

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

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

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FROM THE CHIEF

John Potts, DC-B

The last week in August was spent flying out to Portland, Oregon, and participating in our 2007 Auxiliary National Conference (NACON). This involved a whirlwind of fast-paced meetings, workshops, networking, and reports. After a flight home to Annapolis for three days to regroup, I was off again to a four-day conference with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in Burlington, VT.



The NASBLA website is full of information from the 2007 NASBLA Conference, including some great, educational presentations:

<http://www.nasbla.org/conference07post.php>

I wish that each Auxiliarist could attend such conferences at least once. Attendance would result in greater appreciation and understanding of the complex issues we investigate and work on daily, in order to ensure that the Auxiliary and Recreational Boating Safety are able to keep pace with this ever-evolving world and society in which we live.



The USCG and USCG Auxiliary must continuously shift gears at exponential rates to stay in sync with the times! We must take advantage of electronic tools to get our message out to the recreational boating public. We need to work together to do this. We need our present RBS partners, and we need to look continuously for new partners so we can join forces to increase our communications capabilities exponentially.

We are constantly updating our Auxiliary training and public education courses to be able to present concepts with the latest technology. By doing so, we aim to communicate effectively with a generation of boaters who were born during this remarkable age of information technology. For example, these days, most of our PE class students find out about our course offerings through listings on the internet.

Your Boating Department is in the trenches plugging the RBS message through and in association with our commercial and non-profit partners; and through our State Liaison Officers to the State Boating Law Administrators.

But we recognize that it is up to you, the "deckplate" Auxiliary members, to make it all come together at the local level to help create a safer marine environment. Thank you for all your hard work and many hours!

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USCG AUX BRINGS RBS MESSAGE TO SAFETY CITY

David Delich, DVC-BL

Each year in June, the Germantown, TN, Public Safety Commission hosts "Safety City" for 125 pre-kindergarten children. Safety City's objective is to teach young children about taking necessary precautions when encountering dangerous situations. Safety City includes five ½-hour sessions each day, with breaks for snacks and rest.



Young attendees at 2007's Safety City listen attentively to the USCG Auxiliary's Water Safety presentation. Photo by David Delich, DVC-BL

Local presenters include the Germantown, TN, Police Department (featuring McGruff the Crime Dog), the Germantown Fire Department, Germantown Animal Services, and the Germantown Health Department. These agencies teach the children how to respond when confronted by strangers, when facing a house fire, when encountering a stray animal; and how to stay healthy at school.

National and outside presenters include the YMCA, the US Weather Service, Burlington Northern Railroad, Germantown Educational Transportation, and the USCG and USCG Auxiliary.

The USCG and USCG Auxiliary have partnered for five years to teach these children about water and boating safety. They present displays of patrol boats and safety equipment; and give practical demonstrations focusing on life jacket wear.

Often, during a presentation, children will mention that their parents (who own boats) tell them that they don't have to wear life jackets. Auxiliarists then stage a "life jacket race" to demonstrate to the children the importance of wearing a life jacket at all times.

One child starts by already wearing a life jacket, while a second must remove the PFD from its packaging and then put it on during a simulated

emergency situation. Children quickly understand the criticality of wearing a life jacket at all times while underway.



David Delich directs two children as they participate in the "life jacket race" at Safety City 2007.

Some Safety City graduates have become so eager and adamant in practicing what they learned about life jacket wear that their parents call the Public Safety Education Commission frequently to report how their children warned them against engaging in potentially unsafe acts.

The USCG and USCG Auxiliary are proud to be founding presenters of Safety City and look forward to many more years of teaching principles of safe boating to these children.

GEORGIA AUXILIARISTS HONORED BY STATE SENATE

Ed McGill, SLO-GA

This April, the Georgia State Senate adopted Senate Resolution 596, which recognizes and commends the Georgia volunteer members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Georgia Senator Jack Murphy (R-27) addresses the State Senate while Bruce Lindsey, VCP-2-D7; Cecil Christopher, DCP-2-D7; Commodore Mary Larsen; and Georgia Lt. Governor Casey Cagle look on. Photo by Ed McGill, SLO-GA.

S.R. 596 was sponsored by six senators and passed the Senate unanimously.

