



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
 District 11 Northern Region
 Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

June 2009

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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 1st 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



Now that NSBW has past, it's again time to concentrate on **VSC-MEGA WEEKS**. The intent of the month-long

outreach event is to focus attention on the Vessel Safety Check program through the participation of the flotilla, USPS, and various other partnering organizations. These include marine retailers, marinas, and yacht clubs. **VSC MEGA-WEEKS** begins at the end of NSBW, and ends after the July 4th weekend. During this six-week time frame, a sustained, focused and concentrated effort needs to be organized to perform VSC's at ramps, marinas, yacht clubs, and other locations throughout your local community.

Ideally, as with NSBW events, the planning phase (ICS?) should have begun at least 30 or more days prior,

but in any event, planning should begin as soon as practical. In addition, the planning FSO's should include ALL flotilla personal including: program visitors, public education instructors, public affairs specialists, and of course vessel examiners. Engage everyone for a **100% BUY-IN!** Also make certain to include new and potential new members. In addition, the FSO-PA should be mounting a coordinated public affairs effort at least several times in the local media(s), similar to what was done promoting NSBW. Flotillas should have contacted their local partnering businesses to solicit their participation in supporting the events by either sponsoring a VSC station or helping to advertise the event. The retail partners should be encouraged to publicize not only the upcoming event(s), but also any safety equipment discount (10% ?) program they may offer after boaters have obtained a VSC. Given the opportunity

with some advance notice, a local marina may provide a **FREE** launch day or a reduced fee to any boater that has a VSC performed that day. Planning an event that has a marina store can lead to benefits to everyone involved-the boater, the marina store and you.

Printed schedules of VSC station dates and sites should be made available to the Program Visitors for distribution to our partners to reach the boating public. ANSC offers a nice pre-made poster (ANSC 3504) for just this occasion. If requested, I'd be glad to send you one as an email attachment.

As I've also stated many times, flotilla's with a small examiner base

should try to coordinate and possible combine efforts with other flotillas or possibly the Power Squadron. Finally, to assure complete success, promote our public education courses, AWW, and potential Auxiliary membership to the boating public. With careful planning, VSC MEGA-WEEKS for 2009 can be as successful as our NSW activities. I've mentioned these ideas several times over the years in my comments, because they **WORK!**

One last point, review the WEAR IT CALIFORNIA! schedule and considering partnering with them at a local marina. Let's also not forget the 4th cornerstone...

ADS Comments

By Phil Grove



Phil Grove DSO-PV

I' like to take a minute to briefly introduce myself. In addition to being an ADSO-VE for Mike, I'm the DSO-PV (Program Visitor) for District 11NR.

As the DSO-PV, I feel the Vessel Examination & Program Visitor programs must work together to help educate the boater. Program Partners distribute safety related materials through our retail partners that helps to promote public education classes and other activities such as NSW and VSC-MEGA WEEKS.

VSC Calendar

- VSC Mega-Weeks-ENTIRE month of June
- Coast Guard Auxiliary 70th anniversary-June 23rd
- National Marina Day August 9th
- Past Captains Training Fair-August 15th-16th at Coast Guard Island

Please pass the word that I plan a PV 4-hour class that includes a review and the exam at the August PCA Fair. This is an excellent opportunity for the new member to be quickly involved in a program or for the Vessel Examiner wanting to do more for the VSC program. Study material must be read prior to class. Manuals needed are RBSVP # M16793.3C & VSC #M16796.8. For more information, please visit the District 11NR PV website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/pv.html> or feel free to contact me at: imn2boats@yahoo.com.

Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

Catherine J. Cieri	04-06	Michael D. Kneller	04-06
David J. Ray	04-08	Kenneth F. Braun	05-01
Mart E. Gardner*	07-02	Glenna T. Gardner*	07-02
Linda M. Sterling*	07-08	Gregory K. Ohrn	07-08
Maynetta L. Sheaffer*	12-02	Roger J. Heger*	12-02
John R. Kane	12-21	Varon B. Smith Jr.	12-21

***Re-certification**

With the addition of these 12 new and re-certified examiners for 2009, 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.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following examiners who have performed 20 or more VSC's during 2009*.

