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**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region**

Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

April 2009

Volume 6 Number 2

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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



I'd like to congratulate the recent graduates from the Vessel Examiner class at the VE workshop held in Reno in January and from

the PCA Fair. The graduates is listed further in the newsletter. Please assist them as necessary in completing their qualification. Please make certain that their CURRENT MT-2 form and CURRENT 7038 are filled out correctly. As in the past, the MT-2 form must 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. It was GREAT to see everyone at D/Train recently held at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park. I

hope everyone had a positive experience from this important training fair and awards banquet. Congratulations to everyone who received an award for their hard work during 2008! A list of the Vessel Examiner award recipients is listed further in the newsletter.

Congratulations to the members (listed further in the newsletter) that have performed 40+ VSC's and received a certificate of appreciation from the National Commodore.

In January, I solicited your comments about updating the VSC Manual. ALL of your suggestions have been forwarded to the various committee members for consideration.

NOW is the time to start formulating plans for NSBW, May16th-22nd. 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, let's not forget about our examiner etiquette while performing VSC's. In addition to many other helpful aids, please take a minute and go to your D11NR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html> for a quick etiquette refresher. While there, don't forget to print out the West Marine coupons. Finally, the zebra/quagga mussel continues to be of concern to many examiners. Rather than deal with it

again here, please go to your D11NR website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html> for a detailed explanation of our role in dealing with this problem. 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 at: sumfun@juno.com

Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

Patrick B. Buckman*	05-02	Bonnie Miner*	07-08
Charles S. Johnson III	10-03	Joseph W. Harris	11-01
John R. Boyne	11-03		

***Re-certification**

With the addition of these 5 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 members from the Reno VE workshop and the PCA Fair who have completed part one of the Vessel Examiner qualifications:

Ronald Smith	01-05	Patrick Wasley	01-05
William Bermudez	01-07	Patricia Daugherty	01-07
Stephen Daugherty	01-07	Gary Link**	03-03
Nancy Link**	03-03	Michael Alfidi	03-03
Annette Herring	03-09	Catherine Cieri	04-06
Michael Kneller	04-06	James Rohde	05-01
Kenneth Braun	05-01	Francis Panza**	05-05
Pamela Harris**	05-07	William Becker	05-07
Ralph Bettman	06-01	Jerry Gilmore	11-01
William Leopard*	11-01	Thomas Henderson*	11-01
Nevin Armstrong*	11-03	Alex Belleque*	11-04
Dennis Hogan*	11-04	Jeff Mays*	11-05
Steve Perez*	11-05	Leon Lucchesi*	11-05
James Cliff*	11-05	Varon Smith	12-21
Jack Kane	12-21		

***Reno**

****Completed the Qualification!**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to ALL the following examiners who have performed 40 or more VSC's during 2008 and have qualified for STARS certificate signed by the National Commodore:

Richard A. Saber	01-02	Robert J. Aston	01-04
Diana R. Serchia	01-05	Michael F. Nolan	01-05
William W. Burns	01-07	Stephen R. Salmon	01-07
James R. Goff	03-05	Jeff D. Scarberry	03-09
Charles M. Duncan Jr.	03-09	Lonny B. Singer	03-09
George T. Cusak	03-10	Joaquin P. Duran	04-09
Curtis S. Han	05-02	Johannes A. Pattiradjawane	05-02
Charles E. McCarty	05-03	Wilfred A. Sumner II	05-05
Gary N. Murray	05-05	Jim D. Blackburn	05-07
Michael D. Mirata	05-07	Anthony T. Budlong	06-04
Scott L. Galloway	06-07	Michael J. Lauro	10-02
Charles A. Poplinger	08-07	Joseph M. Madden	10-02
Michael A. Rafatti	10-02	Anthony D. Leonardi	10-03
John L. Paval	10-03	Neil P. Sliva	10-05
Phillip E. Grove	10-06	Von C. Webber	10-05
James L. Snell	11-04	Ricky A. Thomas	11-05

Bet You Didn't Know...a new series!

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted! Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg!"

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following ADDITIONAL examiners who have performed 20 or more VSC's during 2008*. These names were inadvertently omitted from the January 2009 list.

Riley A. Turpin	07-02	James H. Zocchi	07-06
K. Sterling Hansen	07-06		

VSC Calendar

- National Safe Boating Week May 16th-22nd
- Coast Guard Auxiliary 70th anniversary-June 23rd
- National Marina Day-August 9th
- Past Captains Training Fair-August 15th-16th at Coast Guard Island

Congratulations!

