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Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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FROM THE CHIEF

Bob Melvin, DC-B

Fall is bringing more changes than just the color of leaves to our department. The new National Commodore-elect, Steve Budar, selected Jesse L. Harrup, Jr., our longtime Department Chief, Boating, for a position on his national staff. As of November, Jesse will be the new National RBS Directorate Commodore.

Under Jesse's watch, our Department served as liaison for several noteworthy MOUs and MOAs. These agreements with our commercial partners – Boat U.S. Foundation, West Marine, Boater's World, *Soundings* Publications, and Lighthouse Uniforms resulted in substantial benefits to members and the public alike. Members enjoyed free subscriptions to boating publications, free materials to support our programs, and discounts on items purchased; while the Auxiliary as a whole benefited from increased promotion of public education classes, courtesy vessel examinations, America's Waterway Watch, and recruiting.

Jesse's promotion caused ripples of change within our department as we shifted and recruited personnel to fill openings. Updated contact information for each division is listed below. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or require any assistance within our areas of knowledge. The Boating Department exists to serve **you** in the accomplishment of your mission and ours: to promote and support recreational boating safety programs.

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2007 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

The 2006 National Safe Boating Campaign has closed and the 2007 Campaign is underway!

Presenters at the annual NASBLA conference declared the 2006 Campaign a success. 2006 was the first campaign where materials were distributed online – no Action Kits were mailed. Orders lagged 2005, but were within the average of previous years. Overall, the transition to an “online” campaign went extremely well – congratulations to all who helped with the 2006 Campaign.

Some flotillas pointed out that their Campaign Project Officers did not have computers and could not access the online content. To solve this, flotillas’ FSO-CS can access the internet on their behalf to download necessary materials.

The 2007 Campaign will proceed like this year’s: the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) will mail postcards to participants to alert them of National Safe Boating Week, and to advertise materials available to order.

Unique to the 2007 Campaign is Coast Guard funding targeted at Northern California’s Delta region. The NSBC, the State of California, the Coast Guard, and various local organizations are planning a “media blitz” for that area – with other states watching the effort closely.



A family demonstrates proper PFD use in this photo from the NSBC.

The non-profit grant process is now demanding measurable results from funding. The California “blitz” must demonstrate a clear increase in PFD wear, as observed by an on-water survey. In other words, results will be measured by actual sightings of people in boats wearing PFDs. The Campaigns have done a great job over the years educating and raising awareness of boating hazards, **but now we have to prove it.**

Auxiliarists can help provide such proof through feedback submitted via the Campaign website. The NSBC uses these easy-to-complete web evaluations to improve Campaign success. You can evaluate the materials offered: did they fit your needs? Were they effective? Are there other items you’d like to see?

Last year, Auxiliarists only submitted about 300 evaluations; USPS beat the Auxiliary hands down. I’m appealing to you to give the Council feedback; we need it to justify future Campaign grant requests. Without a lot more measurement, we risk losing Campaign funding. So, visit the NSBC’s website and submit your comments. Go to: <http://www.art4use.com/06campaign/06-campaign/web-content/evaluation.htm> and fill in the evaluation; it’s simple and will help us measurably.

WELCOME ABOARD, NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

John Potts, DC-Bd

As you read in “From the Chief”, several staff changes are in process for the Boating Department. Amongst all the changes, I will just introduce two of them in this issue.

A new Division Chief of the Boating Department’s Resources Division has been appointed: Douglas Patterson of Flotilla 25 in upstate South Carolina. Doug is immediate past flotilla commander and the current FSO-CS. He is also a qualified coxswain. Doug graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1980 and has served on both active duty and reserve, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander. Doug brings to his new appointment experience teaching web site design and server administration at Greenville Tech in South Carolina. His skills will be a definite asset as he supervises branch chiefs tasked with internet-oriented boating resources. Doug presently works as a realtor.

Captain William Griswold, USCG (ret), will continue to serve as the Auxiliary’s Liaison Branch Chief to National Safe Boating Council and numerous other boating organizations. Due to Bill’s extensive knowledge of grants available to the boating community, he has also been appointed as the Boating Department’s Grant Resources Branch Chief. As such, he will keep the Auxiliary informed of its grant opportunities.

Bill “Griz” Griswold’s bio is very impressive. Griz retired in 1993 as a Coast Guard Captain from a 37-year military career that also included service in

the US Army. After commissioning, Griz served several aviation tours including a tour in Vietnam. His staff tours included recreational boating/DIRAUX tours in Alaska and New York, and eventually he served as the Chief Director, Auxiliary in Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington. Since retirement, Griz has been active in the local Auxiliary unit in Florida, and served as Chairman with the National Safe Boating Council and Treasurer with the United Safe Boating Institute. He is currently DSO-SL in District Seven, LLO for Florida and FSO-PE and IS in Flotilla 43, Lake County, Florida

Welcome aboard in your new positions, Griz and Doug! We are very fortunate to have your skills in the Boating Department!

