

Be ready for the unexpected.

# Wear It!

- ☑ Check weather forecast
- ☑ Life Jacket
- ☑ Paddle
- ☑ Fun trip
- ☑ Return home to loved ones



This message brought to you by  
the National Safe Boating Council.  
[safeboatingcampaign.com](http://safeboatingcampaign.com)



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• PUBLIC EDUCATION • RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY OUTREACH • VESSEL EXAMINATIONS • PROGRAM VISITS  
LEAVE SAFELY • STAY SAFE • GET HOME SAFELY

# RBS-Job #1



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## SPRING FORWARD FOR RBS

COMO Bob Shafer, Assistant National Commodore, Recreational Boating Safety



*"In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of..." boating!*  
-With apologies to Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Spring has sprung and with it comes boating season. Yes, in some parts of our nation, boating season is year 'round but not all of us are so lucky. As those in northern climates get ready to get back on the water, along comes National Safe Boating Week (NSBW), an appropriate occasion to remind all boaters to be safe while enjoying boating.

Leading into NSBW, there's "Spring Aboard 2016", a national campaign to reduce boating injuries and fatalities by encouraging the boating public to take a boating safety course. In about 88% of boating fatalities, the boat operators did not have a nationally approved boater education certificate. Clearly there's a desperate need for boater safety education.

The Auxiliary has a few new Public Education products just in time to spring into NSBW. They include Basic Boat Handling, an enhanced eBook that is a simple guide to boat operation and handling for the novice boater. This Enhanced eBook includes explanatory video segments explaining and demonstrating the techniques discussed in the various chapters.

Another new product is an on-line course called Modern Marine Navigation (MMN). MMN is an in-depth course covering traditional and electronic navigation, including coastal navigation, plotting positions, dead reckoning, visual fixes, ATONS, charts, GPS, chart plotters and trip planning. The course covers navigation techniques as well as safe behaviors such as voyage planning techniques and use of float plans.



**COMO Bob Shafer**  
Assistant National  
Commodore (ANACO-RB)  
Recreational Boating Safety

**What You Should Know Before You Go: A Paddler's Guide to Safety**

*Continues on Following Page*

## SPRING FORWARD FOR RBS

COMO Bob Shafer, Assistant National Commodore, Recreational Boating Safety  
(Continued from Page Three)

And there is a new paddle craft Public Education safety course available. "What You Should Know Before You Go: A Paddler's Guide to Safety" is a course for people new to paddle sports and was developed by the Auxiliary in cooperation with the American Canoe Association. Paddle craft is a rapidly growing segment of recreational boating.

It is also a rapidly growing source of boating casualties. Therefore, this course was developed to meet the Auxiliary's commitment to boating safety across all boating platforms.

For more information about these and all of the other Public Educations courses the Auxiliary offers, please visit the Education Directorate website at:

[E-Dir Home Page](#)

For more information about Spring Aboard, follow this link:

<http://www.nasbla.org/spring>

Another critical concept to promote during NSBW is life jacket wear. About 78% of all boating fatalities are from drowning. Most of those could have been avoided.

Over 84% of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. Wearing a life jacket is the single most important thing that boaters can do to reduce the risk of dying when a great day of boating suddenly turns bad.

How appropriate that NSBW start with the 2016 Ready, Set, Wear It! Life Jacket World Record Day, part of the yearlong Wear It! campaign. This campaign promotes boating safety and voluntary, consistent wear of life jackets.

And let's not forget Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day on 20 May. Wear your lifejacket to work and make more than a fashion statement; rather than a safety statement!

For more information on these campaigns, click:

<http://www.readysetwearit.com/>

Many flotillas will conduct special Vessel Safety Check activities during NSBW. This is a great way to get involved with NSBW and a great way to help boaters get the season off to a safe start. To multiply your effort, consider partnering up with your local United States Power Squadrons and hitting those launch ramps and marinas in force. There are many boats to check so this is a productive way to join with one of our recreational boating safety partners to increase our effectiveness.

Educating boaters, encouraging life jacket wear and conducting Vessel Safety Checks are all key elements of reducing boating casualties. Let's all make the most of National Safe Boating Week to influence the boating public to stay safe while enjoying their time on the water. You will never know who or how many, but we do know that our efforts save lives.