During the final week of the 2007 Georgia legislative session, Commodore Mary Larsen (representing Seventh District Commodore Allen Brown) addressed the State Senate, expressing appreciation to the Senators on behalf of all Georgia USCGAUX members.

Special thanks are extended to Cecil Christopher, DCP-2-D7, and Bruce Lindsey, VCP-2-D7, who assisted in preparing the Resolution and who also proudly represented the Auxiliary before the Georgia State Senate.



From left to right: Georgia Lt. Governor Casey Cagle; Bruce Lindsey, VCP-2-D7; Senator John Douglas; Cecil Christopher, DCP-2-D7; Senator Jeff Mullis; Commodore Mary Larsen; Senator Jack Murphy. Photo by Ed McGill, SLO-GA.

distances to compete in regattas and tournaments, and want to bring their own PFDs with them when they fly. To ship lifejackets ahead of time or buy them at a destination can be expensive and inconvenient.

Ironically, inflatable marine PFDs are generally identical to the flotation devices the airlines stow under the seats for emergency use. You can view the chart showing the new policy on the TSA website:

www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtml#9

Scroll to the section labeled "Disabling Chemicals & Other Dangerous Items" and look for "small compressed gas cartridges".

Boating Safety Grants
NOW AVAILABLE
from **BOAT US FOUNDATION**
Capt. Bill Griswold, USCG (ret.), BC-BRG

Applications are now available for the BoatU.S. Foundation's Boating Safety Grant Program. A total of \$50,000 is available to small nonprofit organizations and groups around the country to fund projects that promote safe boating practices. The deadline to apply is November 1, 2007.

Since 1988, the Foundation has awarded over three quarters of a million dollars in boating safety grants to fund projects that promote safe boating on local waterways. Grantees can receive up to \$4000 each to fund innovative projects addressing boating safety issues specific to their local waterways.

Past projects have included traditional ideas such as boating safety literature and signage as well as more hands-on projects such as life jacket exchanges and educational demonstrations. This



Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla in Nevada handed out charts of Lake Tahoe with safety messages to trailer boaters. Grant guidelines, information, and applications are

available at <http://BoatUS.com/Foundation>. The grants will be awarded in late January 2008.

TSA NOW LETS INFLATABLE PFDs FLY

from BoatUS eLine News

Great news for boaters who wish to take their inflatable PFDs aboard when flying to their destination: After months of revising regulations for security and carry-on items for commercial airlines, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) decided, as of August 4th, 2007, to allow passengers to board planes with personal inflatable life jackets, plus two spare CO₂ cylinders.

After September 11, 2001, TSA originally allowed passengers to carry inflatable PFDs and cartridges aboard planes; but after a plot was uncovered in London in August 2006 to use gel explosives to blow up airplanes, TSA included inflatables and cartridges in their liquid/gel ban.

One caveat: although now permitted by TSA, individual airlines may still prohibit CO₂ cylinders for inflatable PFDs on board their flights. Check with your carrier to verify its policy.

Boating safety advocates have been promoting the wider use of light, comfortable inflatable devices for years. Many boat racers and anglers travel long

Boat Safe, Boat Smart!

D7's BAT-PAK Hits the Road



Capt. Bill Griswold, USCG(ret), DSO-SL, D7; with Mr. Bruce Wright, RBS Specialist, D7

Welcome to “safe boating on wheels”. This innovative and comprehensive truck/trailer was designed for the general public to encounter at boat shows, marinas, public safety events, marine supply stores, and more. The BAT-PAK boasts a wide range of features in its compact space, including displays of life jackets and a boat simulator to drive home the importance of PFD wear underway. Touching on every aspect of the Safe Boating Campaign message, this mobile display is an outstanding training aid.

The **BAT-PAK**, **B**oating **A**dvisory **T**railer - **P**ublic **A**wareness **K**it is the third in a series of PAK’s. The first was the **JAK-PAK** (**J**ackets for **A**dults and **K**ids), focusing on the latest in inflatable life jacket technology and samples of the best in children’s life jackets. The second in the series was the **FLEA-PAK** (**F**lares, **L**ights, **E**PIRB’s and **A**ccessories). The **BAT-PAK** builds on its predecessors, taking the **PAK** idea to the next level.

