



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



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

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DSO Comments

By Mike Lauro



As with all jobs, the job is not complete until the paperwork is finished! In addition to turning in your 7038's through the I.S.

system, please don't forget to turn in your VSC stats for NSBW to your Flotilla or Division NSBW chairperson so you receive credit for your hard work!

Now that NSBW has past, it's time to make plans for **VSC Mega-Weeks** from the end of NSBW, thru the month of June to July 4th and **National Marina Day** which is now June 12th. The idea behind the 8-weekend **VSC Mega-Weeks** period is to concentrate our efforts on making boaters aware of the benefits of the Vessel Safety Check. The goal of **National Marina Day** is to remind the public the important role the marina industry plays as family-friendly gateways to boating and stewards of the environment. Last year, over 275 marinas nationally and dozens of local marinas participated in this event.

As with the NSBW events, planning should have begun at least 30 days or more prior. In the planning, FSO's should try to 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 members. Flotilla's with a small examiner base should try to coordinate and possibly combine efforts with other flotillas or possibly the Power Squadron. A Flotilla representative should have contacted their local partnering marina businesses to solicit their participation in supporting a VSC station. 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. Planning events with a marina that has a marina store can lead to benefits to everyone involved; the boater, the store and you. Given the opportunity with some advance notice, a local marina may

provide a **FREE** launch day or possibly a reduced fee to boaters that have a VSC performed that day.

Finally, to assure complete success, promote our public education courses on our District public PE website:

<http://public.d11nuscgaux.info/pe-courses.html>.

The site has not only course descriptions, but locations of various classes with contact information throughout the District. **Please** add this address on all of your handouts. Also promote the America's

Waterway Watch (AWW) and potential membership in the Auxiliary. With careful planning, **VSC Mega-Weeks** and **National Maina Day** for 2010 can be as successful as our NSBW activities. One last comment, review the **WEAR IT CALIFORNIA!** schedule and try to plan an event with them.

Let's get out and help make our local waterways safer! As always your comments are welcome.

ADS Comments

By **Tony Budlong**



Fellow examiners, I'd like to take a minute of discuss the **Rental Vendor Program** as it pertains to performing VSC's on SUB's (Sport Utility

Boats- kayaks and canoes) at rental agencies.

First let me say that D11NR is fortunate to participate in this program, as many Districts across the country do not. Before you plan on running out and passing out whistles and slapping VSC decals on every kayak and canoe, please take a minute to read and download both the introduction letter and the agreement from the District website:

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

These will help you understand the program and the letter will open the door for you with the dealer. The program takes **both** a Program Visitor and a Vessel Examiner, **or** one person with both qualifications.

You should set up a meeting with owner/manager of the rental vendor to explain the program and observe how

they educate their customers at the time of a rental. You may want to observe their operation prior to arriving for the meeting so that you understand their procedures and possibly make suggestions. Here in the Monterey area, we are in our 3rd year with Monterey Bay Kayaks at two locations. They have an excellent pre-rental program that I'd be glad to share if you'd like. In addition, the personal protective equipment is checked initially and periodically during the year. Once you establish a relationship with the dealer and they agree to participate in the program and sign the agreement, a copy needs to be forwarded to Mike so he's aware of the vendor participation.

As we know, the VSC is more than an equipment check; it's also a one-on-one education with the boater. This is even more important when performing a VSC on a SUB. For that reason, we have the new 7012A form specific for kayaks and canoes. It is available on the District Vessel Examiner website:

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

Please take a few minutes to review it and print out as many as you need in

gray stroke. Then run them back thru to print on the backside. You only need single copies as you'll be giving the completed form to the owner and recording your total SUB activities for the month on a 7038 separate from your other VSC's. Next year, the form will be available as a 2-part form from ANSC.

