



WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

VOLUME 6

02-04

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HOMELAND SECURITY AND RECREATIONAL BOATERS

Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DC-B

As you may have read in our department's recent posting on the What's New page, there was a plethora of great speakers, exhibitors, and presentation materials available at the most recent 2002 International Boating and Waterway Safety Summit in Daytona Beach, FL. One of the more topical presentations was one by Mr. Steve Phillips, the U.S. Coast Guard 5th District Recreational Boating Specialist. The topic was: *Keeping Our Waterways Safe & Secure*. Because of limited space in our What's New posting as well as the importance to our operations, public affairs, and public education missions in the Auxiliary, I'd like to excerpt from and provide more information from that presentation.

Now is the time to be getting back on the water. Simultaneously it is also a time when recreational boaters (as guided by our PA and PE program members) and USCGAUX Boat Crew program personnel, must be more cautious and continually aware of our surroundings! Such times require that we recognize the tighter safety and security measures in place for the current boating season. Auxiliarists as well as recreational boaters have a number of new roles to perform as a result:

1. Keep your distance from all military, cruise line, or commercial vessels. Do NOT approach within 100 yards, and slow to minimum speed within 500 yards of any U.S. Navy vessels. Violators face 6 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, not to mention being the recipient of potentially deadly force as a response;
2. Observe but avoid all security zones;
3. Avoid commercial port operation areas;
4. Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in the channel;

5. Keep a sharp lookout for anything that looks out of the ordinary based on your experience of the area;
6. Always secure and lock your boat when not onboard;
7. When storing your boat, make sure it is secure and its engine is disabled to a would-be thief; and
8. Make sure your vessel is safe and meets all federal safety requirements as well as those discussed as part of a Vessel Safety Check.

Things recreational boaters should report to local law enforcement, include but are not limited to the following. (Auxiliary members should make their reports to their local CG Station or Group.)

1. Persons conducting "unusual" activities for the area;
2. Persons establishing roadside stands near marinas or waterfronts facilities; and
3. Unknown or suspicious behaving persons photographing or creating diagrams.

In addition to local authorities, you may report such suspicious or unusual activities to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

As you can see, life on the water is different this year, particularly compared to the past boating seasons, but by using common sense, these guidelines, and sharing all this with all boaters, I believe it can be a great and enjoyable year.

That's it; until next time: "Keep'r 'tween the buoys."

2003 INTERNATIONAL BOATING AND WATER SAFETY SUMMIT

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

A call for presentations has been issued for next year's Summit in Las Vegas on 13-16 April, 2003. The deadline for submission is August 23, 2002. Details can be found on the National Safe Boating Council's web site at www.safeboatingcouncil.org, click on the Summit logo.

The Auxiliary has had many successful presentations informing boating professionals from various countries and agencies about various

programs the Auxiliary engages in. There are award programs for outstanding projects and events, as well as programs aimed at children. The Summit is supported in part by a grant from the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Council urges anyone and everyone to see if they can present an interesting session at the Summit. There are general sessions, as well as track sessions, making the program fit any true boater's needs. Check out the web site, and get your proposal in.

GRANTS ... GRANTS ... GRANTS

Karen L. Miller, DVC-BN

The Grass Roots Grants (up to \$5,000 per project) have been renamed by BoatU.S. as the Boating Safety Grants. This has no effect on the applicants and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. However, if you receive a reply concerning your application under the Grass Roots program, you may see the new name. To read all about them go to:

http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/boating/BoatUS_Application1.pdf. There are several documents available and you can view those at http://www.boatus.com/foundation/Grants/cggrg_online_instructions.htm.

While many boating safety campaigns share important recurring messages—like wear a life jacket—applicants are encouraged to address issues specific to their area, such as weather and current patterns or navigational hazards. Past successes have included safety events, printed materials, advertising campaigns, and public service announcements. Preference is given to applications for pilot programs and new ideas

Note: The preferred method of application is via email. It's faster than "snail" mail. It's safer than "snail" mail. It saves both the Coast Guard Auxiliary and BoatU.S. money that could be put to better use. Remember, the deadline for the initial grant review by the BC-BNG, Gene Kahn, is September 2nd. Don't delay.

The Clean Water Grants applications are now up on the Auxiliary Web Site in What's New. This is a BoatU.S. Foundation annual program to award grants of up to \$2,000 to support education and hands-on efforts aimed at cleaning up our boating environment.

Emphasis is placed upon funding innovative ways to reach boaters and anglers with positive messages about preventing pollution before it starts. Proposals that include in-kind donations are encouraged.

So, come on, get creative and complete your application TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP IN THE NSBC

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

Membership in the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) is available in many forms to individuals, as well as organizations. With over 300 organizational members, the Council has grown significantly over the last 10 years. Flotillas, Divisions and other units can apply for membership. Non-profit organizations can join as local level members, state or regional members, or National level membership. Dues vary for each category.

There is also an individual membership category at \$25 per year. Individual members receive their personal National Safe Boating Week Action Kit, as well as a free subscription to "Go Boating," an excellent family boating magazine. Plus one receives newsletters and announcements about upcoming events. Check out membership in the NSBC on their web site, at www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

STATE LIAISON PROGRAM -- INTERIOR

COMO Marshall E. Bullard, IPDCO 8WR, BC-BSI

Here are some success stories that exist in Auxiliary-State relationships in the Heartland of the country. Perhaps others can emulate some of the programs and develop similar or even more successful stories in their state.

