



**Homeland  
Security**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
District 11 Northern Region**

*Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah*



# Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

**October 2008**

**Volume 5 Number 9**

**Mike Lauro DSO-VE Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE**

This newsletter is the publication of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, District 11NR - Vessel Safety Check program and published at no cost to either the Coast Guard or the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This newsletter will be distributed in PDF format electronically to each Vessel Examiner in D11NR with a CURRENT email. It can also be found on the D11NR website. It will be published on January 1<sup>st</sup> and each month starting with April and ending with October. Disclosure of the personal information contained in this publication is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, roster of names, addresses, email address and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organizations. This newsletter is a team effort by the DSO-VE staff and is responsible for its content. If you have anything suitable you think should be included that others would benefit from, please send it to Mike Lauro. It may be discontinued at any time by the DSO-VE.

## **DSO Comments**

**By Mike Lauro**



As the days are getting shorter and cooler, the leaves on the trees are starting to turn, and except for the Delta, the water levels are getting lower and the 2008 VSC season is winding down. I'd like to reflect on the year's highlights. Once again my term as DSO-VE is coming to a close. It has been an honor and my pleasure to serve on Commodore Connell's District staff. I appreciate the confidence the Commodore placed in me two years ago to lead the Vessel Safety Check program of one of the premier Districts in the nation! I also appreciate the support of EXCOM, for without their support, I could never be successful. I also want to thank Joaquin Duran for being an excellent ADSO-VE! In addition to providing an article each month for

the newsletter, he helped me teach the vessel examiner class at the PCA Training Fairs and helped lighten some of my workload. Finally, I'd like to thank you-the vessel examiner for braving the local elements from the fog and heat in Northern California to the snow and cold at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and Utah for providing excellent service to the boater. Performing VSC's is hard work and unfortunately there is no way to measure neither the accidents which have never occurred nor the fatalities that never occurred. Because you don't finish in the top three in the District, doesn't mean your VSC accomplishments should never be recognized, appreciated, or rewarded. Currently 20% or 60 of our examiner base of 302 examiners have produced 20+ VSC's-the most since the inception of the program!

Even though our program continues to grow and reach out increasingly to more boaters each year, we are still only reaching a little over 1% of the approximately 500,000 vessels in our region! But, I still consider our program a huge success here in D11NR.

Here are a few highlights from this past year: With Irene Wetzel DSO-CS help, in late December 2008, we put together the renown and constantly evolving District Vessel Examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>

Judging by the 3800+ hits in it's first year, it's being used as a resource tool for which it's designed.

In July, we received the "WEAR IT" inflatable lifejackets that we'll be wearing to help promote the National and State "WEAR IT" program. We had a very successful NSBW and VSC Mega-Month in June. August brought National Marina Day along with the Big Cat Poker Run and last minute partnering with the National "WEAR IT" campaign. Our examiner base responded for each and every event-many at the VERY last minute!

This past year at the Past Captain Training Fairs in February and August, 17 new examiners took and passed the written exam. Many have already been out performing VSC's!

Congratulations to Flotilla 10-02 from Modesto for earning the 2007

National 1<sup>st</sup> place VSC performance award. While at NACON, I was fortunate and honored to accept this award on behalf of the flotilla.

Each year at this time, I remind everyone that in order to qualify for the special District recognition for reaching the 60+ VSC plateau, you MUST have your 7038's turned in PRIOR to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is because many Divisions have their Change of Watch in November and this recognition is presented at your Change of Watch.

For 2009, remember to help support the national "WEAR IT!" campaign while wearing your PFD when performing VSC's, especially when working around the docks. In the meantime, rest up and formulate plans at the winter flotilla meetings for next years season.

For 2009, in addition to Joaquin Duran as ADSO-VE, I'm looking forward to working with DCO-e Mike Williams and a new EXCOM. Look for many changes!

I look forward to meeting you at the D/Train this spring at the Doubtree Hotel in Rohnert Park. Please don't be bashful about coming up to to say "hello"-I won't. Again, BRAVO-ZULU on a job well done this past year. As always, your comments are welcome.

## **ADS Comments**

By Joaquin Duran



Fellow examiners, as we approach the close of boating season, I'd like to reflect on challenges and achievements we encountered. It has been a tough year. The fuel prices, limitations on salmon fishing, zebra-quagga mussel infestation in waterways, and significantly lower levels in our lakes really made it tough on both the family recreational boater and the sport fishing industry. Yet, in spite of the obstacles, and thanks to your efforts, we were able to create over 5,800 one on one educational VSC's this season.

