



WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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FROM THE CHIEF – GMDSS UPDATE

Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DC-B

Global Marine Distress & Safety System (Update)

The GMDSS Task Force met in Washington DC on 19 August 2004. Items of interest associated with the subject and recreational boaters include the following:

Coast Guard Recognition of the BOAT US Foundation. Captain Steve Sawyer, USCG, Chief of Search and Rescue, read a citation commending the BoatU.S. Foundation for its outstanding contributions to Boating Safety, especially for the EPIRB Rental Program, which is administered by BoatU.S. and which has facilitated numerous successful Search and Rescue cases. Chris Edmonston accepted for the BoatU.S. Foundation.

a. BOATU.S. MMSI Registrations Reach 18,355.

Elaine Dickinson reported that BoatU.S. has issued 18,355 MMSI numbers to date and is prepared to cooperate with the FCC by re-registering those recreational boats which are not renewing station licenses. They hope that the FCC will notify expiring license holders of their options and emphasize the need to re-register.

b. Boating Safety Grant to Produce DSC Tutorial.

Chris Edmonston of the BoatU.S. Foundation briefed the Task Force on their recent award of a Coast Guard Boating Safety Grant to be used to develop a tutorial on the proper use of Digital Selective Calling (DSC). This has long been a Task Force goal since recreational vessel operators are permitted to use DSC systems but are not required to receive training. This tutorial will greatly facilitate the voluntary training we continue to recommend. Chris indicated that Chuck Husick would develop the tutorial and that it would be in the public domain freely available to all users. It is planned to format the training aid for print media and a CD as well as for internet interactive training. The print versions will be in plain covers suitable for

use by manufacturers who will be encouraged to customize it for shipping with their products.

c. TowBoatU.S. Surveys Members for Task Force. Jerry Cardarelli briefed the Task Force on the operation of TowBoatU.S. which provides towing services to about 575,000 members, half of whom have chosen higher option towing contracts. In a typical year about 60,000 boats will be towed, started, floated or otherwise assisted. TowBoatU.S. has facilities in 250 ports with some 400 tow boats on the east coast and inland lakes and rivers and another 100 boats on the west coast through their recent acquisition of the Vessel Assist organization. 24 hour dispatch services are available from two call centers in Virginia and California. TowBoatU.S. would like the FCC and the Coast Guard to investigate assigning a 'fleet' MMSI number which could be used anywhere to connect to their closest towing facility. A quick survey of their franchisees produced the following statistics from those responding:

- (1) 70% of their fleet is already DSC equipped
- (2) 2% of the operators have a high site with a 24/7 watch
- (3) 60% of the calls for assistance come by radio on channel 16
- (4) 40% of the calls for assistance come to the call centers via 800 numbers
- (5) All are aware of DSC and say they will have it by the time Rescue 21 is done
- (6) Only 20% of DSC calls received include a GPS or Loran position
- (7) Most complain about Ch 16 congestion, excessive test calls, and hoaxes
- (8) Some have recommended a special MMSI number for DSC testing

d. C-Port, the National Association Representing TowBoat Industry.

The Task Force also received a briefing from Fiona Morgan, the Chief Executive of C-Port, the National Association representing the towboat industry including TowBoatU.S., Sea Tow, and independent operators. C-Port has entered into a partnership agreement with the Coast Guard in the interest of promoting boating safety among its members and

with the boating public. C-Port also has a standards program for certifying members who meet the criteria as “accredited for commercial assistance and professional towing.” Fiona had also conducted a quick poll among members with the following results from those responding:

- (1) The typical operator had been in the business for about 15 years
- (2) The typical operator handles 250-300 assists per year
- (3) The typical operator has 3 vessels, with 5 operators, all licensed captains
- (4) 90% of the operators are aware of the Rescue 21 program
- (5) All operators are aware of DSC but only 20% use it at this time
- (6) Most replace equipment every few years due to hard use and exposure
- (7) 25% of the operators carry EPIRBs

Most operators consider education of boaters the number one problem

e. NOAA Report on Personal Locator Beacons (PLB).

Lt Dan Karlson reported that marine PLBs have been available for about a year now and that some 1400 have been registered with NOAA. A planned separate coding scheme to identify marine PLBs has not yet been implemented but those alerts, which decode as located in maritime areas, are passed to the Coast Guard for action. Dan noted that some pilots are beginning to carry PLBs, sometimes to supplement fitted Emergency Locating Transponders (ELT). He distributed two brochures sponsored by NOAA, NASA, the Air Force, and the Coast Guard, one dealing with ELTs and EPIRBs transitioning from 121.5 to 406 MHz, and the other dealing with PLBs. Both are available in quantity for further distribution.

The Task Force agreed to meet next in Naples, Florida on Friday 22 October 2004 at the Registry Resort during the Annual Meeting of the National Marine Electronics Association. Individuals or organizations desiring to present briefings during the August meeting should contact Jack Fuechsel. Until next time: “Keep’er ‘tween the buoys”

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CHIEF – LIAISON DIVISION

John Potts, DVC-BL

Having been recently appointed as the Division Chief for Boating - Liaison, I am very impressed by the background and expertise of the Liaison Branch Chiefs.

