



# WAVES

## Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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### FROM THE CHIEF

Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DC-B

Back in February, the Boating Dept. (B) generated a *What's New* posting which ultimately outlined four basic question groups on how to address the statistical decline in recreational boating safety (RBS) missions. As indicated in that posting, this edition of the B. newsletter WAVES would incorporate the responses of four DCO work groups, which were assembled in St. Louis, MO at N-TRAIN, to address those issues.

What follows are those responses. I ask that you recognize that these are "brainstorming" efforts and not meant as a grammatically correct treatise. Without identifying individuals to their respective responses, I believe it will also be interesting for you to know the make-up of each work group for their assigned question, along with the responses; to wit:

**Work Group and Question #1--DCOs 1N, 7, 9CR, 11SR, NAVCO-P & NADCO-MS:** Should the current Auxiliary goals setting process be changed? What organizational level should initiate the process? If change is desired, what conceptual outline is recommended?

**? #1 Responses:** Yes, the goals process should be changed. This group felt that it should come from the districts not down from National. The process should be from the divisions (collected from the flotillas) to district and district should compile the divisions. National should compile the districts and make the National goals. When goals are "mandated" from National, the districts do not feel ownership of the goals (and responsibility) and may not even attempt to achieve the goal. On the other hand, if a district compiles the division's goals, hopefully, the district will strive to accomplish the goals. The district should realize that if the goals are coming up from the divisions, then that is the support that the divisions need and want. Therefore, if the district is to be successful, it should strive to meet the needs of the divisions. A similar comparison should be drawn with National meeting the needs of the districts. In the preceding way it was felt if "we" are truly meeting the needs of the flotillas/members, we will be successful as an organization.

**Work Group and Question #2--DCOs 5N, 8ER, 9WR, 14, NAVCO-A(W) & IPNACO:** Should the Coast Guard and its active duty units be asked to take a more proactive role in Recreational Boating Safety (RBS)? If yes, should this issue be worked at the District or National levels, or both?

**? #2 Responses:** Yes, at the District level only. This should be effected via: Targeting & Timing, Strategic Plan, Boat Smart, Liaison between CG and AUX by AUX, Noble Eagle, GAP identification, DIRAUX, RBS, Publicity-PA support, LE-coordinate better, 4100s, Take a course instead of a penalty, Team CG partnerships led by active duty, New laws-education requirements-equipment requirements, target RBS missions, and designate active duty ELT formation to AUX.

**Work Group and Question #3--DCOs 1S, 8CR, 9ER, 13, NAVCO-A(E), CHDIRAUX:** What can elected officers at each organizational level (Flotilla, Division, District, and National) do to provide adequate focus on RBS missions and results?

**? #3 Responses:** NATIONAL--Provide implementation and "sales" direction, Articles in *The Navigator*, Self participation, Training direction & workshops such as this one, Provide supplies & resources, and Support the District. DISTRICT--DCOs contact Group Commanders for conference, Communicate to members RBS needs, "Buy in" of Divisions & Flotillas (Give them a why), Provide support and direction, Pass on the Divisions goals, and Support the Division. DIVISION--Monitor progress, Offer support & direction, and Support the Flotilla. FLOTILLA--Perform the tasks, Be motivated, Have fun, Monitor results, and Member recognition up & down for efforts taken.

**Work Group and Question #4: --DCOs 5S, 8WR, 11NR, 17, NAVCO-COS, NAPDIC, NADCO-OMS:** What actions do we take to ensure that Coast Guard Support and Recreational Boating Safety are given equal status at all levels in the organization?

**? #4 Responses:** Define goals & plans, Develop strategies to implement such goals, Money/Manpower/Materials, Review/adjust periodically, Communications-internal, Promote preventive SARs (show value of RBS at all levels), Avoid narrow focus, Promote both communications and preventive SAR as CG support, Multi-mission approach, i.e.,...harbor-MS/VE at same time, Emphasize Boat Smart as an umbrella vision, Create "Team Mentality" at Flotilla level, De-Emphasize "R" in RBS, Strategic planning FIRST, Recruitment policies, Monitoring, Create relationships with units, Uniform message-publish information for members, Balance awards/recognition, Capitalize on member interests-offer training and tools, and Exposure to other missions.

