

# THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Monthly Newsletter for Flotilla 14-2, Arlington

Vol. XLIX - No. 6

June 2024

## FROM THE PILOT HOUSE

*The following is the script read at our May social.*

### Tribute to Miss Jane

This presentation is for someone who we all love. It is for someone who is one of the most gentle persons I've ever met. From this person - I've never heard them say a disparaging word - about anyone. That is except when something negative is said about their family or friends or- this country they love so much; then it's - WATCH OUT!

This person does not care about where you come from or if you're standing in high cotton or who you might know in high places. They care- that you care- about those things they hold dear- Again, family, friends and Country.

But, even persons who stand in high cotton gravitate to this person because she is so genuine- so down to earth, with no pretension of exalted-ness.

However, talk about persons standing in high cotton, I remember hearing the story about Jane Coy when she tried to get on an elevator car at the hotel where the Coast Guard Auxiliary was hosting its National Convention, somewhere about 2010. When the doors to an elevator car that she was waiting for opened, a secret service detail told Jane she'd have to wait for another car. It's at that time the secret service agents were told to Stand Down; that Jane was okay to enter. You see, even Admiral Thad Allan, Commandant of the Coast Guard, knew Jane Coy was special. In fact, so special that at the same convention, Admiral Allan, who was engaged in conversation with other "high cotton" attendees, excused himself by announcing that he wanted to greet the lady who had just entered the room. That lady was Jane Coy.

Now, I have also recently found out that Jane hasn't always been as angelic as we think her to be. When she deems it necessary, she can give someone WHAT FOR. Like the time, when, on an Auxiliary patrol, Jane's devoted (*I mean devoted*) husband Darin allowed his frustration get the best of him (to a level of high "verbalization") when Jane was having difficulty docking a boat she was piloting. Apparently Darwin's high level of verbalization triggered Jane's frustration with her devoted Darwin- that then boiled over to her own level of even higher verbalization, at which point she

announced for all to hear: “DARWIN, you can dock this (fill in the blank) boat yourself. (I wonder what Thad Allan would say about that).

Our life’s dreams and desires for our future rarely turn out as we envision them when we’re young. Days go by - and - they’re governed by events and people we meet along our life’s path. And that changes our future forever. But our perdurable (enduring) life journey, with it’s twists and turns not only becomes easier, but it’s also worth every minute when love is the connector of two souls.

In 1955 Darwin was attending Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. While there he was introduced to Jane by her brother, Ernie. Well, love blossomed and life’s straight path became a curve. Darwin and Jane were married two years later. That year Darwin was well on his way to receiving his Bachelor's degree.

Jane as well had a goal of higher education for herself. But the twists and turns of life soon caused them to realize that only one of them could reach that goal of a college degree. Jane sacrificed her dream so Darwin could realize his. Darwin eventually earned his Masters, then, while at the University of Chicago, earned his Doctorate in Genetics.

In the symphony of life, we cannot change the notes that history has played, but we can compose the melody of the present.

Tonight, we straighten a path that took a turn 67 years ago.

*The University of Perdurable Life*

*confers on*

*Jane A Coy*

*having exhibited throughout her lifetime purposeful dedication*

*and sacrifice to family, friends and her beloved Country*

*is hereby recognized to have earned a*

*Doctorate*

*in*

*Human Kindness*

*Presented this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May*

*in the year of our Lord Two--Thousand and Twenty Four*

## **Staff Officer Reports**

### **AUXSCOUT – Bill Sekeres**

At our June meeting we will continue the discussion of our flotilla becoming a chartering organization of the Sea Scouts. We'll also hear a report from Frank Samperisi, FSO-PE, related to our flotilla teaching water safety to cub scout packs in our area.

### **Finance - Bill Sekeres**

1. There were no transactions in our checking account in May except for interest income.
2. At our June meeting we will begin discussions geared to dues for 2025. The collection of dues will begin in August.
3. We're looking at adding PayPal to our checking account as an option to receive payments for public education students, dues, etc.

### **Marine Safety - Marc Lang**

If Ahead 2 lights shall be seen,  
one be Red and the other Green,  
You need to steer between.

This is if you see Aids to Navigation. If the lights are on a Boat, then do Not steer between.