That's our mission, that's our duty. Thank you for working together for boating safety.



## ULTIMATELY, IT'S ALL LOCAL

Stephen Ellerin, Director - National Recreational Boating Safety Outreach (DIR-B)

Since 9/11, the Coast Guard's responsibilities have increased dramatically. Because active duty members cannot do it alone, the Commandant has increasingly tapped the Auxiliary to be the Coast Guard's "force multiplier."

The primary task of the "B" Directorate (Recreational Boating Safety-Outreach) is to "reach out" and engage select organizations that share our commitment to improving Recreational Boating Safety (RBS).



**Left Photo:** Auxiliary member Craig Brown rides along as an observer on a US Power Squadrons (USPS) On-the-Water Training cruise in District 13. Auxiliary stock photo.

**Right Photo:** SeaScouts+Aux-WelcomeSign: the USCG and Auxiliary welcome their local Sea Scouts to a day of dockside training. Auxiliary photo by Bruce Johnson

We cannot do it all alone – BoatUS estimates that, in any given year, only 3% of the boating public takes a safety class from any RBS organization and that 85% of the boating public does not even know that we exist. Clearly, the Auxiliary could also use a force multiplier. Fortunately, we have several.

Although we like to think of ourselves as the primary civilian RBS agency, the truth is that we have a number of formal and logical partners in that area to help us reach the boating public.

This has been our national message for several years. We need to reach out and engage our partners. Our national leadership encourages this concept. However, as we know, virtually all services are delivered at the "deck plate," or local, level and all too often our formal or logical partners are perceived as "the competition." When 97% of the boating public passes up our offerings, clearly it's not "us against them" but rather "us with them" reaching out to the 97% of the boating public that, literally, needs us more than they know.

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## ULTIMATELY, IT'S ALL LOCAL

Stephen Ellerin, Director - National Recreational Boating Safety Outreach (DIR-B)  
(Continued from Page Five)



*USPS D22 COW – Stephen Ellerin (left) delivers the "Partnership message" to his local (District 22) USPS members at their annual meeting and COW; Auxiliary photo, courtesy USPS District 22*

While at many levels, our leadership and the leadership of our partner organizations understand this concept and increasingly work together to form stronger partnerships, all too often, at the local level – where we actually deliver services to the boating public – the illusion that “they” are the competition persists.

In your area you probably know of one or more organizations with whom we already have written partnerships. Check the RBS-Outreach Directorate website at:

[RBS Outreach Directorate Partners Info](#)

This link can be used to start a list of partners to whom you might reach out in your Area of Responsibility (you might include those already active in the RBS community and those with whom we do not yet have a formal partnership but who support our goals and mission). Among the latter, don't forget local anglers and hunting clubs – because they identify themselves with their sport, and not with “boaters,” they tend to have a disproportionately high accident rate.

Pick up the phone and call them and offer to work together. A vessel safety blitz held at a sporting goods store or local charity office might draw boaters we normally don't catch at the ramp. A social function at a local charity or radio station dedicated to disseminating RBS literature might do the same.

In short, let's harness our creativity and forge (or strengthen) new partnerships. The boating public is counting on us, even if they don't know it. As I've said often, when we sail together we leave a more visible wake. If it's true that all services are delivered locally, then it's up to you to reach out, and your local boating public is counting on you.



*Summerville, SC: Flotilla 12-8, Charleston, SC, sets up a safety booth for the Flowertown Festival, which is often attended by nearly 100,000 people. This provides a great opportunity to discuss boating safety with the public. Auxiliary photo by Rick Tomlin, FSO-PA, Flotilla 12-8.*

## E-DIRECTORATE ACTIVITY AT N-TRAIN

COMO Bob Laurer, Director, Education Directorate (DIR-E)

The E-Directorate has a very large role in improving the safety of our boating public. We will continue to push excellence in quality and delivery of our programs as we move forward. We are dedicated to providing tools that are easy to use, that increase the capability and safety awareness of our boating public.