Note: For full biographies and pictures of these and other Boating Department staff members, visit our "staff member" webpage at

<http://www.auxbdept.org/staff.htm>

47th NASBLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bob Melvin, DC-B

The 47th NASBLA Annual Conference was held on September 24-27 in Louisville, Ky.

(NASBLA is the acronym for the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. The association represents the boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories.) In order to promote uniformity and reciprocity among the states, NASBLA developed boating safety education standards in the 1970s. Working with Penn State University and boating safety partners such as the United States Power Squadrons, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the National Safe Boating Council, NASBLA adopted the National Boating Education Standards in 1999. All states and territories recognize these standards in their laws and regulations. Hence, "NASBLA Approved" for our courses means that they are accepted in all states and territories.



The USCG Auxiliary members who serve on the NASBLA Committees are at the forefront of Boating Safety and Waterway Management Issues. These committees include Waterways Management, BAIRAC (**B**oating **A**ccident **I**nvestigation **R**eporting and **A**nalysis **C**ommittee), Education, Homeland Security, and Boats and Associated Equipment.

The work of these committees directly affects our RBS (Recreational Boating Safety) Programs. For example, take one of the BAIRAC's guiding directives. The BAIRAC is charged to "analyze boating accident data and identify areas of critical need for targeted accident investigation and prevention programs." The Auxiliary's responsibility flows directly from this guidance, as we use these "areas of critical need" to focus our PE, MDV, VSC, and OPS efforts where they can have the greatest impact on preventing accidents and saving lives.

A trickier BAIRAC directive involves creating a definition for a "recreational vessel". This isn't as easy as it sounds! Inventors are constantly pushing the envelope and forcing recreational boating safety specialists and the USCG to redefine what we used to think of as a basic term. Remember the old days when we told our students that a vessel is any thing that floats? No more! Here are two questions related to this slippery topic that BAIRAC has asked the CG:

Q1 – Did an incident occur involving at least one recreational vessel? (if yes, go to Q2)

(What is a vessel? – A recreational vessel manufactured or operated for pleasure that is propelled or controlled by machinery, sails, paddles, poles or another vessel. It doesn't include water toys or inspected vessels. Water toys, inflatable tubes, rafts, boogie boards, surf boards, paddle boats, marine ATV's can be best described as being used by bathers or in a swim area.)

Q2 – Was the vessel on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the U. S., State, Territory, or on sole state waters, or owned in the U. S. and on the high seas beyond the territorial seas?

As you can see from this example, there are many major issues being studied by the USCG, NASBLA, and the Auxiliary. The Boating Department will keep you informed of any resulting initiatives as they occur. For more detailed information, visit:

1. The Boating Department Home Page: www.auxbdept.org

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2. The NASBLA Home Page: www.nasbla.org
Committee activities are located on the right side of the home page. There is also a wealth of information available in the downloadable presentations that were given at the recent NASBLA conference. To obtain these, in the center section of the home page, scroll down to “NASBLA’s 47th Annual Conference,” “Presentations from the conference are now available” and then click on the “available” link to download the presentations.

The following presentations available for download from the NASBLA site should assist you in your efforts:

...for Auxiliarists involved in Incident and Response Planning:

Agency Planning & Response for Natural Disasters

...for Auxiliarists involved in teaching or using the “Rules of the Road”:

Rules of the Road Workshop

...for Auxiliarists involved in PE:

Uniformity of State Education Laws

...for Auxiliarists interested in boating under the influence issues:

Boating Under the Influence Study Findings

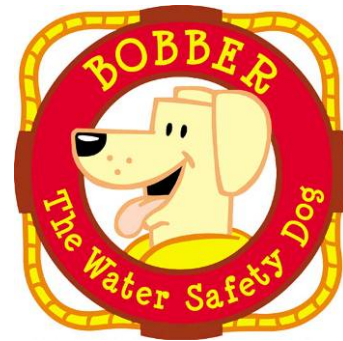
Many additional presentations are also available on the NASBLA website, so I encourage you to browse through them and find one that will be useful to you and your flotilla.

USACE & USCGAUX FOCUS ON WATER SAFETY
Atul Uchil, DVC-BL

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the leading provider of outdoor recreation on all Federally-managed public lands in the United States. With a recreation base primarily built around water, the USACE has a dedicated focus on water safety.

The primary driving force behind the USACE’s water safety programs is Ms. Lynda Nutt, Manager of the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety. Ms. Nutt and her team have successfully implemented several innovative programs, including, but not limited to:

- o **Bobber, the Water Safety Dog:** An excellent program for young children that uses an award winning safety cartoon to teach children about water safety. <http://www.bobber.info/>



- o **Safe Passage:** This program contains lesson plans, reproducible activity sheets, and interactive exercises in water safety, hydropower, and conservation. This is very useful for teachers and parents to teach children.



In order to further their water safety efforts and recognizing the value that the USCGAUX brings to boating and water safety, the USACE and USCGAUX have entered into a partnership. This partnership materialized in the form of a tri-lateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the USACE, USCG and USCGAUX in September 2005.

