



WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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Boat/U.S. Grants

Jim Bechtel, BC-BNG

The Boat/U.S. grant season has already opened with a submission from Flotilla 45 in the 9ER. This year's grant requests will be easier to work with because the on-line submission process has been improved. In the past, the application was only available in a text file. Current applications can be downloaded as a Word document. This will make the application more "readable" and "cleaner"; and will make your grant easier to forward for approval.

I must receive the grant requests from Auxiliary Flotillas or Divisions (units) no later than September 1, 2000. After I review it, I will return the request to the Auxiliary Unit, which has the option of changing it using my suggestions. Then, the completed request must be sent to your NBI Director for approval (each District Commodore is also an NBI Director); they will then forward it to the NBI Director of Development for subsequent transmittal to Boat/U.S.

Keep in mind that Boat/U.S is not necessarily "our" only source of grants. Currently, any foundation may make a contribution to an Auxiliary unit. In fact, groups in your local community may be the best source of funding for a community project. If you are interested in advice on how to contact other foundations in your area, feel free to e-mail me at CaptGRose@aol.com or DVC-BN Jim Campbell @ ke4fsn@ix.netcom.com

West Marine Program

Jim Fischer, BC-BLA

The program with West Marine to promote the VSC voluntary vessel inspection by awarding a 10% discount on all safety supplies purchased at one of the 220 West Marine stores around the country and through catalog orders is under way.

West Marine has sent packages of coupons to all their stores for pick up by division VSC officers. West Marine's home office requested that the coupons be distributed this way to introduce an Auxiliary contact to each store manager.

It is hoped that this will make it possible for each store manager to work with the local divisions and flotillas on other programs promoting boating safety. With this foot in the door I am suggesting that all members try to find ways to work with local West Marine stores by holding seminars, classes and even VSC days if there is room in the parking lots.

The West Marine store managers are an excellent resource for each flotilla. Each manager has received information on the Auxiliary and what we do. Many have asked how they get in touch with the Auxiliary. They see us as a resource for boating law information with special knowledge of local laws, availability of pamphlets and other boating expertise. Let's take full advantage of this and do it now.

If there is not a West Marine store in your area you can obtain coupons from me at: Auxops@aol.com. Send me your mailing address and Auxiliary office (if you have one) and how many coupons you need. You can also call me at 716-964-3581 or write:

Jim Fischer, BC-BLA
500Moscow Road
Hamlin, N.Y. 14464

State Boating Law Administrators

Ed Huntsman, DVC-BS

During the May Southern States Boating Law Administrator's Conference in Oklahoma City, Boating Department State Liaison Division members Diane Williams, Branch Chief-Atlantic (West); Ed McGill, Branch Chief-Atlantic (East); Warren McAdams, Boating Department Chief; and Ed Huntsman, Division Chief-State Liaisons spent a considerable amount of time evaluating the effectiveness of the State Liaison program (SLO). The result of their evaluation led to a report detailing areas where there is opportunity to improve the SLO program's effectiveness.

The report has been distributed to the senior elected leadership of the Auxiliary for their evaluation and suggestions as well as to the State Liaison Officers across the country for their review and implementation.

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While the report calls for several actions to take place, the major emphasis this year will be an all out effort to have the State Liaison Officers arrange an annual meeting between their District Commodore and the State Boating Law Administrator and other local boating safety officials where appropriate. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues of mutual concern and importance. Often attended by DIRAUX and other CG staff as well, these meetings are a good opportunity to review the things the Auxiliary has helped improve and do in the state. Likewise, this is a chance to cover the things the state can do to make the Auxiliary's work more effective. The ultimate goal is to identify ways to make recreational boating safer for everyone.

The report is available by email. Contact Ed Huntsman at ehuntsman@4tms.com to request a copy.

National Safe Boating Council

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

2000 NORTH AMERICAN SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN KICKOFF & RECEPTION

I was honored to attend the 2000 North American Safe Boating Campaign & Reception in Washington, DC in May. I would like to relate some of the activities that went on. As you know, the Campaign is funded by a Wallop-Breaux grant administered by the Coast Guard, and the Kickoff served to launch National Safe Boating Week. The Kickoff was held at the docks of the Washington Marine Police facility and was attended by several major news media representatives, as well as a galaxy of boating safety professionals.

Under Secretary DOT Conte was introduced by NSBC Chair, Larry Innis. He welcomed the crowd and pointed out that the Department's North Star is safety. He was followed by ADM Loy, Commandant of the Coast Guard, who described an incident aboard USCGC Gallatin when a young seaman fell overboard just before dawn on a patrol 200 miles south of Haiti. He was saved 10 hours later because he was wearing a PFD. Paul Donheffner, President NASBLA, remarked that the Campaign and the Federal Fuels tax money that funds Wallop Breaux has enabled the states and other boating partners to reduce fatalities significantly over the years. A representative followed him from the Personal Watercraft Industry Association who commended those manufacturers for their support of safety on the water, use of PFDs and the loaner program to law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Innis then introduced the official ambassador of the NSBC, *Theodore* Tugboat, a 65-foot tugboat made exactly like the children's character that appears on Public Television. *Theodore* Tugboat

steamed into view and docked alongside the ceremonies. A group of children from a Washington Catholic school was on hand, and their excitement was obvious. In their own fitted PFDs, they boarded *Theodore* and received a tour, as the whistle was blowing. Later after the children left, many of the attendees were treated to a small cruise aboard *Theodore*. *Theodore* is a Canadian vessel, was built in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and will be touring both Canada and the United States. The crew was delightful, explaining features aboard this special vessel, and telling us that this is the first voyage of the vessel. The newness of *Theodore* and purpose are truly special.

After the cruise, various members of the media interviewed some of the dignitaries. At 1700 a Reception was held in the Capitol Building for presentations of the Boating Safety Hall of Fame Awards. This year's recipients are:

- The Honorable John Breaux, Senator from Louisiana, and architect of the Wallop Breaux Trust Fund. Senator Breaux promised to protect the Fund and work to achieve full funding of that fund.
- Mr. Hunt Anderson, former Chief of Boating Education at Coast Guard Headquarters. Mr. Anderson assisted with Boating Campaigns in the 1980's and early 1990's, and worked to form the coalition now existing between the NSBC and the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC).
- The Honorable Malcolm Wallop. Senator Wallop was unable to attend but it was noted that his 18 years of leadership in the U. S. Senate was paramount for the establishment of the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund.
- The Honorable Mario Biaggi, Chairman of the Former Coast Guard and Navigation Subcommittee in the House of Representatives, created in 1980 the Boating Safety and Facilities Improvement Act, which established an alternate method of providing a base of federal assistance for state boating safety programs. It was a forerunner of the Wallop Breaux Trust Fund.

The four recipients received beautiful marble sailing models, and will be added to the Boating Safety Hall of Fame. The reception was well attended by Congressional staff, Coast Guard personnel, and representatives from many boating organizations. It capped an excellent day, and provided great impetus to the upcoming National Safe Boating Week.

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