One of the more important events that took place at National Training Conference (N-TRAIN) was the round-robin event. Tom Chalifoux, DIR-Ed and I, had the great opportunity to discuss and share all the E-Directorate products with District Commodores and their Chiefs of Staff from across the country.

During these 15 minute events we shared the following:

1. A view of the E-Directorate Home page and its contents and links.
2. The E-Directorate Organizational Chart and Contact Information for DIR and DIR-Ed
3. A tour of the E-Directorate Library and its contents.
4. Multi-Lesson Courses, single lesson courses, seminars and tools for instructors

We also did a brief overview on the following products:

1. A Paddlers Guide to Safety, a great presentation put together by Dr. Don Goff, BC-BLC, and his team.
2. Basic Boat Handling presentation overview, now available to the public.
3. Float Plan, a newly updated version that will work in every application.
4. Modern Marine Navigation overview, released to the public 1 March, 2016
5. Navigation Rules Light
6. Suddenly in Command
7. AUXPLUS 6 PRO

I believe the leadership that visited with the group came away with a better sense of what the E-Directorate can provide the districts, divisions and flotillas. We also imparted to them a hint of what the future looks like in terms of the new products and delivery methods both internet and instructor led courses.

The E Directorate will continue to communicate with the leadership and the DSOs in the field. We will use webinars and phone bridge events to raise awareness of our products and services and answer technical questions as they arise.

Past Ninth Eastern Region Commodore Nancy Rudiger's watch phrase was: "Each One, Reach One, Teach One". That watch phrase perfectly describes the goals, ambitions and current direction of the E Directorate.

SEMPER PARATUS.



*Bob Laurer  
Director, Education Directorate (DIR-E)  
Auxiliary photo provided by DIR-E*

## CONGRATULATIONS COMO DAN MAXIM

Captain F. Thomas Boross  
Chief, Auxiliary & Boating Safety



*COMO Dan Maxim*  
*Auxiliary photo provided by DIR-B*

We are pleased and quite honored to inform you that Rear Admiral (RDML) Paul Thomas and Captain (CAPT) Verne Gifford have approved the appointment of Dr. L. Dan Maxim as James Muldoon's successor as your National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) Chair. Former Chairman Muldoon's membership term expired on December 31, 2015, and he has rotated off of the Council. Jim's unparalleled tenure and performance as NBSAC Chair was duly recognized here at Coast Guard Headquarters on February 3, 2016, when he was presented the Coast Guard's Public Service Medal before a CG-5P All Hands audience presided over by RDML Mark Butt and RDML Paul Thomas.

Dr. L. Daniel Maxim was just reappointed by Secretary Johnson to a term that expires December 31, 2018. He represents the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the national recreational boating organization category and most recently served as the Assistant National Commodore, Recreational Boating Safety. During Dr. Maxim's tenure as a member of the Council, he has done an outstanding job of

participating in all aspects of Council business and provided his professional statistical expertise on numerous boating safety projects.

With significant business and volunteer career accomplishments of national and regional import that are far too many to list here, and in recognition of Dan's 2014 installation into the national Recreational Boating Safety Hall of Fame, please join us in congratulating Chairman Maxim on his appointment into this visible, vital, national volunteer leadership position.

We are honored and inspired by each NBSAC member's willingness and commitment to serve as volunteer advisors to the United States Coast Guard for the purpose of improving recreational boating safety in the 50 states and 6 territories of the United States and territories, and we look forward to Dan's visionary leadership and stewardship of the Council's important business. We welcome your support of Dan and to us as we press on together in our recreational boating safety mission performance.

### [National Boating Safety Advisory Council](#)

The National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) was established by the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. The law requires the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Commandant of the Coast Guard by delegation to consult with the Council in prescribing Federal regulations and regarding other major boating safety matters. The Council has consistently provided invaluable advice to the Coast Guard on a broad range of boating safety matters.



# “HAVE FUN ON THE WATER....WEAR A LIFE JACKET”

William Key, Branch Chief, Liaison to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (BC-BLA)  
Public Affairs Specialist, USCG Auxiliary



*Photo re-printed with permission from the US Army Corps of Engineers*

In most fatal boating accidents, victims have drowned. Why?

They were not wearing “life jackets.”

