner must transfer the MMSI to him. Transfer of one's name applies to EPIRBS as well, DO NOT keep it in your name.

### 6. New Product

At the Boat Show- a boat or any trailer plug contains adapter to not only power your trailer lights but other lights as well. If you do not have a trailer but your vehicle has the plug you can power accessories without having to wire the vehicle. Just plug in your extra lights etc and they work. No splicing wires, looking for a ground etc. [viaircorp.com](http://viaircorp.com)

### 7. Red Tide Tech

Mote Marine Laboratory developed three products to combat Red Tide. Red Tide, an algae bloom, is defined as the presence of at least 100,000 red tide cells per liter of water for at least 30 days.

Two of the three products use plant based chemicals and the third uses bubbles to "pop" the cells. They can be deployed by a crop duster or a vessel or even back pack mounted sprayers. The chemicals do not

do greater harm to the environment than the red tide is already doing. This is science at its best, not just monitoring the problem, but coming up with solutions.

#### 8. Permits are approved for new Marina

Rivers Edge and a 125 slip Marina permits are approved for the Southbank of the St Johns River. It will be bulk headed and include a Kayak Launch Site and a Water Taxi stop.

#### 9. Fl. Governor to Stop Random Boat Inspections

The Governor stated that boaters who are NOT doing anything wrong and just enjoying themselves boating should not be stopped for a random inspection by state or local officials. He proposes a Freedom Boater Decal to be issued by the state when registering your boat that the boater themselves inspected the boat and has all the equipment to be in compliance. This does not affect U.S. Govt. (USCG and Customs) boats from stopping boaters.

A USCG Auxiliary VSC decal was not mentioned. Our District Office should bring this up to the Governor, who may not be aware of the Aux VSC. If the Governor tells boaters to get an Aux VSC, this will enliven the VSC program and more boaters will ask for it to be done.

#### 10. Disabled or Special Needs PFDs

PFD-A corporation makes life jackets for disabled persons.

## Public Affairs

USCGAUX Flotilla 070-14-02 staffed a booth at the Jacksonville Boat Show at the Prime Osborn Convention Center January 24 through 26. The North Florida Marine Association, reported record attendance for the three-day event. Ed Washburn, Chris Machenburg, Tom Anderson, Frank Samperisi, Dawn Littrell and Bill Sekeres staffed the booth with Marc Lang acting as the lead organizer of the booth.



Kenny and Vera DeAngelo declare Marc Lang “the man” after receiving valuable regulations information and free decals for his 31-foot vessel at the Jacksonville Boat Show January

## **Public Education**

### **Accomplishments During Last Month**

Six students attended and passed the BA exam at the 22 Feb Boat America Class. Evaluation was extremely positive. Results were submitted to FWC.

Tom Anderson, Marc Lang, and Jeff Sandler taught. Jeff is well on his way toward satisfying all requirements for Instructor\*, that will mark our third new instructor. This gives us a roster of six very experienced instructors constituting a very strong and resilient Public Education program.

The presentation of new slides went well. The review questions for Chapters 3,4, and 5 required some editing. The specific edits were reported to SO-PE Harry Tipper with recommendations to pass them on to the Directorate.

### **Opportunities:**

Continue to distribute our new brochure that in addition to the 2025 Boat America class schedule provides information for vessel examinations and membership.

### **Challenges:**

Fulfilling our mission for RBS to reach our youth audience.

\* Editor's Note; Since receiving this report from Frank, Jeff has qualified as an instructor.

## **COMEDY CORNER-**

Courtesy of Marc –

The best way to to experience sailing is to stand in a cold shower with a fan running and tearing up hundred dollar bills at the same time.

The Perfect Boat has drinks for six, food for four and sleeps two.