Nebraska

In the Omaha area of Nebraska, the Heartland Water Safety Council is a consortium of boating safety related agencies. Membership consists of law enforcement agencies and many volunteer agencies. This organization provides a wide array of safety services to the boating public including Search and Rescue on the fast-flowing Missouri River. The Auxiliary is one of the charter members of the Water Safety Council. The current president of the Heartland Water Safety Council, Pauline Longnecker, is a Division 33, 8WR Auxiliariarist.

The Nebraska BLA, Herb Angell, routinely attends Auxiliary meetings at the Flotilla, Division and District level. He is an active participant in the meetings and often challenges the Auxiliary to

meet growing needs. One topic in particular this year relates to mandatory boating education – but maybe not what you would immediately expect. Nebraska has mandatory boating education requirements and the Auxiliary is the backbone of the Instructor Corps there. Despite the state requirement, attendance at boating classes continues to be disappointing and frustrating for instructors. Mr. Angell is strongly encouraging all his instructors to not let the poor attendance get them down – even if only one life is saved, the effort was well justified. This year, Mr. Angell bought newspaper space promoting the Auxiliary’s boating courses. Nebraska again printed an Auxiliary Public Education notice on the back page of their boating regulations manual at no charge to the Auxiliary. The circulation of this publication is in excess of 150,000. In addition, when a member obtained a substantial discount for billboard postings of boating safety information, Mr. Angell was right there with a check to double the number of billboards that could be rented.

Now local municipalities that have jurisdiction over lakes are beginning to pass ordinances requiring boating education when using their lakes. At an even lower level of organization, homeowner associations that control bodies of water are turning to mandatory boating education, seeing it as an essential means of addressing liability they think they have from boating activities on their lakes. Mr. Angell has been working with the Auxiliary to take the education training on the road to these forward-thinking municipalities and associations.

Mr. Angell has offered space in the state fair complex for an Auxiliary PA/PE booth during the Nebraska State Fair. This space is, of course, at no cost to the Auxiliary.

Division 33 of Eighth Western Rivers provided a great deal of logistical support to the Northern Association of Boating Administrators (NABA) conference as Nebraska and Iowa jointly hosted the conference. The Auxiliary presence at NABA was impressive with Auxiliarists handling several aspects of the conference and participating in some of the presentations.

Kansas

The complete geography of Kansas is covered by one Auxiliary Division – Division 31 8WR. The Kansas success story has developed primarily because of a “We Are All

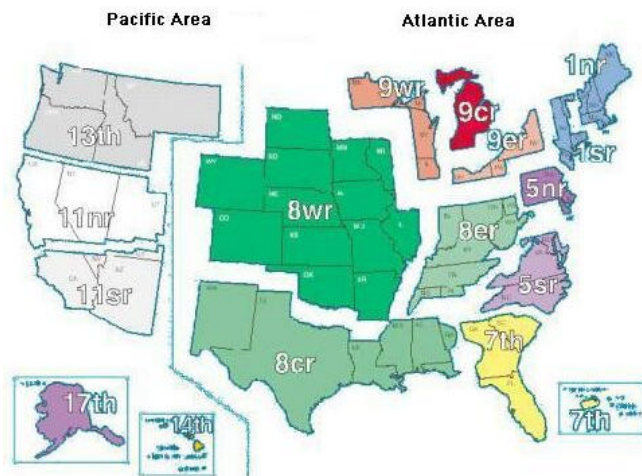
in this Together” attitude of both the Auxiliary and the State.

The Auxiliary and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks have had a very good relationship for many years. In February of this year, the Auxiliary met with Cheri Swayne, Kansas BLA, to lay out plans for the PA campaign in Kansas. The Corps of Engineers and the Power Squadron were involved in the meeting as well. This year, the decision was made to concentrate emphasis on PFD usage for the Memorial Day weekend and boating and alcohol for the July 4th holidays. They are using Operation Boat Smart materials/logos on all their advertising. All the advertising will be paid by Ms. Swayne’s department.

All Auxiliary Instructors are certified to teach Wildlife and Parks’ classes as long as they stay certified with the Auxiliary. At the NABA conference, Ms. Swayne repeatedly remarked that the Auxiliary is the backbone of their education and safety check efforts.

The final hurdle was cleared this year and the Kansas VSC MOU was signed by all involved parties (Auxiliary, KS Wildlife and Parks, Corps of Engineers and Power Squadron). Under this MOU, a VSC steering committee for the state is chaired by the current Auxiliary SO-VE. The steering committee will be involved with several important planning efforts including developing a coordinated campaign for VSCs based on needs identified by the State.

Auxiliary Areas, Districts, and Regions



Distribution: Via direct email from BC-BNN to: NEXCOM, N-H, G-OPB-2, G-OCX-1, GOCX-2 and via individual mailings/transmittals by DIRAUX to: DCOs, VCOs, DCPs, and FCs. Upon receipt, all are encouraged to copy and provide widest possible dissemination. FCs are asked to copy and provide copies to Flotilla members.