Many states across the United States have laws that require boaters to have a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket on their boat and readily accessible (not locked up below deck, as personally observed during various vessel safety checks) for each passenger aboard. Children under certain ages are required to wear life jackets at all times. With both large and small recreational boats, passengers fall overboard; boats capsize. Serious injury and potential death may be prevented by wearing a life jacket.

To increase life jacket awareness, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun the “Life Jacket Worn...Nobody Mourns” water safety campaign.

This campaign is implemented with the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources and Education Foundation.

The foundation is non-profit and established to promote the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Natural Resources and Recreation Program.

“The campaign was developed to target adults,” says Pam Doty, Manager of the US Army Corps of Engineers National Operations Center for Water Safety. “Yearly, hundreds to thousands of people mourn the loss of a loved one, due to an accident. These individuals may have survived if a life jacket was worn while either near or on the water.”

Let’s all be safe while enjoying America’s lakes and waterways.

Have fun on the water, wear a life jacket.

\*Campaign materials are available to view and download from: <http://www.pleasewearit.com>

## LIFE JACKET LOANER STATIONS

All You Ever Wanted to Know About Life Jacket Loaner Stations, (But Were Afraid to Ask)  
Kelly Townsend, Branch Chief - BoatUS (BC-BLB)

Most of us in the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) areas of the Auxiliary are well aware that operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed and alcohol use rank as the top five primary contributing factors in boating accidents. The leading contributing factor in fatal drownings that result from these accidents is not wearing life jackets. 70% of the fatalities from these accidents are caused by drowning and 90% of those who drown were not wearing a life jacket.

But there is another statistic you may not be aware of. That is eight out of every ten boaters who drowned in these accidents were aboard vessels less than 21 feet in length. Where do most boats of that length begin their day on the water? It's usually at public access ramps & boat launch areas. Public boat launching areas are an excellent place for Life Jacket Loaner Stations. Several Auxiliary Partners provide Life Jacket Loaner Stations around the country. The Auxiliary has an Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Life Jacket Loaner Stands, located here:

### [USCG Aux Loaner](#)

This is a great opportunity for flotillas in the same division to join together and construct a Life Jacket Loaner stand at the most popular launch areas in their Areas of Responsibility (AOR's). It's also an excellent way for Flotillas to partner with local Scout troops. Life Jacket Loaner Station construction meets the criteria for Eagle Scout construction projects.

USCG District 17, Alaska, estimates that since the construction of 660 Life Jacket Loaner Stands in that state, based on testimonials and studies from the "Kids Don't Float" program, that at least 25 children's lives have been saved by families using life jackets from Loaner Stations in Alaska.

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*Example of a Life Jacket Loaner Station.*

*Photos on pages ten to twelve were presented at the IBWSS in San Diego and were provided by SeaTow and BoatUS.*

If a flotilla wants to undertake building a Life Jacket Loaner Station, they can seek life jacket donations from their own local retail establishments, as long as they adhere to Solicitation of Donations by Auxiliary units. The guidelines and all procedures are specified COMDTINST M16790.1(series) Section 5.H.1.c. located here:

### [CIM 16790](#)

Listed below are just a few of the main points in the Auxiliary SOP for Auxiliary involvement with Life Jacket Loaner Stations. This is an excellent way for all of us to literally help make RBS our Job #1! Who knows...the life jackets we may provide to a small pleasure boating family might keep them from becoming a "not wearing a Life Jacket" drowning statistic on that very day!

### [Life Jacket Loaner Program: Standard Operating Procedures](#)

## LIFE JACKET LOANER STATIONS

All You Ever Wanted to Know About Life Jacket Loaner Stations, (But Were Afraid to Ask)  
Kelly Townsend, Branch Chief - BoatUS (BC-BLB) *(Continued from Page Ten)*



### Life Jacket Loaner Station General Summary Statement

The life jacket loaner program provides the public with free use of life jackets on a first-come, first-served basis. The goals for this program are to increase life jacket wear during water-based activities as well as to educate the visiting public on the importance of proper use and fit. Most of these stations offer various sizes of life jackets from infant to adult in limited quantities.

### Summary of Guidelines

1. Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to implement a life jacket loaner program.
2. Life jacket loaner programs may be managed at staffed locations or by use of unstaffed loaner boards or kiosk-type stations.

