



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



## Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

**August 2010**

**Volume 7 Number 7**

**Mike Lauro DSO-VE**



**Tony Budlong ADSO-VE Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE Phil Grove ADSO-VE**

### **DSO Comments**

By Mike Lauro



As you saw in last months National news, the National "V" Dept. is once again having a big push to get examiners signed up on the "I want a VSC" site. Currently, we only have 105 examiners or 36% of our D11NR vessel examiners listed. Compare that to 2007 where the District had 163 examiners listed or 54% of active examiners signed up. I'm not sure why we have had a decline in participation. I know of many examiners listed on the site that easily perform 5 or more VSC's each year! Additionally, many yacht clubs use this service to find a vessel examiner. So, you could be missing out on easy VSC opportunities.

When I was asked to promote the program in 2007, I invited several local boating publications to list the "I want a VSC" address and I asked Utah, Nevada, and California to establish a link to the [www.safetyseal.net](http://www.safetyseal.net) site. Signing up is easy and 100% secure for you-the examiner. Please take a minute and go to: <http://safetyseal.net/get>

[vsc/enternewexaminer.asp](http://vsc/enternewexaminer.asp) to sign up. All that is required is your name, email address and zip code(s) that you'd be willing to work. The boater supplies all of their contact information to you. After they have contacted you, they receive an acknowledgement that you've been emailed and are waiting for a response. You should respond ASAP via email or by phone to discuss the VSC requirements and to schedule an appointment. After about a week, the National "V" Dept will contact the boater to see if you've responded. If not, then the contact information will be forwarded to me for further action. Below is an actual contact from a boater:

**Name:** Sandi Lauro

**Email:** [sumfun@juno.com](mailto:sumfun@juno.com)

**Area Code and Phone:** 209-870-4336

**Address:** 3282 Auto Center Circle

**Address:** Stockton, Ca. 95212

**Vessel Location:** Stockton

**Vessel ZIP:** 95212

"Person requesting VSC is willing to bring his boat to the examiner."

Below is the an email response back to the boater: "You just requested a Vessel Safety Check from Mike Lauro located in Lodi, CA. 95242 at

7/28/2010 11:52:51 am. An email was sent to this volunteer examiner who should contact you shortly. If the email bounces back to you as undeliverable or you do not hear from the volunteer within a week, please reply to this email to tell us so we can find out why and keep our system updated. After notifying us, please go back and try another volunteer in your area. Thanks for taking safe boating seriously! The National Vessel Examiners Website."

As you can see, it is completely safe. A couple of additional comments,;  
1) For insurance purposes, please notify your FSO-VE of FC when you go out on your own to perform a VSC. A simple email or phone call will do.

2) ALWAYS wear a pfd if you go to a marina especially on the docks or when climbing aboard a vessel.

3) If you are female, NEVER go out alone!

As always, your comments are welcome.

## **ADSOS Comments**

By Phil Grove DSO-PV



This past January when I attended N-Train in St. Louis as the DSO-PV (and ADSO-VE) and part of the District RBS Team, a portion of the training was to remind, Roger (PE), Mike (VE), and myself that we are all components of the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) team and to stress TEAMWORK. As a member of that team, we all share a common goal to help educate the boater. However, we each do it in a unique way. As we know Roger's Public Education program offers many tradition and non-traditional classes. These vary from the multi lesson classes, to the new recently released Paddle Sports America class to his campfire program introduced this year at Brannon Island State Park. Mike's Vessel Safety Check program which is a one-on-one education with boater has grown in recent years and even more so recently with his push for kayak and canoe (SUBS) VSC's. The Program Visitor (PV) program helps to educate the boater by providing

current safety related material to our retail partners. In addition, the PV program helps promote VSC stations, public education classes and special events. But, there is far more involved with the program than just simply keeping material racks filled. With that in mind, I offer a 4-hour review class and exam at the PCA Training Fair. This  $\frac{1}{2}$  day class is an excellent opportunity for the new member to be quickly involved in a program or for the vessel examiner or established member to expand their horizons. Manuals required are the RBSVP Manual # M16793.3C which is available on the District PV website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/pv.html> and

the VSC Manual # M16796.8 which is available on Mike's District VE website:

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

Study material must be reviewed prior to class. For more information about the class or the Program Visitor program in general, please visit our PV web site, or email me at:

[imn2boats@yahoo.com](mailto:imn2boats@yahoo.com).

### **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. Thanks to our new Yeoman YN3 Kara Ingerson of the Directors office for following up on this important device after YN2 Stacy Curtin was transferred. The presentation of the device may be pending. Congratulations to:

Annette F. Herring	03-09	Wallace A. Smith	06-10
Thomas B. Henderson	11-01	William J. Stoltz	11-01

Many hours of hard have gone into earning this device! This bring our District total 31 members who have earned the device, which is approx. 2% of our District membership and approx. 10% of our RBS team. If you've earned the device, I hope you are proud to wear it as you're part of an elite group!

