



WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2005

Department Chief: Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DC-B, 1201 Canterbury Lane, Colonial Heights, VA 23834-2709
Newsletter Editor: John Sikes, BC-BRN, 141 Southwold Circle, Goose Creek, SC 29445 jsikes@dycon.com

FROM THE CHIEF

Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., DC-B

We have completed another year of activities in our department, so I'd like to start off the new year with a brief summary of where we've been in CY 04 and where we're headed in CY 05.

PERSONNEL:

- We have "hired" 1 DVC and 5 BCs since the 2004 NACON and we appreciate the patience shown by all members in their interactions with Boating Department personnel during these understaffed periods.

Since the 2004 N-TRAIN report, there has been a 53% turnover in personnel, but as of 1/18/05 we're at 100% staffing to serve the members.

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE NACON 2004

- This year was the first time that the NASBLA leadership agreed to use USCGAUX documentation, (our new SLO Handbook), as part of an orientation session for new NASBLA members. Furthermore, NASBLA officials agreed to offer our SLO handbook to all new NASBLA members in all future orientations. This is great step toward furthering our relationship with the states.
- A total of forty-one (41) applications have been received by BoatUS as of January 1, 2005, totaling over \$117,853.86 in local Flotilla RBS needs that are currently unfunded.
- The revised USCGAUX/West Marine MOU was signed on 03 Sep 04 at NACON in Costa Mesa, CA and posted the next week on key auxiliary web sites. During CY 05, we expect a link between West Marine and the auxiliary public site to become a reality. E-Commerce should also begin with West Marine during CY 05.
- There are several provisions of the new West Marine alliance which require involvement at the flotilla level; these

include establishing structured contact between local auxiliary personnel and store management, having store space available for PE classes, public safety booths, and VSC stations, posting course schedules and VSC locations to stores for posting and distribution to customers, providing West Marine discount information to PE course students and those who complete a VSC, and inviting store management to make presentations at local auxiliary meetings concerning products of interest to auxiliaries. The Liaison Division will need to consult with West Marine management on a preferred process to accomplish these goals. Then we will need to prepare and communicate proposed plans of actions to DCOs, appropriate NADCOs and DCs.

- BC-BLB Ray Gibson and BC-BLW Dave Naumann will be actively involved in working with appropriate National staff officers as well as the POC's at main offices for West Marine, Boater's World and BoatUS Foundation. Efforts will focus on implementing the various elements of the alliances as well as getting the word down the chain of management and leadership to the flotilla membership level. Methods used to implement the alliance elements, not already in place, will involve multiple contacts with the organization POC. Methods to transmit the agreement benefits and requirements down to the flotilla level will include a primary liaison with the RBSVP at the National level, which appears to have the job description best suited for developing liaison on the local level with Boater's World & West Marine.

The preceding is just a very brief summary of issues which have and will affect both our department and the flotilla membership in CY 05 and I wanted to share them with you. More information will be shared after N-Train 2005. "till then; keep'r 'tween the buoys."

**BOATU.S. BOATING SAFETY GRANT WINNERS
ANNOUNCED**

Ed Sweeney, DVC-BR

Nine U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas have been awarded boating safety grants since 2004 by the BoatUS Foundation. The grants to the flotillas in Alaska , Idaho , New Jersey , Louisiana , New York, Oklahoma , Utah and Washington total nearly \$20,000.

Flotilla 5 of Seward, Alaska will use its \$2,350 award to produce "Emergency Procedures" boating stickers in at least five foreign languages. The program was launch after multiple fatalities in last year involving boaters with limited knowledge of English. Flotilla 5 plans to print boating stickers outlining emergency procedures in Chinese, Inupiat, Japanese, Korean and Tagalog, among other languages.

Flotilla 9 of Brooklyn, N. Y. was awarded \$3,750 to print workbooks for a new class called "Boating Fun. The flotilla plans to print 1,000 full color 16-page booklets.

Flotilla 5 of Tacoma, Washington developed a video on how to properly refuel a boat and handle a fuel spill. Some 500 VHS tapes were duplicated and distributed with the \$3,300 that it received.

Flotilla 12 of Long Beach Township, N. J. was awarded \$1,243 to purchase 500 oil socks. These will be distributed to boaters who are found to have oil in their bilges during vessel safety checks conducted by Auxiliarists.

Another grant for New Jersey went to Flotilla 5 of Lincroft to create and launch a public outreach campaign promoting personal flotation devices (PFD's). The \$2,800 grant will cover the costs of 500 life jacket foam drink holders and flyers that will be distributed to boaters. The project is being coordinated with National Safe Boating Week and the flotilla will partner will local marinas to advertise, support and encourage the use of PFD's.

Flotilla 7 in Salt Lake City, Utah was given a Foundation grant of \$1,078 to recreate boat refueling procedure signs. The 20 color signs will be posted at all on-the-water gas refueling points within Utah . The locations, including Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge, have a combined yearly visitation of more than 1.5 million boaters.

Among other grants: Flotilla 4 of Lafayette, Louisiana was awarded \$2,200 to construct 20 monofilament line collection sites and advertise the

stations through brochures. Flotilla 87 of Sandpoint, Idaho will use a grant of \$1,960 to design and install signs encouraging boaters to wear PFD's at 22 boat launches surrounding Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River. Flotilla 3 of Grove, Oklahoma was awarded \$522 to pay for the printing of 18 signs that were posted on Grand Lake to help boaters learn how to prevent the Westward spread of zebra mussels.

Since 1999 the BoatUS Foundation has been providing grants of up to \$4,000 to nonprofit organizations. The Foundation is dedicated to promoting safe and environmentally sensitive boating.

The grants are designed to help educate boaters on issues such as petroleum pollution prevention, pump out education, littering prevention, and other clean boating topics.

