



WAVES

WATERCRAFT AND VESSEL SAFETY



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF BOATING

VOLUME 05

01-05

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STEPPING FORWARD – FROM THE DEPUTY

Ed Huntsman, BC-Bd

Keeping the fire in the belly, PMA (Positive Mental Attitude), highly motivated, time management; these and other terms and statements are what we hear and think of as we work and face the reality of fulfilling our duties in the Auxiliary throughout the year.

“You have offered your talents and services Along with this honor, you must be prepared to accept certain obligations as well as the administrative and supervisory responsibilities of your office With the full realization of the demands of your office in terms of time, travel and dedication; if you are willing to accept this honor, please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I (state your name) do solemnly and sincerely pledge myself, to support the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and its purposes, to promote its authorized activities, to properly discharge the duties of my office, and to abide by the governing policies, established by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.”

Serious words and a serious time of year right now as many of us will be getting up from a table at a change of watch, flotilla, division or district meeting, walking to the front of the room, hearing them and raising our right hands as we repeat them. I'd like to take a few moments and share my perspective on the pledge and its prologue with you in hopes that we might learn from one another.

When I stepped forward to offer my talents and services, I meant it. Very well intentioned as I'm sure we all are when we do it; offer our talent and service. I was, and continue to be completely prepared to accept my obligation(s) and responsibilities of office. And I certainly have a realization of the demands of the job in terms of time, travel and dedication. The prologue is that part of the pledge that really gets my attention and sets me up for the responsibility associated with the coming year. And in the ceremony of the moment, it's certainly too late for me to turn back and head to the table! (It would make the rest of the meeting pretty awkward for me!)

So there I stand, reflecting on that prologue as I take a deep breath knowing that *the pledge* is coming. I raise my right hand and repeat the words as they race through my mind. The officer leading me, or us depending on the situation finishes, as s/he looks straight into my eyes. As I finish repeating the

words, I'm quickly congratulated and “welcomed aboard” for another year. And I feel great.

That's the feeling I strive to keep and rely on when I find myself challenged and tired and would really rather go to bed than check email, or finish and forward a report or complete whatever assignment I've been given. When work is closing in or my personal relationships are demanding more time. When I'd really rather go sailing and it seems I have nothing left or that I want to give. I remember those words that I repeated that leave me no option. Even the oath I took when I joined the military – even the president's oath offers the caveat “To the best of my ability.” But not the Auxiliary's pledge. No easy out here: it's specific. *I (state your name) do solemnly and sincerely pledge myself, to support the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and its purposes, to promote its authorized activities, to properly discharge the duties of my office, and to abide by the governing policies, established by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.”*

I'm ready. I'll do it – and all that goes with it. How about you?

2002 SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

The 2002 North American Safe Boating Campaign is coming to your neighborhood. Flotillas should receive their kits in late February or early March. Regional events are being planned. If you want to join in, contact the Campaign at: campaign@safeboatingcouncil.org . You may also post your safe boating activities throughout the year on the Campaign web site at: www.safeboatingcampaign.com . Free advertising is what this is, take a look.

National Safe Boating Week May 18–24, 2002

GRANTS UPDATE

Karen Miller, DVC-BN

The most successful BoatU.S. Grassroots Grants program just ended. The Coast Guard Auxiliary completed 62 applications! This is a two-fold increase from last year and

also represents the first time the Auxiliary submitted more applications than USPS. Now we all wait, holding our breath, to see who is successful.

But no Flotilla needs to sit around waiting to see if they will receive their Grassroots Grants request. There are two other opportunities sitting right out there on What's New and/or the Department of Boating web page.

The first is from BoatU.S. under their Clean Water Grants program. This is an environmentally oriented grant with a maximum value of \$2,000. When you go to the BoatU.S. Internet Web site at <http://www.boatus.com/cleanwater/grants/>, read all, but particularly read about the uses and non-uses of these funds, then complete the on-line application. The deadline for initial applicant submission to Charles Davis, Branch Chief-Grants (BC-BNG) is December 14th. Application instructions are on the Auxiliary website at <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/boating/Grants.pdf>. Get with your respective FSO-MS and/or SO-MS to get ideas for these marine environment type grants; I'm sure they'll be glad to help as well as have many worthwhile projects to suggest based on their program's mission. **The deadline for initial applicant submission to Charles Davis, Branch Chief-Grants (BC-BNG) is December 14th.**

The second is from the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) and carries a maximum value of \$1,000. When you go to the National Safe Boating Council website at www.Safeboatingcouncil.org, find the grants section. Read all, but particularly read about the uses and non-uses of these funds. **The deadline for initial applicant submissions to Charles Davis, Branch Chief-Grants (BC-BNG), is also December 14th.** This is only the second year these grants have been offered. Last year's successful requests seemed to lean to those applications for furthering of NSBC's messages of Boat Smart, Wear a PFD, etc. Instructions are on the Auxiliary web site at <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/boating/Grants.pdf>. You will need to print these applications, fill them out, and send by regular mail as fill-in formatting on screen is not provided by the NSBC at this time.

Think what you could do with up to \$2,000 to save the maritime environment or up to \$1,000 to put forth the safe boating message. Get your applications in to BC-BNG!

PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Michael Davis, BC-BSP

As the year comes to a close, we find ourselves faced with many challenges.