The BAT-PAK is a true “Team Coast Guard” effort. Recreational Boating Safety Specialist Bruce R. Wright, a civilian assigned to District Seven’s Prevention Department, was the brains behind the project. (Mr. Wright is also a Chief in the US Coast Guard Reserves.) After 30 years with the Marine Patrol in NY State, and five years collaborating with Auxiliary flotillas and US Power Squadrons at boating safety venues in the Seventh District, Mr. Wright discovered that both boaters and boating safety instructors needed better education. In response, Mr. Wright developed the completely mobile BAT-PAK to teach boating safety personnel to be better instructors and the public to be safer boaters. He then collaborated with John Malatak of the US Coast Guard’s Office of Boating Safety at Headquarters for \$82,500 to fund this prototype. When money ran short, numerous people volunteered dozens of hours to build and complete the BAT-PAK’s displays.



First showcased at District Seven’s Auxiliary Conference, the BAT-PAK can be scheduled for any public safety event through the District’s Recreational Boating Safety Specialist Bruce R. Wright at 305-415-7057. The BAT-PAK may be used by all public safety agencies by completing the application. Expect to see this truck & trailer at a wide variety of boating events in District 7, from the Summit and other major conferences to boat shows and marine events.

This is the BAT-PAK’s script:

Hello! Welcome Aboard the Boating Advisory Trailer – A Public Awareness Kit to teach everyone that Boating Responsibly is easy and fun with the latest in technology. The theme is simple... Boat Safe, Boat Smart... Wear it!!

Let’s take a tour: Put on your PFD, and snap that kill switch in place, because you have to WEAR IT to take the helm on the “You’re in Command” Boating Simulator. Throttle up, as the simulator built on a hydraulic platform pitches and rolls along with the wave action on the video monitor. The weather can be controlled to provide a sunny day on a calm lake or even a blustery



storm on 10 foot swells. There are buoys to navigate and even other boats at sea. Whether you want to board a bass boat or a cabin cruiser, there is a boat for you!

Life Jackets, Life Vest, or PFDs; no matter what you call them, they only work if you wear them. And with today's technology there is no good reason not to. Here the focus is on inflatables, but there is a life jacket for whatever your boating activity may be, and there are plenty of examples throughout the display.

Remember that a life jacket should be readily accessible for the intended wearer and everyone on the boat should wear one. EPIRBs, when activated, send a signal to a satellite. The signal is processed and sent to a dispatch center that sends out a rescue unit. View the process on an interactive LED display. View hands-on exhibits of various 406 MHZ EPIRBs and learn how to register them. You can even register yours on site!

Flares are one legal option to be carried on your boat if you are boating offshore. But have you ever wondered what your flares would look like if they were deployed? With the interactive display board, you can view the various burn times and the height off the horizon that each type of flare can be seen.

View a variety of other recommended accessories to carry on your boat. From signal lights to first aid kits, there are many items to see first-hand.

The "You're in Command II", a mock transom, allows the attendee to see the proper basic navigation light configuration. In addition, this area of the display focuses on Prop Strike Avoidance and how to avoid CO Poisoning.

As you prepare to exit our exhibit, you can take a break and view the videos on the 42" Monitor. Currently the special feature is the Dive Alive Initiative. Or maybe you might even pause to catch a fish on the Wii Rappala adventure.

See you next time.... Remember... You're in Command... Boat Responsibly!

**ARMY CORPS "RANGERS" NOW
CGAUX VESSEL EXAMINERS**
Dr. Atul Uchil, DC-Bd

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is made up of approximately 35,000 civilian and military personnel. USACE's talented workforce includes professionals such as biologists,

engineers, geologists, hydrologists, and natural resource managers.

USACE supports or manages numerous environmental programs; everything from cleaning up contaminated areas on decommissioned military installations, to building wetlands to help endangered species survive.

What most people are unaware of is that, as the USACE controls two percent of all US public lands – including almost all navigable inland rivers and lakes – the USACE is the largest provider of outdoor recreation in the country.

