

THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Newsletter for Flotilla 14-2, Arlington

Vol. XLIX - No. 9

September 2024

FROM THE PILOT HOUSE

Fifty years ago this coming Friday flotilla 14-02 was established- Oct 4th, 1974.

Director of Auxiliary, D. R. Markey, Commander, U. S. Coast Guard sent a letter* to Alfred G. Distefano stating that “Effective this date, Flotilla 2, Division XIV, Arlington, Florida is established with a total enrollment of sixteen (16) basically qualified members”. And that “election certificates will be issued to the duly elected officers as follows:” Commander Mr. Alfred G. Distefano and Vice Commander Mr. Marshall K. Rhodes.

Other members included K. Garner, A Garner Jr, J Sims, **D. Lloyd**, R. Banner, K. Rhodes, W. Loftin, K. Kelley, J. Crawford, C. Smith, H. Polk, A, Mencken, J. Burt and R. Faba.

I highlighted Derek Lloyd’s name because Derek was a member until his death early this year. I remember that last Fall Derek called me to say he wanted to disenroll from the Auxiliary because at age 97 there wasn’t much he could do to stay active or contribute. When I began to prepare the papers for dis-enrollment I noticed that 2024 would be his fiftieth year in the Auxiliary. I called Derek to suggest he stay in one more year. Thankfully, he did.

Unfortunately, Derek passed away on January 7 of this year due to complications from a COVID vaccine reaction. Even in his late nineties Derek was vibrant and full of life. Had he survived he would be so proud to see and be a part of this recognition as we pay tribute to our history.

Thank you to all who became before us. They will always be the basis of who we are today and we pledge to carry on and to grow.

Bill Sekeres, FC



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:
COMMANDER (ba)
Seventh Coast Guard District
Room 1018, Federal Building
51 SW. 1st Avenue
Miami, Fla. 33130

4 October 1974

Mr. Alfred G. Distefano, 0701402001
2331 Ironwood Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Dear Mr. Distefano:

Effective this date, Flotilla 2, Division XIV, Arlington, Florida is established with a total enrollment of sixteen (16) basically qualified members.

Election certificates will be issued to the duly elected officers as follows:

Commander: Mr. Alfred G. Distefano, 0701402001
2331 Ironwood Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Vice Commander: Mr. Marshall K. Rhodes, 0701402007
3566 Rogero Rd.
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

An Officers Manual will be issued to you as Flotilla Commander. UPON EXPIRATION OF YOUR TERM OF OFFICE, YOU WILL TRANSFER THE MANUAL TO YOUR SUCCESSOR. General management of the flotilla is to be in accordance with instruction set forth in the Auxiliary Manual, CG-305.

Membership cards and certificates and a copy of the CG-305 will be issued to all members. A decal of Inspection will be issued to all members having a facility.

On behalf of the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, the Commodore, all officers and members of the Seventh District Auxiliary, I extend my congratulations on the chartering of this flotilla.

Sincerely yours,

D. R. Markey
D. R. MARKEY
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Director of Auxiliary

Copy to:
District Board & Staff
Flotilla Commanders XIV
NACO

Staff Officer Reports

Aux Scout

Sea Scout Ship 886 Chartering-

During their August meeting the members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 070-14-02 voted to charter Sea Scout Ship 886 in Arlington.

Earlier in the month the ship Skipper, Christina Custis-Thomas, met with flotilla members to provide us with an overview of the chartering process along with her vision for the ship and its crew.

On August 31, 2024 ship 886 held an open house at the Arlington Community Center. It was deemed a success with members of the Flotilla present, a crew member of the USS Orleck DD-886 museum ship 886, sea scout skipper and mate and two sea scouts. Members of the community were invited to attend to get an idea of what Sea Scouts is all about and what they can provide to the community.

Demonstration and various gear were on display. Scuba gear, an inflatable boat, a mock up of a person in the water to toss a flotation device to for rescue simulation. A TV channel 4 news crew recorded interviews of Skipper Custis-Thomas which were later aired on the evening news. It proved to be a good time for all.

We are working closely with Christina to get the ship up and running and will have additional information for members as we progress.



Images taken at the Sea Scout open house

Communication Services

Our website calendar has been updated for October. Although not shown now, in the near future the calendar will reflect activities for Sea Scout Ship 886.

Send an email to Bill Sekeres, FC, if you want something added to the calendar.

Finance

We are in the process of collecting dues for 2025. For those who have yet to send their dues please do so by OCT 10. Send your check made payable to USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-02 to me at 4438 Sunnycrest Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32257

A recap of our finances, dues collection and progress on our End of Year 2025 accounting will be reviewed at our Oct 1 meeting.