After I'm comfortable with the pre-launch safety session, I approach the dealer about inspecting **ALL** of the life jackets to be certain they are Coast Guard approved and in excellent condition with no rips, tears, or missing identification markings. In addition to examining the life jackets, make certain the dealer understands that a whistle is required to be on board (prefer to be attached to the life jacket). When done examining the pfd's, proceed with the VSC on each SUB. Here you are looking for any obvious structural issues, the hull identification number or rental number. On a typical visit to an agency, an examiner should be able to perform about 25 VSC's so you may want to have a partner if you plan to perform VSC's on all units in one visit. For sanitary reasons, the dealer should wash life

jackets, wet suits, booties, etc. after each use, and so should the whistle, eliminating the need for each customer to have their own whistle, unless they offer it for sale. Please remember, it is **NOT** your responsibility to provide whistles and it would be better if the dealer had his or her own source. The cost could easily be absorbed into the rental fee.

The VSC for the **sit-on** kayaks after verifying the hull and /or rental number primarily involves a check of life jackets with personal whistle attached, and flashlight and flares if paddle activity is scheduled for evening hours. If the units are **sit-in** units, then spray skirts, paddle floats and hand operated pump are all checked.

Finally, do spot checks (which is part of the agreement) not only to check equipment, but to observe and assure the Vendors or their agents are adhering to the policies and procedures laid out in and at the time of the signed agreement. Also make certain adequate **training** is provided before the individual renter or group is released to head out on their water adventure. As always, your comments are welcome.

VSC Calendar-2010

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

-VSC Mega-Weeks May 28th thru July 5th

-Past Captains Training Fair- Coast Guard Island-August 21st -22nd

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.

NO RECIPIENTS THIS MONTH.

Bet You didn't Know...

Loaves of bread were divided horizontally according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust".

Congratulations!

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

Robert W. Hendry	01-02	Leon F. Artac	01-05
James R. Goff	03-05	Jim D. Blackburn	05-07
Anthony T. Budlong	06-04	Charles A. Poplinger	08-07
Linda Bradon	10-02	Donald L. Pierce	10-05
Steven T. Pitts	10-05		

This brings our total to 29 examiners reaching this plateau! This is approximately 4% of the total District examiner base. 2009 had 15 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 May 31, 2010

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

1-When checking a 27' stern drive boat, the owner cannot produce he pole for the combined stern and masthead light. Is the boat eligible for the VSC decal?

- No, even though it is daylight, the VE must ensure that the boat is able to display the proper navigation lights..
- No, it doesn't matter where the pole is, that lighting configuration isn't legal on a boat longer the 26'.
- Yes, if the owner advises you that the boat only gets underway during daylight.
- Yes, but the owner needs to promise the VE that the pole will always be onboard in the future.

2-Operational Facilities must carry _____ over the legal requirements according to the length of the facility.

- 2 extra PFD's.
- 1 extra PFD.
- No extra PFD's required.
- 3 extra PFD's required.

Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

Wallace A. Smith**	06-10	Margaret C. Herbelin	08-06
Robert W. Shaw	08-06	Katharine R. Boyne*	11-03
Arnold M. Corbett*	12-01		

*Re-certification

**from the February 2010 PCA class!

With the addition of these 4 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.

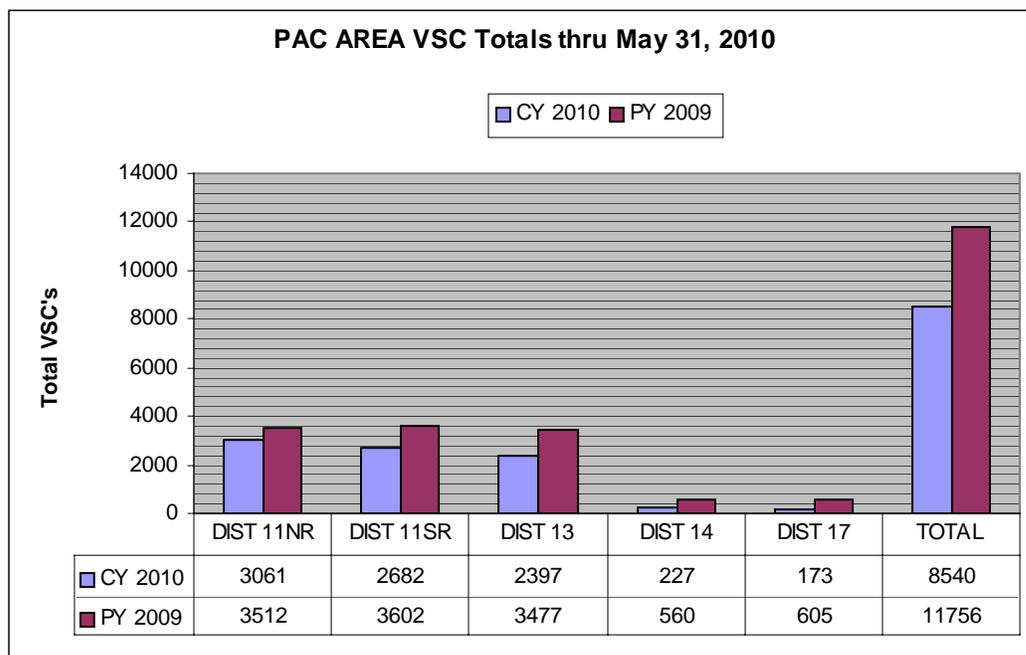
Wear It California! Schedule-New Feature!

