

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Newsletter for Flotilla 14-2, Arlington

Vol. L - No. 3 March 2025

FROM THE PILOT HOUSE

Our emphasis for the rest of April and May will be expanding our effort for National Safe Boating Week (NSBW).

For our meeting on April 1st I'd like members to bring ideas for activities we can do as individuals and in groups to bring our message of boating safety to a wider audience.

Although NSBW officially runs from May 17th – 23rd, all activities from now through the 23rd that we engage in will be included in our total effort.

Bill Sekeres, FC

Aux Scout Staff Officer Reports

Aux Scout

Bill Sekeres and Ed Washburn are meeting with Crowley Maritime Group on March 31st to review what a Sea Scout Ship is comprised of and how the ship operates. We will also discuss what the Sea Scout's role is and what the ship is going to be doing.

Crowley will provide us with some insight as to what their expectations are and what they may be able to provide for the scouts. They will also provide their mission in what they foresee as future opportunities that will be available to the scouts in the maritime industry to include the possibility of captaining a ship for Crowley. They have previously indicated that they will provide the necessary training to work in the maritime industry.

Crowley is also partnering with local boys and girls clubs to provide them with the same types of opportunities and training.

This is a pilot program that we are partnering with Crowley and when we have successfully gotten the program set up and operational it may be rolled out across the United States. The meeting Monday is to brainstorm ideas and to provide mutual understanding and goals for this program.

Ed Washburn, FSO-AS

Communication Services

As the chairman of the Annual Jacksonville Marine Charities Redfish Roundup. The Redfish Tournament will be at Jim King Boat Ramp at Sisters Creek on 17 May, which is the kick off date for National Safe Boating Week. We will be using the area in front of the north dock for the event/weigh in. The tournament will be on our April meeting agenda.

Because of its importance, I'm resubmitting a report from February:

I have no new information or updates to report at the present time.

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

Checking account transactions for March are;
Debits- 828.00 dues to Division, District and National
Credits- 150.00 for PE and 0.12 for interest income

Bill Sekeres, FSO-FN

Materials

IAW with the SO-MA, this is the requested Rain Gear List from 14-2 members

Tom Anderson VE XL

Wert Washburn VE XL

Ordered Materials from ANSC for Spring Metro Park Boat Show

Marc Lang, FSO-MA.

Marine Safety

Proposed Events:

April 13 Blessing of the Fleet

April 25-27 Metro Park Boat Show

Oct 24-26 Jax Beach Air Show

1. Federal Registers

A. Monday Feb 24th Presidential Administrative Order Continuation

Movement of U.S. Registered Vessels are Not Authorized into Cuban Waters.

B. Friday Feb 28th EPA- The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Renewal for Boat Manufacturing- uses resins, gel-coat, fiberglass and paint coatings. Shipbuilding and Repair Facilities- repair and repaint

C. Monday March 17th USCG Final Rule effective 17 March 2025 Gulf of America Renaming in Regs 33 and 46 CFR.

2. Florida Right to Clean Water

This amendment gives Florida residents the right to sue legislators when the water becomes unclean.

Floridarighttocleanwater.org

3. Sea Legs

This boat is amphibious. It has wheels that connect to the hull and fold up when waterborne. They fold down and the boat drives itself out of the water.

They come in open center console type or the new enclosed cabin.

sealegs.com

4. Flux Marine

Flux is an Electric Outboard and you can get them with a few selected boat types. Fluxmarine.com

5. Dumas Boat Models

You can get USCG boat models from this company. The 40', 41' in 15" and 31" and the new 154' Fast Response Cutter are available.

Dumasproducts.com

6. ALCOAST Message

ALCOAST Message 094/25 Automatic Inflatable PFDs may not fully inflate at or below 32 degrees F. Users need to become familiar with the manual operation to fully inflate them. Use Caution from 15 to 32 degrees F. Consider using Type 3 PFDs doing this time.

7. Home Made Vessels

To Register and Title a Home Made Boat in Florida the following is required.

Form HSMV 82040 Application for Certificate of Title OR

Form HSMV 82041 Application for Certificate of Title and Registration

Copy of the Bill of Sale or Receipts from the boats purchase.

