



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



## Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

April 2010

Volume 7 Number 3

Mike Lauro DSO-VE

Tony Budlong ADSO-VE    Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE

Phil Grove ADSO-VE    Alex Belleque ADSO-VE



### DSO Comments

By Mike Lauro



I'd like to congratulate the 11 recent graduates from the Vessel Examiner class at the PCA Fair, their names are listed

further in the newsletter. Please assist them as necessary in completing their qualification. Please make certain that their CURRENT MT-2 form (11-09), CURRENT 7038 (01-08) and CURRENT 7029 (01-10) are filled out correctly. As in the past, the MT-2 form must be signed by their Flotilla Commander prior to being submitted to the DIRAUX office. Any wrong step in the process will unnecessarily delay completing their qualification and receiving credit for VSC activity. Once their initial 5 VSC's are completed, please close your 7038 and start a new one. Otherwise, the trainee will show with as many VSC's as you place on the form with their name on it. **One last point from the Director's office, PLEASE have the qualifying members 7038 with the 5 VSC's entered into AUXDATA by the**

**FSO/SO-IS PRIOR to submission of the MT-2 to the Director's office.**

NOW is the time to start formulating plans for NSBW, May 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, followed closely by VSC Mega-Weeks. Please don't wait until the May flotilla meeting to start discussing plans. I'll have more about NSBW and VSC Mega-Month next month. Additionally, don't forget about National Marina Day, having been moved from August to June 12<sup>th</sup>.

While performing VSC's, please don't forget about our examiner etiquette. In addition to normal courtesy behavior and language, it also includes smoking. In addition to many other helpful aids, please take a minute and go to your D11NR Vessel Examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.ve.html> for a quick etiquette refresher. While there, don't forget to print out the 2010 West Marine coupons.

Just a quick comment about District awards being presented at D/Train; one of the 1<sup>st</sup> qualifiers for **ANY** District award is that **ALL** flotilla members qualified in a particular program (VSC) maintain their

qualification for the flotilla to be presented a District award. So, if a flotilla has the most VSC's and a member has not kept up their qualification as an examiner, the flotilla is disqualified. **Many** National awards reflect the same criteria. The responsibility for assuring that members maintain their qualification falls to the FC and FSO. Please see the FSO job description on the District Vessel Examiner website:

### **ADSO Comments**

By **Tony Budlong**

Fellow examiners, as we approach the start of another boating season, I'd like to take minute of discuss the uniforms while performing VSC's. First and foremost, if you have ANY



doubt about the uniform to be worn, please check the Auxiliary Manual Chapter 10. Rather than going into each uniform, Chapter 10 of the VSC Manual covers **all** possibilities in detail. If you don't have the manual or don't know where to find it, there is a link to it on the District Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. After you are dressed for ANY Coast Guard Auxiliary event, stand in front of the mirror to be certain everything is in place.

While there are many uniform possibilities when performing VSC's, the most important issue is that everyone tries to dress the same-hence "uniform". During the planning stage, the FSO-VE or person establishing the VSC station or event should designate the uniform of the day.

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

Finally, flip to the final page of the newsletter to check out the incentive for 20+ VSC's this year. Everyone who performs 20 VSC's or more will receive 2 of these! In the meantime, let's get out and start performing some VSC's and help support our state "Wear It" program!

As always, your comments are always welcome.

While most members have gone to the ODU's, there are still many additional choices available. Unfortunately, as we found out last fall, the Working Blue and Summer Undress Blue will both be phased out December 2012. The Working Blue it is still an excellent inexpensive choice until then and works well with the members wearing ODU's. The light blue polo shirt is an excellent option with others wearing the Summer Undress Blue uniform. Unfortunately it doesn't blend well with others wearing ODU's or the working blue. This sort of goes against the policy of everyone looking "uniform". The new untucked ODU is now available and must be purchased from the Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) in Cape May, N.J. which can be done online. There are many links to the site from our District websites. While more comfortable than the previous version, it is still heavy in warmer areas of the District. Remember, there is no mixing of components between the previous tucked ODU.

The Hot Weather Uniform, an excellent option for the ODU's and allows for dark

blue shorts, the dark blue Auxiliary t-shirt WHITE socks and either tan boating, or black or white tennis shoes. While on the topic of shoes, while performing VSC's in ODU's (either tucked or untucked), the Auxiliary Manual allows boots to be replaced with tennis or boating shoes. Additionally, while boots may be required for operations, PLEASE don't wear them while performing VSC's-especially when climbing aboard vessels as they leave black marks. Don't be surprised if prior to stepping aboard, you may even have to take any shoe off! Even while at a busy ramp, boots will be hot and heavy. Additionally, BLACK socks are worn with long pants, and WHITE socks with shorts. In addition, as these are NOT uniform items, NO devices are worn on

the Tilly hat, or when wearing the light blue VE golf shirt.