-Jun 12	Buckley Cove	Stockton
-Jun 26	Boathouse Marina	Walnut Crove
-July 3	Tower Park Marina	Lodi
-July 17	Russo's Marina	Bethel Island
-Jul 31	Vieira's Resort	Isleton
-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.

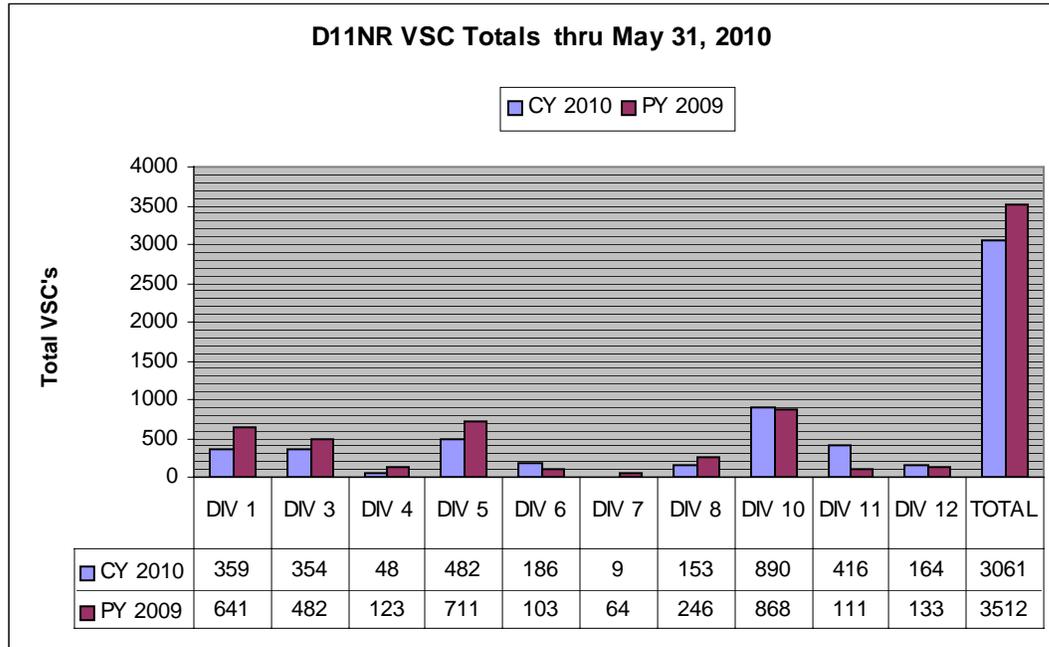
If you are interested in performing VSC's at any of these locations with the Wear It California! crew, **please** let me know ASAP.

PAC AREA 2010 Statistics*



*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru May 31, 2010

D11NR 2010 Statistics*



The goal for D11NR for 2010 is **10,000 VSC's**. We are **30%** of our goal for the year and **87%** 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 **1478** or **48%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **1856** or **60%** are High Risk VSC's.

