

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY RBS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

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From the Director

As I look out the window of my office, there are about three inches of snow on the ground. Conventional wisdom says this is the slow part of the year, because most of our fellow boaters (and their boats) are dry-docked until spring, right? Wrong.

I'm sure if you think back to last summer, you remember the guy trailing a couple of fishing lines who cut you off in the mistaken belief that he had the "right of way". Or, how about the boat you nearly hit one evening, because the starboard sidelight was extinguished? Oh, if only we could do something about that...

Funny you should say that. NOW is the time our flotillas should be very busy running public education courses. We should be visiting our local marine supply stores to build a good working relationship with the managers so that boating safety literature is not just available, but placed right into their customers' hands. And, it's not too early to be doing vessel safety checks. I've already been to my local Boy Scout camp and performed vessel safety checks on scores of kayaks, rowboats, canoes, and sailboats, using the new ANSC 7012A form.

The opportunities are out there, and you are the expert who can make them happen. If we're going to make a difference out on the water, the time to do it is BEFORE the trouble starts. Reach out to the local paddling club and get to know your customers. There are a heck of a lot of kayaks out on the water! I hope you are providing services to their operators.

How about your local Sea Cadet or Sea Scout group? They're very interested in learning to be safe boaters, but could use some extra help from the Auxiliary.

And, why not make plans now to visit a local school and teach the students about wearing life jackets? I'm sure that Coastie would be happy to help out.

Where can you get more information on reaching out to your local boating community? Try these websites:

- The Coast Guard's Boating Safety Resource Center, www.uscgboating.org
- AuxBWiki, the Auxiliary's Boating Safety Partnership Center, auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org
- The Auxiliary's Education Department, cgauxed.org
- The Auxiliary's Vessel Examinations Department, www.safetyseal.net/index3.asp
- North American Safe Boating Campaign, www.safeboatingcampaign.com
- Resources for Instructors and Vessel Examiners, bdept.cgaux.org/pevereresources.php

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Let us hear from you about your success stories and any problems you may have with promoting boating safety. The RBS Affairs Department is here to help. Write me at dir-b@bdept.cgaux.org.

So, what are you waiting for? The time is NOW. If not you, WHO?

TICKET A KID!



- by Kelly Townsend, DVC-BL


Have any of you Auxiliarists ever wished you *really* had the power to give children who are not following boating safety rules a ticket on the water? Of course, all of us have. Especially when we see kids on the water without life jackets; or bow-riding out front of a cuddy cabin, holding onto the bow rails while their small feet dangle precariously over the gunwales; or overloading a PWC. But 5SR-26-05 FC John Gray decided to take a different approach. He decided to give kids a ticket for doing the right thing...for wearing their life jackets.

FC Gray approached the owner of his local Dairy Queen (a nationally franchised ice cream restaurant chain) to see if the restaurant would be interested in partnering with Flotilla 26-05 to provide ice cream treats to kids "caught & ticketed" wearing their life jackets.


The local Dairy Queen gladly agreed to participate, and 5SR-26-05 printed up these "tickets". All VEs and OPs carry the tickets with them as they participate in Auxiliary missions. If they "catch" a child wearing his or her life jacket during a Vessel Exam or during an OP's patrol, the child is rewarded with this ticket.

You Got a Ticket

Because you were found wearing your life jacket.



USCG Auxiliary
NC Western Foothills
Flotilla 26-05 5th Southern District
USCG Sector NC



For more information about Boating Safety go to
www.cgaux.org

Since he started the "Ticket A Kid" program, FC Gray has found it encourages awareness of RBS safety with parents; it gives the kids a treat, and it gets the whole family in the Dairy Queen restaurant to redeem their ticket. It is a win-win for all involved.

Below left: Phil Bowman, VCDR 5SR-Div 26, presents a ticket to a young kayaker caught wearing her life jacket.

Below right: John Gray, FC 5SR-26-05, "tickets" Alex Maines while her mother, Kisha Maines, looks on.

"Ticket a Kid" Boating Safety Promotion

Dairy Queen would like to say thanks for being safe on the water! This ticket entitles the bearer to a FREE small vanilla cone with any purchase of equal or greater value or \$1 dollar off of any Blizzard treat. This offer is valid only at the [redacted] and can not be combined with any other offer. Coupon expires Sept 30th, 2010.



CG Auxiliary Trains Sea Cadets & Sea Scouts Shoreside & Underway

by COMO Nick G. Tarlson, BC-BLY

Due to a recently approved initiative long in the making, Coast Guard Auxiliary members are now authorized to provide both shoreside and underway training to Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts. This program is an outgrowth of two key partnerships finalized in 2009: the Auxiliary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), and the Auxiliary Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). [See bdept.cgaux.org/pdf/NavalSeaCadetCorps-CGAuxMOU-Nov2009.pdf and bdept.cgaux.org/pdf/BSAUSCGAuxMOA23Feb09.pdf.]