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

Richard A. Saber	01-04	Robert J. Aston	01-04
Michael F. Nolan	01-05	Simone H. Adair	01-07
Lonny B. Singer	03-09	Gary N. Murray	05-05
Michael J. Lauro	10-02	Von C. Webber	10-05
Ricky A. Thomas	11-05		

This brings our total to 9 examiners reaching this plateau! This is approximately 3% of the total District examiner base. 2008 had 6 examiners or 2% 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 31, 2009

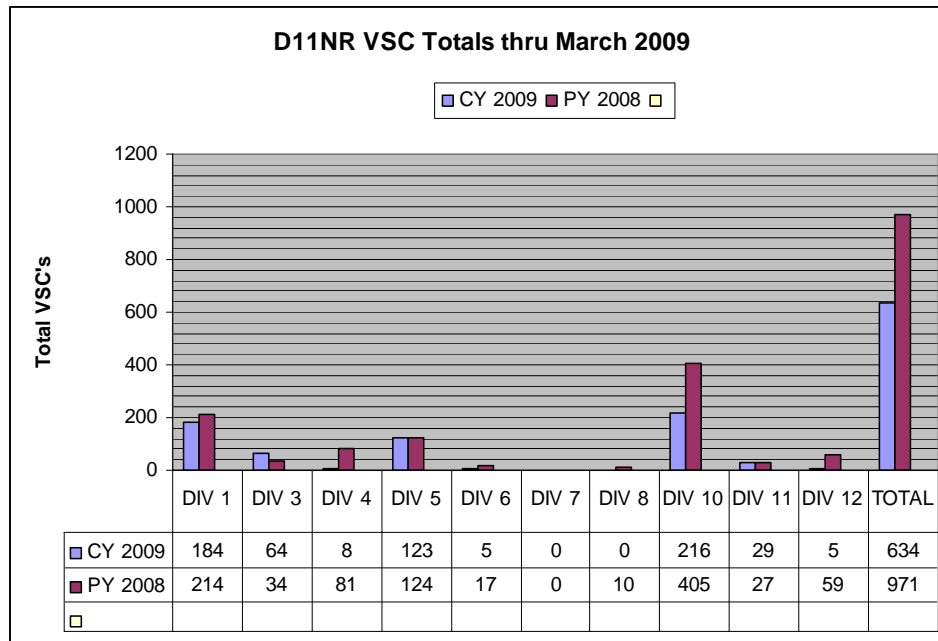
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following who were recognized at D/TRAIN March 28th in Rohnert Park for their contribution to D11NR VSC program for 2008:

1 st place	Charles M. Duncan Jr.	Flotilla 03-09	379 VSC's
2 nd place	Phillip E. Grove	Flotilla 10-05	290 VSC's
3 rd place	Anthony Budlong	Flotilla 06-04	236 VSC's

In addition Flotilla 10-02 received the Outstanding Flotilla VSC Performance award.

Division Statistics*

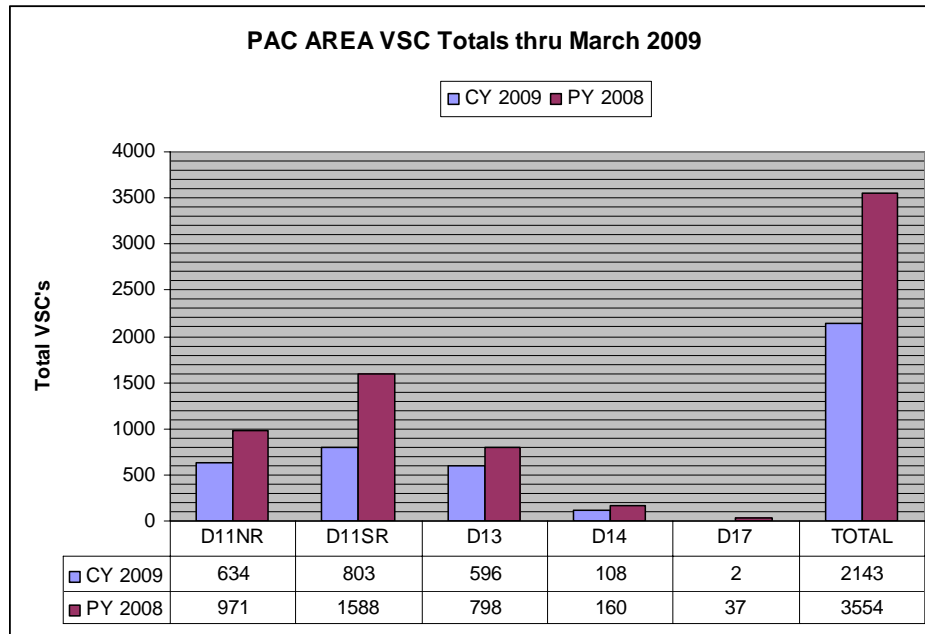


*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru March 31, 2009

The goal for D11NR for 2009 is **7,800 VSC's**. We are **8%** of our goal for the year and **65%** 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 **290** or **45%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **331** or **52%** are High Risk VSC's.

