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# WAVES

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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

John Potts, DC-B

Welcome to the summer issue of WAVES! I am always amazed to find that many Auxiliarists do not know, or perhaps, have forgotten about the amazing benefits contained in the agreements we have negotiated with outside partners. This edition of WAVES is mostly devoted to a review of the offerings available to the membership & recreational boating safety in general, by exploring our partners' web sites created especially for our members. These offerings include not only some deep discounts to services and products, but free copies of boating safety oriented magazines for your public education classes, such as Soundings & Heartland. And how many Vessel Examiners have forgotten about ORION's pyrotechnics video demo educational and rewards program based on the number of VEs performed? All of these Auxiliary dedicated web sites are accessible through <http://shopauxiliary.com/> site by clicking on



the Members Only link & logging in. Please make a serious review of these promotional articles below.

Also, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Bruce Johnson as the Boating Department's new Deputy Department Chief. Bruce has been serving in the Liaison Division doing a lot of valuable work for the Auxiliary membership since last year. Be sure to read his article below about the new Sea Scout/Boy Scout agreement & consider how your flotilla might participate. Enjoy your summer!



## VIDEO WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL FEEDING OF DOLPHINS

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (May 11, 2009) - An animated dolphin is the new face for a campaign to end the illegal feeding of wild dolphins. The video public service announcement, produced by a coalition of government agencies and private organizations, highlights the dangers of animals becoming hooked on human handouts. The health and welfare of wild dolphins is severely compromised when humans feed them, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In some cases, people are buying previously frozen bait from bait stores along the coast. This bait is not intended for dolphins and can lead to diseases ranging from mild periodontal to possibly deadly gastrointestinal, or GI, tract infections. Those who

feed dolphins are also taking chances.

According to NOAA's Web site, cases of wild dolphins biting humans have been documented. Clay George, a wildlife biologist with



the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, said dolphins have been seen approaching boats to beg for food off Tybee Island. "This lack of fear indicates an emerging trend - that they are being fed with some frequency," George said. In areas including the Gulf of Mexico, human-fed dolphins have caused problems for commercial fishermen when, after following the boats, the dolphins try to attack the fishermen's catch. Feeding wild dolphins is illegal under the Marine

Mammal Protection Act. Penalties can include fines up to \$20,000 and one year in jail. Feeding any wild animal can cause it to become dependent on human food, changing natural behaviors and possibly leading to starvation if the animal becomes unable to feed and hunt successfully. The Georgia DNR encourages people to consider the consequences before feeding any animal, be it a dolphin, manatee, raccoon or other wildlife.

The dolphin public service announcement can be seen at [www.youtube.com/user/GeorgiaWildlife](http://www.youtube.com/user/GeorgiaWildlife).

## HEARTLAND Boating Magazine

The safety-oriented *Heartland Boating Magazine* partnership specifically benefits Auxiliary members in all three regions of District Eight. District Eight member benefits include the following:

- Discounted annual subscription (now just \$13!)
- Free 3-month subscription for current Flotilla Commanders & PE officers at the National, District, Division and Flotilla levels.
- Free magazine copies for each family anticipated to attend PE classes, upon request by FSO-PEs (subject to availability).
- Complimentary PE course listings in *Heartland Boating*...to list your courses, click on the "Contact Us" tab and then the "Submit Course Listings" option at the bottom.
- Publication of RBS-related articles...*Heartland*

## \$1,000 Shopping Spree Contest

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

Enter the "Be a Survivor: Wear It!" Contest sponsored by the National Safe Boating Campaign for chance to win a \$1,000 shopping spree at West Marine. This contest seeks stories about boaters whose lives were saved by wearing a life jacket. To enter, submit an essay or video with a story in which you or someone you knew survived because you or they had a life jacket on. The contest runs through September 2. Winners will be announced on October 31, 2009. Entry submissions and contest details may be found [here](#). Or, an application can be found at any West Marine store. Also, check out the Float Yourself Photo Contest [here](#).



