

SLO NEWSGRAM

April 2012

Greetings, State Liaison Officer!

The first quarter of 2012 is now behind us and we are rapidly approaching the busy boating season. Some areas of the country are fortunate to boat year around. However many parts are just now dipping their boats in water. As your State's Liaison Officer, you have been working with the Boating Law Administrator or their staff and the District Public Education staff officer and the Public Affairs staff officer to prepare for the many spring activities like boat shows and public education classes. Remember to partner with other agencies in your area. Partner contacts vary from state to state, so consult with your district's recreational boating safety (RBS) DSOs and RBS Outreach Branch Chiefs to get help. As SLO, your responsibility is to develop and expand the Auxiliary's partnership with your state, as well as partnering with other groups in your state. This is a very important part of the Auxiliary's RBS efforts and is a special emphasis of the Auxiliary's Strategic Plan (www.cgaux.org/leadership/documents/Strategic_Plan.pdf).

The U.S. Power Squadrons is a close RBS partner for the Auxiliary. They are located in most states and may already be working with the Boating Law Administrator. The Auxiliary has a signed MOU with the USPS. Make contact with them and see how we can work together.

NEW DIVISION CHIEF APPOINTED

Bruce White has just been appointed the Division Chief of the RBS Outreach Department's Liaison Division. He replaces Kelly Townsend, who has been appointed Director for Vessel Examinations (V Department). Dr. White was previously the Branch Chief for BoatUS Liaison. The Liaison Division develops and supports the Auxiliary's RBS partnerships with groups like the American Canoe Association, Boat US, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, West Marine, and the Boy Scouts just to name a few. An entire list can be found on the RBS website under *Partners* (bdept.cgaux.org/wp/?page_id=82#partners). Whether you are a returning SLO or the new kid on the block you should be familiar with the RBS Outreach website (bdept.cgaux.org) and what it provides for you. Check the RBS Outreach Department website regularly. Congratulations Bruce!

DSO-SL TRAINING

District State Liaison Staff Officer (DSO-SL) training was held at N-Train in January. Your DSO-SL and Branch Chief should be providing you with information from that training. The training included information from representatives of the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), as well as instructions for submitting your mission hours. This information will be on the RBS Outreach States webpage (bdept.cgaux.org/wp/?page_id=82#stateliasion) in the near future. This material clarifies your job while working with the BLA, other partners/agencies, and District Staff. There was also a focus on reporting. As SLO you are responsible for reporting your Districts State's activities to your DSO-SL and DCO(s) in monthly or quarterly reports. Remember- *communicate, communicate, communicate*. Your quarterly status reports assist your District(s) with state and local assets as real force multipliers.

READY – SET – WEAR IT!

➤ National Safe Boating Week EVENT

May 19, the annual READY – SET – WEAR IT event kicks off National Safe Boating Week. What in the world is this? The idea is to get a group of people together to wear life jackets or inflatable life jackets and pull the rip cord on the inflatables. *POP*, they inflate and a photographer snaps a picture. The more people involved, the more fun the event is. It's as simple as that, but wait, there's more!! Go to the National Safe Boating Council's website, www.readysetwearit.com, to learn about the event. This will give you the background on how it started and what it's all about. Click on "resources" and you'll get checklists and tips on how to organize an event.

- As SLO now is time when you need to get a NSBW Proclamation sent to your Boating Law Administrator for your Governor's Signature. And why not a City Proclamation from the Mayor? There are a couple of websites with sample proclamations- <http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/iproclamation.htm> and bdept.cgaux.org

OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES SETTING THE COURSE

- New York SLO reports that they are establishing new relationships with boating magazines, newspapers and other media sources. A District master media contact list has been created to broaden the Auxiliary's ability to carry the RBS message to the general boating public.
- Florida's SLO has been working with FWC as they schedule PE Instructors workshops around the state. The first was held in St. Petersburg with others planned in the next few months.
- New Mexico's BLA is interested in increasing the number of qualified Auxiliary instructors to teach state boating education classes. NMSP will be subject to staff vacancies during the 2012 boating season. The Auxiliary is a boating safety force multiplier on New Mexico lakes and rivers, and is being asked to increase patrols.
- In South Carolina, the SLO coordinated the disbursement of SCDNR whistles to Girl Scouts. This is a great example of inter-agency cooperation and partnerships.
- Tennessee SLO and the BLA established 2012 recreational boating safety goals.
- West Virginia SLO reports that the Auxiliary will partner with the WVDNR Police to teach the state mandatory safe boating course this year. The Auxiliary will be conducting vessel examinations on state-owned vessels including rental boats in state parks and law enforcement vessels.
- Kidsfest was held in Iowa with USCG Auxiliary, US Power Squadron and Iowa DNR staff who provided t-shirts to 15,000 children. The kids colored a safety message onto the t-shirts, which were then ironed. Other activities include lifejacket wear and safety tips.
- Idaho, the SLO reports that the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department is continuing to install additional lifejacket loaner stations at various locations around the state. This program has been very successful and the Auxiliary will continue to support and assist them with it.
- Washington's SLO attended the state Boating Safety Council meeting.

AUXBWiki

Don't forget to use "AuxBWiki" at <http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org>.

USCG - AUXILIARY - STATES - PARTNERING FOR RBS! MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Bruce & Pauline



Bruce Johnson, Director for RBS Outreach – dir-b@bdept.cgaux.org

Pauline Longnecker, Division Chief, RBS Outreach States Division – dvc-bs@bdept.cgaux.org

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