



WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

The Newsletter from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Department of Boating

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NASBLA News

Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DVC-BN

As 1999 approaches, the NASBLA/News Division has a number of programs we plan to initiate to further recreational boating safety. Some of them include:

1. Initiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) which would create the potential to promote our programs and bring focus to issues important to the Auxiliary in a consistent and timely manner in the areas of Public Education, Vessel Examination and State Liaison Officer (SLO) resource.
2. Maintain and strengthen our relationships with the NASBLA programs for Boats and Associated Equipment, Boating Accident Investigation, Reporting and Analysis Committee (BAIRAC) and Personal Watercraft so that our Branch Chiefs can remain abreast of Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) issues affecting the states and communicating their impact on or with the Auxiliary
3. Publicize the *Boat/US Foundation Grant Program*.

Those of you who have logged onto the Auxiliary National Web Site over the last several months know of the new program which now includes the Auxiliary as an eligible group for grassroots funding. And, of course, you shared this information with those in your Flotilla, Division and District who were unable to access information on the subject. This program is an excellent opportunity, particularly for Flotillas with limited resources to obtain funding to start or enhance boating safety programs at the local, community level.

Flotilla Commanders can request Calendar Year (CY) 2000 Grant Applications by:

- Contacting me by email at: Harrupjl@msn.com
- Contacting Boat/US directly via WWW.boatus.com/foundation/grgapp
- Contacting Kristen Chambers at: Kchambers@boatus.com, the new Boat/US Grants Administrator for 1999-2000.

Until July 1999, the application you will find at the Boat/US address is the CY 99 application; it is not expected to change in format from that which will be available in July 1999. Visit the site, between now and then and look at or download the CY 99 application (or do it for your Flotilla Commander without Internet capability) so you/they may begin to get ideas as to how to fill out the application. BE THAT MUCH AHEAD OF THE GAME FOR THE COMING YEAR! The 1999-2000 application is purported to be much easier to download and complete than the application for 1998-1999.

After completing the grant application (a short, simple three page document):

- Return it to me at 1201 Canterbury Lane, Colonial Heights, VA 23834-2709 or via email. I will review it and then correspond with the Flotilla Commander prior to their forwarding it to their District Staff Officer – Legal/Parliamentarian (DSO-LP).
- The DSO-LP will review the application and correspond with the Flotilla Commander prior to forwarding the application on to their respective District Commodore (DCO) with copies to appropriate Division Captain (DCP)
- The DCO will then forward on to the National Board Inc. (NBI) Director Gift Planning prior to the NBI President's signature as the Official Representative authorized to sign the Grant Application for the Flotilla.

While this may seem like a lot of "paper shuffle", the process is relatively streamlined in comparison to most grant requests. Commanders, take a look at what these grants may offer your Flotilla and the communities in which you reside, in the way of enhancing boating safety. YOU MAY BE SURPRISED AT WHAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH.

There are other Department of Boating NASBLA initiatives for CY 99. We hope you, as the members, will find them helpful to you in getting the word out on recreational boating safety. Look for updates in future issues of *Waves*.

Work With Marine Dealers to Boost Public Education

Robert Frisch, BC-BLR

A little used resource for expanding the Auxiliary Public Education efforts is right under our noses. In fact, some of us see it on a regular basis but don't realize the potential. It's the Marine Retailer. That said, let's look at the possibilities:

The Marine Retailer is an ideal source for a number of resources as well as students. Post notices of your Public Education (PE) class schedule in prominent locations in marine stores. Work with your Marine Dealer Visitors (MDVs) to gain a relationship with local dealers. Suggest new value added services the Auxiliary can help provide to the retailer's customers such as getting proper training for correctly operating a boat.

Dealers can put PE schedules in with new boat packets or better yet, might be willing to provide a location for classes made up of their new boat owning customers. Most dealerships have training or meeting rooms ideal for a PE class and can often provide various items that can be used as training aids or props.

Want to show your students the difference between a Type II and Type IV PFD or the recently authorized inflatables? Dealers are often willing to loan them for a class, even more so if it's on their site with their customers. Some dealers will even provide refreshments such as coffee and donuts. Of course, remember that this is also a retail establishment and take good care of it.

Capitalize on our ability to train the public, on our capability to meet the mandatory education requirements of many states and our affordable courses and materials. Often, knowing a Flotilla is prepared and willing to train their customers and assist them in getting the proper certificates to legally operate a watercraft can be a hot deal closer for a retailer. This can also be used as a stepping stone to a closer relationship between retailers and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary becomes a partner, more than just providing handouts to be picked up on the way out of the store. We now help that new boat owner become a safe boater from the day of delivery. The safe boater is a happy boater and happy boater buys more boats and equipment over time. The Marine Retailer gains ... the Auxiliary gains ... and the public gains even more – a safer boating environment for all.

Strategic Alliances

Jim Fischer, BC-BLA

I have been assigned to implement the Strategic Alliances that have been forged with WEST MARINE and BOATERS WORLD. Both of these organizations are big players in the boating market.

WEST MARINE is also involved in boating insurance. In their regular day, they have contact with a large segment of the boating public all around the Country. The Coast Guard Auxiliary plans to work with them to further all segments of boating safety and to promote name recognition for them and the Auxiliary as leaders in this effort. With their contacts, through advertising and catalogs, both firms have important influence on the boating public.

Many phone calls with WEST MARINE and BOATER'S WORLD and an upcoming meeting with WEST MARINE are advancing this important project along. I am very excited with the acceptance the Auxiliary has received to date and with the important contribution that this project can make. You can find a copy of these agreements on the Auxiliary web page at:

<http://www.cgaux.org>

National Safe Boating Council

Bill Griswold

The National Safe Boating Council is gearing up for the 3rd Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) to be held April 21-24, 1999 in Albuquerque, NM. Co-hosted with the National Water Safety Congress again, the meeting will feature speakers and discussions concerning boating and water subjects. The audience will consist of people involved with boating and water safety education, enforcement and management. Volunteers and professionals from many countries will participate in this annual huge event. It is funded, in part, by a grant from the Aquatics Resource (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund, administered by USCG.

In conjunction with the Summit, several groups will hold meetings of interest to any boater. The NASBLA Education Committee meets as well as several others – NSBC, NWSC and USBI of which the Auxiliary is a member. Coast Guard and Auxiliary leaders are expected as well as people from the states, Corps of Engineers, USPS and various commercial segments of boating.

There is a scholarship program to defray registration expenses which can be applied for via the website. For more information on the Summit, visit the National Safe Boating Council's website at: www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

Saved By the Jacket – This is a manual being compiled by the National Safe Boating Council, in connection with the National Safe Boating Campaign. The Council is collecting first person studies from people who survived a mishap by using their lifejacket. There is still time to get a story into the manual. If you know of someone who can relate their experience, send the story to: NSBCDirect@aol.com or write to:

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