



# WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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## WINNERS OF THE BOATU.S. GRASS ROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Ed Sweeney, DVC-BR

It was announced recently by the BoatU.S. Foundation that fifteen Auxiliary units received a combined total of \$19,901 to promote recreation boating safety at the grass roots level. This represents the most successful year for the Grass Roots Grant program that the Auxiliary has had to date, both in terms of the number of units receiving funds, and the combined total of funds awarded.

Let's take a look at some of the innovative ideas that received recognition this year:

- Flotilla 15-08, D7 (Spring Hill, FL), received \$3,230.00 to erect 2 reader boards on the Auxiliary grounds to advertise boating safety courses and vessel safety checks.
- Flotilla 95, D7 (Marco Island, FL), received \$125.00 to print 1,500 English and Spanish boating safety brochures for school age children.
- Flotilla 57, D7 (Okeechobee, FL), received \$1,900.00 to purchase radio equipment (4 power supplies/UPS backup, 2 RDF radios and 2 VHF radios) that will improve emergency communications during Auxiliary patrols on Lake Okeechobee.
- Flotilla 33, D9ER (Tonawanda, NY), received \$1,000.00 to distribute First Aid Kits with emergency contacts to students at the completion of their Boating Safety course.
- Division 17, D5SR (Statesville, NC), received \$1,156.00 to print 7,000 pamphlets with local boating safety course information.
- Flotilla 54, D9ER (Munhall, PA), received \$500.00 to distribute 500 First Aid Kits at Boating Safety courses and Vessel Safety Checks.
- Flotilla 87, D8ER (Cadiz, KY), received \$2,100.00 to purchase a 40' radio tower and antennas to improve emergency communications on Lake Barkley.
- Flotilla 1-14, D14 (Kaneohe, HI), received \$600.00 to post 12 laminated charts to Kaneohe Bay in boating facilities in the area and use for educational purposes.
- Division 6, D8CR (Sugarland, TX), received \$2,385.00 to purchase radio equipment (500' cable and 3 VHF antennas) that will improve emergency communications in the Clear Lake and Galveston Bay area.

- Flotilla 19, D8CR (Lynn Haven, FL), received \$1,190.00 to distribute 10,000 COASTIE trading cards to young children.
- Flotilla 15, D8ER (Warsaw, KY), received \$800.00 to produce 5,000 restaurant place mats promoting your boating courses and vessel safety checks.
- Flotilla 24-7, D8ER (Grant, AL), received \$1,000.00 to erect 42 signs at boat ramps and fuel docks informing the public about Alabama boating regulations and safe fueling.

Congratulations to all the winners! And for those who were not successful last year – don't give up! If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again! From prior history, we've learned that what worked last year is not a guarantee of what will work again this year. Conversely, with a little bit of polish and tinkering to your previous submission, who knows – your unit may be in this column next year! But you'll never know, unless you apply again this year – what have you got to lose?

So now that I've gotten you all fired up, you ask "How do we get in on the action for 2004?" The first thing you need to do, besides putting on your thinking cap, is to apply for CY 04 Grass Roots grants. Applications will be available in the late spring – (keep a sharp lookout on the **What's New** page and in upcoming editions of **WAVES**).

Also, be sure to check out the **Grants Matrix**, which outlines all the grant programs, their purposes, award limits, and corresponding deadlines. Moreover, see the Boating Department's web page devoted to Grants ([www.uscgaux.org/~boating/Grants.htm](http://www.uscgaux.org/~boating/Grants.htm)) for additional resources. Best of luck in your hunt for funding your RBS programs!

## BOATING DEPARTMENT PROGRAM WEB SITE

Gordon W. Martin, BC-BRI

The Boating Department has long had a goal to design and build a web page which would be useful not only to members of the department, but also to the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and to the boating public.

The Boating Department now has a web site dedicated to promoting Recreational Boating Safety. Within the page you will find links to items pertaining to the Department, links to National and State safe boating sites, and links to the various partnerships the department maintains to promote Recreational Boating Safety.

The department maintains various documents on this web page such as "WAVES", the department's

newsletter, the annual "Directory of Services", and the various Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) held with our commercial partners, BoatUS, West Marine, Boater's World, and the Lighthouse Uniform Company.

The department also maintains links to the Education Department's, Vessel Examination Department's, and the Marine Safety/Environmental Protection Department's program web sites.

The web site boasts links to U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety pages, Recreational Boating Safety Program Specialists, and to the famous "Coastie's Home Page". The department's web site may be found at <http://www.uscgau.org/~boating/>.

Future projects include storing issues of the **OPERATION BOATSMART** newsletter, and have a new and improved contact section for the Boating Department Staff.

I encourage all members of the Auxiliary, especially members of the various departments, to make use of this page. I will always be looking for new material and articles to put on the page. Help me keep this page relevant and up to date with information useful to the members of the department, the Auxiliary, and to the boating public. Please contact me at [gmartin1@erols.com](mailto:gmartin1@erols.com).

#### NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

The North American Safe Boating Campaign, or in old terms, National Safe Boating Week begins Saturday May 17 running through May 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be two kick-off events this year, one in New York City and one in Los Angeles. However, anyone can have a kick off event in his or her hometown or area. The Campaign kits have been sent out in early March and

contain a wealth of information to help a unit plan and execute their efforts. This year there is a CD in the kit with all the information on it. Anyone can copy logos and press releases and take them to their local media. The theme, "**Boat Smart, Boat Safe**" with the added "**Wear It**" keeps the emphasis on putting life jackets on boaters. The kit contains a pamphlet with boating activities to give you ideas of things you could do at your event.