It is only people that do not do things that do not make mistakes.  
Mikhail Gorbachev

### **Completed Events-**

April 28th Opening of the **Jax Beaches Parade**

May 10th & 11th Prime Osborn **Jax Ready Fest Safety Booth**

### **Proposed Events**

June 12th Tote Maritime Safety Fair

### **General Items**

#### **1. Coastal Birds**

Seabirds- hangs around the ocean and feeds from the open water

Shore Birds- found along the shore and feeds from the beaches and islands

They both Nest on Beaches and Islands. But these areas are getting busier and more populated with humans. These birds have started using rooftops as nesting areas. The roofs are mostly predator free. A dog walking on the beach can scare away birds, leaving the nests exposed. Some areas are Critical Wildlife area closures. Avoid them and keep the noise down when near them.

#### **2. Isotta Fraschini Outdrives**

During World War II the Italian Navy used the Isotta Fraschini outdrives on their explosive boats. The wooden boats at about 19' long would contain explosives. The operator would aim the boat toward a warship and jump off at the last minute before it hit and exploded against a ship. The ships moored inside a submarine or torpedo net thought they were protected against attack.

The outdrive on these boats were similar to a I/O on boats today. The difference was that they rotated

from vertical to horizontal. Instead of tilting up as on today's boats, they rotated from the 6 o'clock or straight down position to the 3 o'clock or horizontal position. This allowed the boat to slide over the torpedo net and when across it, turn the outdrive downward again and resume speed crashing into and exploding the ship.

3. The Motor Vessel Kyzikes was a 2627 ton vessel built at Lorain Ohio.

The American flagged vessel was later sold to the Greeks. The vessel was en-route to port when a Northeaster struck. The seas pounded the ship and she began taking on water. The ship sent out distress flares in the hope another ship would save the crew. It was night and very dark out. The crew thought they saw another ship very close to them. They signaled them and the signals were returned back. When the dawn came and it got light out, the crew found out that the vessel was bent in the shape of a V. The crew on the bow were signaling the crew on the stern of their Own Ship and vice versa. The ship finally washed up on the beach and the crew was rescued by the Kill Devil Hills N. C. lifesaving station.

4. Florida Amendment #2

This amendment on the November ballot gives the people of Florida the right to hunt and fish. This is the preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife to protect their numbers.

5. On April Fools Day

On April Fools Day the Clearwater Fl. Marine Aquarium announced the discovery of Elephas Manatus. This Manatee which is a descendant of the elephant has the same features. With its large flapping ears and elephant like trunk and tusks, it is descended from the ancestor known as Tethytheria from the Cenozoic (meaning the most recent age, yet still 66 million years ago) age. The scientists were able to lie so skillfully that visitors to the Aquarium really believed them until they were told April Fool!

6. Federal Register

Friday April 26th EPA- Renewal of secondary treatment discharge requirements into marine waters.7. Drones Plants Clams

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is planting 3 million Clams in the Indian River Lagoon. Clams are filter feeders that remove algae and excess nutrients from the water. They are using 3 million clams because fish will eat them so there is enough for the fish and enough to survive and grow and spawn. Clams form a foundation for sea grass. Sea grass is vital for manatees and fish and lagoon wildlife. Originally clams were harvested, brought to the lab and 40 million larvae were spawned. Then the clams grew and are now planted.

8. The Gold Fringe around the border of some American Flags is used as a tradition to enhance Maritime Flags.

9. Wind Names

Levanter- an East Wind that blows over the Mediterranean Sea

Mistral- North Wind that sweeps across the Mediterranean Sea

Sirocco- Hot Steady wind that brings dust and then rain

10. Diesel Outboard

Cox Company of Great Britain makes a 350 HP V8 Diesel Outboard.

Compared to a 350HP Yamaha Gas Outboard with 400 pounds of Torque, it has 700 pounds of Torque. The Cox weighs 855 pounds, costs \$55000. and burns about 13 gallons an hour at cruise speed. It comes with a 5 year recreational use warranty.

## **Public Education Frank Samperisi**

Accomplishments During Last Month- Marc Lang, Noah Kalemkiewicz, and Frank Samperisi held a Boat America Course for three students who all passed the exam. Noah completed the presentation portion of his instructor qualification and did a stellar job!

Student Boat America exam results were submitted to FWC on 27 May 2024.

Despite using a portable screen instead of the wall, the Power Point slide presentations were difficult to see due to the continued uncontrollable sunlight conditions at the Ft. Caroline CC. This is a known and ongoing problem.

Feedback from the students was positive especially for the demonstrations and interactive sessions. Understandably, there was a comment suggesting less projector time, and one verbal comment concerning the dated building facility.

Long Terms plans for the year - Once facility related issues are resolved fliers and ads will be created and circulated. Alternate class venues are being considered to mitigate above problems.

