

# Message Bearer

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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



7th District, Flotilla 38, Plantation, Fl.

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<http://FLsafeboating.org> <http://a0700308.uscgaux.info>

January 2014

**FC Bob Corbett:** no report submitted!

**VFC Joe Aleba:** no report submitted!

**FSO-CM Charlie Baggett:** **STATION FT LAUDERDALE CHRISTMAS TREE:** Once again, for the 13<sup>th</sup> year straight, the Home Depot at University Dr. & Sterling Rd. in Davie has donated a beautiful Christmas Tree to CG Station Ft Lauderdale. This was accomplished with the assistance of Ralph LAIKEN of Flotilla 38 & the management at Home Depot. I hope to have photos to share with all in the next Message Bearer.

Whenever you are going to a Home Depot, please remember this specific Home Depot for its **OUTSTANDING** support for our Coasties at Christmas time at Station Ft Lauderdale.

**FSO-CS Henry Seiden:** I would like to again say what a great experience it has been as FSO-CS and SO-CS in this organization. I've gotten to know many of the Flotilla leaders, and Division leaders as well, during my tenure, and I have learned a lot about the Coast Guard & Auxiliary in the process. I heartily recommend this post to anyone else with similar interests. Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year to all!

Main Aux Web site: Turned over all materials and web addresses to Joe Aleba, VFC, who will cover until a new FSO-CS is appointed. Glenn Wiltshire volunteered to help with the ABS Class and Paypal. He has not gotten up to speed on this as yet. We can do a phone conference as needed to help once I am situated at the new place (February, 2014).

My company, Techworks Pro, will continue to support the non-Aux web site (issues by phones). Renewal was put in place by the Flotilla.

Division Web Site, News of interest: Carlos Arenas will be assuming my Division SO position next year and has been made aware of the reporting requirements for FSO-CS and will require the cooperation of the Flotilla CS officers in receiving monthly reports from my FSO-CS successor.

**FSO-FN Rita Lasser:** We had a really great time at our Christmas dinner at Landlubbers last month. Thanks to everyone who made it such a joyous event.

**FSO-HR Bob Sherman:** If any member of our Flotilla knows of any member, or member's family, who is in need of cheering up, please communicate with us and we will share your joys and woes with the rest of our members.

**FSO-IS Glenn Wiltshire:** As we reach the end of the year, there are key dates that must be met for your hours to be included in your individual and unit statistics for 2013. All missions required to meet "minimum annual requirements" to retain certifications without entering REYR status must be entered into AUXDATA by 31 December. All other hours performed in 2013 (7029's or 7030's) must be sent to me by 7 January so I have time to enter the data into AUXDATA before the final 2013 statistics are completed in mid-January. While the government shutdown in October affected our ability to meet the Flotilla's goals, every hour counts, so please get those reports in.

Since there continues to be problems with the on-line e-forms that most use, if you have any problems just send me the data in an email and I will get the hours submitted. I should have your member letters out for your review before the end of January.

**FSO-MA David Lee:** no report submitted!

**FSO-MS John Narducci:** I hope that everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday Season. In the month of December we had an extremely observant Coxswain and Crew on board OPFAC 8922. While on patrol the morning of 12 Dec 13, the crew noticed something floating just below the surface of the water in Port Everglades. Upon further investigation they realized what they had found was a 50 ft. nylon fishing net. After a careful examination they brought the net onboard, thus removing the possibility of some vessel getting the net caught in their props. Bravo Zulu to Coxswain Joe Aleba and crew for preventing some boater from having a very bad day. Please keep up the great work, and I thank you for all your help in promoting Marine Safety.

**FSO-MT Gary Joseph:** no report submitted!

**FSO-NS David Felt:** Dayboard #11 was repaired before the Winterfest Parade but another (unknown) was damaged that night. Bal Harbour beach replenishment is projected to be finished this month. Until then, watch for the pipeline extending to one mile offshore at Bakers Haulover inlet. Also beware of shoaling in the channel, especially around buoy 7B. The Navy buoys are about one mile offshore between Sheridan St. and the Dania Pier until April. Boca Inlet has dredging until April also.

**FSO-OP Pam Charles:** The year concluded with the following operations in Flotilla 38: On Thursday, November 21, Sta-Sea Lee was underway for a shakedown cruise in preparation for the QE to be held the following weekend. On board were Coxswain Bob Corbett, and crew Bob Sherman, Joe Aleba and Mike Sokasits. Due to heavy rains, they pulled into McVey House where a Coxswain class was being held, and while there both class attendees and boat crew were able to listen in on McVey radio traffic between a foundering cargo vessel off of Port Everglades and a commercial towing vessel en-route to provide assistance. The vessel was taking on water through the stern swim ladder, and the engines were flooded, but mechanics had sealed off the engine control room and all eight crew were accounted for. Pumps were engaged to handle the water and the crew was in no immediate danger. As the rains subsided Sta-Sea Lee resumed her patrol, and the Coxswain class continued with training. No word on the final outcome of the distressed vessel, as there were no reports in the news the following day, but listening in on the radio traffic provided a valuable training tool for the operations personnel present.