With the events of September 11th behind us, the future for the Auxiliary is still not clear. We are being called on to fill voids in areas with the regulars and offer any other support we can. Per our country's leaders, we need to get back into our regular duties and continue with the projects we were working on with our state BLA's.

With states such as Nevada introducing new Boating Laws in the next year, it will be important for us to get involved once again to support those states that are gearing up for their new programs. Those SLOs that have already worked with their BLAs in introducing new RBS programs should take this opportunity to share what they have done and the steps they took to assure a successful introduction of programs in their states.

As part of every new year, we have the chance to welcome new leadership within our divisions. This is a great opportunity to show our support and reach out to those who have been elected to achieve our goals. The Change of Watch ceremonies can provide you a platform to establish new working relationships with key people involved with RBS programs.

The list of invited guests might include such dignitaries as our State and Local Law Enforcement officials and Governmental agencies. As we continue to work with these people, it's nice to put a face with a name. A friendly handshake and pleasant conversation can only help to break the ice and allow you to introduce your plans and needs for the next year, and to find out what you can do for them. By creating such relationships, we have better continuity as a whole.

Our goal should be to strengthen the communication between our SLOs and support their programs and initiatives throughout the nation. I will be searching for candidates to fill vacancies within my particular AOR. Through the reports I have received, the information has been very useful. By sharing this information, others will benefit from their ideas.

We are all working together for a common goal. I'm looking forward to hearing from more as we move into the New Year.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL

R/C Joyce F. Shaw, AP, USPS Rep to NSBC

For nearly 40 years, the National Safe Boating Council has served as a unifying means for organizations seeking the goal of safer boating. With a membership that recently topped 300 non-profit and commercial entities, the Council serves as a forum for the advancement and support of safe and enjoyable recreational boating. Best known among its many programs is the **National Safe Boating Campaign**, kicked off during National Safe Boating Week.

NSBC OFFERS LOCAL RBS GRANTS

A new initiative of NSBC is the **Local Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program**. The program is funded under a grant from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop/Breaux) Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The purpose of the **Local RBS Grant Program** is to further the North American Safe Boating Campaign's efforts to reduce accidents and enhance the boating experience through public education, marketing, outreach and advancement of safer boating. This year,

NSBC has allocated \$18,250 for these small grants of up to \$1,000 each.

Eligible projects may include a wide range of endeavors that creatively focus on improving boating safety at the local level and address local boater education needs and concerns. While all applications submitted will be reviewed and considered, preference will be given to those that expand the 2002 North American Safe Boating Campaign theme: *'Boat Smart from the Start, Wear Your Lifejacket.'*

The **Local RBS Grant Program** does not require the recipient to match grant funds. The amount awarded through the grant should represent at least 50% of the project's budget, and eligible projects must be completed within one year. Project results must be quantifiable.

Complete program guidelines and grant application may be found on the NSBC website, www.safeboatingcouncil.org, LOCAL RBS GRANT PROGRAM. [Editor's Note: But make sure to follow the instructions for Auxiliary submission found on What's New.]

NSBC ANNOUNCES 2002 AWARDS

Flotillas and Divisions are urged to apply for two exciting annual awards, sponsored by NSBC. [Editor's note: But make sure to follow the instructions for Auxiliary submission found on What's New.]

BOATING EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT AWARD

The **Boating Education Advancement Award**, sponsored by Coors Brewing Company, recognizes individuals and organizations that have developed and successfully implemented programs that:

- ~ Enhance the image of boating education efforts
- ~ Share success stories for the betterment of safe boating
- ~ Create a closer partnership between national, state and local boating education organizations

Three regional finalists are selected from each of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) regions to compete for the national award. Each winner receives a \$500 prize. The national BEAA winner is selected by NSBC from these three regional winners and awarded a \$1,000 prize, a trophy and a trip to the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. This year the Summit will be held in Daytona Beach April 28 – May 1, 2002. While regional deadlines vary, all applications received by NSBC between annual Summits are considered for the award. Consult the website below under AWARD PROGRAMS for details.

BOATING SAFETY YOUTH PROGRAM AWARD

The **Boating Safety Youth Program Award** sponsored by West Marine recognizes individuals and organizations that have developed and successfully

implemented innovative youth boating education programs targeting safety issues and concerns of a national interest. The winner of this award also receives a paid trip to the Summit along with a trophy and a check for \$2,500. The deadline for submitting award applications is 10 February 2002.

For complete details on any of these awards or grants, visit the National Safe Boating Council website at www.safeboatingcouncil.org. The NSBC mailing address for applications and additional information is: National Safe Boating Council, Inc., P.O. Box 1058, Delaware, OH 43015.

The National Safe Boating Council welcomes the opportunity to assist local groups in funding projects that demonstrate our mutual excitement about boating safety.

WINTERIZING BATTERIES

from the Internet

Weather in some parts of the country makes it necessary to haul our boats for storage on the hill over the winter months. Some feel it necessary to remove batteries for storage in warm areas, but this may not be feasible due to the size and weight of certain batteries. Batteries left onboard actually require a minimum of attention

The batteries should be topped up with water and fully charged (equalized if possible). The posts, cables and the top of the battery should be cleaned to prevent self discharge and the cables should be removed.

The area where the batteries are kept should be protected from freezing temperatures if possible, but a fully charged battery should not freeze. It is also a good idea to recharge the batteries sometime in the middle of winter if possible.



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