3. Possible locations for loaner stations include gatehouses, visitor centers, designated swim beaches, marina offices, fuel docks, boat ramps or similar high visibility facilities.
4. Loaner station program execution to include routine maintenance and inspections will be at the discretion of the elected leadership per the National SOP. *(Note: Solicitation of donations by Auxiliary units in support of this program must follow all procedures specified by COMDTINST M16790.1(series) Section 5.H.1.c.)*
5. A waiver of liability will be signed by an adult borrowing a life jacket from an attended life jacket loaner station and the same liability waiver will be conspicuously posted at unattended.

### Specific Guidance

#### 1. Life Jackets Inspections:

- a. **Schedule:** It is important that life jackets be inspected on a routine basis. The managing flotilla will conduct bi-weekly inspections of all life jackets currently on display and available for use by visitors at unmanned loaner stations and a monthly inspection for staffed loaner stations. Auxiliary members manning staffed loaner station locations should also be constantly vigilant in checking life jackets as they are returned from visitors or on a rotational basis.
- b. **Reports:** Inspection/Restocking log reports will be completed per the schedule noted above and forwarded to the Flotilla Commander in a timely manner. They should be appropriately maintained for three years for liability purposes.

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## LIFE JACKET LOANER STATIONS

All You Ever Wanted to Know About Life Jacket Loaner Stations, (But Were Afraid to Ask)  
Kelly Townsend, Branch Chief - BoatUS (BC-BLB) *(Continued from Page Eleven)*

c. **Personnel:** Members conducting inspections of life jackets and displays will be designated by the managing flotilla's elected leadership. It is recommended that all members be properly trained regarding the inspection criteria and other elements of loaner program management.

**2. Printed Materials & Signage:** Signs and/or printed materials will be posted on or adjacent to life jacket loaner stations to address fit, size and physical condition as follows. All text will be printed in languages appropriate for visitor communication.

**3. Life Jacket Size & Condition:**

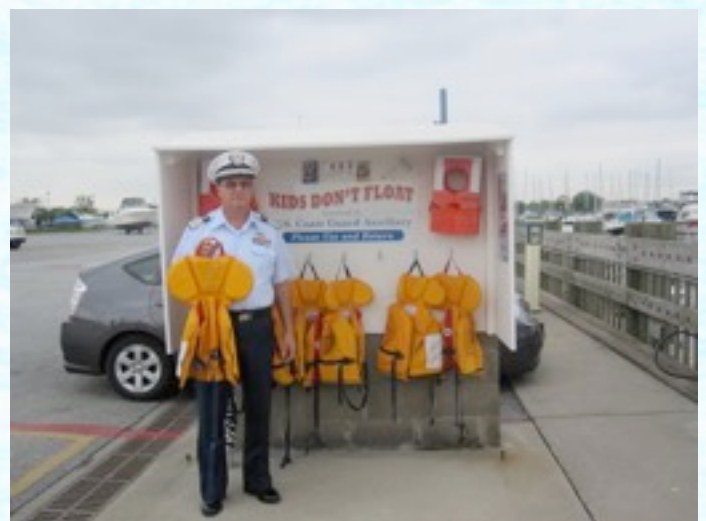
- a. **Fit:** With text or graphics show a properly fitting and buckled life jacket.
- b. **Size:** Show visitors how to locate sizing information on the life jacket label or restate the weights associated with each size.
- c. **Physical Condition:** Provide visual or written guidance on the importance of checking for damage on life jackets before using them.

The types or styles of the life jackets should also be determined by the managing flotilla. A variety of Coast Guard approved life jackets are preferred. It is recommended that each loaner station have a minimum of at least two life jackets of each size category. (Infant, Child, Youth, Adult)

### Procurement of Loaner Program Materials

Several organizations offer grants to aid in setting up a loaner program including BoatUS Foundation, Sea Tow Foundation, local State Parks and Recreation and State Departments of Natural Resources. When soliciting donations, flotillas should make sure all donations comply with the AUXMAN, Chapter 5.