On Saturday, November 23, a QE session was held at Station Ft Lauderdale with Coxswains and crews from surrounding Flotillas all participating. Congratulations to those who successfully completed their initial and re-certification exams for both crew and coxswain in Flotilla 38. The next QE is expected in the spring.

Underway for training on Dec 7, the crew of Sta-Sea Lee came upon approximately 50 square feet of nylon fishing net floating just below the surface in the center of the channel at Port Everglades. Only the floats attached were visible at the surface, and the hidden net could have disabled a vessel's engine had it gotten caught in a prop. The net was pulled from the water and taken ashore at the Coast Guard station.

While returning to her home dock during this patrol, Stat-Sea Lee came upon a vessel that had lost an engine and was adrift in the Dania Cutoff Canal. Aux boat and crew were westbound when they came upon the vessel, just west of the Federal Highway bridge and the railroad trestle. The vessel was wedged in the bushes and rocks at the south side of the channel, and as Sta-Sea Lee approached the boater jumped in the water to try and hold his boat against the 6 knot eastbound current. He soon grew tired, and lots of boat traffic made the evolution challenging as the Aux crew began their assist by first talking the boater back into his boat to contact commercial towing. Because the boat could not be secured against the current, Sta-Sea Lee initially took her in a short stern tow to try to swing her around with the current to bring her to a nearby dock offered by a neighbor, but the strong current, combined with an uncooperative boater and a lack of cleats, led to a change of plans. Sta-Sea Lee eventually got her in a side tow and brought her up against the current in the opposite direction to moor at the same location. The boater was grateful to get his boat secured while he waited for commercial towing to arrive. The crew of Sta-Sea Lee learned

the valuable lesson that sometimes tows do not go as smoothly as they do in training, and to always be prepared for any situation. Boat crew training going forward may include scenarios where vessels have only two cleats and boaters unexpectedly remove tow lines or cannot understand instructions, as happened in this case.

The month culminated with the Winterfest Boat Parade on Saturday, Dec 14, with approximately 11 Auxiliary vessels and crews from Flotilla 38 and others stationed along the ICW from the New River Triangle east and north to the turn around buoy at Lake Santa Barbara. Auxiliary vessels were on-scene from 1600 to well past 2300, charged with ensuring that vessels were anchored safely out of the channel and stopping boat traffic once the parade started. Vessels from Flotilla 38 included Jumping Joe, Heartbeat, Loggerhead Light, Soft Shell Two and Sta-Sea Lee. One boater was assisted by local law enforcement when he lost power in the New River during the parade. Otherwise, all went well during the event and crews returned safely to their home docks.

Congratulations for a job well done throughout this past year's events to all boat crews, coxswains and trainees! All in operations look forward to next year with more trainees coming on board, more coxswains completing training, and hopefully no more government shutdowns!

**FSO-PA Bob Hackney:** Major focus this year has been on releasing announcements for the About Boating Safely (ABS) programs, which were offered monthly, to news media and also to the Flotilla for use in RBS visits and VSC work. However, since all members are actively participating in Public Affairs of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary, I invite all members interested to assist with articles regarding Flotilla events and announcements for publication.

**FSO-PB Jim Pinkston:** FSO reports for the February 2014, Message Bearer are due to PB by no later than Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. If at all possible, please send them to me electronically at [fsopb@safeboating.org](mailto:fsopb@safeboating.org) I will, of course, happily accept them any time before the deadline. Thank you.

**FSO-PE Glenn Wiltshire:** My thanks to all those who served as Instructors, Instructor Trainees, or Aides for our ABS classes in 2013. Our total student count for 2013 ended up as 80, which was lower than the 111 students we had in 2012, however that was with 2 less classes so we weren't that far off. Here are the dates for our classes in 2014:

Broward Mall (Saturdays): 25 January; 15 March; 21 June; 23 August; 18 October; 6 December - All confirmed.

Bass Pro Dania Beach (Sundays): 16 February; 13 April; 18 May; 13 July; 21 September; 16 November - Confirmation pending.

Our focus this coming year will be to train and certify more Instructors and to get more students into the classes. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in our Public Education program, or if you have some ideas on how we can get more students to attend our classes.

**FSO-PV Jeff Barnes:** no report submitted!

**FSO-SR Jan Cox:** The minutes of our last meeting are attached and will be acted upon at our next meeting.

**FSO-VE Dave Cox:** The date for our next VE blitz has not yet been set, as I'm still waiting for next year's decals.

**Old Salt Says:** A little Poem, but so true it hurts!

Another year has passed, And we're all a little older.  
Last summer felt much hotter, And winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago, When life was quite a blast.  
Now I fully understand, About "Living in the Past".

We used to go to weddings, Football games and lunches.  
Now we go to funeral homes, And after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers, From parties that were crazy.  
Now we suffer body aches, We're sleepy and we're lazy.

We used to go out dining, And couldn't get our fill.  
Now we ask for doggie bags, Come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel, To places near and far.  
Now we get sore backs, From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs, And drink a little booze.  
Now we stay home at night, And fall asleep watching the news.

That, my friend is how life is, And now my tale is told.  
So, enjoy each day and live it up, Before you're too darned old!