I notice that a large percentage of our examiners still have not reported the 5 VSC's required to retain your certification. Last year, nearly 40% of our examiners had zero count as of this date. Unfortunately, this year we are at 43%. I know that many report their numbers at the end of the season rather than monthly. Among many problems this method creates, it creates an undue hardship for the SO-IS having to input the information that occurred during the month when the VSC's were performed. There is still plenty of time to perform the minimum requirement and promptly report your activities on the 7038 form. After all, you should get credit for the hard work you do.

While we are still a bit shy from our goal of 7500 VSC's for our District, again there is still plenty of time to recover. Hopefully you'll take advantage of the cooler weather and reach out to the fall boaters-the fishermen and water skiers.

Under Mike's leadership, the District VSC program has made leaps and bounds in recent years and continues to grow. His latest work, the vessel examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>, is an informative web site, is unique in its content and coverage. It's still the only one of its kind in the Auxiliary! As it continues to evolve, I hope you refer to it often.

Our efforts to increase our examiner base through classes at the PCA Training Fair couldn't be successful without your help promoting it to the new members. Those who have attended Mike's class will certainly attest that it is unique in presentation and content. It's been great to have the opportunity to participate in this class.

I would like to ask the current and those considering appointment as either an SO-VE or FSO-VE take a minute and review the commitment you made or are considering. The District vessel examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>

has job descriptions for each position. You help provide the structure upon which this fine organization rests, especially at the local level. By working as a true team, we can provide the information necessary to continue the meritorious service in a professional manner, which the boating public has come to expect and deserves.

Additionally, it is necessary disseminate important timely information throughout our organization via reports. If Mike failed to

communicate information, our program would be in a state of disarray especially at the local levels. At the same time, each appointed officer has a responsibility to report at least once a month to their elected officer and both up and down the chain. In short, let's not forget the administrative responsibilities we agreed to accept.

I know we can count on you, to complete 2008 with flying colors. Let's plan to have a superb 2009 season! Look for more and exciting changes coming for next year! I look forward to continuing to support Mike in this worthwhile endeavor as ADSO-VE and look forward to seeing you at D/TRAIN in Rohnert Park. As always, your comments are welcome.

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the following examiners who have performed 20 or more VSC's during 2008\*:

<b>Gerald S. McCalwee</b>	<b>04-09</b>	<b>Rex P. Miner</b>	<b>07-08</b>
<b>Nancy A. Turtle</b>	<b>08-08</b>	<b>Joseph M. Madden</b>	<b>10-02</b>
<b>Matthew F. Innes</b>	<b>10-02</b>	<b>Neil P. Silva</b>	<b>10-05</b>
<b>David R. Flum</b>	<b>10-05</b>	<b>James L. Snell</b>	<b>11-04</b>

This brings our total to 60 examiners reaching this plateau! This is approximately 20% of the total District examiner base. 2007 had 49 examiners or 18% at this time. **Where's your name?**

PLEASE be certain that all stats are reported MONTHLY using the CURRENT Form 7038 to your FSO-IS so you and your unit(s) will receive proper credit.

\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru September 2008

### **Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!**

<b>Douglas Scruton</b>	<b>01-02</b>	<b>Ketan Chinlund</b>	<b>01-07</b>
<b>James Minkel</b>	<b>05-01</b>	<b>Ronald Kram</b>	<b>05-05</b>
<b>Steven C. Johnson</b>	<b>04-06</b>	<b>Herbert Hoeser*</b>	<b>05-05</b>
<b>Sean Sheehan*</b>	<b>06-07</b>	<b>Richard Clark</b>	<b>11-04</b>
<b>Fred Nase</b>	<b>12-03</b>		

#### **\*Re-certification**

With the addition of these 9 new and re-certified examiners for 2008, our examiner base total is now 302 active examiners! This represents about 20% of our total District membership. This information is supplied by the Director's office, as examiners are qualified.