*Heartland Boating Magazine* has agreed to review submissions for publication promoting America's Waterway Watch, Vessel Safety Check, and other Auxiliary membership and opportunities to promote boating safety.

To access the Auxiliary *Heartland Boating* "Members Only" website: go to <http://shopauxiliary.com/> and click on "Members Only"...Log in...then just click on the *Heartland* logo.



## Mad Mariner Free Online Publication

The online daily boating magazine and web-based resource for boaters, is offering free one-year subscriptions to Auxiliarists. You get a new feature story every single day, marine news, blogs, forums, boat reviews, video podcasts and more. Go to <http://shopauxiliary.com/> then click on Members Only; log in and click on Mad Mariner.



## Rocna Anchor Discount

Rocna anchors tout an exciting new-generation design, greatly improving holding and setting performance over the traditional styles of anchors. "The Rocna sets very quickly, typically within 3 feet, and provides massive holding power across a range of bottoms, including sand, mud, and weeds." For a 15% discount and free shipping for Auxiliarists, go to <http://shopauxiliary.com/> then click on Members Only; log in and click on ROCNA.



## National Marina Day Set

Marinas across the country are gearing up for the seventh annual National Marina Day, to be held August 8, 2009. The Association of Marina Industries <https://www.marinaassociation.org/nmd/> organizes this public affairs event to spotlight the important role that marinas play in the recreational boating community.

National Marina Day is a great opportunity for Auxiliary flotillas to engage in outreach of their own. RBS Program Visitors are encouraged to contact their local marinas in advance of National Marina Day to organize Auxiliary participation. Giving free Vessel Safety Checks, advertising upcoming Public Education programs, reminding boaters about America's Waterway Watch, recruiting new members, or setting up displays featuring PFD wear and other elements of safe recreational boating are all ways that local flotillas can capitalize on the opportunities presented by National Marina Day.



Many marinas nationwide have already received "resource kits" including suggestions for partnering with the Coast Guard and Auxiliary during this annual event. Contact your local marina today to find out how you can help make National Marina Day 2008 a success!

## Attention Vessel Examiners!

Have you heard about ORION's Safety Awareness Program for Auxiliary Vessel Examiners? Earn points & incentives for viewing an educational video demonstrating pyrotechnics. Additional points for reporting VSCs redeemable for free pyros. Plus, top 3 point earners each year receive a quarterly Omaha Steaks Gift, a \$280 value! Check out the details by going to [PDF version of the brochure](#) or just go to <http://www.shopauxiliary.com/> click on Members Only, log in & click on the ORION logo!



## Get Your Coast Guard Captain's License

In the last issue we reported that we were nearly ready to announce discounts for online training leading to a Coast Guard Captain's License. We are pleased to report that we now have an agreement with the Mariners School. The Mariners School offers training leading to the Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels certification, 100 ton Master's license, Sail Endorsement, and Towing Endorsement. Mariners Learning System T is an exclusive suite of online courses that offers a solution for students that want to earn their Captain's License, however, due to personal time constraints need the additional flexibility online learning offers. Thanks to the agreement we have developed, Auxiliarists can take this training at a 25 percent discounted price.

Boating Liaison Division Chief Bruce Johnson reports that the online training fit well into his busy Auxiliary schedule. In fact, as this issue of WAVES was going to press, he received his Master of steam, motor or auxiliary sail vessels of not more than 50 gross registered tons license. Even if you have no plans to become a commercial merchant mariner, the training is great for brushing up on your skills for your recreational and auxiliary boating.

For the 25% discount being offered to Auxiliary members, go to: <http://www.shopauxiliary.com/>. Click on MembersOnly and log in; then click on the Mariners Learning System logo.