Laurence B. Draper	01-05	James R. Goff	03-05
Annette F. Herring	03-09	Jeff D. Scarberry	03-09
Charles E. Mc Carty	05-03	Linda C. Mc Carty	05-03
Wilfred A. Sumner II	05-05	Jim D. Blackburn	05-07
Thomas P. O'Conner	08-06	Jermiah P. Collins	08-08
Robert E. White	08-08	Betty A Strach	08-08
John P. Ferretti	10-05	Neil P. Sliva	10-05

This brings our total to 29 examiners reaching this plateau! This is approximately 10% of the total District examiner base. 2008 had 18 examiners or 6% at this time. Where's your name?

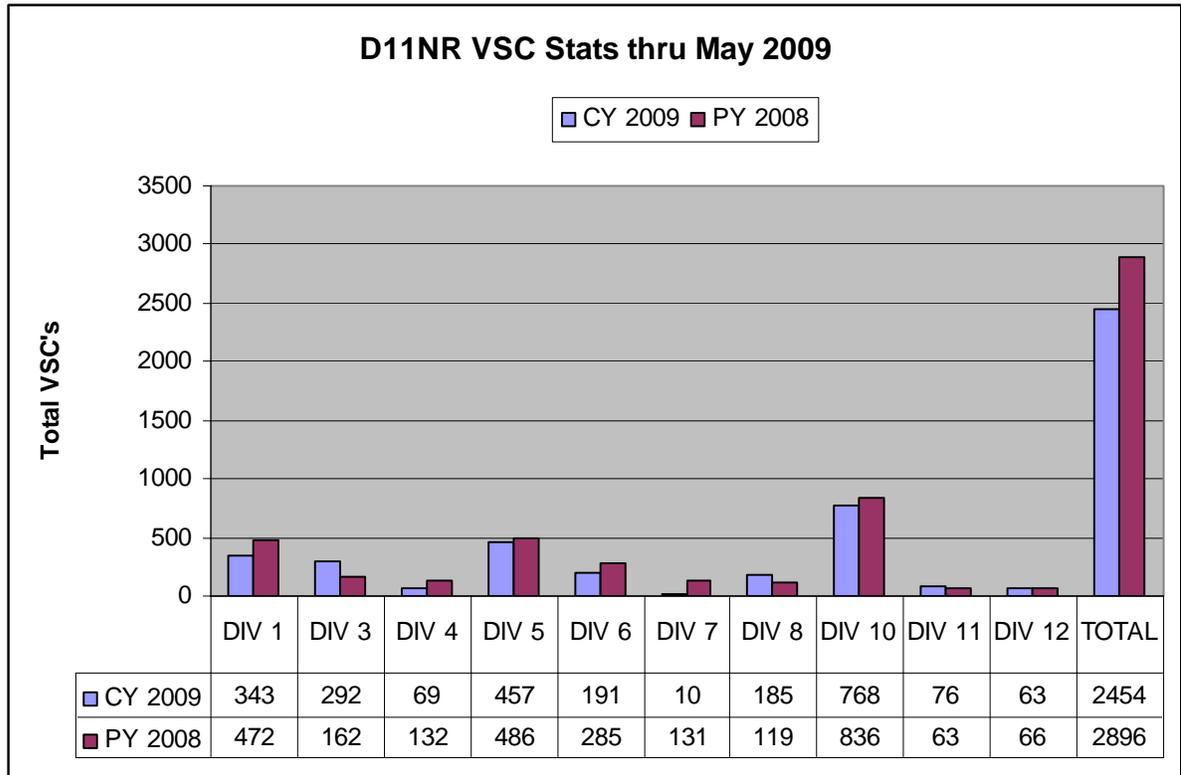
PLEASE be certain that all stats are reported MONTHLY using the CURRENT Form 7038 to your FSO-IS so you and your unit(s) will receive proper credit.

*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru May 2009

Bet You didn't Know...