In the kit, there's a sheet with camera-ready Campaign logos, for your media or your use. The Media Guide again is packed with statistics and a cookbook approach on how to mount a campaign. There are resources you can order, some free, to pass out during your event. Don't use this as your supply source; the Auxiliary has some of these brochures in their supply system. And lastly, list your event on the Campaign web site at: [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com), free advertising and it's easy. Besides, much of the kit is on the site; you can download and use it in your releases.



The National Safe Boating Council is proud to team with the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard, the National Association of Boating Law Administrators and many other fine boating organizations to provide members with this information. Use it well, and take the message to the public.

#### NEW BRANCH CHIEF-GRANTS APPOINTED

Robert Johnson, BC-BRG

Isn't it funny, the way some things just happen? I am a retired law enforcement officer. A year or two before I retired, I had the privilege of attending a homicide seminar in Fort Lauderdale, FL. At the end of one of the class days, I strolled about the marina next to the hotel. Some beautiful and pricey yachts were tied there and, at twilight, I could watch the mess stewards, dressed in formal dinner jackets, as they set tables for the evening meal. I thought I could spend my retirement as a yacht dealer/broker, selling yachts such as these, to clients who were more foresighted than I when it came to picking a career with financial rewards. I never seemed to be able to scrape enough money together to buy a yacht with a helicopter landing pad or two.

I told my wife of my thought of selling yachts in retirement, and she, the practical soul that she is, told me that I did not know anything about yachts, or much about boating in general. Very true, thought I, but I bet I could learn. I spun off into retirement and took a BS&S Course at a local Flotilla. That course prompted me to join the Auxiliary to learn more about boating and, eventually, to become qualified as an MDV, a VE, and an IT. A little later, I was elected the FC of the Flotilla. Along the way, I earned a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. My emphasis was in Education, and I had the opportunity to observe various kinds of training being offered by law enforcement and fire services. Incidentally, my advisor/professor was a former CG officer. My boating background is limited to the joys of operating a small boat on inland lakes as a child, to some fishing, and to recovering a few stolen boats as a law enforcement officer. I am inland, about 17 miles from the Savannah River, and about 30 miles from the nearest lake. Due to this location, I concentrate on those things I can do readily at my home. I am AUXCOM qualified, and operate an amateur radio station, which is also a CG facility and part of the Shared Resources High Frequency Radio (SHARES) program. In SC, we have 3,000 miles of coastline, 8,000 miles of rivers, and 460,000 acres of lakes. We have about 425,000 registered motorboats. Promoting boating safety is an important mission of the Auxiliary. I encourage all readers to think of ways to reach the recreational boaters in your area, and to apply for an appropriate grant.

Currently, three grants programs are available, the Boat U. S. Grant Program, the Boat U. S. Clean Water Grants Program, and the National Safe Boating Council RBS Grants Program. Information on the grants and how to apply for them is on the Internet.

Please feel free to call me or send me an E-mail if there is any way I can assist you or your Flotilla in the grant process. Contact me at 803-649-6939 or [bmjohnson@atlantic.net](mailto:bmjohnson@atlantic.net)

I wish to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as a Branch Chief in the Boating Department, and I look forward to working with you.

**OPERATION LIBERTY SHIELD:  
WHAT RECREATIONAL BOATERS CAN DO TO HELP**

Ed Sweeney, DVC-BR

Given the fact that as of this writing, our nation is at war, we thought it might be a good idea to review what recreational boaters can do to keep America's Homeland safe and sound. The material discussed herein is based on information provided by Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Carter, Public Affairs Officer (and his staff), U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area and Eleventh Coast Guard District, and is repeated here for more widespread Auxiliary dissemination

As part of the Department of Homeland Security's Operation LIBERTY SHIELD, we (TEAM COAST GUARD) are on the front lines of maritime homeland defense. LIBERTY SHIELD was launched, as Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge said on March 18, "to increase security and readiness in the United States."

The USCG is working with the Department of Homeland Security, along with other federal, state and local agencies to increase security at the border. During OP LIBERTY SHIELD, the public should expect to see more air & sea patrols, more escorts of cruise ships, more boarding at sea and more security zones. Hundreds of cutters, aircraft and small boats, manned by thousands of Coast Guard active duty and reserve members, and augmented by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, are guarding the coast, ports and waterways.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security had decided to raise the homeland security advisory system (hsas) from elevated (yellow) to threat condition high (orange). This condition signifies a high risk of terrorist attack. In recent months, there have been reports of suspicious activity in and around military facilities, ports, waterways, general infrastructure (bridges, dams, power generating facilities), and targets that are considered symbolic to U.S. power and influence

As written previously by our Department Chief – Jesse Harrup, Jr., this is 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! Times such as these require that we recognize the tighter safety and security measures in place for the current and foreseeable future boating seasons. 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 whenever possible;
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.

In addition to local authorities, you may report any and all suspicious or unusual activities to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. This center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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, or loitering in an area for no apparent reason.
2. Persons establishing roadside stands near marinas or waterfronts facilities; and
3. Unknown or suspicious behaving persons photographing or creating diagrams.
4. People fishing and/or scuba diving in areas not normally frequented by fishermen and scuba divers.

The Coast Guard, augmented by the 35,000 members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, will remain ever vigilant in protecting our homeland. But with over 95,000 miles of coastline, we may not be able to be everywhere at once. So the public's assistance is much appreciated!

As you can see, life on the water will be different again this year, particularly compared to "pre-9/11" boating seasons. Does this mean we should stop boating? ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! By employing common sense, reviewing these guidelines, keeping a sharp lookout, and sharing all this information with all boaters, we in the Boating Department believe it can and will be a great and enjoyable year.

**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.**