### Potential Partnership Opportunities PFD Donations/Discounts/Grants by cooperating organizations



## LIFE JACKET ZONE

Reminding the Public to Wear a Life Jacket  
Greg Truesdell, Flotilla 26-1 Lake Norman, 5SR



*Huntersville, NC--Members of Flotilla 26-1 Lake Norman, 5SR, promote boating safety by participating in the statewide SAVED BY THE ZONE program, which promotes painting "LIFE JACKET ZONE" stencils at boat ramps. They are from left, Rick Artale, Cary Martin, Drew McCollum, Greg Truesdell and Dan O'Brien. Auxiliary photos by Dan J. O'Brien*

Huntersville, NC – In conjunction with Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation and Duke Power, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has been authorized to promote boating safety and life jacket use at Blythe Landing and Ramsey Creek.

On 27 August, 2015, members from Flotilla 26-1 Lake Norman painted a "Life Jacket Zone" sign on the pavement at local boat ramps. This mission has been conducted in other flotillas on the East Coast and has successfully generated greater awareness of the need to wear life jackets. The painting of the "Life Jacket Zone" does not create an "official" zone that requires boaters to wear a life jacket but serves as an important last reminder to wear one before heading out on the water. Safety is always paramount.

North Carolina has created a unique summer boating safety campaign to spread the use of the symbols at boat ramps throughout the state called SAVED BY THE ZONE. Partner agencies include the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Carolina State Parks, the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation, Safe Kids Wake County and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.



## PROMOTING LIFE JACKET USAGE

### Partnerships Promote Life Jacket Usage in the Northland

Diane Martinek, District 9WR, Flotilla 30-4

A network of community support enabled the Duluth, Minnesota Flotilla a successful outcome for their Life Jacket Loaner Station.



*A few yards from the Life Jacket Loaner Station is Park Point Beach, Duluth, Minnesota*

Research has shown that wearing life jackets can prevent drownings. The promotion to increase the use of wearing life jackets has been an increasing community effort. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has supported the effort to increase life jacket usage with their "Life Jacket Loaner Program Manual".

In Duluth, every year the Army Corps of Engineers promotes "Boat Safety Week" at the Maritime Visitation Center. The Duluth flotilla participates by providing instructional classes on the proper use of life jackets. But people do need a life jacket first. That is when the Duluth Flotilla decided a Life Jacket Loaner Station could be created at our public beach to increase the use of life jackets in our cold northern waters. The free use of life jackets on a first-come, first served basis is available to the public. After gaining the support of the City of Duluth and the planning council, we were directed to the Duluth YMCA that operates the Beach House for the City of Duluth.

Elmer Engman, Public Affairs officer, and I (Flotilla Commander at the time) met with Cheryl Podtburg, the Aquatics Director at the YMCA. Podtburg, who is currently an Auxiliarist, has written, "Improving water safety education in Duluth has been a huge part of what of what I've been working to accomplish as Aquatics Director at the Duluth Y. The Auxiliary has been a great partner in that area. I'm honored to now be a part of the Duluth flotilla and look forward to increasing water safety education in the Northland".



*Elaine Bradley and Dale Hollingsworth are seen checking the condition of the Life Jackets. Flotilla 30-4, Duluth, MN. Auxliary photos by Elmer Engman, VFC, Flotilla 30-4.*

We quickly agreed that a Life Jacket Loaner Station was possible with our partnered efforts. The YMCA members would provide a space for our life jackets and have the public sign them out for use, returning the life jackets at the end of the day. The Auxiliary would maintain the condition of the life jackets and supply the jackets and the display. Now, all that was necessary was obtaining the life jackets and a display rack.

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## PROMOTING LIFE JACKET USAGE

### Partnerships Promote Life Jacket Usage in the Northland

Diane Martinek, District 9WR, Flotilla 30-4 (*Continued from Page Fourteen*)

Word spread quickly in Duluth that a Life Jacket Loaner Station was being created. The American Legion was quick to support our Life Jacket Loaner Station. Keith Bischoff, of Post #71 West Duluth, said, "Our Post supports community youth organizations and is pleased to donate to the safety of youth while in our waters." The Spirit Valley Drum & Bugle Corps donated as well. A three tiered wire basket on wheels that could hold twenty life jackets was donated by Auxiliarist Elmer Engman.