### **Wear It California! Schedule** - *New Feature!*

-Aug 14	Walnut Grove Marina	Walnut Grove
-Aug 28	Village West Marina	Stockton
-Sept 4	Lauritzen Yacht Harbor	Oakley

The schedule is tentative and is subject to possible change.

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

The international distress call "**Mayday**" used by ships, airplanes, and recreational boaters, originates from the French word **m'aidez**, which means "**help me**"! It is easily recognized above the static and noise of long-distance radio transmissions.

BTW- **SOS** does not mean "**save our ship**" or "**save our souls**". It doesn't stand for anything-it was picked as a distress signal because it was easily remembered ... - - - ...

### **Congratulations!**

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

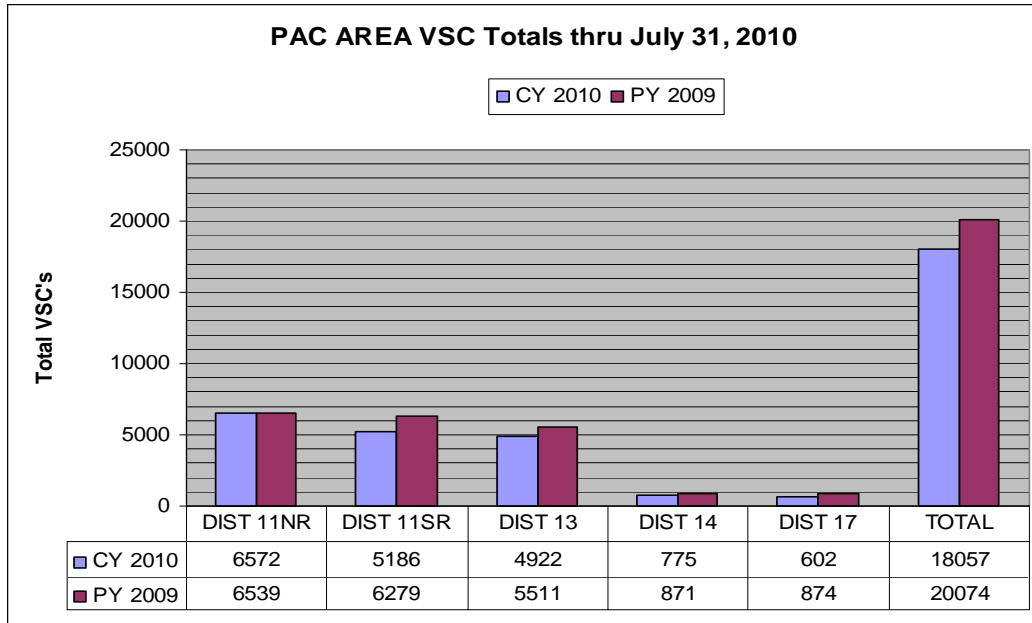
Diana R. Serchia	01-07	James A. Ippolito	03-03
Richard A. Garcia	03-09	Annette F. Herring	03-09
Dennis D. Wahler	04-08	James R. Minkel	05-01
Betty A. Strach	08-08	John L. Paval	10-03
John P. Ferretti	10-05	Douglas T. Lazo	10-05

This brings our total to **62** examiners reaching this plateau!! This is approximately **20%** of the total District examiner base. 2009 had 55 examiners or 17% 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.

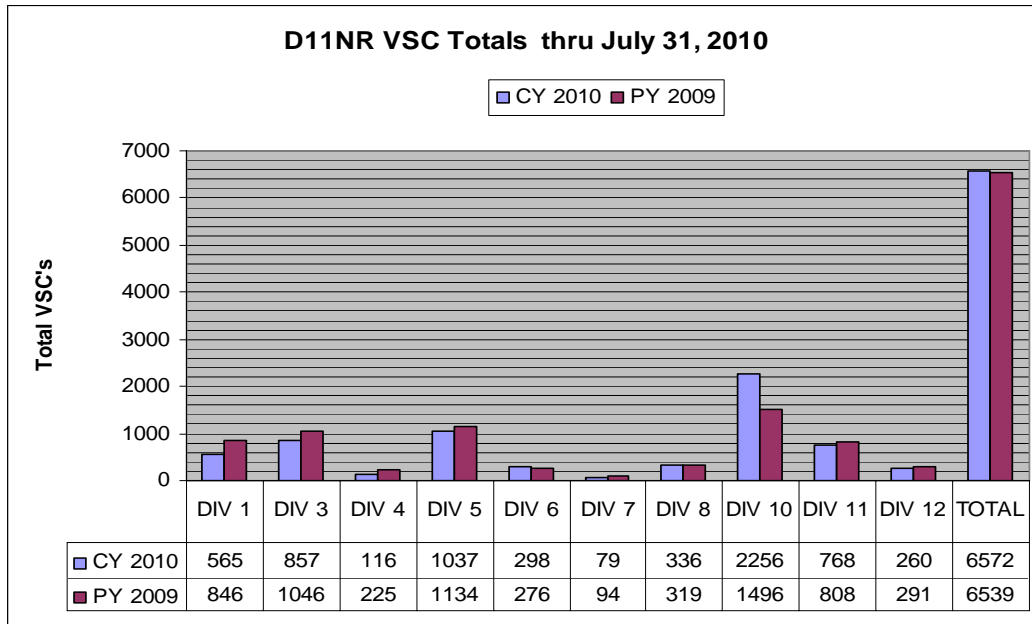
\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru July 31, 2010