For vessels less than 16' Form HSMV 87002 Vessel Statement of Builder

For vessels 16' or more Form HSMV 87002 Vessel Statement of Builder

And a Certificate of Inspection from the FWC. Contact the FWC for an appointment.

FWC will provide the Form FWCDLE 126. Certificate of Inspection for Home Made Vessels

The forms and the title and registration fee must be submitted to the DMV and also showing all taxes have been paid.

The State of Florida will issue a Hull ID number. It will start with FLZ.

Then the boat owner will be required to carve, burn in, stamp, embossed or otherwise permanently affix the number to the starboard side of the transom and if there is no transom, to the outermost starboard side of the hull.

If you find a boat with FLZ as the first part of the HIN, then you know it is a homemade boat. State Abbreviations followed by a Z let you know it is a homemade boat and which state it was from. Example New York NYZ, New Jersey NJZ.

8. Florida Boating Safety Bills

There are 5 new bills about boating safety to be voted on this legislative session.

SB58- Killing unborn child in a boating accident would be a murder

CS/SB 628- stiffer penalties for collisions and accidents causing casualties, also stiffer penalties for reckless and careless operation and suspension of vehicle driver license for BWI (Boating While Intoxicated) This would be known as Lucy's Law. Lucy Fernandez was a teenager killed in a boating crash in Biscayne Bay, Miami.

Changed Definition of Livery.

HB289- stiffer penalties for collisions and accidents causing casualties

SB 1388/HB1001- Boater Freedom Act, Prevents Law Enforcement to perform a safety inspection when no probable cause. Provides Clean Marina grants to Marine Facilities.

9. Boaters Guide to Fed Reqs for Rec Boats

This pamphlet is out of date with the recent (last 2 years) changes.

The Auxiliary states it is too costly to print out another version.

All updates will go to a file. VEs, PVs and all concerned can go to this file and update the pamphlets on your own.

BE AWARE- On Page 5 (FIVE) in the pamphlet And on the link, it Still shows a boat with Florida Registration Numbers and showing the State Decal on the Starboard side. **THIS IS INCORRECT.** The decal goes on the PORT SIDE. I informed the pamphlet people of this problem when the pamphlet first came out and they refused to correct it.

This is a 49 page file.

<https://uscgboating.org/assets/1/assetmanager/boaters-guide-to-federal-regulations-for-recreational-boats-20231108.pdf>.

10. GPIRB

Global Position Indicating Radio Beacon. The difference between an Epirb and a Gpirb is the Gpirb is location enabled. It pinpoints its location so rescue can find you more quickly. The Epirb has a bigger area to locate you.

Either device is better than nothing.

Marc Lang, FSO-MS

Public Education

Accomplishments During Last Month

As we further develop and modify the recent new version of Boat America slide program for Florida, objective evaluation of the same is overdue.

The BA course is our most intense, regular, and productive contact with the public, (our students.)

The PE inventory revealed an excess of unused Evaluation forms suggesting the need to not only use these forms on a regular basis but to report the results.

Our most recent course on 29 March was very successful with good student participation.

Opportunities

Add an Evaluation Report

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Class Impression | Engaging and informative/ Wonderful/ Great |
| 2. Impression of Instructors | Yes/awesome, all very knowledgeable/very personable |
| 3. Student Participation | Just right/ About Right/About right |
| 4. Less time on: | Time reasonably/Time Reasonably/ PWC |
| 5. More Time on: | Turning/all good/reasonably spent |
| 6. Suggestion for improvement | None noted/Better Slides/ |
| 7. enjoyed the most | This one/Ropes |
| 8. Additional comment | <i>No Response received</i> |

Challenges

Convincing schools to find the time to hold a 45-minute Safe Boating class.

Making use of course toolkit resources to introduce programs to schools.

Offering elected officials' activities to fulfill the proclamations made during Safe Boating week later this Spring.

Frank Samperisi, FSO-PE

Vessel Examinations

Year to date, we have doubled our total for the entire year 2024. In 2024 we examined completed eight VSC, so far this year we have completed 16. Although I like the increase we have a long way to go to reach our 2025 goal of 130 but the season is just now getting started and with an increase of certified examiners I feel good about reaching our goal.

Bill Sekeres, FSO-VE