



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



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 6 Number 8

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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



As we approach the dog days of summer, in spite of the low water and extreme heat in many areas, there are still plenty of opportunities to plan MANY VSC activities. As you all know, "The mission of the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety program is to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property and environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats." The Vessel Safety Check program helps achieve voluntary compliance with both federal and state safety laws regarding the carriage of safety equipment. As a result of our unique relationship with the Coast Guard, in many instances the public perceives us as the Coast Guard and the public

looks to us as experts in this field. In many areas of the District like Nevada and Utah, we ARE the Coast Guard! As a result, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to share our knowledge with the boater about the benefits of having the correct safety equipment. So, be professional, informed, prepared, courteous, and properly dressed in the uniform of the day. In addition to checking for the proper equipment, our responsibility extends to how to use the safety equipment properly. You should also share your local and ACCURATE knowledge of the "California ABC's of Boating", "The Highlights of Utah's Laws and Rules Pamphlet", and "The Nevada Handbook of Boating Laws" all found on your D11NR VE website:
<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>.
 Nothing looks worse than not knowing the answer to a question or even

worse, providing the wrong answer! Be prepared to reinforce your answer by showing it in your current state rules booklet or the Federal Requirements Booklet. This helps give you credibility with the boater. We as vessel examiners must politely educate the boaters about the local laws of our individual states and the Federal Requirements as they pertain to the Vessel Safety Check. But, above all, please don't preach to the boater. If the vessel passes the VSC, affix the decal on the PORT side of the vessel, shake the boaters hand and thank them for their time. If the vessel fails, also shake the boaters hand and explain why it failed. If possible you may be able to help the boater pass. It may only take a ski flag, fuse, light bulb or something else simple that you carry with you. Even if you're not able to make the vessel compliant, your efforts show that you care. Rather than have the boater continue on their outing ill equipped, suggest a quick trip to the marina store, Wal-Mart or K-Mart to purchase that type IV or properly fitting lifejacket, anchor or other vital piece of missing equipment. Additionally, don't allow the exam to continue more than 10-15 minutes at the ramp. Remember, not all VSC's are the same. At the marina slip where you've been invited aboard a larger vessel while wearing your PFD, it may

take 20-30 minutes to complete the VSC. At the ramp, be considerate, not only of the boater receiving the VSC, but the next one in line. If the waiting boater can see that the exam only takes a few minutes, they'll be willing to wait their turn. Remember, they are there to enjoy an outing on the water and you want them to have a safe outing. You may have them for a VSC today, what about the next time? Finally, make it clear that you can help reschedule an exam with the boater, even if they live out of your geographical area. It's all part of the service we provide!

So, let's get a crew together, get out our PFD's, banners and other equipment and schedule a VSC station to help out the boater-that's what we agreed to do when we joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary!

Being a Vessel Examiner is HARD WORK, but at the end of the day, it's rewarding work! You'll never know about the lives you may have saved.... Remember to help support the national "WEAR IT!" campaign while wearing your PFD while working the docks on National Marina Day on August 8th.

Let's not forget to suggest the Vessel Examiner class to new members at the upcoming PCA Fair. As always, your comments are welcome.

ADSOS Comments

By Tony Budlong



The following are some tips to pass along when performing a VSC on a SUB-part of the one-on-one

education:

As the paddle sport usage has grown in the recent years, so has the number of accidents being reported from the use of canoes, kayaks, and rafts. A recent American Canoe Association (ACA) article quoted figures from a 2006 Outdoor Industry Foundation 5 year Study indicated the following: 22 MILLION paddled a canoe, another 22 MILLION went rafting, and additional 10-12 MILLION paddled a kayak. Their study went on further to indicate that the number of kayakers represented a growth of 272% during this period! The study also reported that approximately 75% of the related following guidelines were offered in a recent flyer published by the American Canoe Association, which urges all paddlers to boat responsibly to prevent accidents, minimize impacts, and avoid conflicts with residents and other users, and offered these guidelines:

SAFETY

1. Wear a properly fitted lifejacket while on the water. Never paddle under the influence of alcohol or un-prescribed drugs.
2. Paddle with a group, not by

yourself. Leave a "float plan" for your trip with a friend or family member.