Part of the groundwork for this program involved mapping Sea Cadet and Sea Scout tasks to standard Auxiliary boat crew and coxswain qualification tasks. Such tasks are already a part of Sea Cadet and Sea Scout training. Enabling Auxiliarists to provide this training is a natural outgrowth of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's youth outreach through its Public Education mission; but because this training involves Auxiliary operational facilities (OPFACs), it will be administered under the umbrella of the Auxiliary Boat Crew Operations program.



Learning to wear Mustang suits!

Auxiliary facilities selected for Sea Scout or Sea Cadet training must be operated under orders with at least the minimum number of qualified crew on board. To provide the best instruction to these young trainees, it is recommended that Auxiliary boat crews participating in this program be selected for their ability to mentor others, as well as their prior experience working with young people, whether through the Auxiliary or some other organization.

Working with and training young people requires an intensity of focus and may present unique challenges to some of our members, who are accustomed to working only with other adults on their facilities. To ensure Auxiliarists can devote adequate attention to the youth training, the number of Sea Cadets or Sea Scouts must not exceed the number of qualified crewmembers. For example, if there are two Auxiliarist crew aboard, including the coxswain, there should be no more than two Sea Cadets or Sea Scouts accompanying them. At all times, the Coxswain has complete discretion to determine if the Sea Cadets or Sea Scouts are participating appropriately in a training evolution, as part of the Coxswain's overall primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of crew and guests. Should the Coxswain determine that any young trainee's behavior is inconsistent with the training mission, the Coxswain is encouraged to abort the mission or return that person to the dock.


Before embarking on missions to train Sea Cadets or Sea Scouts aboard Auxiliary facilities under orders, participating crew members and coxswains should complete a one-time brief orientation. This includes reviewing the NSCC MOU (if working with Sea Cadets) and/or the BSA MOA (if working with Sea Scouts). Before working with Sea Scouts, Auxiliary members must complete the "Venturing Leader Youth Protection Training" available online from the Boy Scouts of America at myscouting.scouting.org. This training course reviews BSA Youth Protection policies, which include, among other things, prohibition against an adult being alone with a young person.


The process for bringing Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets on board Auxiliary OPFACs under orders is the same as bringing any guest on board, as covered in the *Operational Policy Manual*, COMDTINST M16798.3E, Chapter 4, paragraph E.18. Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets should be provided with life jackets with appropriate impact ratings, and equipped with the same personal protective equipment (PPE) as Auxiliarists.


OPFACs with Sea Cadets or Sea Scouts on board should not be tasked with SAR duties. If an OPFAC with Sea Scouts or Sea Cadets aboard needs to respond to an incident, the young trainees may remain onboard, but must not be involved in the operation. (con't on p. 5)


Recreational Boating Safety News Feed


from <http://bdept.cgaux.org>


 **New Boating Safety Alert Service.** The Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Affairs Department's homepage boasts a news feed featuring all the latest in the RBS world. RBS-News provides information about boating safety tips, best practice ideas, and important announcements about boating safety. You can subscribe to the RBS-News alert service to be notified every time something new is posted to the page. Simply go to bdept.cgaux.org/mailman/listinfo/rbs-news_bdept.cgaux.org and fill in the section labeled "Subscribing to RBS-News". Posted by Bruce Johnson, DIR-B.


 **Online Tax Guide for Boat Buyers.** Suppose you're thinking about buying a new boat at an out-of-state boat show or marine dealership. Do you know what the tax rate will be on your dream boat; whether or not you will need to pay additional tax in your home state; or how many days there are in the registration grace period? BoatU.S. has compiled an online State Boating Tax and Registration Guide at www.BoatUS.com/gov/StatetaxRegistration.asp. Clicking on any state will bring up details about sales and "use" taxes, credits that might be given for a boat purchased in a different state, registration grace periods, state decal requirements, and title information. Online links and phone numbers for state boating registration and tax departments are also provided. Auxiliarists who have the option of shopping for a boat in several states might be able to cut their costs significantly by referring to this Guide before getting into boating or trading up. Posted by Bruce White, BC-BLB.

 **2010 Grants Handbook Now Available.** This is a terrific source of information about potential grants and awards in the field of recreational boating safety. All flotillas and divisions should plan on downloading a copy and reviewing it for potential opportunities. The Grants Handbook can be downloaded at bdept.cgaux.org/pdf/GrantsHandbook26August2010.pdf; information about 2011 Boating Safety grants is available online at www.uscgboating.org/grants. Posted by William Griswold, BC-BRG.

 **Recreational Boating Safety featured in Fall 2010 Coast Guard *Proceedings*.** The fall 2010 issue of the Coast Guard *Proceedings* is focused on Recreational Boating Safety and Boating Responsibility. The issue includes terrific articles on boating safety initiatives, organizations, and resources. If you are not subscribed to the *Proceedings*, you can download it by going to the Coast Guard *Proceedings* website at www.uscg.mil/proceedings. Posted by Bruce Johnson, DIR-B.