Grants for the next cycle of funding will be accepted in the late summer or early fall. So now is the time to put your thinking cap on and be ready to submit your winning grant. Watch for announcements of application availability and deadline for submission on the What's New page of www.cgaux.org and in future issues of this newsletter.

**TIRE FAILURES TOP THE LIST OF 2004 BOAT
TRAILER BREAKDOWNS**

From BoatU.S.

Burdened by the weight of their loads, infrequent use, pot holes, the sun's blistering UV rays, winter's freezing temperatures and submersion in water, boat trailers don't have an easy life.

Of the thousands of requests for roadside assistance made by BoatU.S. Trailering Club members in 2004, the number one call for assistance was for flat tires, more than twice as many as the next runner up. But according to the February issue of BoatU.S Trailering Magazine, trailer boaters can take a few steps to ensure a smooth run no matter whether it's to the lake just across town or a 500-mile, long-distance trek to the shore.

To start with, make sure your bias ply or radial trailer tires were made for trailering. A "ST" designation on the sidewall indicates "special trailer" used for boat trailers. These tires have stronger sidewalls than "P" (passenger) and "LT" (light truck tires). Also never mix bias ply (commonly used for short trips or when a trailer is

parked for long periods) with radial tires (preferred for high-mileage trips).

Inflation is the most basic tire maintenance issue. Tires should be inflated while cold, before the trip -- not during. And if all else fails, having a spare tire is key, but unfortunately most trailer manufacturers neglect to include one as standard equipment. Be sure to bring a tire and rim combo when shopping for your spare as not all are alike. Ensure your jack can handle the trailer as well.

A tire's worst enemy is dry rot caused by the UV rays. If you store your boat and trailer outside during the winter, remove the tires and keep inside if possible. Tire covers can also help.

Moisture can also doom a tire, especially if the trailer sits idle for a long time on grassy, damp ground. Again, removing the tire is best but parking on plywood can also help. If parking on a hard surface such as concrete, ensure that water freely drains away from the trailer after a rainstorm.

Lastly, ensure that you know your boat and trailer weight, as overloading can lead to premature wear and potentially dangerous blowouts.

history of the NSBW campaign, frequently asked questions, etc.

New for 2005 – you can order your FREE materials directly from the web site by visiting <http://www.art4use.com/05campaign-site/freeresources.htm> . You can also download and distribute the 2004 accident statistics by visiting <http://www.art4use.com/05campaign-site/statistics.htm> .

Last but not least, please be sure to let your community and the media know what you are doing, by posting your event at <http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/events/post.htm> .

Let's join together and make this the best campaign year ever!

GET READY NOW FOR 2005 NORTH AMERICAN SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN

Ed Sweeney DVC-BR

NOW is the time to get ready for the 2005 North American Safe Boating Week, scheduled for 21-27 May 2005.

The National Safe Boating Campaign has assembled both an information packed campaign kit and a great web page; both are chock full of resources to make your local campaign efforts a resounding success.

Your **2005 North American Safe Boating Campaign Kit** provides you with the materials and information you will need to coordinate your own campaign efforts. In this year's kit you will find: NEW 2003 U.S. Coast Guard Statistics; a NEW Resource Guide; a NEW Safe Boating Campaign luggage tag; NEW "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It!" stickers; NEW "Boat Smart. Boat Safe Wear It!" posters; and the 2005 Campaign Order Form.

Visit their web page located at <http://www.art4use.com/05campaign-site/05campmain-1000.htm> for additional resources. There you will find a number of great ideas, as well as sample proclamations, news releases, activity sheets for the kids, as well as a



REMEMBER:
Spread the word about...



**D11 GETS FROMER DIRAUX AS
NEW RBS SPECIALIST**

Paul Newman, USCG RBS Specialist D11

It's great to be returning to boating safety as my primary responsibility. Even before my 20 years in the active duty Coast Guard I was a Harbor Patrol Officer on Mission Bay in San Diego and I always loved being on the water and helping the boating public. That was back in the late 1970s when we wondered if we'd ever get things like approved inflatable PFDs, mandatory PFD wear and mandatory education for boat operators.

Well, progress might come slowly, but it does come. In the last 35 years, accident and fatality rates have dropped, along with the overall percentage of alcohol-related fatalities. But we still have a lot of work to do on all those fronts. Boating safety is a constant education process.

My goals, for my first year in this position, have to do with getting to know all the players within the Eleventh District and identifying areas of duplication or ineffective action. By getting involved with state BLAs, county and local groups, I want to find out who is doing what, and where the Coast Guard can help influence positive change. With so many agencies all dedicated to their piece of the aquatic pie it is inevitable we'll have overlapping or conflicting regulations and interests. Balancing the needs of diverse user groups is a huge challenge in the crowded and ecologically sensitive waters of these Southwestern states and the Pacific Ocean.

Limited recreational water space, limited resources, and limited budgets means we must work together if any of us are to succeed. As a Director of Auxiliary in the mid 1980s, I learned how vital the volunteers, such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons, are to this effort. Neither the federal government nor the states could meet their boating safety responsibilities without these dedicated volunteers.



Paul Newman

The unstoppable inventiveness of mankind continues to create all kinds of craft designed to help people enjoy the water. I was in the Coast Guard headquarters Office of Boating Safety when sailboards first swept the country. None of us imagined the kite-surfing of today! As we work together we'll figure out what needs to be regulated and what doesn't, what's safe and what isn't, and when all is said and done, we want to have fun. And safe boating is some of the best fun in the world.



Distribution: Via direct email from DC-B to NEXCOM, and all FC's In Nat. Email Directory. From BC-BRN to Others. 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 email addresses Upon receipt, FCs are asked to copy and provide copies to flotilla members.