There is **Bill Griswold** who is our representative to the National Safe Boating Council and the National Water Safety Congress. Bill, who is a retired USCG Captain and past DIRAUX and CHDIRAUX, has traveled extensively to represent the Auxiliary, attending other boating conferences, as well. His reports on his conferences are extremely interesting and informative.

Then there is **Nick Tarlson**, our representative to West Marine. Nick, a very involved Auxiliarist, just developed a new strategic alliance between West Marine and the Auxiliary, which was signed on September 3rd. You can see a copy of this important document on the Boating web site at <http://www.uscgaux.org/~boating/main.htm>.

Pete Fuhrman, our representative to the marine industry, an Auxiliarist for 42 years and present Division Captain, has a very extensive background in the marine industry, both in retail and manufacturing; Pete has just recently convinced close to 125 marine manufacturers to print a key auxiliary boating safety message in their brochures.

Ray Gibson, was recently appointed as our liaison to the BoatU.S. Foundation and Boaters World. Ray is beginning to make contact with those organizations to develop up-to-date agreements. Ray retired at an assistant secretary level in the U.S. Department of Energy where one of his duties was to develop intra and inter agency memoranda of understanding. Ray has been very active in the Auxiliary since 1989; he owns and operates two OPFAC vessels and is FSO-VE.

My goal as division chief will be to support and encourage these valuable branch chiefs in their contacts and relay the fruits of their important labors to the auxiliary leadership and to the membership.

My own background includes a USCG active duty career of over 21 years. I retired from the USCG 22 years ago as a Lieutenant Commander. I served six tours aboard five 180’ buoy tenders, the last tour as Commanding Officer. I also served as Recreational Boating Safety Officer and USCG Auxiliary Liaison Officer in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Upon retiring from the USCG, I worked for nearly four years at a merchant marine school as a water survival instructor. I eventually became a Maryland State Addictions Counselor and transferred to the

Department of Parole and Probation as a probation officer and regional supervisor with Maryland's Drinking Driver Monitor Program; I retired from the State of Maryland in 2000.

I am presently a Flotilla Commander, Communications Watch Stander at CG Station Annapolis, Mobile Communications Facility Operator and FSO-CM. I am also a clay artist, selling my artwork in the Annapolis, Maryland area where I live with my wife Sandee. Together, we have six grown children and nine grandchildren. I love sailing my 25' Bayfield on the Severn River and the Chesapeake Bay area, occasionally taking longer voyages to challenge my experience. Until just recently, I was a regular rowing shell enthusiast and have a history owning and operating a canoe and kayak.

I look forward to serving with the Boating Department Staff as we seek to further the goals of the Auxiliary.

CLEAN FUELING A HOT TOPIC THIS YEAR

From BoatU.S.

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water doubled its funding this year, awarding nearly \$40,000 in Clean Water Grants to 19 local nonprofit organizations around the country. The grants support grassroots efforts to educate boaters on reducing their environmental impact on the water, and a special emphasis was made this year to support projects designed to educate boaters on cleaner fueling practices - nine of the 19 groups incorporated this topic in their projects.

Margaret Podlich, environmental director for the BoatU.S. Foundation, said, "We believe that those groups closest to our waterways - yacht clubs, local conservation groups, and volunteer waterway safety organizations - often offer the most innovative ideas to protect our waterways. We rely on these boaters to help us spread credible, locally-relevant environmental messages."

Some of the projects include handing out fuel spill prevention kits that contain oil absorbent pads, creating booklets to educate boaters about clean fueling practices and laws, and erecting a kiosk and recycling center that will educate boaters about environmental issues. "We're especially happy to see so many projects that stress better habits at the fuel dock," says Podlich.

BoatU.S. Foundation projects are funded primarily by donations from members of Boat Owners Association of The United States.

To see a list of previous projects and grant winners, be sure to visit www.boatus.com/cleanwater/grants/. For more information on how to make a tax-deductible donation, or to find out how to apply for 2005 Clean Water Grants, visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/foundation>.

Applications for the 2005 Clean water Grants are expected to be available around 1 NOV 04.

TOP TEN SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

From BoatU.S.

New On-Line Boater's "Toolbox" Tackles Top Ten Safety And Environmental Issues.

BoatU.S. Foundation's Web-Based Learning Tool Builds Boater's Knowledge Boaters can now improve their boating knowledge with the new "Boater's Toolbox," a web-based learning tool offered by the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water. The "Toolbox" features in-depth information on ten of the most popular safety and environmental issues affecting today's boaters.

To help make learning easier, the teaching tool uses animation to illustrate hard-to-grasp concepts, such as right of way and rules of the road.

"Boaters are hungry for information on important topics such as carbon monoxide poisoning, how homeland security regulations affect their boating, or which kind of marine sanitation device fits their needs," said Ruth Wood, president of the BoatU.S. Foundation. The "Toolbox" takes away the confusion by consolidating all of this essential information in one place so boaters don't have to chase it down on half a dozen different web sites.