At NACON 2005, the USACE, the USCG, and the USCG Auxiliary executed a formal trilateral MOU, focusing on the following areas:

- ◆ Vessel Safety
- ◆ Public Education
- ◆ Charting and Mapping
- ◆ Homeland Security
- ◆ Search and Rescue (SAR)

In an effort to promote the MOU, the Department of Boating has actively sought opportunities to engage with the USACE in areas of mutual interest, resulting in the following achievements, among others:

- ◆ In 2007, fourteen USACE Rangers passed the written portion of the Vessel Safety Check exam as part of a pilot program to qualify USACE Rangers as Vessel Examiners (VEs) on lakes where there is minimal or no USCG Auxiliary presence.



USACE Rangers show off the VE stickers they're now qualified to award. From left to right: Mr. Kelly Thomas, USACE Ranger; Mr. John Potts, DC-B; Ms. Lynda Nutt, Manager of USACE National Operations Center; Ms. Deb Norton, USACE Ranger; Mr. Peter Urgola, DC-V.

- ◆ On April 24, 2007, the USACE participated for the first time in the VSC program in the New England area.
- ◆ Additional USACE personnel will be trained as Vessel Examiners (VEs) in 2008.

We are tremendously excited about the possibilities that this MOU has opened by engaging the USACE as a "force multiplier" to reach more

recreational boaters with the safe boating message of Vessel Safety Checks.

For more information on the Department of Boating and our partners, please contact Dr. Atul Uchil (DC-Bd) at auchil@uchil-llc.com. We also encourage you to visit our website at <http://auxbdept.org>.



Have recreational boaters ever asked you what the red-covered button is for on their marine radio? Have you, yourself, wondered how to deal with that red button? Now, all you ever wanted to know (but were afraid to ask) about VHF/DSC radios is available in a user-friendly tutorial on the website of our valued partner, BoatU.S. Foundation:

<http://www.boatus.com/foundation/dsc/player.html>

As the tutorial mentions, Digital Selective Calling (DSC) transmissions, combined with the Coast Guard Rescue 21 system is helping to literally, Take the Search out of Search and Rescue. Check the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 website (<http://www.uscg.mil/rescue21/overview/index.htm>) to find out the latest status on Rescue 21 operational areas. Currently, fully operational areas include: Atlantic City, NJ; Eastern Shore, VA; St. Petersburg, FL; Seattle, WA; and Port Angeles, WA. Progress is being made to bring Rescue 21 on line around the entire U.S. coast



Soundings Magazine continues to improve its offerings for Auxiliary members...recently lowering its annual subscription rate for Auxiliarists to a rock bottom price of just **\$13.97!**

Soundings Magazine, featuring both sail and power boats, contains interesting articles on subjects that are typically not covered by other popular, mass-market boating magazines. Many *Soundings* articles incorporate topics related to boating safety and seamanship. Regular magazine features include *Know How*, the *Seamanship Quiz*, the *Coast Guard Response Report*, a *Regional*

Calendar (containing boat shows, dealer events, tournaments, instructional classes including PE classes) and much, much more!

The *Trade Only* journal, also published by *Soundings*, features timely articles that highlight developments in the recreational boating trade. Auxiliarists qualify to receive this magazine as well, by virtue of our involvement in the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety mission.

The agreement signed between the USCG Auxiliary and *Soundings* Magazine includes the following key benefits for Auxiliarists:

- Discounted annual subscription to *Soundings*, NOW just \$13.97!
- Free copies of *Soundings* for PE class students when requested by FSO-PEs.
- Discounted price for the booklet, "101 Answers To Your Toughest Boating Questions".
- Free publishing of PE class schedules in regional editions of *Soundings*.
- Free subscription to *Trade Only* journal to FCs & PE officers who request it; at flotilla, district, division, and national levels.

The tremendous benefits being provided by *Soundings* Magazine can be accessed on the internet by going to <http://shopauxiliary.com/> and clicking on the "Members Only" link...in fact, check it out right now while you are already online!



And remember, FCs, we are depending on you to distribute this issue of **WAVES** to your flotilla members...if you don't, they won't find out about these great benefits available to them.

For questions regarding the *Soundings* MOA, contact David Delich: southcross@bellsouth.net.



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.