3. Dress appropriately for weather and water conditions, including air and water temperature. Avoid conditions for which you are not prepared.
 4. Learn about your route in advance, especially potential hazards, and avoid hazards that are beyond your skill level.
 5. Carry a supply of food and water adequate for your trip length.
 6. Be able to read the water and effectively steer and propel you boat. Learn how to rescue yourself and others in the event of capsize.
 7. Do not stand up in your boat, and avoid weight shifts that may cause you to capsize. Do not carry more weight or persons than your boat is designed to safely accommodate.
 8. Respect Homeland Security protection zones. Stay at least 100 yards away from all naval vessels, installations, piers, and other security zones (unless instructed to approach).
- ### PERSONAL BEHAVIOR
1. Obey local rules and regulations. Use only public lands and access points.
 2. Respect private property. Never trespass to gain access.
 3. Be considerate of others while on the water. Give anglers a wide berth.
 4. Be considerate of local residents. Never change clothes in public view.
 5. Give back to the waterway. Participate in a cleanup, or volunteer for a local watershed organization.

6. Avoid introducing non-native species. Clean you equipment between trips.

LEAVE NO TRACE ETHICS

- 1. Dispose of waste properly. Never litter. Always pack out your trash.
- 2. Use a portable toilet or other approved method to pack out solid human waste and paper products. Dispose of liquid waste 200 ft. from water, away from camps and trails. Consult Leave No Trace (www.LNT.org) and local resource

managers for additional guidance.

- 3. Travel and camp on durable surfaces whenever possible. Minimize impacts to shore when launching.
- 4. Avoid building campfires, except in established fire rings, or in emergencies.
- 5. Respect wildlife by observing from a safe distance. Leave artifacts and natural features undisturbed. As always, your comments are welcome.

🏆Congratulations!

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

Gary L. Link	03-03	John G. Albro	03-05
Don W. Weggeland	03-09	Richard A. Garcia	03-09
Curtis S. Han	05-02	Johannes A. Pattiradjawne	05-02
Thomas P. O' Conner	08-06	Charles A. Poplinger	08-07
William E. Sharp Jr.	10-02	John L. Paval	10-03
Marion A. Rider	10-03	Patricia A. Walter	11-01
Donald A. Epstein	11-01	Angelo A. Perata	11-01
Leslie J. Pearlman	11-01	Joseph W. Harris	11-01
Diana D. Kincade	11-01	James L. Snell	11-04
William J. Stolz	11-05	Roger D. Haynes	12-91
Linda R. Haynes	12-91		

This brings our total to 59 examiners reaching this plateau!! This is approximately 20% of the total District examiner base. 2008 had 41 examiners or 14% 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 July 2009

🏆Bet You didn't Know...

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words

"go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

VSC Calendar

-National Marina Day August 8th

-Past Captains Training Fair-August 15th-16th at Coast Guard Island

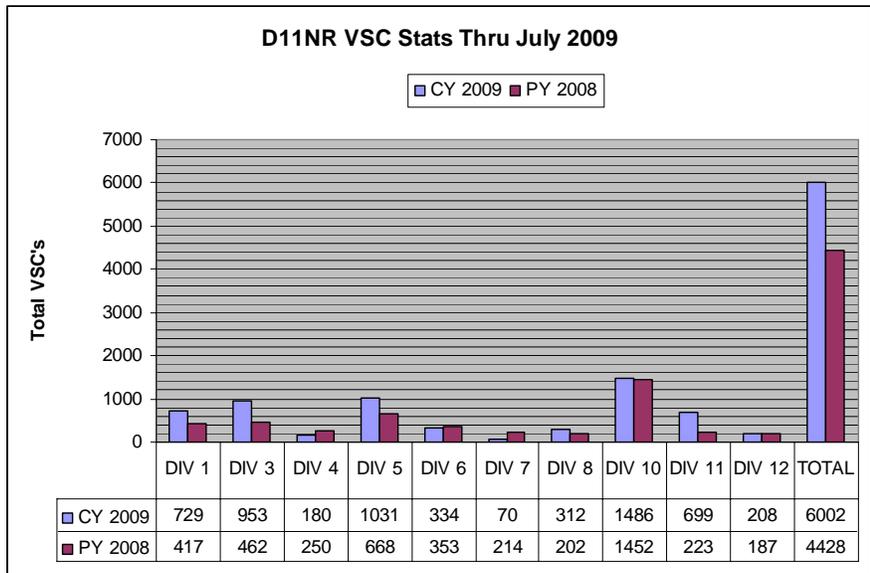
Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