It's great for new boaters wanting to learn about safe and environmentally sound boating, but it's also a smart way for old salts to brush up on their boating knowledge," she added.

The Boater's Toolbox can be accessed via the Foundation web site, or by going directly to <http://www.BoatUS.com/foundation/toolbox/>. The topics featured include: Life Jackets, Boating Under the Influence, Rules of the Road, Homeland Security, Hypothermia, Carbon Monoxide, Personal

Watercraft, Safe and Clean Fueling, Marine Sanitation Devices and Pumpouts, and Litter Prevention.

safety course, a free Kids Life Jacket Loaner Program, and awards grants to non-profit groups for boating safety and environmental projects.

USCG HONORS BOATU.S. EMERGENCY BEACON RENTAL PROGRAM

From BoatU.S.

With eleven persons successfully rescued since May 2003, the United States Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue recently honored BoatU.S. for its Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) rental program.

The program makes the \$900 life-saving devices available at cost for \$50 a week as a public service of the boating association's Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water. A BoatU.S. EPIRB recently aided in the rescue of three persons 120 miles off Cape Hatteras, NC.

Capt. Steve Sawyer, Chief, USCG Office of Search and Rescue, said, "We'd like to express our grateful appreciation to BoatU.S. for its dedicated efforts in improving the safety and welfare of recreational boaters throughout the world. The Coast Guard Search and Rescue Program, in close coordination with the Boating Safety Program and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, continuously seeks improved methods to avert search and rescue cases through education and prevention - the BoatU.S. EPIRB Rental Program is one initiative that directly supports this goal."

The BoatU.S. EPIRB program is funded by the voluntary contributions of 575,000 members of BoatU.S. Ruth Wood, president of the BoatU.S. Foundation, said, "When we started the pilot program six years ago with the U.S. Coast Guard, we knew of no other way for boaters to temporarily obtain an EPIRB for a short offshore passage. Since then, the program has rented hundreds of beacons through the generous support of BoatU.S. members who believe in the usefulness of these life saving devices."

For more information about renting an EPIRB, call the BoatU.S. Foundation at 888-663-7472 or visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/foundation/epirb> . Shipping is also included.

The mission of the Foundation is to promote safe and environmentally sensitive boating, reduce accidents and fatalities, and increase stewardship of our water resources. The Foundation also operates the only accredited, free, online boating

PFD SURVEY RESULTS

Dr. Ed Mahoney, Michigan State University

On August 25, 2004 the National Transportation Safety Board met with the boating industry's members to promote an open and informative discussion of policy issues related to mandatory use of PFDs on recreational boats. The findings of the survey were reported during the NTSB's meeting.

The results show that the majority of the boaters who responded to the survey are opposed to a requirement that adults wear life preservers while underway in all boats. However, some boaters are very supportive of the requirement. Others are supportive of a requirement for certain size and type boats.

The PFD report is available in two versions, Microsoft Word and PFD. The links to the report are:

Word: <http://www.prr.msu.edu/rmrc/pfdsurvey.doc>

PDF: <http://www.prr.msu.edu/rmrc/pfdsurvey.pdf> .

WEST MARINE ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

West Marine, the nation's largest specialty retailer of boating supplies and apparel, today announced a strategic partnership with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to promote boating safety throughout the United States via public education courses, vessel safety checks and outreach efforts.

The pact includes a plan to establish structured contact between West Marine store management and local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel, encouraging in-store safety classes, public safety booths, vessel safety check stations as well as in-store promotion of outside vessel safety check locations. In addition, West Marine would support the vessel safety check program through articles and information provided to customers through its catalogs, promotional mailers, purchasing guides and in-store literature.

The U.S. Coast Guard's free vessel safety check program offers complimentary boat inspections by Auxiliary members to determine boaters'

compliance with Coast Guard mandated safety measures. The educational vessel safety checks provide a penalty-free opportunity for boaters' to brush up on required equipment and to make necessary safety changes to their vessels.

"We're extremely proud to announce this partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to promote safe boating. At West Marine, we feel strongly that safe and fun boating are of the utmost importance. We're pleased to offer our customers convenient opportunities for boating safety education right in our stores," says John Edmondson, chief executive officer, West Marine.

The West Marine-U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary alliance also will include the establishment of links between Web sites, as well as cross-educational activities including presentations by West Marine personnel at U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meetings.



Jesse Harrup DC-B receives Meritorious Service Medal.



West Marine/USCGAUX MOU Signed at NACON.



Bob Melvin, DC-Bd receives Auxiliary Commendation Medal.

Distribution: Via direct email from DC-B (or DC-Bd) to: NEXCOM, FCs on AUX List Server, NADCOs, DCs, and DCOs. 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 without current AUXDATA email addresses. Upon receipt, FCs are asked to copy and provide copies to flotilla members.

AWARDS FROM NACON

Jess Harrup DC-B, Bob Melvin DC-Bd, and Ed Sweeney DVC-BR, all received awards at the Auxiliary national Conference (NACON) held recently in Costa Mesa, Calif.



Ed Sweeney, DVC-BR receives Auxiliary Commendation Medal.