Detail Plans for Next Month - Brainstorm solutions to facility problems: alternate class sites considered are Hidden Hills (HH) Tennis Pavilion; an excellent facility however possible conflict with Saturday morning tennis clinics. The tennis clinic schedule at HH could not be verified at this time. Public Library System: opens late morning but is a possibility. Both alternate sites would involve transporting teaching aides from Ft. Caroline CC storage. Concerning ambient light and slide viewing quality; a daylight friendly Ambient Light Rejecting (ALR) screen was ordered (purchased personally, no charge to Flotilla) and will be tested both at home and at Ft. Caroline CC prior to future class dates.

## **Secretary-Records - Phil Tallon**

Meeting Minutes. 5-7-24

Call to order 1830

Pledge of Allegiance

Guests

Noah Kalemkiewicz (new member applicant), Bob Strong, Barbara-Ann Tallon

Attendees

Bill Sekeres, Mark Lang, Phil Tallon, Frank Samperisi

Old Business

Snapper Trapper - June or July. brief discussion. More details to follow.

NSBW - Bill Sekeres going to West Marine 2nd Saturday of Boating week.

- no one yet for Sisters Creek.

Staff Reports

Finance - Bill Sekeres

Balance forward 2023 \$3304.51

Current Balance \$2301.28

FSO-PE

Discussion of youth education programs: Boats n' Kids, Water n' Kids, Waypoints and Kids and Paddlecraft.

Met with Ft. Caroline Club CC for access to the center and equipment inventory.

FSO-MA, MS

Discussion of events this weekend for various types of preparedness at Prime Osbourn Convention Center.

New Business

1. Discussion on Sea Scouts

2. Jax Beach Life Saving Corp may be interested in incorporating safe boating train

3. Change June meeting to 6-11-24
4. Investigating Flotilla involvement in Sea Scout Ship Program. Possible Next month guest to discuss. In August Flotilla to vote on involvement.

Flotilla Social

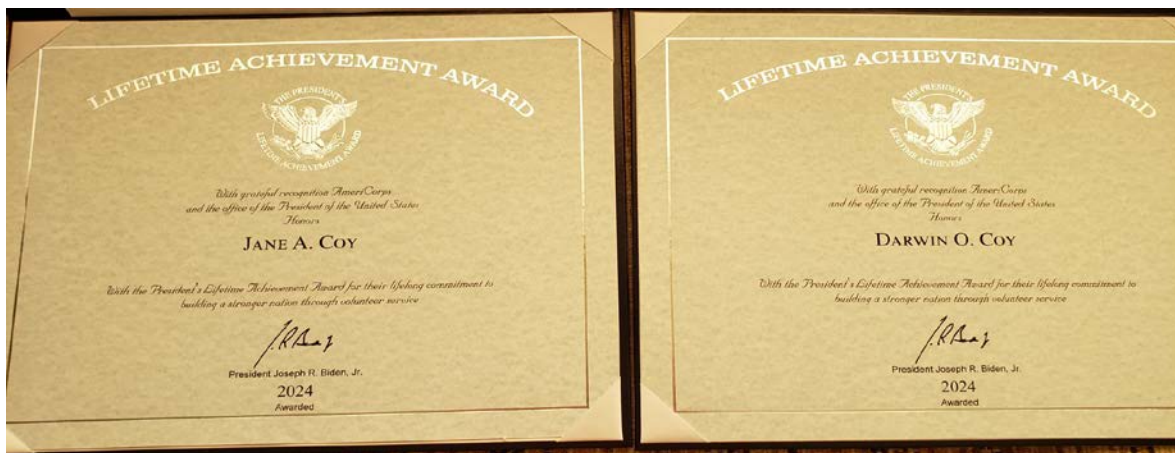
Cracker Barrel- Regency May 14, 1800

Meeting adjourned 1738

**Flotilla Social**

**June** – Milano’s Italian Restaurant. 12620 Beach Blvd.  
SE corner of Beach and Kernan Blvds. 1800 hrs

At our May social. Chuck Hayes arranged Darwin and Jane Coy to receive the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteerism. The certificates were presented to Jane and Darwin



Also at our May social, Luis Burgos was presented resented the Auxiliary Commandants Letter of Commendation for his work as ADSO-PV in 2023. Chuck Hayes was presented with a paddle in recognition of his long time contributions to our flotilla. Chuck and Patti are moving to The Villages in central Florida.





Above-  
The

moment Jane realizes the presentation is in her honor.

Below- Jane receives her Doctorate robe.



Image from our April Social