## FY 2008 RBS Performance Results

The FY 2008 USCG Performance Report has the following statistics:

"The 5-year average number of recreational boating deaths and injuries continued a steady decline, dropping from 4,253 in 2007 to 4,070 in 2008. Eighty-six percent of reported fatalities occur on boats where the operator was not reported to have received boating safety education. Issues which safety education seeks to address – operator inattention, not maintaining a proper lookout, carelessness, reckless operation, and excessive speed – are all primary contributing factors in all reported accidents. Overall, two-thirds of all fatal

boating accidents, the victims drowned. Of those who drowned, 90% of the victims were not wearing a life jacket. Alcohol use is a significant contributor in over 20% of boating fatalities.

“There were 761 fatalities and 2,897 injuries reported at the end of FY 2008 for a total of 3,658 casualties. Fatalities over the past few years varied slightly around an average of 690 and the improving trend in combined boating casualties is due to the modest year-to-year decline in reported injuries.

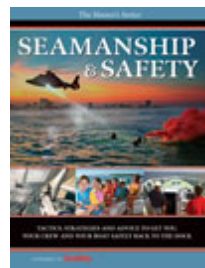


“Note: 2008 actual results are based on reports submitted by State authorities that require validation. The Coast Guard expects further review of these 2008 reports will reveal a decrease in deaths and an increase in injuries, resulting in a probable net increase in the 2008 Actual Number.”

## Soundings Magazine Benefits Auxiliary PE

Partner Soundings Magazine issues are packed full of articles on boating safety and seamanship. Benefits include the following:

- Deeply discounted new and renewal annual Soundings subscriptions – regularly \$24.97, available to Auxiliarists at only \$13.97/year.
- Free annual Soundings and Trade Only subscriptions for current Flotilla Commanders and Public Education Officers at flotilla, division, district and national levels.
- Free Soundings copies for each family in your PE classes, with a PE graduate subscription discount coupon inside each magazine.
- Free online and print listings for your PE classes.
- Last but not least, access to your own digital special Auxiliary Seamanship & Safety edition. This 80-page digital digest outlines tactics, strategies, and advice to get you, your crew, and your boat safely back to the dock after every marine outing.



To learn more about the Soundings benefits, go to <http://shopauxiliary.com/> and click on Members Only. Then log in. Click on the Soundings logo.



## Boy Scout Agreement Signed Input Requested

*Bruce Johnson, DVC-BL*

National Commodore Nicholas Kerigan signed an agreement on behalf of the Coast Guard Auxiliary with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in February. The agreement is available on the Boating Department website at [www.auxbdept.org/pdf/BSAUSCGAuxMOA23Feb09.pdf](http://www.auxbdept.org/pdf/BSAUSCGAuxMOA23Feb09.pdf)

The agreement calls on the Auxiliary and BSA to work together to promote boating and vessel safety efforts, as well as making membership aware of the opportunities the other organization offers. Boating Liaison Division Chief Bruce Johnson is working with our BSA counterparts toward specific implementation strategies to put the agreement into operation. A major piece of this effort will be building a number of 'best practice' web pages to show how the Auxiliary can work with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, and local Scout councils. Specific areas will include public education, vessel examination, and public affairs efforts.



If you have experience working with Scouts, whether in your role as an Auxiliarist, or simply as a Scouting volunteer, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Bruce Johnson at [bjoh@seascout.org](mailto:bjoh@seascout.org), or mail him at 6148 Llanfair Drive, Columbia, MD 21044. We would like to learn from your experience so that other Auxiliarists can work well with our new BSA partners.



For information about this terrific display, contact Stu Soffer, Special Events Manager USCG Auxiliary National Marketing Group at [soffers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:soffers@sbcglobal.net)

**Distribution: All FC's, DCO's, with email addresses in AUXDATA, plus NEXCOM, CG-542, CG-5422, and CG-54222 via direct email from DC-B. Upon receipt, FC's are asked to copy and provide copies to Flotilla members.**