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the "chair man." Today in business, we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board"

• **Division Statistics***



*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru May 31, 2009

The goal for D11NR for 2009 is **7,800 VSC's**. We are **37%** of our goal for the year and **85%** of 2008 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 **1283** or **52%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **1391** or **57%** are High Risk VSC's.

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

1-You happen to be visiting a friend at a local marina. You're wearing casual civilian clothes. A boat owner sees you and knows that you often have come in uniform to conduct VSC's. The owner asks if you would perform a safety check on the boat. What should you do?

- a. Apologize to the owner and explain that you can't do a VSC if you're not in proper uniform.
- b. Explain that you're off-duty and entitled to some "down time" too. Tell the owner to make an appointment or catch you when you out again in uniform.
- c. Since activity only counts if you're in uniform, don't waster your time or the boat owner's time. Come back another time in uniform.
- d. Even when you're not in uniform or prescribed dress, a VE should not delay or refuse a request for a VSC. It's much more important to accommodate the public than to worry about the uniform.

NOTE: For thought, carry a spare clipboard with a few forms and decals just for such occasions...

2-When there is a permanent fuel tank without an electrical source of ignition in the compartment and everything else has passed, can you issue the VSC decal?

- a. Yes, as long as the ducting is connected to the blower intake and extends only into the top third of the compartment.
- b. Yes, as long as the fuel tank is vented to the outside of the boat.
- c. No, permanent fuel tanks can rust and puncture. They should not be contained in special compartments.
- d. No, since the compartment doesn't have enough room to contain the exhaust ducting and cowls required by the Coast Guard.

♥National and District News

♥National News

-Attention Vessel Examiners

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

Source: Pete Urgola DC-V

♥District News

QUAGGAMUSSELS:

-This was sent to me from the Calif. DF&G via the "100 Meridian Initiative"

"We have come across a new vector that people should be alerted to.

On 5/26/09 a quarantine notice was issued by the CDFA Yermo Border Protection Station to an individual who was transporting items in his boat that were covered in quagga mussels. The individual collected items he found in Lake Mead that were covered in mussels because he thought the items looked interesting and he wanted to place the items with mussels in his garden.

Boat origin, Lake Mead, NV. Boat destination, Alta Loma, CA (DFG Region 6).

The individual was transporting materials from Lake Mead inside his boat and truck that were heavily infested with mussels. The items include: 4 anchors, 1 pole spear, 1 small prop, bottles and cans, and a boat propeller. Items were cleaned at the station.

The individual planned to place the items in his garden at his residence. There were no mussels found along the outside of the boat. The items were transported by the individual and to DFG's Ontario Regional Office to Chief McBride in Ontario.

The items are under quarantine at DFG's Ontario Regional Office in Ontario, CA.

Please let me know if you have any questions,"

Dominique Norton

Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

California Department of Fish and Game

-Some GREAT info from Jerry McAlwee DCDR 4 regarding the Mustang PFD's issued last year:

Annual inspection of the firing mechanism of your PFD is recommended. If it's GREEN, it's good, if it's RED, the CO2 cylinder needs to be replaced. There could have also been events where the curious have attempted or actually pulled the handle and the pfd may require re-arming. Following is the information and parts you will need to re-arm. Use only Mustang Survival re-arm kits available at most marine supply stores- West Marine, Overton's, Bass Pro Shop, etc. Use of other re-arm kits may result in improper operation or failure to operate and will void the product's warranty. The Manual Inflatable Re-Arm Kit contains everything necessary to re-arm your Mustang Manual Inflatable after deployment.

The kit for model number MD 3003 (ours) contains: one 33gram CO2 cylinder, one green inflator pin, one re-arming instruction manual.

Note: A suggestion-tuck the handle up inside the pfd until a demonstration is necessary. Additionally, the attached whistle tucked inside in the upper right, has a slide on the backside where it attaches to the exterior of the pfd. Please remember these PFD's are property of the Coast Guard and each flotilla is responsible for accounting for them. **Also, please do NOT leave any PFD's unattended.** In addition the flotilla or examiner is responsible for ANY required maintenance. (Mike)

Question 1-"d" See page 7 of the VSC Manual
Question 2-"b" See page 20 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!