One uniform that should NEVER be worn while performing VSC's is Tropical Blue-shoulder boards, ribbons, dress shoes, etc! This uniform, while fine for many occasions, is not authorized for VSC's. Another option that has just about gone away is the coveralls. You don't see many members wear these unless they are "old timers!"

One last comment, while NOT a uniform item nor a requirement, consider wearing a pfd for your safety while working around docks, and to set an example while working the ramp. Any Auxiliary pfd is great or the "Wear It Pfd's we were issued a couple of years back all make the safety statement. As always, your comments are welcome.

### Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

Arthur A. Park	01-05	James A. Ippolito	03-03
Lawrence E. Cardoza	03-09	Jose R. Pereira	04-09
William A. Yawn	05-01	Craig S. Hartman*	05-02
Stephen J. Ogan	05-02	Philip E. Craig	05-02
Joseph A. Caputo	05-02	Billy Ray	05-02
Peter P. Bartolo*	05-05	Jonathan D. Briend	06-07
Jack T. Scheidecker	10-02	Steven T. Pitts	10-05
Nevin E. Armstrong	11-03	Michael D. Fanfa	12-01

\*Re-certification

With the addition of these 16 new and re-certified examiners for 2010, our examiner base total is now **295** active examiners! This represents about 20% of our total District membership. This information is supplied by the Director's office, as examiners are qualified.

### Bet You didn't Know...

In earlier times, at local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts," hence the term "**minding your 'P's and Q's.**"

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the following examiners who have performed 20 or more VSC's during 2010\*:

Robert J. Aston	01-04	Lawrence B. Draper	01-05
Michael F. Nolan	01-05	Charles M. Duncan Jr.	03-09
Lonny B. Singer	03-09	Gary N. Murray	05-05
Michael J. Lauro	10-02	Neil P. Sliva	10-05
Phillip E. Grove	10-05	Joseph W. Harris	11-01

This brings our total to 10 examiners reaching this plateau!! This is approximately 3% of the total District examiner base. 2009 had 9 examiners or 3% 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 March 22, 2010

### **Congratulations!** - *New feature!!*

Each month RBS Device recipients will be listed here! This information is supplied by the Director's office as members become qualified.

Anthony T. Budlong	06-04	William H. Correll	10-03
John L. Paval	10-03	Joseph W. Harris	11-01

Congratulations to the above members for receiving the RBS device! Many hours of hard work have gone into earning this device! This brings our District total to 26 members who have earned the device, which is 2% of our District membership and approx.3% of our RBS team membership. If you've earned the device, I hope you are proud to wear it you're part of an elite group!

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the following members who passed the Vessel Examiner class at the PCA Training Fair in February. PLEASE assist them in completing their qualification ASAP:

Peter Lambertson	01-02	Chris Poehlmann	01-04
Arthur Park	01-05	Roger Bazley	01-07
Karen Mercado	03-03	Michael Fiamingo	04-01
William Shepard	04-08	Mary Dee	05-07
Wallace Smith	06-10	Linda Bradon	10-02
Steven Bradon	10-02		

### **VSC Calendar-2010**

-D/Train-Rohnert Park-March 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

-National Safe Boating Week May 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

-National Marina Day-June 12th-NEW DATE!

