



# WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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## Global Marine Distress Satellite System [GMDSS]: UPDATE

Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DC-B

The GMDSS Task Force met at the Department of Transportation headquarters in Washington, DC on 8 August 2002. At that meeting, there was a discussion of the GMDSS task force in general, and in particular its report-outs of issues and information associated with potential impact on recreational boaters.

The report of the Recreational Vessel Task Group, chaired by Elaine Dickinson from BoatU.S. included the following highlights:

a. The BoatU.S. Foundation plans to develop a tutorial on DSC, which, if funded, will be placed on the BoatU.S. web site. This development is particularly welcomed by the Task Force to help fill a void in our program to facilitate voluntary training of vessel operators. Subsequent to the meeting it was learned that a producer of training videos was interested in creating GMDSS training videos for both recreational and commercial vessels. The Task Force will strongly support such efforts.

b. A new paperback handbook entitled *A BOATER'S GUIDE TO VHF AND THE GMDSS*, has been published by the International Marine Division of McGraw Hill. The author is Sue Fletcher who also prepared the voluntary course recommended by the Task Force for use by the Auxiliary and the USPS. The handbook is expected to be available from Borders, Barnes & Noble, and BOAT U.S. among others. The new handbook has been endorsed by the Task Force and fills a pressing need created by the demise of RTCM's RADIO USERS HANDBOOK.

Our RBS friend, Mr. John Malatak [USCG G-OPB-2], reported that about 700,000 copies of the new color brochure entitled "GMDSS for Recreational Boaters" are now in distribution. The United Safe Boating Institute produced it with a grant from USCG Boating Safety. It is being distributed primarily through the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadrons and is also available on the CG Boating Safety website at [www.uscgboating.org/safety/gmdss\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/gmdss_brochure.pdf). A reprint in substantial quantity is planned and there will be an opportunity to correct any errors. A question was raised as to whether manufacturers and others could also get quantities for distribution? It appears that most such requests are being filled in order to get broad distribution. BOAT US announced that they would be

including the GMDSS brochure in all shipments of new radios.

The Task Force will meet again on 25 October 2002 in Ft. Myers, Florida at the Sanibel Resort and Spa.

That's the latest RBS data.

## GRANTS UPDATE

Karen L. Miller, DVC-BN

So, where do we stand on the Grants programs?

The BoatU.S. Grass Roots grants application submission for review closed on September 2, 2002. We had more than 40 applications and requests for over \$100,000. If you submitted a request, make sure you have submitted your completed application, supporting material and review letter to your District Commodore (functioning as a Director of CGAuxA). Your DCO has only until October 24<sup>th</sup> to submit them to Marty Phillips. BoatU.S. will review all the applications it receives (from the CG Auxiliary and all other non-profit organizations) and will award the grants by February 2003. If you submitted an application – Good Luck. If you didn't, look for the news next year in late May or early June.

The BoatU.S. Clean Water grants application submission for review is open and will continue through December 6<sup>th</sup>. This is an ideal opportunity to come up with creative ideas to promote environmentally oriented projects. BoatU.S. wants to fund projects that educate boaters about environmental issues or that inform the public of related events or programs. They expect these projects to reflect a unique and repeatable way to reach the public with the clean water message. Go to [http://www.boatus.com/cleanwater/grants/cg\\_grg\\_online\\_instructions.htm](http://www.boatus.com/cleanwater/grants/cg_grg_online_instructions.htm) and submit and application via the routing described on the application. Be Creative. Think Big. Good Luck.

The National Safe Boating Council Local Recreational Boating Safety grant applications will be available in early October. The purpose of the National Safe Boating Council's (NSBC's) 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 and outreach, and expanding on the North American Safe Boating Campaign. Local projects of national significance will be considered as well. With funding from the Program, local efforts addressing boating safety concerns will be identified and grants will be awarded to

improve those efforts. NSBC will fund up to \$1,000 with these grants.

Such programs may include developing and printing posters, purchasing billboard posters and leveraging additional free billboard space for a local flotilla or chapter, educational displays, or promotional items with safe boating messages. Programs expanding on the North American Safe Boating Campaign will be given preference. The NSBC will not consider applications proposing to purchase items such as laptop computers, projectors and other non-expendable equipment.