Information Services

Before the end of the year and continuing into 2025, member training in AUXDATA II will be conducted at meetings and over Zoom sessions. If there are requests for training to Bill Sekeres. Contact Bill as well for group reports or individual statistics.

Marine Safety

Completed Events

Aug 31st Sea Scouts/14-2 Open House

Proposed Events

Oct 10th Florida DEP Safety Fair

Oct 18-20 NAS Jax Air Show

Nov 11th Jax Veterans Day Parade

Jan 24-26th 2025 Prime Osborn Boat Show

1. Temporary Renters Course

BoatUS offers a Temporary Renters Course. The certificate is good for 90 days.

Tourists and Florida residents can take this course to rent a boat: BoatUS.org/FL-temp

2. Florida Amendments

Proposed amendment for the 2024 election Article 1 Section 28. Florida allows people to fish and hunt forever as a public right. FWC retains the right to enforce the laws pertaining to fishing and hunting.

3. Fire Cloud- Cloud rises due to warming air from a wildfire or volcano.

4. Noodling Catfish- Legal in Georgia and other states but Not Florida. It consists of catching Catfish with your bare hands. Noodling comes from the wriggling of your fingers that look like noodles and the fish is slippery as a noodle.

5. NYPD Drone Life rafts- The New York Police Department is experimenting with drones patrolling the beaches. When they find a person in distress, the drone deploys an inflatable life raft.

6. Survival Suits- These are required on commercial vessels that operate at or above latitude 32 degrees (Savannah Ga. and North) and also beyond the Boundary Line. The crew is tested by the USCG to see if they can put the suit on in 2 minutes or less. If a ship you are on is sinking, you may Not have 2 minutes. Survival suits must be watertight to sustain life. A person wearing a properly outfitted suit can survive 6 hours or more in 32 degree water.

7. New Florida State License Plates- There are over 100 different Florida specialty license plates available. These are some of the new ones coming: Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Florida Boating Capital of the World
The most popular ones are: Endless Summer, Helping Sea Turtles Survive, Save the Manatee and Protect Wild Dolphins.

8. Federal Register- A. Tuesday Sept 10th The USCG is asking for applications if you want to serve on the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee. Submit an application by Oct 10th.
B. Wednesday Sept 18th Final Rule The USCG is changing numerous CFR's sites due to obsolete methods and items.

9. Coral Help- A special sensor deployed by Mote Marine Laboratory will help scientists evaluate Florida's coral reefs. Florida reefs are the 3rd largest in the world. Their value is \$8.5 billion, generating 71,000 jobs and attracts 16 million visitors a year. The sensors monitor PH, oxygen, salinity and temperature. Coral scientists are able to move endangered and bleaching coral from the wild to tanks in the keys and on the mainland.

10. St Johns River Ferry- The Federal DOT has granted the JTA \$15.6 million to purchase a second ferry. When the Jean Ribault goes into the shipyard there is no other ferry to take its place. When the new one is operational in 2028 there will be a backup ferry to take its place.

Victory Through Persistence

Public Education, Frank Samperisi

Accomplishments During Last Month

The August BA class was rescheduled to Sept 7 where two students attended and passed. Relocating the teaching area to the rear of the room proved successful in combating the sunlight and heat problems. There was less glare and the area was cooler.

I attended three evening D7 D-Train Zoom sessions, Train the trainers (TTT) billed as a beta test for Instructor Education (organized and moderated by Karen Miller, Division Chief – Instructor Development. This was a great refresher course and also presented an opportunity for clarifications. I asked Greg Fonzeno Division Chief for Course Development the status of updating the Florida specific questions to comply with current Florida law requiring a total of 75 questions for the BA exam. He replied he is working on it and is in communication with FWC. Thus, we are to continue to use the current 60 question exam from the Auxiliary State Specific site.

I further commented on the new Water N' Kids slide set that, although having good content, contains a significant portion of slides (not geared) for older kids. Karen Miller clarified that as long as the sides are being used for a non-certificate course, we can remove slides from the presentation. This latitude will help tremendously in adjusting presentations and slides for specific audiences.

Plans for the year

Now that the facility related issues have improved, fliers and ads will be created and circulated to promote our classes. As a start Chuck Hayes, past FSO-PE has agreed to update his tri-fold flier to include BA courses for the remainder of 2024. BA course for 2025 have been posted on the National website.

Social-

OCT 15- 1830

Mambos Cuban Cafe

13770 Beach Blvd