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

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

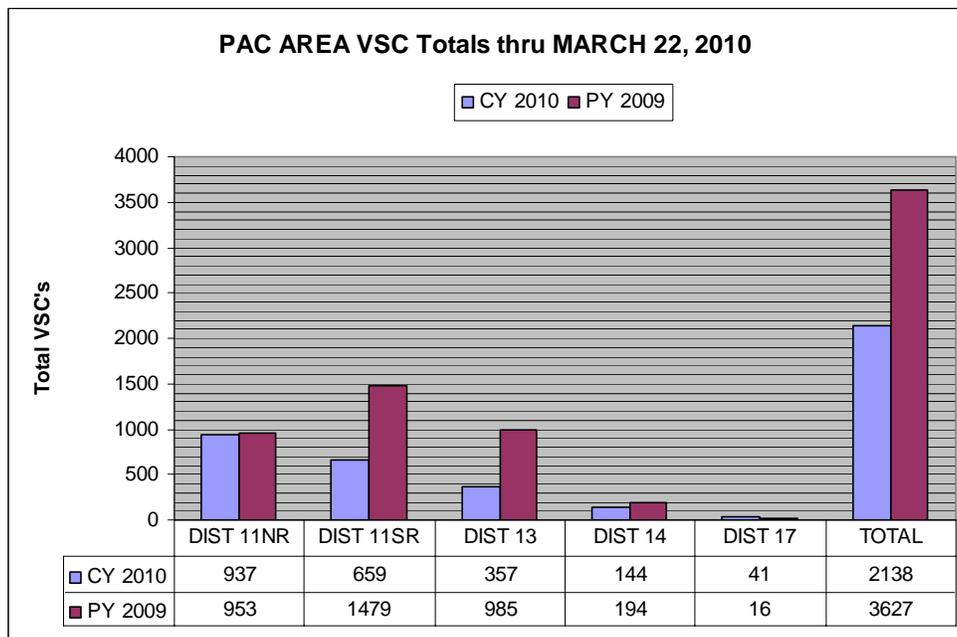
**1-When checking a 25' cabin cruiser, the owner proudly shows you his new I-Phone that is programmed with the telephone number of the local Coast Guard station in preparation of any trouble. What should your position, if any, be on a cell phone aboard the vessel?**

- a. Having a cell phone onboard as the primary means of communication for distress is an excellent idea. The new digital phones have much longer ranges and the foresight the owner showed in programming the number is the sign of a well prepared boater
- b. Cell phones are dangerous in a wet environment. If the cell phone gets wet, contact with user's ear can cause a fatal shock. Cell phones and boats don't mix.
- c. Cell phones are good to have on board to back up an VHF-FM radio when operating within range of a cell tower. However, beyond 10 miles from shore, cell phones become unreliable.
- d. Cell phones should not be aboard vessels since most owners will talk on them while driving the boat and their inattention often results in collisions.

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

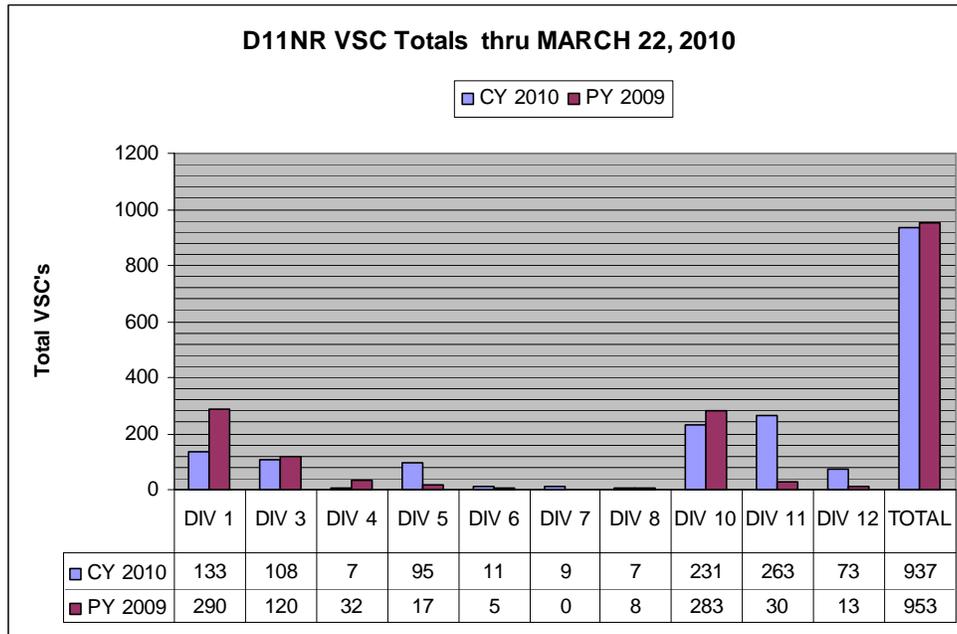
- a. Motorized surfboard.
- b. Vessels registered in other than the US or its territories.
- c. Work boats such tugs, barges, etc.
- d. SUBS such as canoes, kayaks, jon boats and PWC's.

**PAC AREA 2010 Statistics\***



\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru March 22, 2010

## D11NR 2010 Statistics\*



The goal for D11NR for 2010 is **10,000 VSC's**. We are **1%** of our goal for the year and **98%** of 2009 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 **381** or **41%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **265** or **28%** are High Risk VSC's.

\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru March 22, 2010

## National and District News

### District News

-A special request from the Director's office, PLEASE have the qualifying members 7038 with the 5 VSC's entered into AUXDATA by the FSO/SO-IS **PRIOR** to submission of the MT-2 to the Director's office.