The MOU focuses primarily on the following functional areas:

1. Vessel Safety
2. Public Education

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3. Charting and Mapping
4. Homeland Security
5. Search and Rescue

Subsequent to the signing of the MOU, the USACE and USCGAUX have conducted several planning sessions. The focus of these meetings is to interpret the conceptual understanding of the MOU into realistic and achievable “baby steps”.

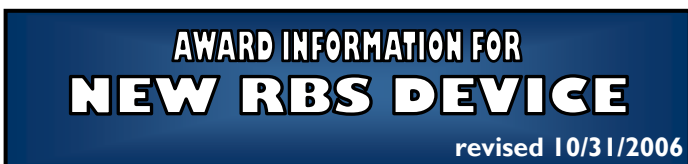
In order to enhance the focus on Water and Boating Safety, the first action item that the USACE and USCGAUX have decided to implement is a pilot VSC program. The primary steps towards implementation of the pilot VSC program will commence at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in San Antonio, Texas from March 4-7, 2007.



During the IBWSS, a small team of USACE rangers will receive training as Vessel Examiners. These 4-5 volunteer rangers will serve as the pilot VSC program during the calendar year 2007. The Liaison Division of the Department of Boating will coordinate the pilot activities with the USACE and the USCGAUX Department of Vessel Examinations (<http://safetyseal.net/>).

Those interested in more information can find a copy of the USACE-USCG-USCGAUX MOU at the Department of Boating website, <http://www.auxbdept.org/main.htm>.

You may also contact Atul Uchil, PhD, National Division Chief – Liaison Division via email at auchil@uchil-llc.com.



The RBS Device was approved by USCGAUX NEXCOM on 10/26/05.



The new Auxiliary RBS Device

The RBS Device is established to recognize members who support the Auxiliary’s programs and activities within, or related to, the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) program.

The award of the Device is based upon the member earning 120 points per year for two consecutive years (total of 240 points to qualify).

“Points” for the award are based on the member submitting the ANSC-7030 (7-06) for each mission in the mission areas described below. “Codes” refer to the appropriate ANSC-7030 code.

A report will be generated by AuxData showing who is eligible for the award. This report will be similar to the Performance and Sustained Service Awards.

The system will automatically calculate when a member has accumulated 120 points per year for two consecutive years (for a total of 240). The DIRAUX will be made aware of the member’s qualification to wear the device and will make such awards as per local district procedures.

Points are to be earned in the following mission areas:

Public Education: Any hours recorded using code 14 – 1 point per hour as lead instructor and .5 points per hour as an assistant/aide.

Public Affairs: Activities promoting RBS in the following areas:

- o Public lectures given, mission code 10B;
- o Participation in Radio/TV programs, mission code 10C;
- o Information/VSC booths, mission code 10F

These missions include public lectures, Radio/TV programs, information/VSC booths. These hours are limited to actual mission hours and do not include preparation or travel. 1 point per hour.

Vessel Safety Checks and Vessel Facility Inspections: 1 point per inspection.

RBS Program Visitation: Based upon the number of RBS Program Visits. 1 point per visit.

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Legislative Outreach: Any hours recorded as Federal or State Legislative Outreach (Codes 65A or 65B). Hours recorded are the face-to-face contact hours and do not include preparation or travel hours. 1 point per hour recorded for codes 65A or 65B.

State RBS Outreach: Any hours recorded as meetings with a state BLA or state BLA staff must be reported as mission 65C on ANSC Form 7030.

Questions on the criterion documentation are addressed through the chain of leadership and management. If a question reaches the ARCO level without resolution, the ARCO will refer the question to DC-B who will liaison with the appropriate national staff members and respond to the ARCO.

inconvenience *Soundings* or their subscription department.

The fine print:

Soundings will supply a free annual subscription of our magazine to all consenting flotilla commanders and all consenting public educational officers at the national, district and flotilla levels per their request. Authorized individuals may sign up to be placed on this program by contacting David Delich (Branch Chief, Boating Liaison, Publications), at southcross@bellsouth.net. This program will start in January of 2007 and will require a yearly sign up procedure in order to receive the publication for free.



Free **Soundings** Subscription
PUBLICATIONS, L.L.C. for 2007 Term FC's and PE Officers!

The partnership between The **United States Coast Guard Auxiliary** and **Soundings** magazine in the shared goal of safety on the water has resulted in a free subscription offer of *Soundings* magazine to all 2007 Flotilla Commanders and all levels of 2007 Public Education Officers. This offer of a premier boating publication to FC's and PE officers insures that flotilla members nationwide and thousands of USCG Auxiliary Public Education students can read up-to-date, informative articles regarding safety, boat maintenance, and seamanship.

The program commences in January 2007; subscriptions will start with the March 2007 issue for those who sign up. Registering is quick and easy, with a simple e-mail format.

On a single line in the signup e-mail provide the following information in the sequence shown below:

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip+4
Position	Flotilla	Division	District		

Please do not delay! We expect this program to be very popular, and we do not want to



Distribution: All FC's, DCO's, VCO's with email addresses in AUXDATA, plus NEXCOM, G-PCB-2, and G-PCX-1 via direct email from DC-B. Upon receipt, FC's are asked to copy and provide copies to Flotilla members.