Other Auxiliarists stepped up to help. Eloyes Hill made the posters, Elaine Bradley and Dale Hollingsworth volunteered to visit the loaner station to check the condition of the life jackets. The newspapers and local television stations played a big part in public awareness.

Since 2014, there has been an increased interest in Life Jacket Loaner Stations. Auxiliarist Heinz Ledowski is planning one in Grand Marais, MN.

Thanks to our Program Visitors (PV) program, many marinas are now offering loaner stations in our area and up the North Shore. Essential Health and Kohl's Department Store in Duluth have donated life jackets to us from their Life Jacket Giveaway Day.

In 2015, records showed that 101 lifejackets were loaned and returned. The most commonly borrowed were the child size lifejackets (39), closely followed by the Youth jackets (35). A total of 23 Adult size lifejackets were borrowed, with the most common being the Small Adult/Teen jacket (11 of the 33). There were only 6 Infant lifejackets loaned in 2015. We were privileged to be a large part of promoting the use of life jackets among the youth.

## JET PACK TYPE VESSELS

Bill Griswold, District State Liaison, District 7 (DSO-SL 7)

Recently, a new type of recreational vessel has arrived on scene. Some call it a Jet Pack, Jetlev, Flyboard and maybe other terms. What it is, is a water jet driven vessel system that allows an operator to "fly" up to 30' off the water, using a jet of water produced by a personal water craft or other similar vessel.

The person on the jet pack can maneuver in three dimensions, side to side, up down, turn, sway, and even dive back into the water and emerge like porpoise. Usually the boat powering this rig is pretty stationary, since its jet is going up a tube to the flier.

The operator normally stands on a pack that receives the water and maneuvers by shifting his/her weight. Some come with wands and water jets for the hands. Some can be operated alone with controls for the boat's throttle, etc. It looks like fun but it is costly. Consequently, liveries have bought these things and rent to the public after some education.

In late 2012, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission put out guidance to their law enforcement officers because there are some issues.

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## JET PACK TYPE VESSELS

Bill Griswold, District State Liaison, District 7 (DSO-SL 7)

(Continued from Page Fifteen)

Since they may be useful for vessel examiners, let me condense their comments:

1. Are these considered vessels? – Yes, it, the boat, needs registration, titling and must comply with the NAVRULES.
2. Are they required to comply with carriage requirements? – Yes, if it's a PWC, it must comply with PWC rules. If it's an open boat, there are some exemptions, such as flotation, etc. Those boats are made by Jetlev, model R200, and have a label which contains the exemptions.
3. Do other state laws apply to them? – Yes, an example is insurance requirements for rental units. And boating education and other boating laws apply.
4. Who is considered the operator with a flier and a boat operator? – If the flier has control over the boat, he/she is the operator. If the boat rider has control, it's obvious. If they share control, both are responsible, similar to an off shore racing vessel with one steering the other working the throttles.
5. In a rental situation when the operator of the vessel is an employee of the rental company, is a license required? – In that case, the operating individual is operating a vessel for hire with passengers and, in Florida, must have a Coast Guard license on navigable waters.

There are some good videos of these machines on line so if you want more information, Google Jetpack America.

## LOTS OF PADDLE BOATS

Jim D'Errico, Branch Chief - Documents (BC-BRD), Cary, NC

The warm, sunny day in Cary, NC, was perfect for providing Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) on a LOT of paddle boats! Perry Taylor, Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations (FSO-VE), contacted several park districts in the area, and they agreed it would be good public relations and a safety event to have their boats checked by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Paddle craft include canoes, kayaks, paddle boats (two people that peddle like a bicycle) and, in this case, 13 foot sailboats. The town park district has a boat house and about 50 paddle boats. They have over 100 life jackets that all needed to be inspected for damage; some were recommended to be destroyed.

Jared Skaggs, Bond Park Program Specialist, said, "We appreciated the Coast Guard Auxiliary inspecting our boats and helping us keep the public safe. We also benefit from the education they provide about boating safety to our employees, as well as the boating classes that are offered to the public."

And as a side benefit, there were plenty of vessel safety checks for the vessel examiners!