 **Sea Scouts distribute recycle buckets to boaters.** Read about a couple of Florida Sea Scouts who are distributing recycle buckets to boaters as part of a school and Scout service project. Is this something that your Flotilla could be doing with local Sea Scouts? Read more about it at www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/nov/24/pine-jog-fellows-to-distribute-recycle-buckets-to/, pawaterways.org, and auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php/Sea_Scouts. Posted by COMO Nick Tarlson, BC-BLY.

 **Eagle Scouts help USCG Auxiliary and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) improve boating safety.** As part of an Eagle Scout project, the USCG Auxiliary and the TWRA cooperated to present a 9-hour, youth-oriented boating safety class this past spring in East Tennessee. Young people completing the course obtained their Tennessee Boating Safety Education Certificates, similar to drivers' licenses and required for anyone under 22 to operate a power boat in Tennessee. The class focused on regional boating safety concerns. Another great idea you could try in your community. Submitted by Bruce Johnson, DIR-B.

 **January *Boating World* features Coast Guard article on safe boat handling.** The January 2011 issue of *Boating World* includes an article by Wayne Stacey, of the Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division, found online at www.boatingworld.com/coastguard/pages/SafeBoatHandlinginBadWeather5e666997.aspx. "Safe Boat Handling in Bad Weather" is a brief but detailed and highly useful summary of steps to take if you find yourself trying to operate your boat in bad weather. A callout box includes tips for operating in fog. The *Boating World* website at www.boatingworld.com includes a link for a free digital subscription. Submitted by Bruce Johnson, DIR-B.



Recently, the Coast Guard Auxiliary's online magazine, eSITREP, featured a profile of our very own "Griz". CAPT William S. Griswold, USCG (Ret.), is the Flotilla Commander for Flotilla 43, District 7, Lake County, Florida. He is also the RBS Affairs Department's Branch Chief-Grants. The profile can be found on the eSITREP website (click below or go to teamcoastguard.org/2010/Nov/A101121/index.htm):



Sea Cadet & Sea Scout Training (con't from page 3)

As with any Auxiliary mission, the local district leadership, Director of Auxiliary, and order issuing authority have the authority to determine how this program is implemented. If you would like to participate in this exciting new training opportunity, ask through your chain of leadership and management. More information is available on the AuxBWiki webpage as well, at [auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php/Providing Shoreside and Underway Training Opportunities to Sea Cadets %26 Sea Scouts](http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php/Providing_Shoreside_and_Underway_Training_Opportunities_to_Sea_Cadets_%26_Sea_Scouts).

Delaware Safety & Homeland Security speaks to Auxiliarists

by Bruce White, BC-BLB

This past November, Auxiliarists at the Fifth District Northern Region (D5NR) Division 12 Change of Watch luncheon in Dover, DE, enjoyed an informative presentation by Kurt Reuther, Advisor to the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security. Mr. Reuther, the statewide Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator since



2007, has nearly 25 years of experience in law enforcement. He began his career with the Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) in

1983. In his current position, Mr. Reuther serves as the State Liaison to Federal Homeland Security agencies and works with Delaware state and local agencies to set policy and strategy and to implement programs.

Through his duties with DNREC, Mr. Reuther has met several Auxiliarists, but he only recently learned that there are more than 3,000 Coast Guard Auxiliary members in D5NR (a region covering all of Delaware and parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.) He noted that because of these Members' connections with the maritime community and the recreational boating safety activities they perform on the water and at the boat ramps, they are part of the first line of defense when it comes to maritime security, which he argues is in need of increased focus.

Mr. Reuther recounted how terrorist incidents have shifted from large-scale events to smaller, combat style attacks using small arms and homemade bombs. Much progress has been made in enhancing the security of land-based targets, but now improvements need to be made in the maritime domain. Maritime security capability will need to include multi-agency and discipline task forces, additional maritime equipment and resources, and better sharing of information. Given the special contributions that Auxiliarists can make, Mr. Reuther assured his audience that the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security is committed to insuring that the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is recognized as a full partner in Delaware's maritime security efforts.

South Carolina Reaches Out Through Partnerships

by Barbara Burchfield, BC-BSS

Getting the attention of the youngest of boaters takes a little imagination sometimes. Some bright colors can help, too!

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR) partnered with the USCG Auxiliary in 2010 to increase the amount of boater education in the state. SC DNR certified two Auxiliary courses in 2010: "About Boating Safely" and "Boating Skills & Seamanship". State certification means that students passing the Auxiliary tests will receive a DNR Boater Education Card. Additionally, Auxiliary-certified courses are posted online at the SC DNR Boater Education website, increasing the number of students registering for Auxiliary courses.

In addition to adult outreach, the SC DNR and USCG Auxiliary have been working together to reach young boaters with a safe boating message as well.



Here, SC DNR head of Boater Education and Barbara Burchfield, USCG Auxiliary RBS Affairs, show off two clever DNR displays that help encourage life jacket awareness and use among young boaters.



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