*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru May 31, 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.

-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 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.

-**Attention ALL California Vessel Examiners:** CAL Boating has asked me to make you aware that many promotional and printed materials this year including the Calif. ABC's, whistles, coloring books, ski flags, etc. are in a **very limited supply**. Many orders may **NOT** be fully filled so that materials are distributed evenly. With this in mind, please keep this in mind when passing out materials at PA booths and during VSC's.

Source: Melissa Langland Calif. Dept of Boating and Waterways

-FLARE REMINDER:

-From the Director's Office: "The decision was made years ago, from Legal and the Ordinance Office, that no CG or AUX unit is to train the public in the use of pyro with actual demonstrations. This is for stations, sectors, cutters, and by extension reserves and auxiliary. There are a number of legal liability issues with civilian participants. In addition, we do **NOT** accept expired flares."

-OUT-OF-DATE-FLARES

Used Flare Disposal Report

Working on finding disposal sites has been one of the most amusing and frustrating assignments I have been given. I won't bore you with all the steps I have gone through to get the following information, but it has been a merry-go-round between state, county, police, fire department, bomb squads, environmental departments, and county administrators.

Some new policies have been written in response to my inquiry and some old ones have been dusted off and put back into use.

The only things that I can say with certainty are as follows:

1. California has a law that the only people who can pick up and transport or store flares are those licensed for that purpose. If any unlicensed person accepts flares for disposal they are breaking the law. However, any individual can hold, transport or store their own flares.
2. Flares are considered explosives. However, you may see information on County websites stating that explosives are not accepted. This statement is now obsolete with regard to flare disposal.
3. All counties must provide a disposal site for flares.
4. Hazardous waste sites do not have to accept flares. They may have other alternative sites for disposing of them.
5. Personnel at hazardous waste sites do not always have instructions regarding county policy for accepting flares at their site. (Are you getting the picture?)
6. Individuals may only dispose of flares in their county of residence ~ not the location of their boat

Contributed by Neil Nevesny

-DELTA BLITZ 2010

As in 2009, the Coast Guard has asked our assistance with their 2010 Delta Blitz campaign by performing VSC's at selected Delta locations. As last year, opportunities for vessel examiners are 1st come 1st served at the following dates and locations:

Saturday June 19th and Sunday June 20th in the Stockton area

Saturday July 17th and Sunday July 18th in the Sacramento area

Saturday August 7th and Sunday August 8th in the Discovery Bay area.

If you are interested in participating in at an event, you need to contact me ASAP at sumfun@juno.com with your preferred date and location and a secondary choice. Every opportunity will be made, but there is NO guarantee that that you will receive your preferred choice. Like last year, these are likely to be very HOT days and these will be very fast paced VSC's. The preferred uniforms will be either the working blue

w/shorts white socks and either black or white tennis shoes, the hot weather uniform (dark blue Aux t/shirt and shorts with either black or white tennis shoes), or the light blue golf shirt, shorts with either black or white tennis shoes. Please remember with NO devices on either the ball cap or Tilley cap with the golf shirt.

More information as to exact times and locations will be made available as more information becomes available.

-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 and better system for tracking and presenting this award on a timely basis!

In addition to updated information on flares, the District Vessel Examiner site: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. has undergone some minor changes and improvements to make it a bit more user friendly. Of the many changes, for ease of use, the "AUXINFO" link has been made larger and a brighter color.

National News

-The newest edition of For Safety's Sake, Volume III - 2010 has been released. This new issue was released on May 14th and is available for downloading from the V Departments Newsletter page at <http://safetyseal.net/Newsletters/>.

In this issue is: Vessel Safety Check Mega Weeks, Fire Extinguishers: "To Tap or Not To Tap...that is the question?", Program Visitor Window Decal, Visual Distress Signals Revisited, VSC for a Sport Utility Boat, Sport and Utility Boat VSC Decal Placement and more!

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

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

-West Marine has released the 2010 VSC discount coupon. The boater needs to bring **both** 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>. 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.

-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-"a" See page 24 of the VSC Manual

Question 2-"a" See the 7003 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 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.