Dyane Mohr*	01-04	Manuel Garcia*	03-0
Dan W. Weggeland*	03-09	Hilary M. Kauffman*	03-09
Dennis D. Wahler	04-08	Charles R. Burgess	05-03
John M. Pierce	05-03	Willie G. Burr*	05-03
Gary T. Dromi	08-08	Beverly Noll*	08-11
Robert S. Walker*	08-11	Linda D. Lawrence	10-03
Dion F. Poupenny*	11-01	Donald R. Morrison*	11-01
William M. Leppard SR.	11-01	Jamie D. Baugh	11-04
Richard J. Mc Sorley	11-04	Dennis F. Hogan	11-04
Jefferson C. Mays	11-05	Alex C. Belleque	11-05
Steven B. Perez	11-05	Michael R. Arnold SR.	11-05
Ann V. Cocksedge	12-21		

***Re-certification**

With the addition of these 23 new and re-certified examiners for 2009, our examiner base total is now 300 active examiners! This represents about 20% of our total District membership. This information is supplied by the Director's office, as examiners are qualified.

• Division Statistics*



The goal for D11NR for 2009 is 7,800 VSC's. We are 77% of our goal for the year and 135% 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 **3606** or **60%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **3603** or **60%** are High Risk VSC's.

*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru July 31, 2009

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

1- You are checking a PWC with a maximum speed of 75mph. When you ask the owner to show you the "kill switch" you are told that it doesn't work. Is this acceptable for a VSC decal?

- a. No, all vessels under 21' need to have operable kill switches.
- b. No, PWC's are thrill craft and the VE shouldn't even be checking these. They are not eligible for VSC decals.
- c. No, the device must be in working order. The VE needs to discuss the importance of hooking this up every time the PWC is used.
- d. Yes, because we don't need to check these items. As long as the PWC operator has on the proper PFD for a maximum speed of 75 mph, the intent of the VSC is satisfied.

2-Which of the following is eligible for a VSC?

- a. Motorized surfboard.
- b. Vessels registered in other than the US or it's territories.
- c. Work boats such as tugs, barges, etc.
- d. Kayaks or unregistered canoes.

National and District News

National News

Nothing new to Report.

District News

-Special thanks to Jim Goff, Steve Salmon, Stephen Cramer, Linda Lawrence (a new member) Charles and Linda Mc Carty, and Randy and Nedla Powers for braving the 102' heat both days at Buckley Cove Marina in Stockton performing VSC's in support of the Delta Blitz II over the weekend of July 18th and 19th. In spite of the intense heat and hectic pace, **141 VSC's** were performed! The next Delta Blitz (III) will be held in late August in the Sacramento area.



Photo: Jim Goff(l) and CAPT. Gugg (r) on Saturday at

Delta Blitz II after Jim completed a VSC on CAPT Gugg's personal vessel.

-I'd like to remind everyone that the 2009 VSC decal distribution at ANSC has ended. Simply put, there are no more decals to be distributed. Please pass the word to your local FC,'s and SO/FSO-MA not to request additional supplies. Recently, I've been deluged with requests for decals. **Please don't send any requests for VSC decals to me. Unfortunately, my reserve supplies are also gone.** Please try to work within your local Flotilla or Division to re-allocate supplies.

If our District VSC program is to continue to be successful, it is important the VSC decals get into the hands of examiners that need them the most.

-Please pass the word that once again the Vessel Examiner class is coming to PCA Fair over the weekend of August 15th and 16th. The 2-day class includes many handouts, discussion, the final exam and a VSC demo. This class is a great bargain at \$5.00 and an excellent opportunity for new members to get involved in the Auxiliary. The member is required to bring a copy of the VSC Manual, which is available for download on the D11NR Vessel Examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. In addition the member needs to review the material prior to class. Additional arrangements can be made at the class to perform the 5 VSC's to complete the qualification. If there are any questions, please have the member contact me at: sumfun@juno.com

Question 1-"c" See page 27 of the VSC Manual
Question 2-"d" See page 4 of the VSC Manual



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