-Effective January 1, 2010, anyone who qualifies for the RBS device will NOT have to wait until the end of the year to receive the device. Thanks to YN3 Stacy Curtin of the DIRAUX office, when you qualify for the device, it will be awarded on a timely basis-in approx 30 days. As the Coxswain device, Marine Safety device, and all other ribbons and medals, it will be forwarded to your Flotilla Commander for presentation. Next time you see YN3 Stacy Curtin, give her a BIG thank you for creating a new program and ending the frustrating waiting period!

-An important notice from Paul Newman RBS Specialist for D11 regarding "PFD Savers": They are NOT approved for use while a boat is underway. PFD Savers are a slip cover designed to cover Type II or Type IV PFD. You can see them at

[www.pfdsavers.com](http://www.pfdsavers.com). The manufacturer's website claims "PFD Saver has recently passed inspections performed by the Coast Guard Auxiliary [sic] (fortunately NOT in our area.) Think of it like putting sunscreen on your PFD." Obviously this is misleading and we don't want any Auxiliarists accepting these covers while performing VSC's. Please pass the word.

Thanks.

Paul Newman

## **National News**

-**West Marine** has released the 2010 VSC discount coupon. The boater needs to bring the coupon and the ANSC 7012 to the store to receive a discount on safety equipment. A black and white printable copy is available on your D11NR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. Hard copies of the coupon should be available in stores prior to NSBW. Please don't just send the boater to the store with the 7012 as there is no way to track the impact of the program.

-**OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND** at Walmart, K-Mart, Ace Hardware, West Marine, and Bass Pro Shops, are just some of the retail stores that have given our PA Officers space for their boating safety displays for National Safe Boating Week. With the 2010 campaign ahead of us, let's plan to use these stores as opportunities to meet the boating public and support them on safe boating practices. Now is the time to contact the managers of these establishments and secure a spot during NSBW. Some of these stores may allow us to use a part of their parking lot to perform VSCs.

Other opportunities abound to reach the boating public, via the media. Download the statistics from the National Safe Boating Council website: [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com) to list boating accidents and fatalities for your press releases. Editors love statistics. Also, invite the TV and news media to attend your special NSBW events. Life jacket demonstrations and on-the-water rescues make great action footage for television broadcasts. Look for the free and paid resources available from the campaign site in March. Such items as Wear It stickers, decals and posters are especially favored by our younger boaters. For additional resources, download the Auxiliary Material Supply Center Catalog at <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/misc/DCAT.pdf>. Order through your Materials Officer. Don't forget to post your planned PA exhibits and VSC's on the campaign website for NSBW and even before the big event. Share your great ideas.  
Harriet Howard, Special Assistant for NSBW

-The newest edition of For Safety's Sake, Volume II - 2010 has been released. This new issue was released on March 15th and is available for downloading from the V Departments Newsletter page at <http://safetyseal.net/Newsletters/>, or from your D11NR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. In this issue is: 2009 Performance, Boating Safety Resource Center, Digital Select Calling Radios, Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program Guide, Opportunities with Sea Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, VSC Mega Weeks and more.

Download your copy and pass it on to your associates after you've read it.

Source: [P. Urgola, Director V-Dept]

-The Auxiliary National Supply Center has received the following:  
ANSC#3032 - Pamphlet, "How to Choose the Right Life Jacket" (Boat Responsibly)

**-Paddlesports America - Now AVAILABLE**

Celebrate the arrival of spring by launching the 2010 boating season teaching the new *Paddlesports America* course to our newest budding audience - novice canoeists and kayakers. It is **NOW** ready and available for **ORDER** as an Auxiliary approved course.

Materials may **NOW** be ordered through the District's normal ordering procedure. The order number is 1PA-10150. Supporting materials - PowerPoint Presentations and Chapter Summaries - are available for download on the E-Library Resource Center. The direct link is: <http://www.cgauxed.org/paddle.htm>

The course has been added to the 7023 Form - Intent to Teach as code - PA. When submitting the final Course Completion on Form 7030, the mission code for *Paddlesports America* is 14J.

Reach out and help save the lives of all recreational boaters by including the kayakers and canoeists.

Source: Anne R. Lockwood

Director- Education

-In the continuing evolution to provide information to assist both the new and experienced vessel examiners, there have several NEW additions and updates for 2010 on YOUR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>.

Expect to see many more exciting changes for 2010!

Question 1-"c" See page 31 of the VSC Manual

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



**New incentive for 20+ VSC's for 2010**

**(The frame not the plate!)**

**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!**



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