PAC AREA Statistics



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

1-Because of unusual circumstances, you were unable to conduct five VSC's last year. What happens now?

- a. You have to do ten this year to keep your qualifications and to make up for last year.
- b. You have to do at least two VSC's under supervision of a certified VE to regain your qualification and then five for this year.
- c. You can request that the DSO-VE grant you a one-time waiver.
- d. You can't regain your qualifications. Once you miss a year, you're too rusty to be an effective VE.

2-At least one wearable PFD for each person on board must be on board to meet VSC requirements for boats that are:

- a. All vessels.
- b. 26' or greater in length
- c. 40' or greater in length
- d. Less than 16' in length

National and District News

National News

-VSC Decal Shortage

Currently there is a temporary shortage of VSC Decals, and ANSC is OUT OF STOCK. Because only 150,000 VSC's are performed annually by the Auxiliary and the Power Squadron, State Farm Insurance reduced the initial distribution of decals from 400,000 to 250,000 decals. An additional supply has been requested from State Farm and there currently is no ETA.

PLEASE do not hoard decals and distribute current local stock as fairly as possible among local examiners. Each Flotilla and Division should always maintain a back-up supply. PLEASE do NOT request an additional supply from me as I do NOT have the resources available.

I'm told that as soon as additional stock is received at ANSC, I'll be notified and I'll pass the word. In the meantime let's continue to share our current supply.

-Kidde Fire Extinguisher Recall

Name of product: Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers

Units: About 167,000

Distributor: Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, N.C.

Hazard: The pressurized cylinders in the recalled fire extinguishers could lose pressure and fail to operate. In the event of a fire, this failure could put a consumer and property at risk.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves the Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers with model numbers FX340SC, FX340H, FX340GW, XL5MR, FX210R, FX340SC-2, FX210W, XL2.5TCZ-4, E-340-3 and with manufacture dates between October 2007 and April 2008. The model number can be found on the label on the front of the extinguisher. The manufacture year is on the bottom of the extinguisher. If you examine an extinguisher that is one of the listed model numbers and is marked with the year 07 or 08, have the boater contact Kidde.

Sold at: Department, home, and hardware stores nationwide from October 2007 through April 2008 for about \$35.

Manufactured in: Mexico

Remedy: Consumers should immediately inspect the pressure gauge. If it points to the red zone, contact Kidde to receive a free replacement extinguisher. If the gauge is not in the red zone, but you have questions about an extinguisher within the listed model numbers, please contact Kidde for additional information.

Additional details are available at the following web sites:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09151.html>

<http://www.kidde.com>

Source: Pete Urgola DC-V

-OPFAC Changes

There have been two changes to the requirements for inspection of a PWC as an OPFAC.

ANSC 7008, Section VII

1- Item 12: A type IV throwable PFD is no longer required

2-Item 20: A spare spark plug is only required for a 2 cycle engine.

These changes have been authorized for immediate implementation.

This information has been supplied by:

Source: Pete Urgola DC-V

District News

-The recommended changes for the upcoming revision of the VSC Manual have been posted on the D11NR website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. Several DSO-VE's including myself are re-working assigned areas. The target date for DSO suggested revisions is April 1st. At that time, the suggestions will be reviewed for accuracy and will be included in the revised manual. No date has been provided for the project completion.

-The Vessel Examiner class held in January in Reno had 9 students pass the written examination and the PCA Training Fair at Coast Guard Island had 21 students and ALL passed the written examination! Several are already working on completing their qualification. Please assist your local members in completing the qualification as soon as possible. Along with the Reno class graduates, all of their names will be listed in the April 1st edition of the VSC Newsletter. Thanks to all for supporting this effort. Another class is planned at the August PCA Training Fair.

-CAL BOATING has advised me that the 2009 ABC's of Boating are in print and should be released by early April. Orders can be placed at: www.dbw.ca.gov. In addition, the promotional order form has also been released. Orders for promotional materials are planned to be distributed prior to NSBW.

Finally, on a sad note Phaedra Bota, a 16-year employee of CAL BOATING and a good friend of the Auxiliary has left the Dept. Her presence will be missed. Currently her position has not been filled.

-As evident by the new logos, Nevada, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary have joined the "WEAR IT" campaign. A link to the National Safe Boating Council, the sponsor of the campaign can be found on the D11NR vessel examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. As of this report, activities are still pending for the California campaign for 2009. As soon as information becomes available, it will be posted. At that point, several emails to Nevada and Utah regarding their program have gone un-returned.

Question 1-"b" See page 3 of the VSC Manual

Question 2-"a" See page 3 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!

