



# WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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Editor: Karen L. Miller, BC-BNN 2931 Buttonbush Court Palm Harbor, FL 34684  
Department Chief: Warren E. McAdams, DC-B 894 Surrey Ridge Drive Cincinnati, OH 45245

## Departmental Updates

Jesse Harrup, DC-Bd

I correspond with you this month as Deputy Department Chief-Boating. I follow in some very big footsteps left by COMO Gordon Scholz, who has taken another important position within our Department, and I will studiously work to fill the gap left by COMO Scholz to continue providing the best of our services to you, the membership.

I will be making a recommendation, for DVC-BN, around the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2000. In the interim, you may continue to contact me for issues associated with the NASBLA/NEWS Division Chief.

There should be an excellent report on the WHAT's NEW page of the AUX National Members website on the most recent NASBLA Committee meeting on Boats and Associated Equipment; our DC-V, Don Smutz, represents the Auxiliary on that Committee and provides a lot of information that you may find interesting and useful to know.

Last month, a report from our Branch Chief for the NASBLA BAIRAC committee was similarly posted by BC-BNA Bob Auchinleck; I hope you found information of use or interest to you. As you can see, the B Dept. stays very busy interacting with NASBLA throughout the year for the common good and safety of the nations recreational boaters.

On the Grants front, BC-BNG Jim Bechtel, will be the primary contact this year between NBI/USCGAUX and BOAT/U.S. for CY 01 Grassroots Grants. Posted the first week of April, 2000 to the WHAT's NEW page of the AUX National Members website, were two (2) very important documents [four pages], associated with the process of applying for CY 01 BOAT/U.S. Grassroots Grants. Please review them and download/print them for members you know in your Flotilla without computer capabilities, or ask your FSO-CS to do so for the next meeting. Applications are expected to be available to Auxiliary members on 6/2/00.

Later this month, I had the privilege to moderate a panel discussion on the re-engineering of the VSC program at the International Boating and Waterways Safety Summit in Las Vegas; over 60 persons

attended, including several Auxiliarists and the response was very favorable from the federal, state, and local attendees.

We have two (2) new Division Chiefs who joined us this month (DVC-BL, Richard Ellwanger from Ohio and DVC-BS, Ed Huntsman from Arizona); and I'm sure you'll be hearing about the good work and successes from their respective Divisions soon.

Well that's it for now, until next time, "keep 'er 'tween the buoy's"

## National Safe Boating Council

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

As you read this, the 4th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit had a successful meeting in Las Vegas mid April. The Council's attention now turns to the North American Boating Safety Campaign, 2000.

Every Flotilla has received their action kit, and plans should be in the works for a great kick off during National Safe Boating Week, May 20 - 26. While the Campaign is now a year round effort, the "Week" serves to energize everyone, seeks publicity through proclamations and media coverage, and provides a timetable to have local events pierce the nation's boaters' consciousness.

To start things off, a grand Kick-Off event will be held in Washington, DC on Thursday, May 18. Last year's effort gained coverage on several network shows, such as "Good Morning America," and on CNN. Interviews were held with Secretary Slater, DOT, and various Coast Guard officials. This year's effort will be better. I urge Auxiliarists to monitor the media to see the results of the Kick-Off. Tell your flotilla members and friends.

This year, we are also fortunate to have partnered with the Canadian Safe Boating Council for the Campaign. They have changed the dates of their week to coincide with the U.S. time frame, no small accomplishment, and they have designed an action kit similar to ours. With mandatory education in the future for all Canadians, their emphasis will focus on, "Get a course, get the card." Other messages such as PFDs, don't drink and boat, and others will be included. **[continued on next page]**

We welcome our northern neighbors to the Campaign, and look forward to a long association with them.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) is another partner in the Campaign, so I would urge Auxiliarists planning an event to think about including their state law enforcement agencies, as well as local agencies. The Campaign reaches millions of people, and much of the success is due to the hard work done at the flotilla level. Billboards, VSC booths, media coverage all combine to give Americans our best shot of having a good time on the water and returning home safely.

The Council is indebted to all the hard working volunteers who help this Campaign become a success, and thanks you, one and all. Have a great boating season.

### **State Boating Law Administrators**

Ed Huntsman, DVC-BL

The Department of Boating has several missions; among them providing liaison with the State Boating Law Administrators and other boating safety groups including state, federal and public organizations. Our job is to assist the Coast Guard's active duty units, Auxiliary National Departments and Auxiliary Districts in their efforts to promote and support Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) programs.

The Branch Chiefs and I have been busy working to promote safe boating, improve internal communications and help influence and report on each State's RBS efforts. The Division works through State Liaison Officers (SLOs) to share new developments in Auxiliary programs and to gather information from the state's Boating Law Administrator (BLA).

The RBS Directorate has four goals:

1. Improve the demonstrated knowledge, skills, abilities and behaviors of boaters;
2. Improve the safety of boats and their associated equipment;
3. Improve the physical and operational boating environment;
4. Improve intermodal and interagency cooperation, coordination and assistance.

While there are several areas of responsibility associated with this position, the main focus for the State Liaison Division will be:

1. Providing SLOs coaching and assistance through the Branch Chiefs when requested so

they can provide the best possible assistance to their DCO.

2. Keeping SLOs current with developing trends in the PE and VSC programs.
3. Encouraging SLOs and all Auxiliary instructors to participate in their state's PE program as well as the Auxiliary's, and to share and publish each other's class schedules--especially on web sites.
4. Encourage the states to recognize the VSC decal and promote the Vessel Safety Check program.
5. Making sure SLOs are having ongoing dialogue with the Boating Law Administrators (BLAs). For example, each SLO should confirm with their BLA that the current lineup of Auxiliary PE courses is approved by the State they deal with, and that all testing materials used in Auxiliary courses incorporate specific state regulations and information.
6. Insure that the SLOs are arranging an annual meeting with the BLA and DCO of their District, and inviting the District's DIRAUX and Operations folks as well to discuss issues of mutual interest and importance along with opportunities for joint participation.
7. Monitoring the status of MOUs in each state and facilitating their signing.
8. Providing whatever support is necessary and within our ability to the Auxiliary's District Commodores and their SLOs to help facilitate or resolve issues of importance to them to further our collective goal of Recreational Boating Safety.

We will accomplish these and other tasks as they arise through the involvement of appropriate and experienced members of the department and effective communication.

As always, we will be vigilant to the needs of the Auxiliary's membership and the recreational boating public and have some fun while doing so. By working through the Chain of Communication and Leadership to keep our message of safe boating constant, we will all benefit and strengthen our relationships with the Coast Guard, our states and fellow boaters.

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