Finally, I received one unsolicited response from an Auxiliarist, (an Assistant District Staff Officer /D11N), as a result of the February 2002 *What's New* posting to these questions. Because it is a "member" view, I want to include this response so as to indicate both differences and concurrences of members' views to senior AUX leadership views; to wit:

**#1: Should the current Auxiliary goals setting process be changed? What organizational level should initiate the process? If change is desired, what conceptual outline is recommended? AUX MEMBER RESPONSE:**

Yes. I believe that we need to go back to a modified top-down approach. I am a firm believer that without some sort of goal setting being done, it just won't happen the way we want to. The goals need to be initially established at the National or District level, and "ratified" at the division or flotilla level, based upon the resources available (i.e., number of VEs) and active competitors in the area. And of course, there should be some sort of award (either individual or as a unit) for attaining or exceeding the established goals.

**#2: Should the Coast Guard and its active duty units be asked to take a more proactive role in RBS? If yes, should this issue be worked at the District or National levels, or both? AUX MEMBER RESPONSE:**

It would be great to have a "Gold side" RBS specialist working with the Auxiliary to give us leads and assist with funding whenever possible. For instance, I've heard that the Gold Side RBS specialists would work with local law enforcement and active duty units to get leads for our Public Education classes and VSCs. Example: a boater who gets a citation would receive a letter from the Gold Side RBS specialist giving him the option of having a VSC done in lieu of a fine, or taking a PE course in lieu of a fine. Possibly, having the VSC done (or taking the PE class) might only offset some fines, as states (such as CA) are pretty greedy right now, and may not agree to such an amnesty type of program.

**#3: What can elected officers at each organizational level (Flotilla, Division, District, and National) do to provide adequate focus on RBS missions and results? AUX MEMBER RESPONSE:**

The first thing we need to do is recruit more Auxiliarists, and follow the JOB ONE program (i.e., everybody should participate at some level in the VE program). Our local problem with PE classes is two-fold: (1) competition from USPS and free state courses (self-study) and (2) difficulty in obtaining quality facility space that would make taking one of our courses attractive. Also, it would be helpful if the Gold Side could jump on the band wagon for mandating boater education courses.

**#4: What actions should we take to ensure that Coast Guard Support and Recreational Boating Safety are given equal status at all levels in the TEAM Coast Guard organization? AUX MEMBER RESPONSE:** Again, if we had more Auxiliarists, we could better pursue the RBS goals. Recruiting needs paramount attention! Also, there is so much information supporting the efficacy of boating safety education, the states would have to be crazy to not mandate a boating safety class for all boat owners/operators. Perhaps the Gold Side could authorize us (or join us) in testifying before state legislatures to help pass this legislation.

I think, (and certainly hope), that you'll find all of this article both helpful as well as revealing. I want to once again thank all the DCOs, NAVCOs, NADCOs DIRAUXs, and all other senior AUX leaders, for their participation in this workshop. And one final big BRAVO ZULU to COMO Warren McAdams, NADCO-RBS, for his vision and personal efforts in putting this workshop together! For without his efforts this great exercise might never have been completed so successfully.

Finally, I encourage all members who so desire, to similarly respond. If we get enough responses, we'll similarly publish those responses in a future WAVES.

That's it for this issue "From the Chief." As always: "keep 'er 'tween the buoys".

**THE SUMMIT AND NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

On 28 April in Daytona Beach, over 500 boating professionals will meet at the Sixth Annual International Boating & Water Safety Summit. The agenda contains a wealth of presentations tailored for the attendees, who consist of Rangers from the Corps of Engineers, Boating Law Administrators from the states, volunteers from the Auxiliary, USPS, and other boating organizations, representatives of industry, delegates from 12 foreign countries, and a host of government employees, both Federal, State and local. The USCGAUX DC-Bd will present a "seminar" on Team Coordination Training (TCT). This will be a great Summit, and you will have a report in the next issue of WAVES.

**National Safe Boating Week, May 18-24, 2002**

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) is pleased to inform you about a new web site at: [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)

This site has it all! It has PSAs, excerpts from the Action Manual of the National Safe Boating Week to help you plan your local campaign, and best of all, pages that will list your special activity for National Safe Boating Week. Here, you can post your event for anyone to view. The Council purges these pages after the event is over, so check it out. We only have a few listed so far, let's put 'em up there.

I hope everyone knows that we have combined with Canada, and the campaign is officially the North American Campaign, as our efforts have been mirrored in Canada. I urge you all to check out this great web site, and look at the activities listed there. This site is linked to the NSBC site as

well as other boating organizations, and if you are planning something in your town, area, flotilla, division, or wherever, put it on the site, free classified ads is kinda what it is.