The goal of the Local RBS Grant Program is to reduce boating safety accidents and enhance the boating experience by distributing grants for local recreational boating safety programs. These programs should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- I. Improve the quality or quantity of essential safe boating services or materials
- II. Provide funds to small local non-profit groups to build on and support the national campaign's effort to enhance safe boating
- III. Develop innovative ideas that can be replicated by groups in other areas to improve boating safety.
- IV. Provide an opportunity to improve boating safety for specialized activities, including, but not limited to, paddlesports (including canoeing and kayaking) and sportsmen programs.
- V. Develop children's programs or adaptive boating for the disabled.

**COMING SOON – A NEW DEPARTMENT OF BOATING WEB PAGE**

Karen L. Miller, DVC-BN

Prompted by the realization that many members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary are unaware of the role of the Department of Boating and in keeping with our Outreach Mission, the Department has redesigned its web page. We'll be unveiling it before to the New Year; but, here are some highlights.

Prior to giving you this "sneak preview", it will help if we take a minute and explain our role. Here's our mission statement:

Under the program guidance of the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety, and the direction of the Auxiliary Directorate of Recreational Boating Safety, the USCGAUX Department of Boating shall provide the following:

The primary mission of the Department of Boating is to provide liaison with State Boating Law Administrators and other boating safety organizations; i.e. state, federal, and public sector, and to provide RBS resource services to the nationwide Auxiliary membership, both informational, and fiscal, in nature. The mission will be enhanced by assisting Coast Guard active

duty units, Auxiliary national departments, and Auxiliary districts in their efforts to promote and support recreational boating safety programs

This means we interface with Auxiliary, Coast Guard and States – a far reaching mission. As a result, our web page has to be far reaching too. Its design provides a gateway to our partners such as National and Regional NASBLA, National Safe Boating Council and National Water Safety Council to name a few.

The Annual Directory of Services will be an easy click away. Need to know who your State Liaison Officer is? Another simple mouse click. Coastie? Grants? State Boating Laws? Commercial Boating Links? You'll find them all on the new Department of Boating Web Page. We'll alert you when it's ready for public display.

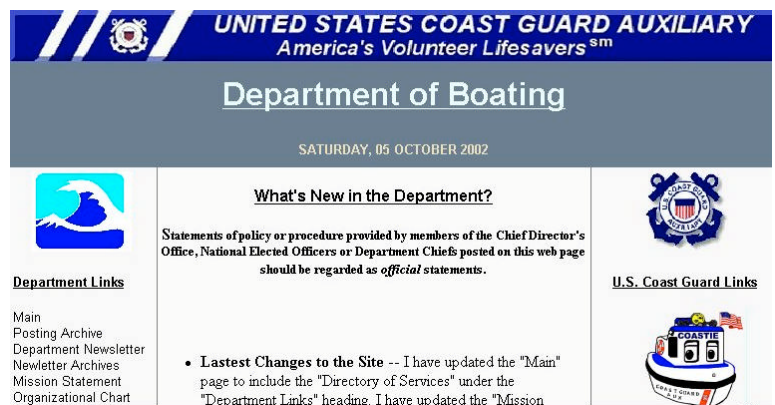
**RE-ORGANIZATION**

Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DC-B

The Boating Department will soon announce a sweeping re-organization of existing offices and divisions to better reflect the reporting relationships and mission responsibilities with its existing staffing component.

When it is approved by senior national Auxiliary leadership, we will share the revised organizational chart with all readers via the WHAT's NEW page. There will be some different persons in some of these existing offices due to vacancies and promotions within staff.

With this re-organization, we believe that the Boating Department will be placed in an even greater position to provide RBS services to the USCG, USCGAUX, and our external partners; be on the look for it!



**The "Look" of the New Department of Boating Web Page**

**Distribution: Via direct email from BC-BRN to: NEXCOM, N-H, G-OPB-2, G-OCX-1, GOCX-2. Upon receipt, DCOs are encouraged to copy and/or provide the widest possible dissemination to DCPs; DCPs are further requested to provide the widest possible dissemination to FCs. Upon receipt, FCs are asked to copy and provide copies to Flotilla members.**