**Top Left:** Perry Taylor applies a sticker to a paddle boat. **Bottom Left:** Perry Taylor, FSO-VE 054-09-11, Jared Skaggs, Bond Park Program Specialist. Auxiliary photos by Jim D'Errico.



## RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY: NORTH CAROLINA STYLE

Auxiliary Units Take Advantage of Local Characteristics  
Brad Simpson, Division Commander (DCDR) D5-SR 26-7

Burlington, N.C. — While the goals of spreading the Recreational Boating Safety message may be the same throughout the Auxiliary, the types of events in which we participate are greatly dependent upon factors like geography, weather and the culture of the local population. Two divisions in North Carolina illustrate how they best take advantage of their regional flavors when spreading the boating safety message.



*Burlington, NC—A little boy is entertained by Coastie the Safety Boat at the Burlington Carousel Festival, 19 September, 2015. Members from two divisions joined forces to deliver the boating safety message at this annual event. Auxiliary photo by Brad Simpson*

The first of these is the Burlington Carousel Festival. Members from Division 9, Piedmont area, Division 26, Western North Carolina area, and District 5, Southern, participated in the annual Carousel Festival held in Burlington, Saturday, 19 September.

Participating in the event were Sherry Spillman, Scott Spillman, Joe Lambeth, Brittany Williams and Robert Desrosiers, members of Flotilla 99 Burlington; Jason Breland, Brad Simpson and Chris Parrish, members of Flotilla 26-7, Badin Lake. With thousands of visitors attending the event, it was a great opportunity for the Auxiliary to present boating safety to children and adults alike. By the end of the festival, a number of visitors signed up for boating safety classes and several expressed interest in joining the Auxiliary.

The Burlington City Park Carousel is a 3-row Dentzel Menagerie Carousel built around 1906-1910 at the Dentzel Carousel Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



*Thomasville, NC—Jason Breland, Flotilla 26-7, Badin Lake, poses with Coastie the Safety Boat and their new friend, Sparky the Fire Safety Dog, at the Kids Safety Day Event on 8 October, 2015. Children love to interact with these mascots, giving members time to address safety topics with their parents. Auxiliary photo by Brad Simpson*

*Continues on Following Page*

## RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY: NORTH CAROLINA STYLE

### Auxiliary Units Take Advantage of Local Characteristics

Brad Simpson, Division Commander, (DCDR) D5-SR 26-7 (*Continued from Page Seventeen*)

The City of Burlington purchased the carousel in the summer of 1948. Each year, the city hosts the Burlington Carousel Festival, held September in the park and featuring live music, crafts and food. The festival draws crowds of more than 50,000. For the Auxiliary, it means thousands of opportunities to talk about the Auxiliary and boating safety.

The second such event is the annual Kids Safety Day in Thomasville, North Carolina. Members from Flotilla 26-7 Badin Lake volunteered in the Kids Safety Day held 8 October. Auxiliary participants included Jason Breland, Jim Monroe and Brad Simpson.



*Burlington, NC—Jason Breland, Flotilla 26-7 Badin Lake, and Joe Lambeth, Flotilla 99 Burlington, hand out safety information and talk to parents and children about boating safety at Burlington Carousel Festival, 19 September, 2015. Auxiliary photo by Brad Simpson*



*Thomasville, NC—Coastie the Safety Boat entertains a dog at the Thomasville Kids Safety Fair held 8 October, 2015. The annual multiagency event draws crowds of more than 50,000 to help educate parents about child safety. Auxiliary photo by Brad Simpson*

Thomasville, known as the “Chair City,” has a population of nearly 29,000 and sits in the center of North Carolina and the state’s famous furniture industrial region.

The city has a unique blend of festivals, Civil War sites, historic buildings, charming villages, antique districts and a myriad of lakes and streams at its outskirts. This makes the Thomasville’s “Kids Safety Day” a perfect venue to present boating and water safety.

The multi-agency annual event brings safety awareness to the parents of the community. Participating agencies included local fire and police departments, emergency rescue and other agencies that offer child safety information and courtesy services like checking child safety seats. The Auxiliary was as entertaining as any with Coastie the Safety Boat interacting with local children.

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