There are press releases, timed to give your local media as part of your campaign. It has clip art, which you can download and use in your campaign effort, when you click on "Your online campaign kit". Also this has statistics, publications, logos, certificates, a directory and much more. For anyone interested in the campaign, or particularly PA officers, this site contains a wealth of information not available anywhere else. Please check it out, and note that it is really makes campaign materials readily available. Good luck and **BOAT SMART FROM THE START, WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET.**

#### UPDATE ON GRANTS

Karen L. Miller, DVC-BN

Do you have a good idea that your flotilla or division would like to implement and you just can't because you don't have the money to do it? A portable safety booth? Signs at a boat ramp encouraging use of PFDs? Videos for a PSA? These are just a few of the projects that have been funded over the years from grants administered by the Department of Boating.

Here's what happened for just one of the three grant programs that were awarded for 2002: The CGAuxA signed eight contracts for the recipients of the BoatU.S. Grassroots Grants program. The amount awarded was in excess of \$11,850 (out of a total of \$45,000 awarded to 28 recipients) and were issued as follows:

- Flotilla 6-18, 1NR (Greater Fall River, MA). \$500 to print 150 posters with safe boating messages in Portuguese, Spanish & Khmer or other Asian language
- Flotilla 15-4, 1SR (Ballston Lake, NY). \$645.00 to print 1,200 coloring books for water safety program at six area elementary schools.
- Flotilla 54, D7. \$3,400.00 (Boynton Beach, FL) for 40' radio tower to improve communications during Auxiliary patrols on the ICW between Stations Lake Worth and Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- Division 5, 8WR (Southern MO & Northern AR). \$937.00 for materials to build a robotics model called "Auxie" as an interactive educational tool for children.
- Flotilla 16-3, 9CR (Higgins Lake, MI). \$500.00 to produce 6,000 place mats depicting three local lakes, identifying area hazards to boaters and promoting the flotilla's services
- Flotilla 44, 9WR (Sheboygan, WI). \$650.00 to advertise and host a Safety Weekend for the public during National Safe Boating Week.
- Flotilla 38, 11NR (Lake County, CA). \$3,719.00 to produce and run boating safety PSAs (Public Safety Announcements) from

April to September reaching viewers in Lake and Mendocino Counties, particularly in the San Francisco and Sacramento areas.

- Flotilla 10-08, 11SR (Chandler, AZ). \$1,500.00 (of requested \$2,500.00) to produce brochures and whistles imprinted with "We're Blowing the Whistle on CO Poisoning to educate boaters about the dangers of carbon monoxide and "teak surfing."

The Auxiliary submitted a record number of Grassroots Grant requests to BoatU.S. last year for the 2002 awards. Over 60 applications were sent to BoatU.S. for programs in excess of \$140,500.

In addition to this opportunity, the Auxiliary also participates in the BoatU.S. Clean Water Grants program and the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) Local RBS Grants program. The awards for the NSBC will be announced later in the year.

BoatU.S. Foundation has awarded 3 of their 14 clean water grants to Auxiliary units. The recipients are:

- Flotilla 73 Cleveland, OH - \$1,000 to produce 3,500 Officer Snook Water Pollution activity books for children
- Flotilla 87 Lake Anna, VA - \$600 to install 2 signs at boat ramps to educate boaters about trash disposal and pump-out laws
- Division 3, 11NR - \$2,000 to partner with the City of Sacramento to produce 5,000 Marine Safety & Environmental Protection brochures

These grants are the equivalent of hitting the financial aid jackpot. And, you don't need an advanced degree in Grant Writing to earn them. All it takes is a good idea. This money is not a loan and never has to be paid back. It's yours to keep. But, you do have to know how and where to apply for them. Read "Waves" and watch "What's New" for easy to follow instructions. They show you, step-by-step, exactly how to receive these free cash grants.

Chances are BoatU.S. or National Safe Boating Council is willing to aid you in financing your endeavor.

#### FROM THE NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL

Virgil Chambers, Executive Director, NSBC

Each month we will have a change in the home page of the Boating Safety Sidekicks, available online at [www.boatingsidekicks.com](http://www.boatingsidekicks.com). January's theme was "New Years' Resolutions" while the February theme was "Presidential Boaters."

The sidekicks are becoming a popular group of characters with good information to share. Please continue to pass on the information of the Sidekicks to others, especially the young potential boaters.

The Boating Safety Sidekicks "Go Fishing" booklet is under development with scheduled release this spring. The "Boat Smart" video is moving along with release scheduled for this summer. I will keep you all informed.

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