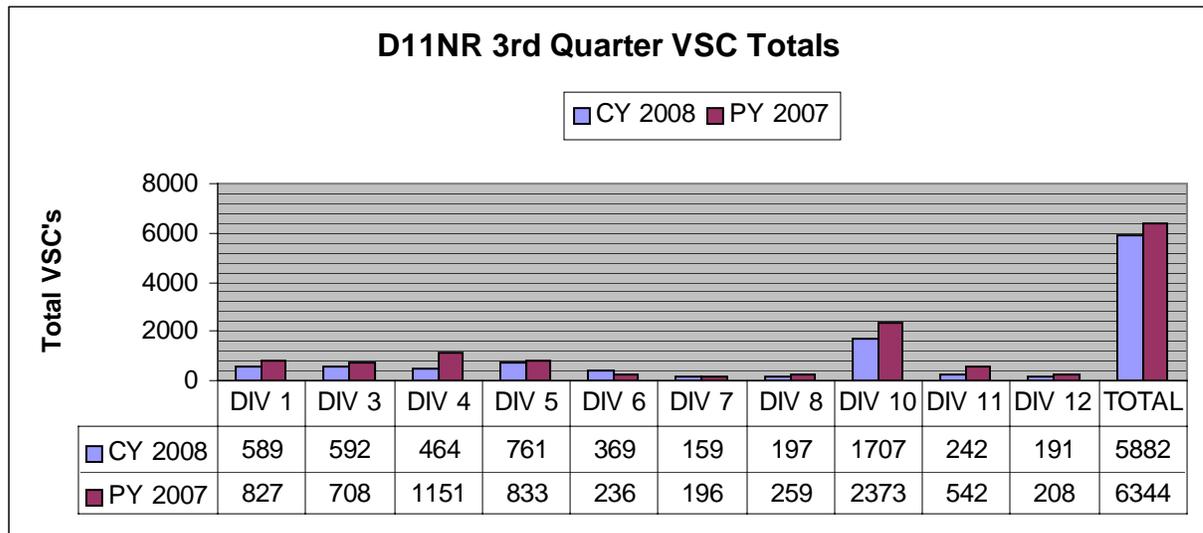
### **Sailing Lingo Question-** Answers can be found in another location in the newsletter

Are you an expert sailor?

The command used in coming about to inform the crew that the helm is being pushed hard to leeward, turning the boat into the wind, is:

- "Hard alee!"
- "What the...?!"
- All hands abandon ship!"

## Division Statistics\*



\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru September 30, 2008

The goal for D11NR for 2008 is **7,500 VSC's**. We are **78%** of our goal for the year and **93%** of 2007 production! The data source is AUXINFO. PLEASE be certain that all stats are reported MONTHLY using the CURRENT Form 7038 to your FSO-IS so you and your unit(s) will receive proper credit.

Additional stats from AUXINFO\* indicates that **3674** or **62%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **3213** or **55%** are High Risk VSC's.

 **VSC Questions** - Answers can be found in another location in the newsletter

**1-Federal regulations require a copy of the Navigation Rules to be carried on board and maintained for ready reference on:**

- a. All vessels operating on bodies of water wider than 3 miles at the mouth of the river or harbor.
- b. All vessels 39.4 feet and longer.
- c. All vessels 26 feet and longer.
- d. All sailboats 16 feet and longer.

**2-Vessels eligible for a Vessel Safety Check include:**

- a. Recreational vessels registered in Canada as long as they are in US waters.
- b. Work boats and tugboats if they are also used for recreational boating.
- c. Experimental design vessels to enhance their customer appeal and acceptance.
- d. SUBS such as canoes, kayaks, jon boats and PWC's.

## **VSC Calendar**

If you have a planned event and would like it listed here, send an email at least 45 days prior with a brief description to: [sumfun@juno.com](mailto:sumfun@juno.com)

-Past Captains Training Fair-February 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> at Coast Guard Island

-D/Train-March 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> at Doubletree Hotel Rohnert Park

-Coast Guard Auxiliary 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary-June 23<sup>rd</sup>

## National and District

### National News

-No news to report...

### District News

-See DSO-VE Comments!

-In the continuing evolution to provide information to assist both the new and experienced vessel examiners, there have several NEW additions and updates on YOUR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>.  
Expect to see many more exciting changes for 2009!

### Division Staff Officers

SO-VE 1	Richard A. Saber	<a href="mailto:captcrunch@mindspring.com">captcrunch@mindspring.com</a>	SO-VE 7	Riley Turpin	<a href="mailto:rnturpin@peoplepc.com">rnturpin@peoplepc.com</a>
SO-VE 3	James Goff	<a href="mailto:james.goff@att.net">james.goff@att.net</a>	SO-VE 8	Doug Pohlson	<a href="mailto:dougs@pacific.net">dougs@pacific.net</a>
SO-VE 4	Joaquin P. Duran	<a href="mailto:duranjp@sbcglobal.net">duranjp@sbcglobal.net</a>	SO-VE 10		
SO-VE 5	Robert Smith	<a href="mailto:nanapaah@hotmail.com">nanapaah@hotmail.com</a>	SO-VE 11	Ray E. Wise	<a href="mailto:rayellen@sbcglobal.net">rayellen@sbcglobal.net</a>
SO-VE 6	Stanley Wolfberg	<a href="mailto:s_wolfberg@yahoo.com">s_wolfberg@yahoo.com</a>	SO-VE 12	Rick Scheuerman	<a href="mailto:chevroids@comcast.net">chevroids@comcast.net</a>

Answer to Sailing Lingo Question:"a"  
Question 1-"b" See page 26 of the VSC Manual  
Question 2-"d" See page 3 of the VSC Manual



Let's work together for our safety and the safety of others by setting an example and wear our lifejackets while performing VSC's especially when working around docks and when climbing aboard large vessels!