## PAC AREA 2010 Statistics\*



\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru July 31, 2010

## D11NR 2010 Statistics\*



The goal for D11NR for 2010 is **10,000 VSC's**. We are **65%** of our goal for the year and **101%** 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 **3734** or **56%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **4395** or **67%** are High Risk VSC's.

\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru July 31, 2010

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

Michael C. Thompson	07-02	Robert E. Gerbi	08-07
Donald E. Trebel*	08-08	Christian A. Arroyo*	10-02
William W. Walker*	10-03	Stuart A Harrington	11-04
Sonia L. Foster	12-91		

\*Re-certification

With the addition of these 7 new and re-certified examiners for 2010, our examiner base is now **309** active examiners! This represents about 20% of our total District membership. This information is supplied by the Director's office, as examiners are qualified.

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

**1-Which of the following are good techniques for checking the ventilation system on a gasoline powered inboard boat?**

- Look into the fuel and engine compartments or spaces for evidence of leaks.
- Have the owner turn on the blower so that the air exhausting from the blower can be felt.
- Check the date of manufacture and depending on that date; check that the type of ventilation is appropriate for the year of manufacture.
- All of the above.

**2-A PWC Operational Facility:**

- Must carry a CG Auxiliary or Patrol Ensign
- Must carry 30' of towline.
- Does not need a VHF-FM radio.
- Does not need a throwable PFD (Type IV).

## **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.

-When performing a VSC with the new 7012A, please give the boater the form and record your information on a separate 7038. At some point, please email me at: [sumfun@juno.com](mailto:sumfun@juno.com) with the total number of VSC's you've performed with the new form. This information along with any comments or suggestions you may have will be forwarded to the national level.

-**Delta Blitz**- Thanks to the following examiners: **Jim Goff 03-05, Mike Rafatti 10-02, Steve Bradon, 10-02, Matt Innes 10-02, Mike Lauro 10-02, and John Paval 10-03**, for making the Stockton VSC portion of the Delta Blitz held at Morelli Park and Buckley Cove held on 17-18 July a **HUGE** success! Over **144 VSC's** were completed both days with **108** boaters passing! As expected the temperatures were in the high

90's both days! West Marine was on site both days and assisted the boaters to get into compliance by providing safety related materials and honoring the 10% VSC discount. In addition, the store personnel on site could not believe that members of the Auxiliary are **VOLUNTEERS** and provide the services we do under less than ideal conditions!

**-Vessel Examiner Class-** Please remind fellow members that once again the Vessel Examiner is coming to the PCA Training Fair over the weekend of August 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. The 2-day class includes many handouts, discussion, visitors, a VSC demo, and the final exam. This class is a great bargain 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 District Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. In addition, the member needs to review the material prior to class. Additional arrangements may 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](mailto:sumfun@juno.com).

### **National News**

**-New item:** ANSC#3004 - PAMPHLET, OPERATION PADDLE SMART CANOEING/KAYAKING SAFETY (BR) - The life-saving benefit of wearing a life jacket, to highlight the immediate danger of sudden cold water immersion, to encourage boater and paddler education to ID your canoe, kayak or rowboat and to stress the importance of being a responsible and prudent boater. (MAX 100)  
Source: Pete Urgola DIR-RBV

**-Federal Requirements Booklet:** The Federal Requirements Booklets are out of stock at ANSC until late August.  
Source: Pete Urgola DIR-RBV

**-DSC VHF Alert.** Please review the full text of the Coast Guard Safety Alert 02-10 regarding DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH AUTOMATIC CHANNEL SWITCHING ON DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING (DSC) EQUIPPED VHF MARINE RADIOS UNDER **"Hot Line Message National V News"** on the District Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>

-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-"d" See page 21 of the VSC Manual

Question 2-"b" See the 7008 form

**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!**



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.